

## Emergency Response



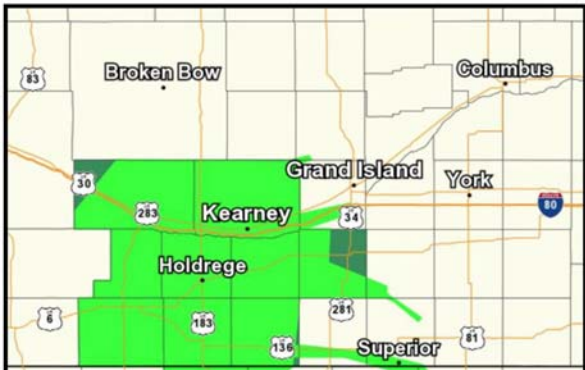
2nd Street in Kearney, NE

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.

On Tuesday July 9th a flash flood warning was issued for 9 counties in Nebraska. Seven of the nine counties were

**Areal Flood Warnings:** Includes all or parts of the following counties: Dawson, Buffalo, Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, Adams, Furnas, Harlan, Franklin, Phillips (KS), and Smith (KS).

**Flash Flood Warning for Webster and Nuckolls until 11:15am.**

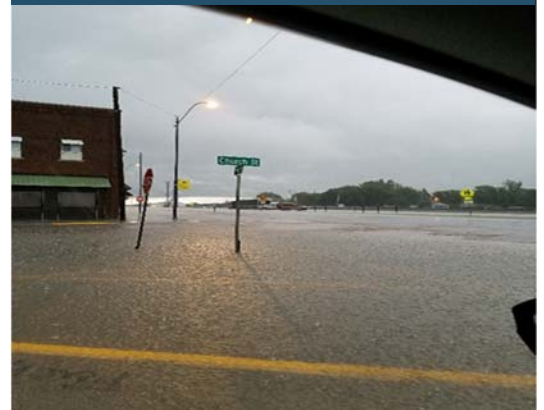


the Two Rivers Public Health Department District. Several towns and cities in the TRPHD area were affected, with the most damage located in Odessa, Elm Creek, Kearney, Gibbon, Lexington, Cozad, and Gothenburg.

Rising waters also affected Harlan and Franklin Counties, causing reservoirs to break record water elevation levels. Two Rivers responded to the flooding more quickly than the flooding in March by sending out a press release on July 9th about the dangers of flood waters.



Top picture shows country roads near Heartwell. Bottom is of Flooding in Elm Creek



# Emergency Response



Flooding and Blue-Green Algae at Harlan Reservoir



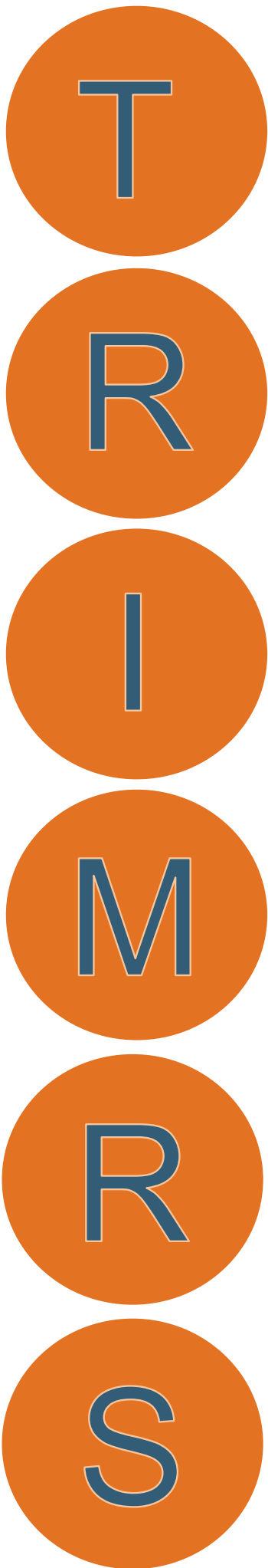
Lexington One-Stop-Shop

Two Rivers with Buffalo County Emergency Management called together the Greater Kearney Area COAD on July 12th. By July 19th, the Kearney COAD had held 2 One-Stop-Shop (Multi-Agency Resource Centers) in Buffalo County. Two Rivers participated in a One-Stop-Shop in Lexington on July 18th. Staff members were able to provide education to individuals at these events about flood-water clean-up, the dangers of West Nile Virus, and the importance of testing your well water for bacteria. Approximately 400 individuals/families visited the events to gather information and apply for help. Flood recovery can take months, and Two Rivers will continue to address problems resulting from flooding in the coming months.



