

**Public
Health**

Solutions

District Health Department

Annual 2003 - 2004 REPORT

Prevent ■ Promote ■ Protect

letter from the director

FY July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

Our annual report is a great time for us to reflect on all of the things we have done throughout the last year. We are still a very young health department, completing our second year of service. It is exciting to watch our department grow and change to meet the needs of the communities in Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline and Thayer counties. With each new public health challenge our department has an opportunity to push beyond our previous limits.

We have met some of these challenges by:

- Survey and Assessment of School Health Education Programming
- Providing and coordinating influenza vaccinations during flu season and tetanus vaccines after damaging storms
- Educating the public about emerging public health threats like West Nile Virus and Rabies
- Providing pedometers to encourage increased activity
- Conducting onsite hand washing training to schools and day cares
- Educating the public about the importance of clean air and water
- Organizing Public Health Emergency Response Teams in Gage, Jefferson, and Saline counties
- Disease Surveillance Activities

As the Health Director, I have enormous gratitude and appreciation to all of you who help make our communities a healthier and safer place. We could not do this without a supportive board of health, staff and community partners.

We are making a difference in the health and well being of our community and it is an honor to be a part of that process.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Sutter

Tiffany Sutter, M.Ed.
Health Director



PHS staff and board of directors

Public Health Solutions Staff

Tiffany Sutter, Health Director

Shannon Vogler, Emergency Response Project Director

Kim Whitley, Epidemiology/Surveillance Coordinator

Diane Epp, Health Educator

Jennifer Sundberg, Environmental Health Manager

Pam Busboom, Administrative Assistant

Public Health Solutions Board of Directors and Titles

Linda Ament - Public Spirited Person - Gage County

Larry Cerny - County Supervisor - Fillmore County

Amy Fish - President - Public Spirited Person - Saline County

Gordon Fleming - County Commissioner - Thayer County

Shirley Gronewold - County Supervisor - Gage County

Debra Hellbusch - Vice President - Public Spirited Person - Jefferson County

Dr. L.W. Kennel - Dentist - Fillmore County

Kate Lange - Treasurer - Public Spirited Person - Thayer County

Tony Likens - County Commissioner - Jefferson County

Beth Mares - Secretary - County Commissioner - Saline County

Dr. Robert Quick - Physician - Saline County

Eric Williams - Public Spirited Person - Fillmore County

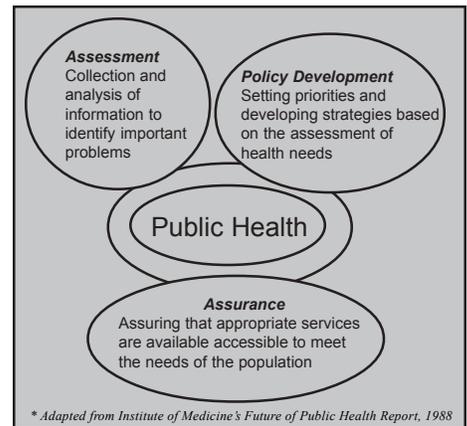
Our mission is to prevent disease and injury, promote wellness, and protect the personal, community, and environmental health of all people in Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, and Thayer counties in southeast Nebraska.

areas of responsibility

Public Health Solutions

District Health Department

Core Functions and Ten Essential Services



Core Function – Assessment

Assessment involves the collection, analysis, and sharing of information to identify health conditions, risks, and resources in a community. The assessment function is needed to identify trends in illness, injury, death, and the factors that may cause these events.

Essential Services

- Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
- Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.

Core Function – Policy Development

Policy Development focuses on building coalitions that can develop local and state policies based on the high priority health care needs.

Essential Services

- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
- Develop policies and rules that support individual and community health efforts.

Core Function – Assurance

Assurance makes local and state health agencies responsible for assuring that programs and services are available to meet the high priority needs of the population. These programs and services can be provided directly or by encouraging other public or private agencies to provide them.

