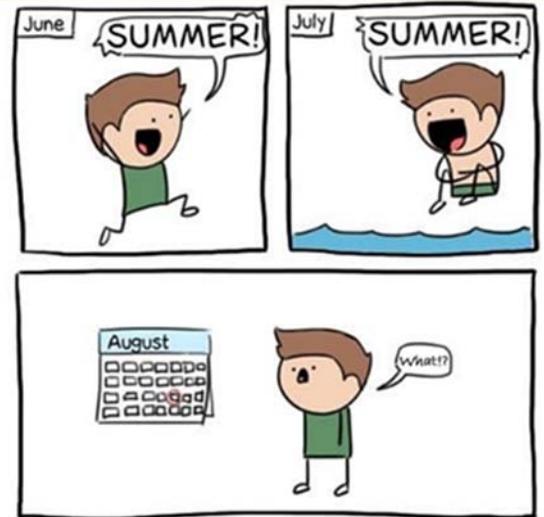


LIFESMILES

DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

We heard quote recently that said, “August is the Sunday of summer” -that definitely summarized our work this time of year. The summer is quickly coming to an end and it was filled with many preparatory activities.

August has been spent persisting in our response to the needs of communities and populations in our district. The underlying mission of public health is to improve the conditions and behaviors that affect health and safety so that all people can attain it. Working toward that mission includes a lot of “work behind the scenes” such as time spent on the development of public health policy, internal staff training, and incorporating best practices into our outreach programs for best outcomes. Despite all that is done internally, we are committed to our presence in our district as that is our most important connection to our community stakeholders and those we serve. Our goal is to serve to all residents in our district and keep our “finger on the pulse” of the intersect of research and practice. Please call or visit our website to learn more.



The LifeSmiles Program team attended an assembly with Nebraska DHHS- Office of Oral Health and Dentistry to review accomplishments from the Nebraska Teeth Forever Project. This meeting was hosted by Dr. Craft- DHHS Dental Director and Jessica O. Ball- NE DHHS Dental Program Coordinator and was held in Grand Island. This meeting was attended by Rear Admiral Timothy Ricks, DMD, MPH- Chief Dental Officer for the US Public Health Services, Carol R. Tucker RN, BSN- NE DHHS School Health Program Manager, as well as Dr. Dave Palm who shared the Evaluation Report with all attendees.

We persist in our efforts to attain support for dental disease prevention services to those in need. We will serve in schools, WICs, and long-term care facilities as funding allows. Dental and oral disease is the number one unmet healthcare need. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide services at all areas needing us till we secure more funding support. We are working hard to help many access valuable dental/ oral disease prevention services. You can contribute to this program by contacting Two Rivers Public Health Department or visiting our website at www.trphd.org and click on the “donate now” tab at the top of the page. Contributing to LifeSmiles Services is a way to help many in your community.

Oral Health = Overall Health



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During the month of August, Coordinator Cody Samuelson attended further training on the Knowledge Center system. During the training the function of creating after action reports (AAR) was covered in addition to more in depth training on the patient tracking process. Samuelson used Knowledge Center to create the AAR for the July flooding incident that impacted the TRIMRS Region.

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.

The month of August was the bi-monthly TRIMRS Steering meeting and took place on Friday, August 16th. During the meeting members discussed new business including: essential elements of information planning, highly infectious disease kits, the State of Nebraska bed tracking system testing, sub-committees, and the Clinical Advisor position.

TRI-CITIES MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM

A key event during the month of August was a functional exercise held at the Buffalo County Emergency Operations Center. The scenario of the exercise revolved around the TRIMRS member response to a mass casualty bus crash. With some artificialities, exercise participants simulated the transport of patients from the scene, the receiving and treatment of patients at several hospitals, and reunifying victims with family members. The exercise was a culmination of the Nebraska Regional Disaster Health Response Ecosystem (NRDHRE) grant. The NRDHRE grant provided funding for a medical surge workshop that was held in April, a tabletop exercise in July, the functional exercise, and implementing the Knowledge Center system. A hospital in Massachusetts and the University of Nebraska Medical Center were the only recipients of the grant funding. The goal of the grant was to create a model of health system response to disasters, lessons learned from the project will inform planning across the United States in the future.

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 July, TRPHD provided education materials and sold test kits at county fairs in our jurisdiction.

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.

Katie submitted a grant application to the Kearney Area Community Foundation to help fund a location for the event. A meeting will be held soon to assess our needs.