Kearney One-Stop-Shop

400 Families/individuals visited the



During the month of July, Coordinator Cody Samuelson facilitated a meeting of the TRIMRS Steering Committee that was rescheduled from June. The meeting provided the opportunity to discuss key coalition items including: budget, the Clinical Advisor position that the coalition needs to create and fill, and new personal protective equipment kits available to hospital members. TRIMRS members, Two Rivers Public Health Department staff, and Samuelson have been working diligently to set a coalition budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

**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**

Samuelson has also been working with TRIMRS members to reform and revive TRIMRS Subcommittees. During the month of July the TRIMRS Financial Subcommittee met for the second time in becoming established. The goal is to have the additional subcommittee lists of membership in place by the regular August Steering Committee Meeting.

## TRI-CITIES MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM

Samuelson joined members of a planning committee for the Alma full-scale tornado exercise that will take place in the fall. Due to flooding in the area, the planning committee is devising plans to hold the training at an alternate site from where the original exercise was to take place. The exercise is tentatively planned for Saturday, November 9, 2019. Samuelson attended and participated in a tabletop exercise held in Columbus on July 17. During the exercise Knowledge Center was used to respond to a train vs. bus accident in a rural area of the TRIMRS Region. A functional exercise that will build on the tabletop exercise will take place in Kearney on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Samuelson attended an active shooter tabletop at Mary Lanning Healthcare on July 23. A full-scale exercise that builds on the tabletop exercise will take place on October 15. Samuelson is working with several TRIMRS members to assist them in planning exercises.

## 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.

Due to July flooding in the Two Rivers district area, the event was delayed until Tuesday July 30, 2019. This event was held in the Kearney Public Library and food from Panera was provided. The participant were able to share individual experiences from their work as community health workers. The information gathered will be processed and shared to Two Rivers Public Health Department at a later date.

## 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 will met in July to provide updates on activities and assess what needs to be done. As of right now, there are few activities to report. The subcommittee for logistics is completing a grant application to the Kearney Area Community Foundation to provide a location to hold this event next September. The next check in meeting will be held August 1st.

## 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.

# 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.

It's great to get outside and enjoy nature during the summer, but be aware that the animals you encounter pose a potential risk of exposure to rabies. Because rabies is a fatal infection in humans, precautions must be taken to avoid being bitten. Teach your children not to approach wild or unfamiliar animals. If a bite occurs, immediate action should be taken. If possible, the biting animal needs to be contained for observation and the vaccination status of the animal needs to be confirmed. Next, the wound should be thoroughly cleansed with soap and water and medical consultation obtained. Obviously, wild animals are not vaccinated against rabies, so they need to be captured and tested for rabies. This is important because, without the ability to quickly test the animal and confirm it is not rabid, action must be taken to protect the affected human as if the animal were known to be infected. That means post exposure prophylaxis treatment (a series of four rabies vaccinations) must be provided to the exposed individual. It is shockingly expensive (the series will cost over \$10,000) so by capturing the animal and testing it, a huge expense to the health insurance company can be avoided. If you have domestic animals of your own, be a responsible pet owner and make sure your animals are current on their vaccinations.

During the month of July, TRPHD's disease investigations included six cases of animal bite exposures. Humans were bitten by bats, rats, cats, and dogs.

# 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 July, environmental Investigations to were conducted at two homes in TRPHD jurisdiction where children had elevated lead levels. Numerous findings of lead paint were found in both homes. Lead clean-up teaching and materials were provided to parents at both homes.

## Health Hub

We at TRPHD will now be moving toward the health coaching component of this program. DHHS will provide us with names of 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 look forward to connecting with those in our district who need additional information or motivation in developing a healthy lifestyle.



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

The grant for another years funding was submitted and approved.

Contracts for child care providers, coaches and class facilitators will be going out soon.

