Douglas County Health Department

Annual Report 2015

Community Health & Nutrition

Health Data, Planning & Emergency Preparation

Environmental Health

A message from the Director

Dr. Adi M. Pour, Ph.D
Health Director

The latest edition of the Douglas County Health Department's Annual Report has arrived, and as you can tell, the 2014-2015 fiscal year was a memorable one, and much of that work flowed into the current time.

It was the year Ebola came to American shores, with Omaha at the center of much of the attention. Monitoring, education, and communications were among the major contributions of the Health Department, as patients were brought to the UNMC campus, just blocks from DCHD offices.

More work was done on the Community Health Improvement Plan – an ongoing task that will continue into the coming years as the health care providers of Douglas County collaborate to create a healthier community.

Residents continue to have more opportunities for smoke-free living, and healthier foods. Health disparities have been reduced, but not eliminated, so our work continues. STDs continue to be a primary concern. We have gained new partners, and with the growth of our team, we will expand education and testing as we strive toward our goal of defeating this epidemic.

Public health continues to affect Douglas County residents in every corner of the county, every day of the year. Douglas County is becoming a healthier place to live – and the work that is making that happen can be seen in these pages.

Adi Pour, Ph.D., Health Director

Douglas County Health Department Priorities

CHIP It stands for Community Health Improvement Plan.

Since its unveiling in October of 2013, the CHIP has been in motion to improve the health of Douglas County residents. This three-year plan addresses access to health services, obesity and nutrition, behavioral health across the lifespan, and violence, safety, and injury in children and adolescents, has many goals and objectives, all of them ambitious.

In order to reach these goals, community organizations are leading activities for the CHIP. Those include:

Priority area 1: Access to Health Services across the Lifespan

Priority area 2: Obesity and Nutrition across the Lifespan

Priority area 3: Violence Safety and Injury in Adolescence and Children

Priority area 4: Behavioral Health across the Lifespan

The Douglas County Health Department provides progress updates to the community on a quarterly basis, and individuals may request a progress report.

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Health Data, Planning & Emergency Preparation

Ebola The stories began in West Africa, where the exotic name had always lurked.

Ebola. Why should we worry about it here?

Then, as thousands became ill and died, it came here.

An American doctor arrived early in September 2015 for treatment. Dr. Rick Sacra was deathly ill after treating Ebola patients in Liberia. His condition was dire, but he would survive.

But this was something the United States had only started to address, and something for which most Douglas County residents had not prepared.

Most, but not all. The Douglas County Health Department, our partners at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services were ready. So were the first responders in our local police and fire departments.

Dr. Sacra arrived at the Medical Center's biocontainment unit, was treated and survived. The Health Department helped plan the visit, educated the public, asked many questions, and provided an information line to ask the questions that kept coming. Other patients also came – only one failed to recover – but many more required monitoring by the Health Department.

No one became sick in Douglas County from Ebola. Our scientific knowledge base grew, and the battle against Ebola continues.

New cases continue to be reported in Africa, but the disease is in retreat, if only for a short time.

The Douglas County Health Department had helped make Douglas County, and the world, a safer and healthier place in which to live.

DCHD Director Dr. Adi Pour and UNMC's Dr. Phil Smith helped lead the response to Ebola.

Local and national media prepared to cover the arrival of another Ebola patient.

The Ebola virus caused an international health crisis that reached into Douglas County.

DCHD's Phil Rooney and Nebraska Medicine's Taylor Wilson lead a discussion at PRSA Nebraska on their local work during the Ebola crisis.

STDs

DCHD's effort to fight the local STD epidemic continued, and reinforcements arrived. New testing locations were enlisted, but the battle is far from over.

During the 2015 calendar year, Douglas County had 3,507 confirmed cases of chlamydia and 1,081 cases of gonorrhea. The testing is expanding and there is plenty of work to be done.

The Women's Fund of Omaha provided grant dollars to expand testing and outreach. The result was more testing in more locations than ever, and, expanded clinic hours at the Health Department clinic.

An advertising campaign designed to shock and grab the public's attention did just that.

Not shockingly, with more testing came more cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea. The bright side is, more people being treated will result in a lowering of the community's exceedingly high STD rates.

And that means a healthier community.

