



Environmental Health

Radon

The Two Rivers Public Health Department Radon Program works through both grant funding and an internal testing program. Radon is a radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer when a person is exposed over a long period of time. If the person is an active tobacco user, the likelihood of developing lung cancer is increased. Nebraskans are frequently exposed to high levels of radon and approximately 50% of the homes in the Two Rivers district will test above the recommended level of radon.

Activities

TRPHD provides home test kits to all that are interested for \$10 each. These kits are approximately 3"X 5" and are postage paid. When the test kit is processed at the laboratory both the tester and TRPHD are notified, and TRPHD staff are able to provide recommendations for the homeowner. The winter months are the best time to test for radon because there is a smaller fluctuation in air pressure, which will make the results of the test kit more accurate.

Here is a quick summary by county of radon testing as of 2015. Any home that tests above 4.0 pCi/L is considered too high and radon mitigation is recommended.

<i>County</i>	<i>Total # of homes tested</i>	<i>Average Radon Level (pCi/L)</i>	<i>Highest Result (pCi/L)</i>	<i>Number of homes tested above 4.0 (pCi/L)</i>	<i>Percentage of homes tested above 4.0 pCi/L</i>
Buffalo	1,613	5.4	51.0	898	56
Dawson	291	4.2	52.0	108	37
Franklin	148	6.6	27.1	104	70
Gosper	39	5.3	14.5	20	51
Harlan	68	6.9	26.0	45	66
Kearney	161	6.3	30.3	100	62
Phelps	243	6.2	85.2	151	62

DISRUPTING THE PATHWAY TO VIOLENCE

Targeted violence can happen anywhere. Disrupting the Pathway to Violence aims to create safer communities by reducing barriers to reporting potential violence. There are a variety of reasons why behaviors of potential violence may go unreported, including fear, intimidation, language barriers, and trust. Utilizing a public health based approach, the program intends to address the potential barriers to reporting violence by training front-line organizations and community leaders on how to identify the signs of violence.

Continuing to Educate Ourselves

- During the month of October the Kearney Violence Prevention Coordinator Cody Samuelson and Two Rivers Public Health Department Assistant Director Laura Steele attended the two-day Great Plains Association of Threat Assessment Professional's Conference.
- Several speakers from around the country that are involved in various organizations presented on how they do their work in threat assessment, and ultimately, violence prevention.
- Kearney Police Department Officer Rob Taillon was also present at the conference.
- Using information gained from the conference, a presentation will be compiled by Samuelson and presented back to the Kearney Violence Prevention Stakeholder group at a meeting on December 3, 2018.

Emergency Response

Emergency Response activities include developing and testing plans for responding to disasters in an effort to protect the Two Rivers Public Health Department district from health threats. Emergency Response also involves working closely with other agencies and organizations to best serve the citizens living in the Two Rivers Public Health Department district. Preparedness activities can inform the response time of the community to provide lifesaving help and resources to individuals who are in need. Through collaboration with community partners, clinics, hospitals, agencies, and organizations Two Rivers Public Health Department

During the month of October Two Rivers Public Health Department Emergency Response Coordinator Cody Samuelson appeared on NTV News at Noon and several area radio programs to talk about harvest safety, safe driving during harvest, and teen safe driving. He also worked in combination with the Loomis Volunteer Fire Department to present to the Loomis pre-school and kindergarten classes about fire safety. TRPHD each class with worksheets that to talk about, and write down preparedness with their family

TRPHD also meetings federal part-month of cuss and chal-partment

Two Rivers: Harvest Safety

by KHGI | Thursday, October 4th 2018



had several with state and ners during the October to dis-achievements lenges the de-faces. On Oc-

tober 23rd the State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Preparedness Coordinator visited the Holdrege office and met with multiple staff members. TRPHD discussed achievements and challenges during that visit and also during a conference call with all State of Nebraska Emergency Response Coordinators and federal partners from the Center for Disease Control. A key chal-

During the month of October the TRPHD Emergency Response Program presented information on NTV News at Noon that reached their coverage area, two radio programs reaching each respective program's coverage area, and presented preparedness information to 50 students from Loomis Elementary School.

Chronic Disease Prevention

Health Hub is a chronic disease prevention program that targets men and women aged 40 to 74. This program focuses on early detection of disease as well as changing lifestyles to improve the health of the population. Two Rivers Public Health Department participates in this program by providing health coaching to women identified through the encounter registry and by providing FOBT kits to promote early detection of colon cancer.

Mulligan, Steele, Barocio, and Eschliman reviewed and renewed the new contract for 2018. The four began working to set-up proper protocols for the program as well as clarifying roles with the state. Mulligan and Eschliman met several times to talk through the contract on offer. Program activities will resume in November or December.

Preparing For Flu Season!