Community Health Worker Collaborative

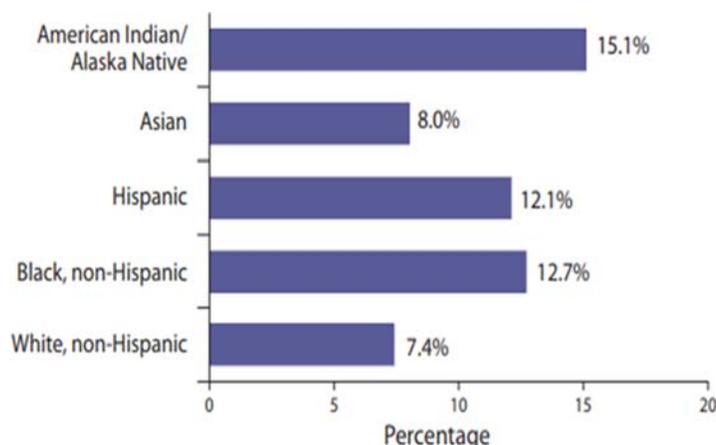
In early May Two Rivers started a project with a second research group from UNMC regarding Community Health Workers. This group, led by Dr. Fabiana Silva, is trying to help CHWs address diabetes in Hispanic populations, specifically Dawson County for us. They have asked us to do focus group/interviews with them to gather data. There will be 3 different focus groups interviews scheduled during one day, each lasting about 1 hour. One group will be comprised of those who supervise CHWS. One group will be CHWs. One group will be representatives of the community.

The first set of meetings is set for October 3rd. Data from <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pdfs/library/diabetesreportcard2017-508.pdf>

Race, Ethnicity, and Education

Members of some racial and ethnic minority groups are more likely to have diagnosed diabetes than non-Hispanic whites. Among adults, American Indians/Alaska Natives had the highest age-adjusted rates of diagnosed diabetes among all racial and ethnic groups examined (Figure 2).³

Figure 2. Percentage of US Adults Aged 18 or Older With Diagnosed Diabetes, by Racial and Ethnic Group, 2013–2015



Notes: Percentages are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Figure adapted from the *National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2017*. Data sources: 2013–2015 National Health Interview Survey and 2015 Indian Health Service National Data Warehouse (American Indian/Alaska Native data).

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.

We continue to monitor our weekly mosquito trapping results to watch for mosquitos that are carrying West Nile Virus. Two of our three counties that have trapping operations (Phelps and Dawson counties) have had mosquitoes test positive. Public notices were posted with this information as well as reminders for community members to protect themselves from mosquito bites with appropriate clothing and use of an insect repellent when going outdoors. Our health department was at every county fair in our jurisdiction to pass out insect repellent wipes and provide information to fair-goers. To date, there have been no reported cases of humans infected with West Nile Virus in our service area.

Finally, as the bats in our area start coming out to feed on insects, and later in the fall to breed, we have a definite surge in bat sightings and exposure to bat bites which can transmit rabies. As with any bite from an animal that is not vaccinated, it is extremely important to capture the animal so it can be either isolated and safely observed for symptoms of rabies or tested for rabies. All treatment recommendations for the human are based on knowing whether or not the animal is sick. If the animal cannot be captured, then the human must be treated as if the animal was known to be infected. Treating the human after an animal exposure is the most costly and least pleasant means of controlling the spread of rabies. This season, we have had no animals tested that returned positive for rabies.

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 can cause irreversible damage, such as impaired and or delayed development, behavioral problems, and hearing loss. Knowing where the source of lead exposures in a child's environment are likely to be found and removed is the best way to prevent elevated lead levels in a child's blood.

Houses built prior to 1978 were very likely painted with lead based paint. Over the years, inside and out, these houses have been painted over many times with paint that does not contain lead. All is well until paint is not maintained and begins to deteriorate by chipping, peeling, flaking, or chalking. When this happens, the old leaded paint can leach into the environment. If you are planning to scrape old paint before applying a fresh coat, in a building erected prior to 1978, please check to make sure there is no lead in those layers you are removing! During the month of August, we opened four new pediatric lead investigations.

Health Hub

DHHS is moving forward to help TRPHD connect with individuals who have visited their health care provider and were notified that we are a resource for additional health information to assist in maintaining or improving their health condition. We are here to help those in our district who need additional information or motivation in developing a healthy lifestyle.