Emergency Preparation

No one knows the source of our next emergency. No one knows when it will happen.

Everyone knows it is coming.

The Douglas County Health Department's Emergency Preparedness staff plans and exercises for every situation imaginable, and they try to dream up new ones. It could be an outbreak, it could be weather, or it could be a terror attack.

They tirelessly work to prepare for every emergency – and they just keep getting better at it.

We may not know when or where it's coming from, but we know who will respond.

Here's what they did:

- Completed annual inventory
- Completed new CDC CRI assessment process
- Participated in the following conferences, workshops and tabletop exercises:
  - Faith Readiness Workshop
  - ChemPak Tabletop Exercise
  - Disaster Behavioral Health Tabletop Exercise
  - Eppley Tabletop Exercise
  - Heartland Security Conference
  - Center for Preparedness Symposia
  - National Preparedness Summit
  - NE Preparedness Partners Symposia
  - Pipeline Tabletop Exercise
- Ebola Response - Incident management and Unified Command activation
- Renewed agreements with community response partners
- Reviewed and revised the following plans:
  - Omaha MSA Plan for Mass Dispensing of Medical Countermeasures
  - DCHD Emergency Response Plan
  - Distribution and Dispensing Field Operations Guides
- Conducted DCHD response team trainings
- Conducted UNMC student response team trainings
- Conducted hospital training
- Multiple Nursing Student and Public Health Class Presentations
- Evaluator at Multiple Local Health Department Full-scale Exercises
- Two Business health fairs
- Participated in major restructuring of Medical Reserve Corps
- CDC site visits
- Distribution Site Assessment
- More than 70 Community Planning Meetings

John Weston inspects some of the communications equipment the Emergency Preparedness staff keeps in the event of a disaster.

Community Health and Nutrition

Home Visiting

Douglas County initiated its Home Visiting program during the past year. This provides support to those who are pregnant and/or parenting children from birth to 5 years of age to help them to be the best parents they can be.

Those who choose to participate will be connected with a trained home visitor, and the frequency of visits can vary from once a month up to once a week. Home Visiting helps connect these parents to community resources, answers questions, provides understanding on child development, and offers meetings in the most comfortable setting at the choice of the participant.

WIC

The Women Infants and Children (WIC) program moved into its 41st year of supporting mothers and children. During Fiscal 2015 the WIC program served a monthly average of 6,308 participants at DCHD clinics, a monthly average of 13,818 participants at all Douglas-Sarpy County clinics, with cumulative participation of 75,703 at all Health Department WIC clinics and total participation of 165,820 at all Douglas and Sarpy County clinics.

FIMR

A community's general health status and well-being often is measured by its infant mortality rate. While the national infant mortality rate has decreased over the last decade, racial and ethnic disparities persist.

In Douglas County, Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) is a best practice model aimed at improving systems and resources for women, infants and families of all races and ethnicities.

FIMR is used at the local level for assessing, planning, improving and monitoring the service systems and broad community resources that support and promote the health and well-being of women, infants and families.

Information from reviews is used to guide program and policy development, while defining and maintaining quality services and resources.

Infant mortality rate has **decreased** from **7.0** (2013) to **4.9** (2014)

Source: 2014 Douglas County population-based infant only data

Data Gathering

Infant mortality rates have improved for both African American and Caucasian mothers, **however,** the health disparity has **increased** from **1.3** to **1.8**

Source: 2014 Douglas County population-based infant only data

Case Review

Hispanic mothers **(6.1)** have a **higher** infant mortality rate than Caucasian mothers (4.0)

Source: 2014 Douglas County population-based infant only data

Community Action

Top 4 single causes of infant mortality

1. Congenital Anomalies
2. SIDS/SUID
3. Prematurity/ extreme prematurity
4. Other Perinatal Causes

Source: 2014 Douglas County Vital Statistics information using ICD-10 codes.

Changes in Community System

Environmental Health

Air Quality - it's a matter of education.

The Douglas County Health Department provides daily air quality information and, when the rare occasion demands, we do warnings or alerts. Generally, the air quality in Douglas County is good. However, there are those days when particulate matter PM2.5 or Ozone gets too high.

The concern is to help the public develop practices that will reduce pollutants and avoid costly mandates on businesses that would discourage economic development.

