

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

The Kearney and Lexington Disrupting the Pathway to Violence Program teams; Specifically, the Kearney Intervention Team (KIT) and the Lexington Community Safety Resource Team will be reaching out to the community in the near future and share how to report to them and utilize these teams as a safe way to help those who may be on a path to violence. We will continue to remind our community that if they witness a crime, they should contact authorities by dialing 911. 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 by reporting, could prevent a crime.

Disrupting the Pathway to Violence Program: Approximately 150 surveys were received from the distribution efforts in the Kearney and Lexington communities.

These surveys were collected to assess comfort levels in reporting violent behaviors. The information gathered will help us focus on how to make everyone feel safe with reporting potential violent behaviors. The goal is to help those who may be on a path to violence and prevent violent events. The Lexington Community Safety Resource Team (CSRT) and the Kearney Intervention Team (KIT) will soon be available as a resource to communities as a safe option to report such concerning behaviors.



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

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 will meet in July to provide updates on activities and assess what needs to be done.

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. In Nebraska, the concentration of radon radiation in homes is frequently higher than the EPA recommends. Because radon is invisible, odorless, and tasteless, the only way to determine the presence or amount of radon in a home is through testing. TRPHD sells simple Radon Test Kits for \$10 so our community members can easily determine whether or not the radon level in their homes are safe. If the radon level is found to be unsafe, retesting and remediation, if needed, is recommended.

During the month of June, TRPHD sold test kits at the Nebraska School Health Conference, a large gathering of Nebraska's school nurses. We look forward to making them available to the public during the upcoming county fairs in our area.

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.

South Central Regional Local Emergency Planning Committee (SCRLEPC) held a tabletop exercise in Harlan County on June 13th. This exercise tested the local capability to respond to a tornado that had struck a local campground. Representatives from Harlan County Health System, Harlan County Sheriff, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Good Samaritan Society, local volunteer firefighters, and the County Board were able to attend the exercise. This tabletop event will lead to a full-scale exercise prior to June 2020.

Two Rivers Public Health Department has two representatives in SCRLEPC, Katie Mulligan and Cody Samuelson.

Both Cody and Katie will help Harlan County prepare for the upcoming drill through planning the exercise and coordinating with other members to provide assistance through the health department.



27 People were in attendance.

Disease Surveillance and Investigation

We work diligently in the early detection, intervention, prevention and education of communicable diseases. Our public health department is notified of communicable disease laboratory results through the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS). The community health nurse investigates each report, which may include patient interviews and physician consultations. Recommendations are made to patients to prevent, promote, and protect the health of community members.

During the summer, the recommendation we make most often is to remember and practice handwashing at the three most important times: before you eat a meal or snack, immediately after using the bathroom or changing a child's diaper, and immediately after handling an animal, soil, or untreated water. Handwashing at these times have a common goal – to stop the fecal/oral transmission of germs that cause fecal/oral illnesses. The infective agents may differ, but the two primary symptoms are always the same - diarrhea and vomiting. This is such an unpleasant topic, we sometimes struggle to find a 'sanitary' way to discuss it. Basically, handwashing prevents fecal waste from other people or animals from entering our mouths by our own hands. Please practice and model for your children good soap and water handwashing!

During the month of June, TRPHD's disease investigations included 10 cases of illnesses caused by fecal/oral contamination. Recovery is almost always assured and complete for most people. But very young children, pregnant women, the elderly, and immunosuppressed individuals are more prone to lengthy illnesses and difficult recoveries. It's so easy to avoid – just remember when to wash your hands.

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 June, two investigations for elevated lead levels on children were opened.

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.

Preventive screenings are always a good investment of time and money as it is the most cost efficient way to address the risk of disease.

This program is moving forward as our Community Health Worker has distributed 58 colorectal cancer screening kits to various community members. It is a resource targeted to those at risk for disease. This model will build capacity within local health departments to increase preventive screening in adults.

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

Fiscal year is ending with end of the year reporting. The writing of a 2019-2020 Work Plan, Budget and Budget Justification are completed and are ready for submission. New contracts are being written and will be sent out after funding is approved and secured. The plan for this upcoming fiscal year is for 11 childcare providers to continue to get coached and trained in Social and Emotional practices, 8 parenting classes to be held in 3 communities, 2 free family movies to be hosted and a can of food to be collected for admission and donated to the local food pantry. Local celebrations will be attended at the Week of the Young Child events and the theme will be "Checking in On Our Emotions".

LIFESMILES DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Hello June! Time flies and we are now in our summer season. This month involves a great deal of organizing and updating the paths we will take with our programs. Many factors are reviewed and analyzed to commit to the program services we provide at Two Rivers Public Health Department. We focus on the feedback from our Community Health Assessment and the resulting Community Health Improvement Plan, as we work hard to target the needs of our district. We also rely on available funding to provide program services as well as the strength of our community partnerships. In the end, there is a great deal of effort put into our commitment for “A healthy community for all!”



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.

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.



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During the month of June, Coordinator Cody Samuelson assisted with and participated in a tabletop tornado exercise in Alma that was put on in collaboration amongst the South Central (Nebraska) Local Emergency Planning Committee. The tabletop exercise will pave the way for a full-scale tornado exercise to be put on in Alma in the near future.

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.