Immunizations

We work to help parents make sure they are ready for their children to start or return to school healthy and ready to learn. This is an especially important time to look at vaccination records and make certain children will not be at risk of contracting a vaccine preventable disease when they return to classrooms with their peers. Equally important, by vaccinating healthy children and adults, we protect those students and staff who do not have immunity due to a weakened immune system from a chronic condition or on-going medical treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation. Two Rivers Public Health has been busy over the summer completing required credentialing so that we can offer an immunization clinic to the public. We are extremely excited as all the work is coming to fruition and we are planning to offer influenza vaccinations early this fall. Many of our health partners in the communities we serve, doctors, pharmacists, and some employers, already offer vaccinations to our citizens. We hope to improve vaccination rates by increasing the convenience of getting influenza vaccine to our area school age children this fall. As we settle in to this new role, we plan to offer full access to a complete array of vaccines. Our staff will be trained to bill insurance carriers or access federally funded vaccines as well as input any vaccine information into the Nebraska State Immunization Information System (NESIIS) for your tracking convenience.

Dawson County Rooted In Relationships

TRPHD has received the first check from NE Children and Family Foundation for the 2019-2020 funding year. Pyramid Collaboration Meeting for the Childcare providers getting coached is Sept 16, 6:30 at the Lexington Library. Circle of Security Bookmarks have been printed. One batch was printed on paper and laminated and another has been printed on magnet paper. These were given out at the meeting for distributing for advertising purposes. Circle of Security classes are being entered into the state website. The first COS-P class is in Lexington starting in September. Pyramid Parenting classes are set up and will start in Lexington and Cozad in October. 2019 Thriving Communities 2 Day workshop will be in Kearney September 16 and 17. All are invited to register and attend. There will NOT be a RiR meeting on September 17th . Next meeting is Oct 15 at 11:30 am.

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.

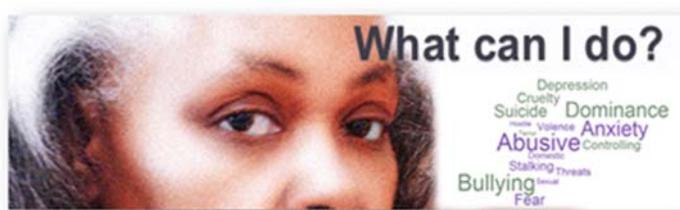
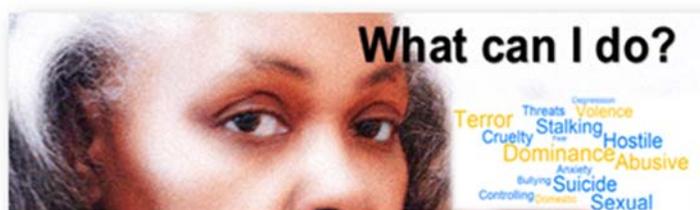
During the fall, much of the Emergency Response Activities involve full-scale exercises. Full-scale exercises involve players acting out and responding to a crisis scenario. Throughout August, Mulligan attended full-scale planning meetings for drills. Mulligan and Samuelson are currently helping to plan an active shooter drill in Gothenburg, and a tornado drill in Alma. Mulligan is working with Loup Basin Public Health Department and Tonya Ngotel of UNMC to plan a closed point of dispensing drill in our respective districts.

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.

The Lexington Community Safety Resource Team (CSRT) and the Kearney Intervention Team (KIT) are now available as a resource to communities as a safe option to report behaviors that may cause someone concern that a person is on a path of violence. It is a prevention option to help those in situations prior to an actual act of violence. Informative presentations are available to groups and organizations by contacting the team that serves your community. Contact information is listed below:



KIT - KEARNEY INTERVENTION TEAM -BUFFALO COUNTY

COMMUNITY SAFETY RESOURCE TEAM -LEXINGTON

MAKE YOUR ANONYMOUS REPORT TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTACTS:

- > See it, Say it, Send it App
You can also report by using the app, by visiting www.seesayitandsendit.com or download the app. See it-Say it- Send it on your phone.
- > Central Community College
1-308-398-7440
ishuttis@cccneb.edu
- > Area Agency on Aging
1-308-234-1851
- > S.A.F.E. Center
1-308-237-2999
- > Two Rivers Public Health Dept.
385-669-7154
308-995-4778

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY- CALL 911

We are committed to a safe community for everyone.

- Do you worry that someone might hurt himself / herself or someone else?
- Have you heard someone threaten to be violent?
- Do you know someone who has behaved in a way that makes you to fear for your safety?
- Are you worried that if you tell someone you will get them in trouble or yourself?
- Do you worry if you should tell someone because they might think that you are overreacting?

We are here to offer a safe option to share your concerns or story. Our team is made up of people trained to prevent violence or the escalation of violence.