Essential Services

- Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and the environment, and ensure safety.
- Link people to needed medical and mental health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
- Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

public health by the numbers

- **PHS District Health Department serves a five-county area: Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, and Thayer, encompassing 3,159 square miles.**

- **The 2003-2004 annual budget comprised of \$324,982.**

- **PHS implemented eleven new programs and information sources:**
 - Clean Indoor Air Restaurant Inspections
 - Hispanic Home Visitation Program
 - Saline County Health Coalition
 - Infection Control Meetings
 - Public Health Emergency Response Teams (PHERT) in Fillmore, Saline, and Jefferson Counties
 - Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) in Gage County
 - PHS website: www.phsneb.org
 - Women Lead the Way Walking Program
 - Worksite Wellness Program
 - School Surveillance Program
 - Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment

- **Coalitions or groups PHS participates in:**
 - Gage County Coalition
 - Adult Immunization Coalition
 - Breast Cancer Forum
 - Cardiovascular Planning Group
 - Drug-Free Coalition of Fillmore County
 - Interagency meetings in each county
 - Kids Connection Governing Board
 - Nebraska Cancer Control Coalition
 - New Dimensions Women's Health
 - Statewide Nebraska Asthma Team
 - Tobacco Free Nebraska

- **PHS has six staff members serving 57,858 residents.**

PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS
BALANCE SHEETS
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

June 30, 2004

	General	Public Health Emergency Response	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
ASSETS				
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,196	\$ 5,196
Investments - Public Agency Investment Trust	298,529	-	-	298,529
Prepaid insurance	1,007	-	-	1,007
Other receivables	-	20,250	-	20,250
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 299,536</u>	<u>\$ 20,250</u>	<u>\$ 5,196</u>	<u>\$ 324,982</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
LIABILITIES				
Bank overdraft	\$ 31,076	\$ 5,663	\$ -	\$ 36,739
Accounts payable	-	9,732	-	9,732
Accrued wages	4,438	2,692	146	7,275
Payroll tax liabilities	4,665	2,830	153	7,648
Accrued compensated absences	2,553	1,549	84	4,186
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>42,732</u>	<u>22,465</u>	<u>382</u>	<u>65,580</u>
NET ASSETS				
Restricted	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted	256,804	(2,215)	4,814	259,402
TOTAL NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)	<u>256,804</u>	<u>(2,215)</u>	<u>4,814</u>	<u>259,402</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 299,536</u>	<u>\$ 20,250</u>	<u>\$ 5,196</u>	<u>\$ 324,982</u>

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds

90,604

Expenses reported in the statement of activities that do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the funds

(65,580)

Net assets of governmental activities

\$ 350,006

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

core function - assessment

Essential Services

1) Monitor health status to identify community health problems

School Surveillance Program

Forty-four schools participated in the schools surveillance project during the 2003 & 2004 school year. Schools were asked to provide illness data by disease category on a weekly basis. The compiled data was sent on to the state. Participating schools plus members of the health community received weekly updates in graph form of the illness data by county.

Sixty Asthma cases, 2699 Flu cases, 191 Streptococcal illnesses, 66 Rash with fever cases, 1194 Gastrointestinal cases were reported in our five county area during the time period of September 24, 2003 and May 22, 2004.

Worksite Wellness Program

Fifty-eight Saline county businesses responded to an employee wellness survey, designed by Public Health Solutions and the Saline County Commissioners Safety Board. This survey was designed to provide programming information to enhance employee health that will result in a decrease in preventable illness among employees and their families and improve workplace safety.

2) Diagnose and investigate health problems and hazards in the community

We had one reported TB case. We provided a home visitation and some case management with other health and financial problems affecting the family.

3) Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues

PHS offered a \$3,800 mini-grant to each county to conduct a Women Lead the Way Walking Program. These funds were coupled with a HHS grant of \$5,000, so each county received a total of \$4,800. Funds were used for incentives, supplies, and advertising.

Our office provided 15 presentations on a range of health education topics (HIV/AIDS, Eating Disorders, Chronic Disease Prevention, Worksite Wellness, Public Health and You), which were provided mostly by the health educator.

We partnered with Fillmore, Saline, and Thayer counties to write a grant to Health and Human Services, EMS Program to provide funds to place AED's and training in each county. PHS was awarded \$16,000 and administered the grant.

We distributed 17 press releases on Flu, Public Health Month, Rabies, Obesity, Storm Management, Tobacco, West Nile Virus, and Worksite Wellness. We participated in 6 radio and 2 newspaper interviews.

Our office participated in 12 health fair booths, which included county fairs, home and garden shows, and hospital health fairs.

