

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.

Work began for planning the next event on Friday July 19th. The event will be held at noon in the Kearney Public Library.

Kearney Area Project Connect

Project Homeless Connect was pioneered in San Francisco in 2004. The goal of Project Connect is to guide homeless or poverty level people toward agencies and services available to establish housing and stability. Project Connect consists of a short term gathering of these agencies in one location (sometimes yearly) to create a one-stop-shop for help. Agencies like barbershops, behavioral health professionals, and real estate agents provide additional services to link clients with jobs, houses, and mental health services.

The stakeholder group was able to meet the first week of the month to discuss activities and begin taking on responsibilities. As a group, we decided to plan our event in September 2020. Members of the group began taking on duties, and the event planning has begun!

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.

Taking Action

The Kearney and Lexington Disrupting the Pathway to Violence Program teams continue to train and develop protocols that will help them positively impact their communities. The Kearney team will be known as the Kearney Intervention Team (KIT) and the Lexington team will be known as the Community Safety Resource Team. They will be reaching out to the community in the future and share how to report to them and utilize these teams as a safe and anonymous resource to help those who may be on a path to violence. These teams will not be a resource to report crimes, but rather, an option for those who have concerns about behaviors, they have witnessed that could possibly result in violence. We will keep you posted as to when they will be available and active in each community.

Kearney and Lexington communities were surveyed to assess comfort levels in reporting violent behaviors. These surveys will provide information as to where we should focus our education on violence prevention. Violence Prevention team meetings (held in both communities) continue and are focused on team development. An all-day meeting was held at the University of Nebraska-Kearney on May 23rd. This meeting provided Threat Assessment training for both communities with speakers from UNL Public Policy. This meeting was held at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. As the Kearney Intervention Team (KIT) and Lexington's Community Safety

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 has the ability to assist with coordinating a collaborative response to emergencies.

Two Rivers is excited to participate with UNMC and the TRIMRS Healthcare Coalition in a full scale exercise during the summer of 2019. This exercise will test medical surge in hospital settings. To participate in this exercise, Katie Mulligan attended a training for the Knowledge Center Program. This program will allow instant communication among hospitals, emergency managers, and public health during a disaster situation.

Another large project that Katie has taken on is revising the Two Rivers Public Health Department Emergency Response Plan. This entails meetings with other Emergency Response Coordinators in the region

Approximately 50 homes were damaged in Buffalo County. Buffalo County experienced over \$1,000,000 in damages to personal property.

Disease Surveillance and Investigation

Disease surveillance takes an interesting turn as we near summer. Unlike the winter doldrums of influenza tracking, warmer weather brings a host of new illnesses to track as we venture into the great outdoors for summer fun. The health department has already started trapping mosquitoes to have a head start on West Nile virus. Our contracted trappers set mosquito traps every other week near Lexington, Holdrege, and Kearney. If you are out enjoying our city parks, you may run across what looks like a thermos and a bird feeder hanging from a tree with a sign asking that it not be disturbed. Left hanging overnight, the dry ice attracts the mosquitoes and the battery operated fan draws them into the net. When the nets are emptied, everything in the trap is packaged and sent to the state laboratory, counted by species and the Culex mosquitoes are tested for West Nile virus. Knowing what percentage of our mosquitoes from a particular site are carrying West Nile gives us some anticipatory guidance on the human West Nile illness we can expect to see this summer.

I hope none of the infected mosquitoes find you for their meal! To improve your odds, make certain you are practicing mosquito avoidance. Whenever possible, avoid being outdoors at dawn and dusk as these are times the Culex mosquitoes are most active (and hungry). When you do go outside, avoid being bitten by wearing light colored clothing, long sleeves and pants and use EPA-registered insect repellent on your clothing or skin. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Do not use insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months old. The EPA-registered repellents will contain one of the following: DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), Para-menthane-diol (PMD) or 2-undecanone. Avoid use of combination sunscreen/insect repellents as the sunscreen must be reapplied frequently to be effective and the insect repellent does not need to be.

Most people (8 of 10) who contract West Nile virus will have no symptoms. Approximately 1 in 5 people who are infected develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Most people with this type of West Nile virus disease recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months. About 1 in 150 people who are infected will develop a severe illness affecting the central nervous system such as encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord). If you develop symptoms, see your healthcare provider so tests to look for West Nile virus infection can be performed.

Lead

TRPHD works with the Nebraska Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to track children who have had their blood lead levels tested and provide education about possible lead hazards in their environment and safe options for remediating those hazards. Lead may harm a child's brain and central nervous system. Even low

blood lead concentrations could cause irreversible damage, such as impaired and/or delayed development, behavioral problems, and hearing loss. The most

common sources of exposure include lead dust from deteriorated lead-based paints applied on or before 1978 (use of lead in paints was stopped in 1978 – but the paint still remains in many homes),

Lead-contaminated soil, and even some imported toys, candy, and jewelry.