Two Rivers continued to monitor cases of reportable infectious diseases in the area. The surveillance team continued to encourage the public to get their flu shot as well as practice good hand hygiene, frequently clean contact surfaces, and stay home when you are sick. Two Rivers in collaboration with Loup Basin Public Health Department was able to set up a pilot program of providing flu immunizations in 3 area schools, and will be conducting these activities in November.

Disease Surveillance and Investigations

- TRPHD is committed to promoting healthy communities, families and individuals through communicable disease surveillance.
- The intention of surveillance is to identify, promptly investigate, and monitor each incident of a reported communicable disease.
- Timely recognition of the disease within the community enables the proper implementation of prevention and control activities. This action can contain the spread of the disease before the illness





Move Kearney is an advocacy group based in Kearney NE. This group advocates for active transportation and complete streets policies. A complete streets policy requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for the users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation. Active transportation encourages community members to commute in a way other than using a car, for example; biking to work, walking to the grocery store, and skateboarding to meet friends.

Recent activity in Move Kearney includes:

- the circulation of a survey to community members in Kearney, an appearance at the Night Market in Kearney, and the purchase of promotional items for the group.
- Move Kearney is looking for ways to more actively engage the community of Kearney and to begin obtaining data to support the need for complete streets in Kearney. If you live or work in Kearney, please fill out this form (<https://goo.gl/forms/YleswJMOC62Cj2wB3>).

LIFESMILES DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

1

Oral diseases are the most common of the chronic diseases and are important public health problems because of their prevalence, their impact on individuals and society, and the expense of their treatment. The LifeSmiles Dental Health Program continually strides to address oral disease existence in the Two Rivers Public Health Department District. Bringing prevention services to our most vulnerable can impact improving total health for many. October was National Dental Hygiene Month and is served as a great opportunity to emphasize the importance of good oral health.

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To complement National Dental Hygiene Month, additional oral/ dental health education was provided via presentations and individual encounters at participating schools throughout the district. Regular dental prevention services at long-term care facilities and WIC clinics continued as well. October also provided an opportunity for participation in the Kearney Public Schools' Nurse Meeting on October 4th. This was a chance for nurses to give feedback on the LifeSmiles services delivered at their participating schools. We were happy to hear unreserved positive comments and we look forward to our on-going partnership in health care.

3

LifeSmiles was very busy during October with services provided at Gibbon, Elm Creek, Lexington Head Start, Holdrege Head Start, Kearney Northeast, Kearney Bryant, Kearney Emerson, Axtell, Wilcox/ Hildreth, Overton, Lexington Bryan, Lexington Sandoz, and Lexington Morton. In addition to regular prevention services, individual education encounters were given to over 1100 children and education presentations were provided to 486 students (not including participating educators). Having impact in developing healthy behaviors is of importance to balance the delivery of services such as sealants, fluoride treatments, screenings, and prophies (cleanings).



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The TRIMRS/Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) is a federally funded program which is overseen by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, (ASPR). The HPP was put in place to help hospitals, county emergency managers, public health departments, and emergency medical services with their preparedness planning.

The current goals from the 2017-2022 guidance are:

- Help patients receive the care they need at the right place, at the right time, and with the right resources during emergencies
- Decrease deaths, injuries, and illnesses resulting from emergencies
- Promote health care delivery system resilience in the aftermath of emergencies

TRIMRS is also working on outreach to and with behavioral health services and organizations, child care providers, long term care, and clinics.

Handley spent a significant amount of time assisting communities and hospitals with their exercises.

During the Broken Bow exercise Handley observed over 100 local and regional agencies participate in an active shooter exercise. The response by the hospital and community to come together and achieve this goal was outstanding. The community and hospital were able to take care of 20 plus patients during the exercise. There was only the need for a few more serious traumas to be transported to Kearney. Broken Bow is now more prepared for a mass casualty event and feel ready if a similar incident were to

Handley met with members from DHHS, the Center for Preparedness Education, and the 4 regional Emergency Response Coordinators to review and discuss the TRIMRS Jurisdictional Risk Assessment which is identifying and preparing natural and manmade hazards in the area. This information will be shared at the next Steering Committee Meeting.

Handley has begun meeting with members from various organizations such as the Center for Preparedness Education, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the Nebraska Regional Disaster Health Response Ecosystem and DHHS to begin work on the Rural Disaster Health Response Grant.

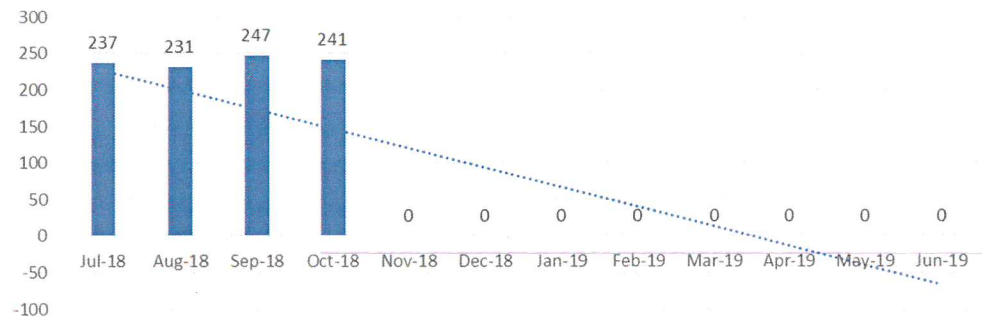
There has been a lot of information from exercises and meetings that have taken place during the month of October. A lot of this information will be reviewed, shared, and used to help TRIMRS and its members prepare for the future.

