

**Public
Health**

Solutions

District Health Department

Annual 2005 - 2006 REPORT

Prevent ■ Promote ■ Protect

letter from the board president

FY July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

October 16, 2006

Our annual report is a great time to reflect on the accomplishments we have made throughout the past year. We completed our fourth year of service having built strong relationships with the residents of Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline and Thayer counties. With each new public health challenge our department has expanded its capacity and collaborated with state and district colleagues.

We have met some of these challenges by:

- Conducting Disease Surveillance
- Investigating and educating the public about health threats such as West Nile Virus, Mumps, Pertussis and Norovirus
- Conducting training workshops on lead poisoning to 20 daycare providers and lead hazard screens for 4 daycares
- Providing PHS Healthy Solutions School Newsletter to 56 schools
- Developing formal relationships with health care providers
- Strengthening PHERT teams and educating about Pandemic Flu
- Initiating a breast cancer and prevention awareness program

As the Board President, I have enormous gratitude and appreciation to all who help make our communities a healthier and safer place to live. We could not accomplish our goals without a supportive staff, Board of Health and community partners.

We continue to make a difference in the five counties we serve and it is an honor to be a part of this team.

Sincerely,

Debra Hellbusch
Public Health Solutions Board President

www.phsneb.org



PHS staff and board of directors

Public Health Solutions Staff

Shannon Vogler, Emergency Response

Kim Whitley, Epidemiology/Surveillance

Diane Epp, Health Education

Marcy Bauer, Environmental Health

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 - Public Spirited Person - Saline County

Shirley Gronewold - County Supervisor - Gage County

Debra Hellbusch - President - Public Spirited Person - Jefferson County

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

Kate Lange - Secretary - Public Spirited Person - Thayer County

Tony Likens - County Commissioner - Jefferson County

Beth Mares - Vice President/President Elect -County Commissioner - Saline County

Dr. Robert Quick - Physician - Saline County

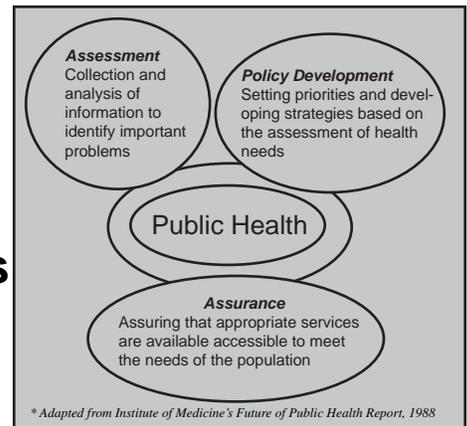
Robert Werner - County Commissioner - Thayer County

Eric Williams - Treasurer - 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.**

- **PHS implemented the following programs and information sources:**
 - Collaboration with Healthcare entities
 - Collaboration with Doane College professors on environmental health service projects
 - Communicable Disease Investigations
 - Crete Breast Cancer Screening Event
 - Healthy Solutions School Newsletter
 - Hospital Preparedness Teams
 - ILI Surveillance Program
 - Library Newsletter
 - Local Emergency Planning Committee's in Gage, Jefferson, and Saline Counties
 - Medical Clinic and Lab Contacts
 - PHS website: www.phsneb.org
 - Public Health Emergency Response Teams (PHERT) in Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, and Saline Counties
 - Saline County Health Coalition
 - School 28 Day Walking Challenge
 - School Surveillance Program
 - School Food Service Workers Implement Wellness Policy Workshop

- **Coalitions or groups PHS participates in:**
 - Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
 - Cardiovascular Planning Group
 - Coalition New Dimensions Women's Health
 - Drug-Free Coalition of Fillmore County
 - Fillmore County Coalition
 - Gage County PATCH/Healthy Lifestyles
 - Gage County on the Move
 - Inter-agency meetings in each county
 - Kids Connection Governing Board
 - Local Emergency Planning Committee's- Gage, Jefferson, and Saline
 - Nebraska Cancer Control Coalition
 - Nebraska Radon Coalition
 - Public Health Emergency Response Teams- Fillmore, Saline, Gage, and Jefferson Counties
 - Regional Exercise Design Team
 - Saline County Interagency Group
 - Southeast Early Childhood Professional Development Partnership
 - Statewide Nebraska Asthma Team
 - Statewide Diabetes Public Health System Assessment Group
 - Teen Parenting Intervention of Crete Group
 - Tobacco Free Nebraska Coalition
 - Wellhead Protection Network (Groundwater Foundation)

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

Public Health Solutions
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET/
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
June 30, 2006

		<u>Statement of Net Assets</u>
ASSETS		
Cash	\$	211,457
Grant receivables		65,973
Prepaid Insurance		3,511
Capital assets net of accumulated depreciation		0
		<u>59,886</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>340,827</u></u>
 LIABILITIES		
Account payable		504
Accrued compensated absences		17,052
Payroll liabilities		<u>5,920</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>23,476</u>
 FUND BALANCES/NET ASSETS		
Fund balances:		
General fund		0
Emergency preparedness		0
Other fund		<u>0</u>
Total fund balances		<u>0</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances		
 Invested in capital assets, net of related debt		
		59,886
Unrestricted		<u>257,465</u>
Total net assets	\$	<u><u>317,351</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

core function - assessment

Essential Services

1) Monitor health status to identify community health problems

School Surveillance Program

Fifty three out of fifty-six schools participated in the schools surveillance project during the 2005 & 2006 school year, up from 50 schools reporting the previous year. Schools were asked to provide a "snapshot of illnesses" on Wednesday every week by disease category. 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. A total of 6,856 illnesses were reported including 64 Asthma cases, 1560 Influenza-like-illness cases, 179 Streptococcal cases, 11 Rash w/fever cases, 1765 Gastrointestinal illness cases, and 3277 Other illnesses.