During the month of May there were no lead poisoning investigations opened in our region.

Health Hub

The ***Health Hub Program*** is a model that provides integrated resources from DHHS to be passed down to local communities to build capacity within local health departments to increase preventive screening in adults. Our Community Health Worker, Maria Barocio, will be reaching out to members of our district to offer services. More detailed information will follow as we evaluate who will be eligible for services per DHHS's regulations for the grant. It will be a resource targeted to those at risk for disease.

The Clinical Services Coordinator and Community Health Worker have been training on program services, protocols, and the capacity of how the services can be offered to the TRPHD district via technical teleconference calls and webinars.

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.



Move Kearney always welcomes new members to join. Monthly meetings for Move Kearney are held on the second Thursday of every month, at 6:30 PM at the Kearney Public Library. Please feel free to contact the health department at 308-995-4778 for more information.

Dawson County Rooted In Relationships

A reception was held June 10th to celebrate Nine Dawson County childcare providers who have completed a three year commitment to Pyramid training and coaching. Fiscal year ends June 30th, and end of the year reports and next years grants are being written by the Coordinator and TRPHD.

Semi Annual report data is being aggregated. Examples of the data include FaceBook data: 18,750 Reaches, 1,404 Paid reaches (with a boost for a parenting class to the Gothenburg zip code) 24,241 Impressions, 1,141 Shares and 9,271 Likes. New contracts are being written for Child care providers, Coaches, and Parenting class facilitators for the next fiscal year.

LIFESMILES DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Inspiration came to me the other day from a quote by Jeff Bridges. He said, “The way to change the world is through individual responsibility and taking local action in your own community.” Two Rivers Public Health Department is devoted to making positive changes in our community. This is executed through the commitment of our staff and the partnerships we have with dedicated community stakeholders.



The LifeSmiles Dental Program has been working toward positive changes by reaching out to our district county boards, schools, and other key community stakeholders to promote better sustainability for program services to those in need. Support from our community to balance our other sources of funding will make great impact on our ability to reach many of our vulnerable community. A healthy community for all is our goal!



Roadshow activities, to promote support for LifeSmiles services, continues to solicit support for better program sustainability. Outreach has been to County boards, schools, hospitals and other community stakeholders. As access to care continues to be an issue in our district, preventive dental services are in desperate need to many.



T

During the month of May, Coordinator Cody Samuelson attended a meeting of the South Central Nebraska area Emergency Managers and learned about the future trainings the group will sponsor. Samuelson presented about the safety of children during emergencies on NTV News at Noon on May 2.

R

Samuelson attended and participated in Knowledge Center training at the Kearney Public Library. Knowledge Center is a cloud based technology program that will allow emergency response personnel from various sectors to communicate information in real-time and ongoing about disasters as they occur. Through a grant program it has been made available for use free-of-charge for the first year to responders in Nebraska. Healthcare Coalition Coordinators were selected as key conveners for Knowledge Center training(s).

I

The Tri-Cities Medical Response System (TRIMRS) helps to strengthen emergency response through collaboration. TRIMRS assists in designing, facilitating, and evaluating community-wide disaster drills and table-top exercises. TRIMRS also serves as a liaison and information sharing conduit for members.

M

Samuelson also met with TRIMRS regional Emergency Response Coordinators during the month of May to discuss work plan items for the 2018-2019 budget year, tentative work plans for the 2019-2020 budget year, and other important emergency response and planning items.

R

As one budget year ends another is quickly approaching. Samuelson met with TRIMRS Executive Committee members at the Kearney Public Library to discuss drafting a proposed budget for the 2019-2020 budget year. During that meeting, the Executive Committee created a budget proposal that Samuelson will forward to the TRIMRS Steering Committee for discussion and action in order to