TRI-CITIES MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM

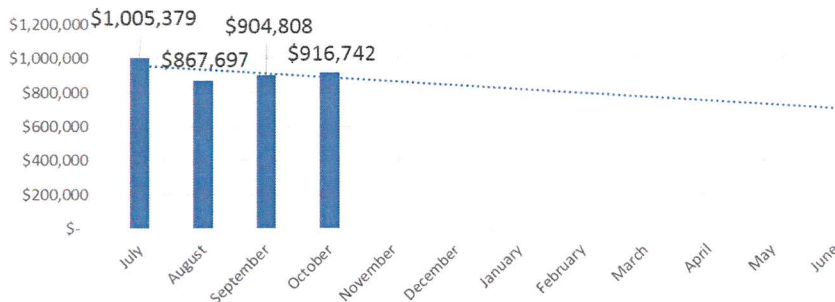
OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Two Rivers fund balance on October 31st was \$770,724. We have 241 days cash on hand.

Days Cash on Hand



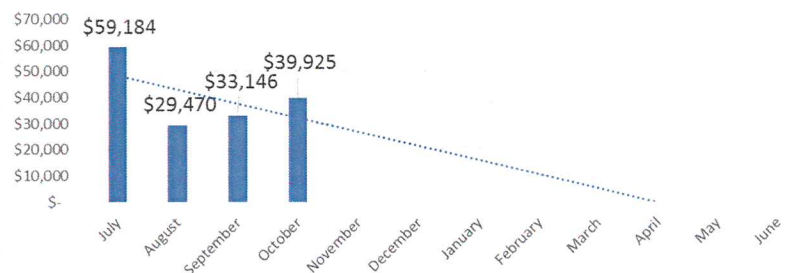
Current Assets



Current assets are at an estimate of \$916,742; an increase of \$11,934 from September. This is due to an increase in receivables for the month of October.

Current Liabilities have increased in the month of October by about \$6,800. This is due to again a higher amount in accruals for the end of October.

Current Liabilities



A/R and A/P this month are both operating efficiently. We are awaiting payment from DHHS for the Radon 2018 program of \$3000 that is over 90+ days past due. We have sent in our documentation for the period of this grant towards the end of September, so we will see when the payment will be processed for the past due amount. Same thing applies for West Nile Virus for \$2,453.00 that was issued in May 2018, and for 1422 Chronic Disease for \$72,001.23 that was issued in June 2018.

New grants and increased revenue:

MOA from NAHLD for Making Connections for Mental Wellbeing Initiative - Year 3. MOA goes from Oct 1, 2018 to Sept 15, 2019 (Contract amount is \$3,800)

Lead Poisoning Oct 2018 goes from Oct 1, 2018 to Sept 29, 2019 for \$7,200

Accreditation Support 2018 goes from Oct 1, 2018 to Sept 30, 2019 for \$15,000

Community Health Worker Collaborative

Community Health Workers play a key role in helping the public receive the proper health care. Often Community Health Workers (CHWs) help clients navigate the health system in order to connect those who need health care to resources. Two Rivers has created a CHW Collaborative so that that Community Health Workers are aware of the services available to clients. The other goal of the collaborative is to provide continuing education to community health workers to help better serve the community.

Two Rivers Public Health Department is actively planning 2 CHW Collaborative meetings to be held in Kearney with representatives from UNMC Lincoln. These meetings will provide continuing education credit, funding for travel for the CHWs, and food during the program. These programs will likely be held in early 2019 and the summer of 2019.

REAL IMPACT

Maria Barocio is the Community Health Worker at the health department. In this role, she is out in the communities we serve every day, providing health education and resources—and serving as a resource ‘hub’ herself.

During the month of October, she worked at the Life Smiles Dental Program at Lexington Wic site, Morton School, Sandoz school, Holdrege Wic site, also partnered with Dr. Carranza, Plum Creek Medical Group, Hasting CCC, Platte Valley Medical Group, Lexington Regional Health Center, Bus Ryde, provided interpreted services, helped people to set appointments, called intelliride for transportation for some families who have medical appointments, reminded Life Smiles Dental program appointments and medical appointments to clients, provided car seat education, found glasses at low cost for a child, referred people to other services s diabetes classes, nutrition classes, immunization, Wic, Dentist, food bank.

Administrative Notes

We're still seeking a position for a Community Health Nurse. We have gone through first round interviews, and will start second interviews in November.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information

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