Book marks with parenting class information have been printed with In-Kind funds and have been laminated for distribution. This marketing tool is hoping to boost attendance at classes.

The next RiR meeting is August 20th at 11:30. All are encouraged to attend!

# LIFESMILES DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

It was recently brought to my attention, by a colleague, that the fastest way to shut down a conversation is to tell someone you work in public health...because many do not understand what it is. Public health is so many things, but ultimately, we are working to prevent and mitigate disease as well as promote and work towards safe communities. We at Two Rivers Public Health Department are a small, but dedicated team of professionals working to serve those in our district and make our community healthy and safe for all! Please call or visit our website for more information. We are here for you!

The LifeSmiles Program will be recognized in an upcoming publication of the national dental hygiene professional journal, "Access". Stay tuned for more information as we are very proud that our program has stood out at a national level to be acclaimed in this manner. 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. As the population grows and ages in the Nebraska, medical and dental profession shortages are predicted to worsen, especially in the rural health settings like ours. As was established in a

previous Surgeon health, the mouth is body, and poor oral other health issues.

in the Journal of (June 2018) indi- evidence that like periodontal dis- brovascular dis- and high obstetrical health is a tool for health disparities, readily available to January 25, follow- eral's request for



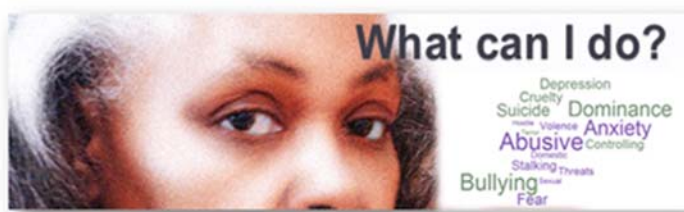
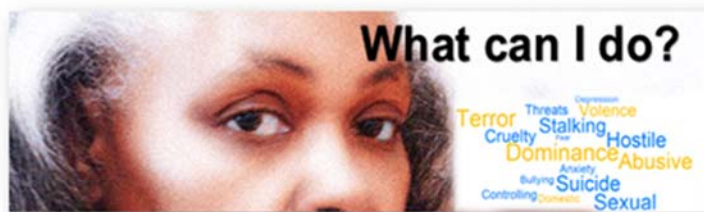
coming 2020 Oral Health Report, National Rural Health Association submitted a comment letter to the Office of the Surgeon General, outlining recommendations to improve oral healthcare in vulnerable rural areas. You can contribute to this program by contacting Two Rivers Public Health Department or visiting our website at [www.trphd.org](http://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.



# 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 such concerning behaviors. The goal is to help those who may be on a path to violence and prevent violent events.



## 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](http://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](mailto: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.  
888-669-7154  
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](http://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](mailto:Heidi.ravetto@tyson.com)  
308-324-8276
- > Central Community College  
1-308-398-7440  
[ishuttis@cccneb.edu](mailto:ishuttis@cccneb.edu)
- > Two Rivers Public Health Dept.  
888-669-7154  
308-995-4778
- > Non-Emergency Police Contact  
308-324-2317

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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 July 31st was \$842,912. We have 320 days cash on hand.



Current Assets are at an estimate of \$979,475 for July 2019.

Current Liabilities in the month of July is about \$47,992. This is due to an increase amount in expenses from the last week of July and a higher amount in accruals.



## A/R and A/P

this month are both operating efficiently.

## New grants and increased revenue:

N/A

## Closeout and decreased revenue:

Closeout of CVE. This program will not continue for this fiscal year.

## 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.

This month Maria has collaborated with many organizations to assist those affected by the flooding. She as volunteered at one-stop-shops, and the food banks. She assisted many families with getting cleaning buckets, food, clothes, and vouchers for financial assistance.

## Administrative Notes

### Accreditation Update:

Two Rivers Public Health Department complete an accreditation site visit on June 5th and 6th. All of the health department staff helped to prepare the office, greet guests, sit in on question sessions, and greet our community partners. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all those who have participated in this process from start to finish. We hope to hear from the Public Health Accreditation Board about our status in August.

Completed CHA- need to begin working on CHIP

## 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

**Phone Number:** (888) 669-7154

Visit us on the web at [www.trphd.org](http://www.trphd.org)