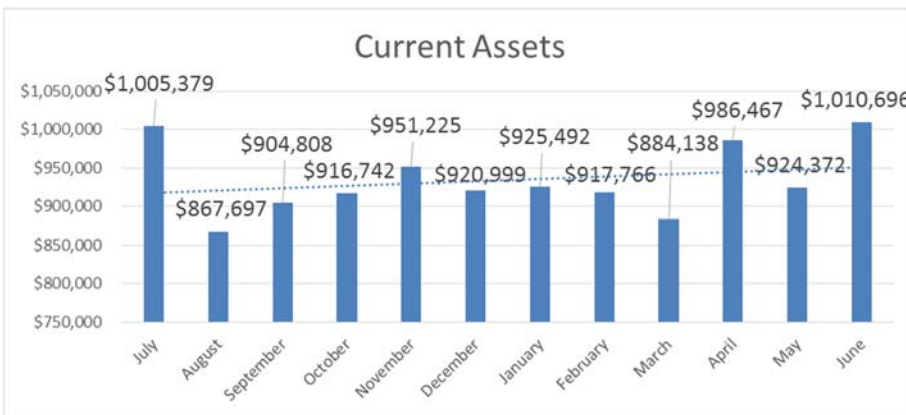
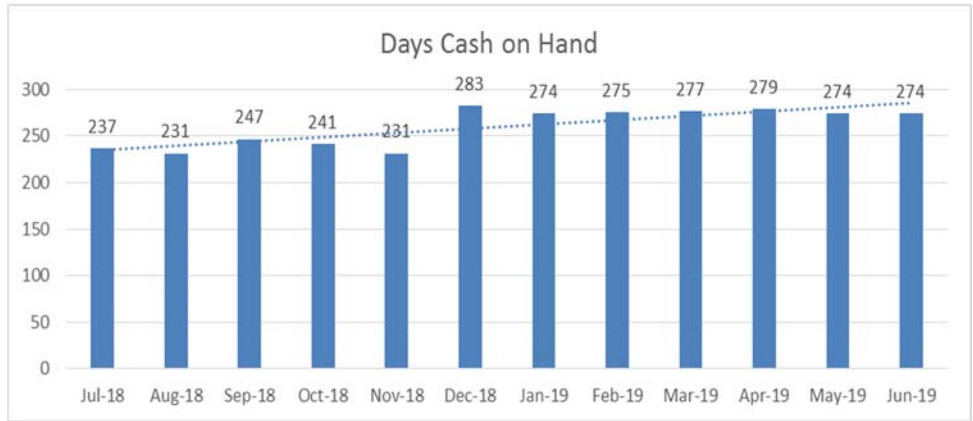
During the exercise, Samuelson used the new Knowledge Center cloud-based information sharing platform to create and update information on the simulated disaster as the exercise progressed. This was the first time many individuals that attended the tabletop exercise were able to view the Knowledge Center program and its capabilities. Knowledge Center will go 'live' and be available to emergency response personnel in July. Samuelson is working with Knowledge Center personnel to schedule trainings on the program to assist emergency response personnel in the TRIMRS area in becoming familiar and comfortable with the program.

TRI-CITIES MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM

In late June Samuelson, with the assistance of TRPHD ERC Katie Mulligan, conducted the coalition surge test on behalf of TRIMRS. The coalition surge test was created by the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response and all healthcare coalitions in the United States must conduct the exercise on an annual basis. For this year's coalition surge test, Mary Lanning Healthcare participated as the hospital that simulated an evacuation of all patients. As part of the exercise, other TRIMRS hospitals and emergency response personnel may or may not be contacted to assist in the evacuation process to reinforce the day-to-day work that is done within the coalition. Lessons learned from the coalition surge test will be used to inform changes to existing plans, guide future training, and offer experience to be called upon in the event of real-world emergencies.

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

Two Rivers fund balance on June 30th was \$874,206. We have 274 days cash on hand.



Current Assets are at an estimate of \$1,010,696; an increase of \$86,324 from May. This is due to the increase in Accounts Receivable for June from the 4th quarter programs.

Current Liabilities have increased in the month of June by about \$18,083. This is due to an increase amount in expenses from the last week of June.



A/R and A/P:

This month are both operating efficiently. New amounts are added to A/R due to the 4th quarter coming to an end, and sending invoices for reimbursement.

Closeout and decreased revenue:

Closeout of PHEP (Emergency Response), TRIMRS, Ebola, and Rooted in Relationships. New grants will be in effect for the new fiscal year.

This is also the closeout of fiscal year 2018-2019.

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.

With Maria working in health hub 48 kits that been sent to lab, 4 in April, 31 in May, 10 in June, and 3 in July. Unfortunately we have 4 that will not be doing it due to personal reasons, 6 pending and 2 applications waiting. This is an important test that everyone should do. Maria has found lot of barriers such as people being afraid of the results, time, or they are taking medication, Maria has had to call several times, or even go to their homes when they don't answer and urged them to do the test.

Maria interpreted for a family who spoke a different dialect during their child's appointment. It was a little confusing and difficult due to the dialect. Maria runs into these situations many times where individuals speak Spanish with a dialect which makes things sound difference and hard to understand.

Administrative Notes

Laura Steele will be resigning her position as an Assistant Director with her last day of employment being on July 19th. We wish her well as she pursues her education towards her law degree.

Current open positions include:
Assistant Director

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information

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