So far, the community is doing well, and efforts to develop a more active life style are helping.

Douglas County Health Department Laboratory addresses Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) issues. The lab received 526 telephone calls and performed 59 inspections regarding IAQ issues within the fiscal year. It may involve problems resulting from mold, water leaks, or ventilation systems.

The same group of individuals works to address pollen concerns, using a certified pollen reader for the Douglas County area from around March to late October. Pollen is collected daily and readings are reported to the National Weather Service to help people with respiratory conditions plan their day.

The laboratory has also been researching links between asthma related respiratory conditions and ozone levels.

Air Quality Supervisor Russ Hadan checks out the gas analyzers to get a reading on local air quality.

Retail Foods

Staff in Retail Foods inspected 3,502 retail food operations, 313 schools, and 121 daycares.

Retail Foods staff performed more than 500 inspections at 38 festivals and other temporary events.

The Retail Foods staff inspected more than 300 vendors at six farmers markets.

Inspector Erica Colbert and Retail Foods Supervisor Joe Gaube were on-site at the College World Series to make sure vendors followed proper food safety practices.

The DCHD Lead Program expanded its work to include follow-up visits with children diagnosed as having high lead levels, and responding to requests to test homes for the presence of lead. As a result, new highs in testing were reached. Fortunately, the percentage of young people suffering from lead poisoning has dropped considerably during the past decade.

Some of the staff from the Childhood Lead Program promote their services.

Accomplishments and Financial Report

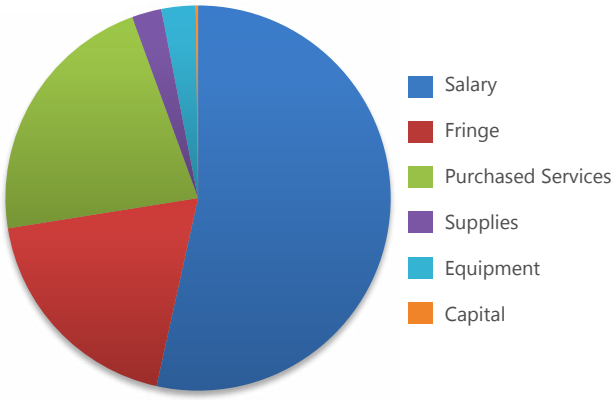
Staff Highlights

- The Douglas County Health Department was one of only six organizations to be awarded a two-year program grant from the Health Impact Project.
- Staff completed health impact assessments (HIA) for Prospect Village and Downtown Omaha Parking.
- Organized the Western Nebraska Healthy Community Design Workshop in Scottsbluff that was attended by 30 people.
- Planned and promoted the Neighborhood Engagement Workshop in Omaha, which was attended by 44 individuals who looked at how to institutionalize HIA in the city's planning department.
- Put in place a foundation for the Nebraska DHHS to create a state Complete Streets Plan.
- Staff expanded the Seed Share program to two sites that drew several hundred visitors.

Financial Report

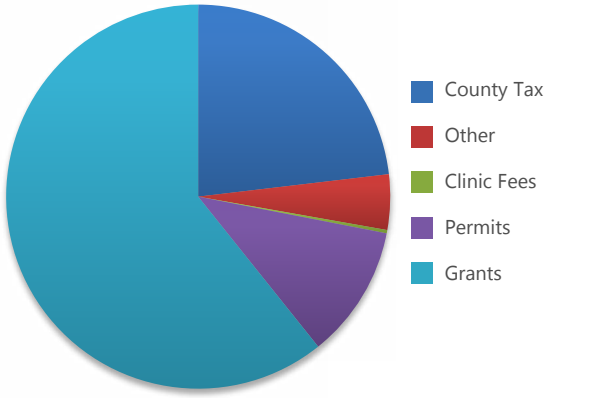
Proposed FY 15 Expenses

Salary	6,866,133
Fringe	2,441,814
Purchased Service	2,820,166
Supplies	319,204
Equipment	369,300
Capital	24,900
Total:	**$12,841,517**



Proposed FY 15 Revenue

County Tax	2,970,280
Other	598,000
Clinic Fees	35,500
Permits	1,437,700
Grants	7,800,037
Total:	**$12,841,517**



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Promoting and Protecting Public Health