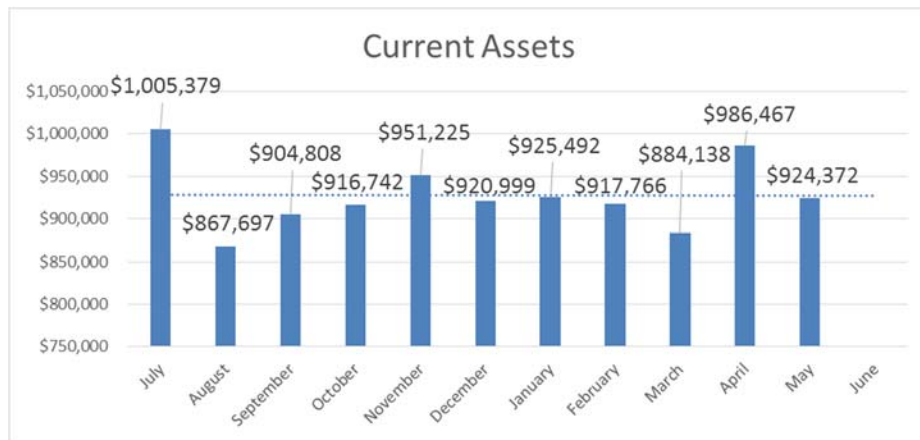
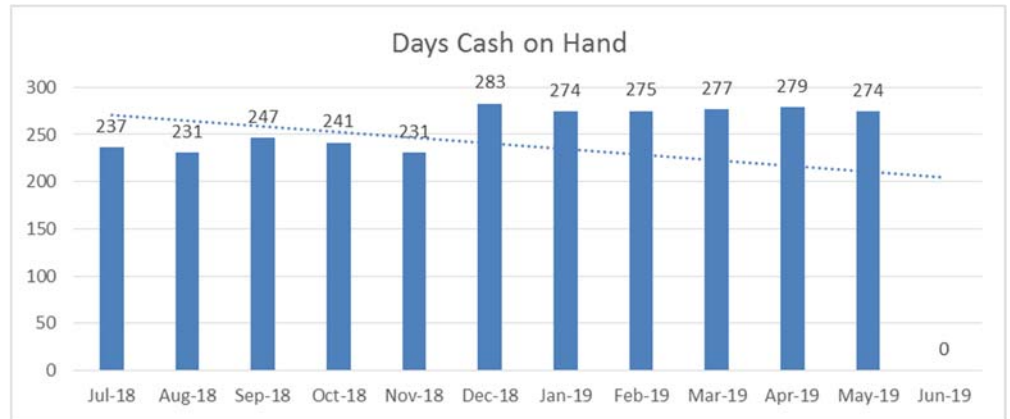
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TRI-CITIES MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM

On May 28th Samuelson attended a tornado table-top exercise at Valley County Health System in Ord. There was discussion and education provided on the assistance TRIMRS could provide the hospital in the event of a disaster. Samuelson also obtained contact information for several staff members at the hospital to keep them informed about TRIMRS events. Samuelson offered to assist Valley County in planning and organizing the full-scale exercise that will build off of the table-top exercise.

MAY FINANCIAL REPORT

Two Rivers fund balance on May 31st was \$875,480. We have 274 days cash on hand.



Current Assets are at an estimate of \$924,372; a decrease of \$62,095 from April. This is due to the increase in expenses for May.

Current Liabilities have decreased in the month of April by about \$24,791. This is due to a lower amount in accruals for the month of May, and with quick turnaround on payments for our expenses before the end of the month.



A/R and A/P:

this month are both operating efficiently.

Closeout and decreased revenue:

Radon 2019 has come to an end (11/1/18 – 5/31/19). The amount of the grant was \$3000.

REAL IMPACT

Maria Barocio is our Community Health Worker. In this role, she is out in the communities we serve every day, providing health education and resources, serving as a resource 'hub' herself. Maria is great at assisting individuals in finding transportation to and from appointments, and interpreting for those who can't speak English. Maria has also been working within the community to get individuals colorectal screenings, and attended a car seat conference in Lincoln this month.

Maria assisted a mother whose child had down syndrome and was about to have her tonsils removed. The mother did not speak English. Maria made sure that Intelliride was set up so that they had a ride to the hospital the morning of the surgery, and that the mother knew where they needed to be and when. Maria went over everything with the mother from not letting her daughter have anything but clear liquids to how long the surgery was going to be. The child was out of surgery, sleeping, and doing well when Maria called to check on them at 8:30AM.

When Maria called back around noon to check in the child was still doing well, and the child was fine. Maria asked the mother if she had eaten yet. The mother replied no. Maria told the mother that she would message the hospital interpreter, and let them know.

When Maria called back to check on them at 3:00PM, the mother told Maria that no one had come to help, she was hungry, and no one could understand her. Maria asked to speak to the Nurse. The nurse told Maria that they had difficulties communicating due to the mother's dialect. Maria said she would translate. Maria assisted with ordering food, and a few other questions. She also gave the nurse her information and told the nurse to call her if they need help again.

Administrative Notes

Accreditation Update:

During the Mock Site Visit, both staff and Board of Health members were able to practice what may happen during the site visit in June. We were lucky to have Pat Lopez, Greg Moser, and Raheem Sanders visit the Two Rivers office in Holdrege to help our staff fully prepare to meet with the Accreditation Site Visitors.

Site Visit is scheduled for June 5th and 6th

Completed CHA- need to begin working on CHIP

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information

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