We are here to help.



MAKE YOUR ANONYMOUS REPORT TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTACTS:

- > See it, Say it, Send it App
You can also report by using the app, by visiting www.seesayitandsendit.com or download the app. See it-Say it- Send it on your phone.
- > Heidi Ravetto
Chaplain, Tyson Foods
Heidi.ravetto@tyson.com
308-324-8276
- > Central Community College
1-308-398-7440
ishuttis@cccneb.edu
- > Two Rivers Public Health Dept.
385-669-7154
308-995-4778
- > Non-Emergency Police Contact
308-324-2317

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY- CALL 911

We are committed to a safe community for everyone.

- Do you worry that someone might hurt himself / herself or someone else?
- Have you heard someone threaten to be violent?
- Do you know someone who has behaved in a way that makes you to fear for your safety?
- Are you worried that if you tell someone you will get them in trouble or yourself?
- Do you worry if you should tell someone because they might think that you are overreacting?

We are here to offer a safe option to share your concerns or story. Our team is made up of people trained to prevent violence or the escalation of violence.

We are here to help.



If you or someone you know needs help, the National Domestic Violence hotline number is: 1-800-799-7233. Statistics Provided By NCADV. For more information visit <https://www.ncadv.org>

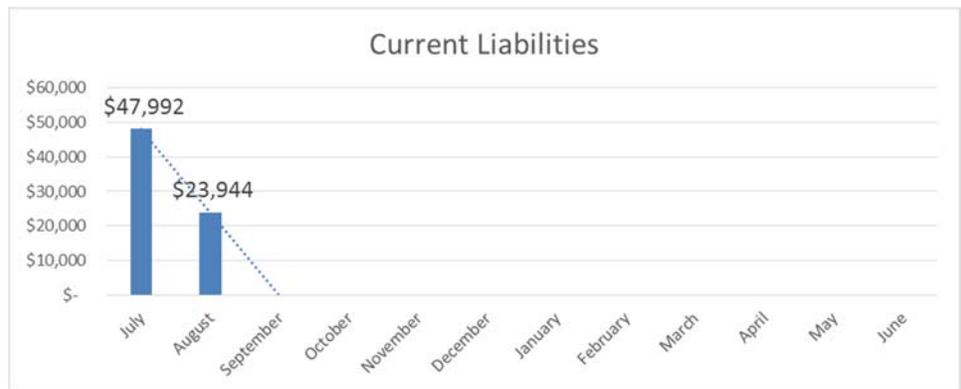
JULY FINANCIAL REPORT

Two Rivers fund balance on August 31st was \$854,746. We have 324 days cash on hand.



Current Assets are at an estimate of \$994,664 for August 2019. This is due to a slight increase to our bank cash flow.

Current Liabilities in the month of August decreased to \$23,944. This is due to less payables submitted in the final week of August.



A/R and A/P both operating efficiently. Radon invoice of \$3000 is 31 – 60 days past due. Talked to DHHS for the status of this invoice. They replied back that it was submitted to be approved on August 31st. Will follow up in September if we don't hear anything back on this invoice.

New grants and increased revenue:

Additional Funding has been provided for the following programs:

- Making Connections (10/1/18 – 9/30/19) - \$1,400
- Emergency Response (7/1/19 – 6/30/19) – \$5,421.76
- TRIMRS (7/1/19 – 6/30/19) - \$12,677.85
- Lead (10/1/18 – 9/30/19) - \$3000

Closeout and decreased revenue:

N/A

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, and connecting individuals with resources.

While out in the community Maria helps people overcome a variety of barriers. In August she was able to help a woman who is unable to read. This woman thought that she had a five-year-old child still in diapers. Maria thought that the five-year-old may have a disability. When Maria visited the family she took a look at the birth certificate, and the child was barely 3 years of age. Maria assisted the woman with getting appointments at WIC, Immunization clinic, Micah's House for clothing, and the food bank for the 3-year-old and her 6-year-old.

Maria encounters many difficult situations as like the one in the story above, and is great with connecting individuals to resources in the community such as WIC, Micah's House, the food pantry, and Ryde transportation.

Administrative Notes

Accreditation Update:

Two Rivers Public Health Department is excited to announce the receipt of response for our National Accreditation—a work plan has been identified with key activities to complete over the next year. Key activities include: Community Health Assessment and Improvement plan

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information

Two Rivers Public Health Department

Holdrege Office:

701 4th Ave., Suite 1 Holdrege, NE
68949

Kearney Office:

3715 29th Ave., Suite A2 Kearney, NE
68845