We launched our website in June 2004. Our address is www.phsneb.org. We will direct the public to the site for updated information on a range of public health issues.



core function - policy development

Essential Services

4) Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems

We spearheaded the Saline County Health Coalition whose mission is to improve health care service quality and access among our Hispanic families. cursory assessments indicate a disparity in care among this population. The hospital, clinic, community action agency, local dentist, chamber of commerce and behavioral health provider have joined the coalition. We have submitted a HRSA planning grant to begin establishing a formal network. The coalition has seriously discussed the possibility of starting a community health center in our health district.

PHS initiated an infection control meeting to gather together infection control nurses in our five counties to initiate a working relationship between PHS and infection control. The group elected to meet 3 times a year.

We also mobilized Public Health Emergency Response Teams (PHERT) in Fillmore, Saline, and Jefferson counties.

Coalitions or groups we participate in:

Adult Immunization Coalition
Breast Cancer Forum
Cardiovascular Planning Group
Drug-Free Coalition of Fillmore County
Inter-agency meetings in each county
Kids Connection Governing Board
Nebraska Cancer Control Coalition
New Dimensions Women's Health
Statewide Nebraska Asthma Team
Tobacco Free Nebraska
State Emergency Response Planning Group
WMD Mental Health Advisory Group

5) Develop policies and rules that support individual and community health efforts

PHS is providing on-going technical assistance to two local communities on revamping their local ordinances that support a healthy community (trash, leash laws, appliances and junk vehicles.)



core function - assurance

Essential Services

6) Enforce laws, rules, and regulations that protect public health and the environment and ensure safety

Clean Indoor Air Restaurant Inspections

Four training sessions educating restaurant owners about the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) rules and regulations were conducted prior to inspections. 150 pieces of mail outlining the CIAA Rules and Regulations were mailed to restaurant owners during the months of September and October. 104 indoor air inspections were completed with 98 or 94.2% of those restaurants in compliance.

7) Link people to needed medical and mental health services and assure the provisions of health care when not otherwise available

Sixty influenza vaccine providers in our five county area were surveyed December 8, 2003, seeking information on flu vaccine availability. Persons seeking vaccine were then directed by our local health department to available doses. NHHS was able to obtain 40 additional flu shots for infants; ages 6 – 23 months in our coverage area, which was offered on a first come, first serve basis. Two clinics were organized (one in Thayer county and one in Saline county) to accommodate those wanting the vaccine. We administered all 40 shots.

During May 25 – June 3, 2004, we held five tetanus clinics and vaccinated 292 residents following the tornado in Saline County. Four volunteer nurses administered the shots.

We have a Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant with Blue Valley Community Action. The grant supports a home visitation program for Hispanic families. The program offers case management, transportation, translation and health education.

Our office received 50 complaint calls, which required education, referral, and follow-up. The majority of calls were related to rabies, no medical or dental insurance, radon, condemned properties, and West Nile Virus.

8) Assure a competent workforce within the health care industry and public health departments

PHS hired a full-time health educator and environmental health manager to enhance our service capacity. We now employ six staff members.



core function - assurance continued

Essential Services continued

Public Health Solutions offers funding to support continuing education for all of our staff. Our staff has participated in the following training opportunities:

- APHA Annual Meeting
- ANNCAA Wellness Conference
- California Distance Learning Health Network on Mass vaccination clinics
- HHS Sponsored training (Applied Epidemiology, BT, GIS, WNV)
- Minority Public Health Association Annual Meeting
- Mass Immunization Clinic Exercise (LLCHD)
- NACCHO Annual Meeting
- National Disaster Medical System Conference in Dallas Texas
- National Environmental Health Association Conference in Alaska
- Nebraska Environmental Health Association, Annual Meeting
- Nebraska Oral Health Conference
- NeRHA Annual Meeting
- PHAN Annual Meeting
- Public Health Grand Rounds (webcasts)
- Workplace University Training
- GIS Training

9) Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of services within the health care industry and public health departments

Public Health Solutions is conducting two needs assessments: one for maternal child health and one for women's health. As part of these assessments, we have conducted focus groups and administered provider surveys, which will be used by community partners to generate a five-year strategic plan.

Thirty-one local businesses returned the Crete Community Health Assessment conducted by Public Health Solutions and Workwell Worksite Wellness. This survey polled Crete area businesses as to the type of worksite wellness activities offered at their facility.

10) Research to gain new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

PHS has not been involved in public health research, but would welcome future opportunities.





*Serving Fillmore, Gage,
Jefferson, Saline, and
Thayer counties.*

Your Information Source For
Disease and Injury
Health and Wellness
Environmental issues

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