In addition to gathering surveillance data this program helped foster strong relationships between PHS and schools in our district. This became apparent during the mumps outbreak this spring when our district responded to over 27 confirmed or suspected mumps cases, several of which were reported by our school contacts.

Influenza Surveillance

Conducted weekly influenza like illness surveillance in our six area hospitals to gather an accurate picture of the impact of ILI on a local and statewide level from Nov 1, 2005-April 2006.

Both surveillance projects have included not only the collecting of illness data but compiling of district data and sharing with participants on a weekly basis. This creates a buy in from the schools and hospitals and lays the ground work for future successful projects because information is shared back to the communities.

Increased use of National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) in the reporting and monitoring of diseases in our district.

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

The Surveillance Epidemiology Coordinator completed the following case investigations in our five county area during the time period of July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.

2 Salmonella cases

2 Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

3 Campylobacter

27 Mumps

5 Human West Nile Virus

2 Pertussis

Auctioneers Association (Kearney) Norovirus 11 interviews

Assisted Sarpy/Cass county with 15 Norovirus interviews



Our office received 81 complaint/inquiry calls which required education/outreach, referral, and follow-up. The majority of calls were related to environmental health (air quality, West Nile virus, lead poisoning, general nuisance, rabies, and water quality), and general health (i.e. vaccinations, medical insurance). Each call was followed up with a researched response focused on providing the caller with the necessary information to resolve their concern, or putting the caller in touch with the appropriate service provider or local official to assist in handling their issue. Site visits were made wherever necessary to verify and document the caller's concerns, and to provide assurance that their complaint was being handled with care. In addition to complaints and inquiries, 7 reports were taken on public water system violations, spills, and chemical releases.

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

As the possibility of a Pandemic of Avian Influenza continues to emerge, PHS staff began educating the Public Health Response Teams (PHERT) in each county and county officials of the proposed threat and strategies local entities can take to prepare. This kicked off local preparedness and response planning for our health district.

Public Health Solutions provided information and education to the 57,000 constituents on lifestyle risk factors and chronic disease prevention, influenza prevention, second-hand smoke, emotional eating, seasonal affective disorder, family physical activity, water quality, and lead poisoning. This was accomplished through newsletters, presentations, newspapers, and participation in county fairs, home and garden shows, health fairs, and community events.

The Environmental Health Division provided 36 presentations/displays on a range of environmental health topics (water quality, West Nile virus, and Flu prevention). Presentations reached nearly 1000 residents. The Environmental Health Division raised more than \$120,000 in grant funds that are being used to conduct:

- West Nile virus surveillance for 9 months
- West Nile virus education and outreach for PHS residents through newspaper ads, news releases, radio interviews, and promotional giveaways at area fairs
- 375 blood lead level tests on children aged 6 and under who are enrolled in day care in the PHS district
- Training workshops on lead poisoning prevention for approximately 40 day care providers (est. 80 in-service hours certified for providers through these workshops)
- Lead hazard screens for at least 10 day cares, including sampling and consultation on hazard controls
- Educational workshops on storm water quality for approximately 300 residents
- Storm drain marking for at least 20 communities (1000+ drains)
- Education/outreach for residents of the 20 communities on storm water protection
- Information campaigns on recycling reaching at least 10,000 residents through newsletters, newspaper ads, and radio PSA's
- Collection of 4,200 pounds of batteries for recycling

The Health and Wellness Division raised \$48,000 in grant funds. Due to the high incidence of breast cancer in these 5 counties, a breast cancer and prevention awareness program designed specifically for teens was developed. The program will be implemented in the high schools and colleges in this area. The Women in the Workplace Partnership included participants from 20 entities in the 5-county region. The objective was a consistent health message and associated activities throughout these 5 counties. These grants were written using LB funding.

The Surveillance Epi Coordinator developed 36 fact sheets printed on PHS letterhead on various communicable diseases which were distributed to medical clinics/hospitals & labs during personal visits. In addition these fact sheets were mailed to patients after conducting case investigations on various communicable diseases. The Surveillance Epi Coordinator provided information to school surveillance contacts throughout the year about various illnesses for those experiencing an increased number of illness due to head lice, influenza-like illness, Scarletina, chicken pox, mumps and other illnesses based on information collected from the weekly school surveillance project.

Worksite Wellness Programming

Schools are the largest employer in many of the communities in the 5-county region, thus most workplace wellness programming has been directed to schools. The second year of the PHS School Walking Challenge was very successful with a 50% increase in the number of teams participating. This is due in part to collaboration with the PATCH/Healthy Lifestyles Coalition in Gage County in implementing the

Gage County on the Move grant. We had 410 individuals complete this 28 day walking challenge. Public Health Solutions again provided information, pedometers, and prizes.



During the second year of distribution, 56 schools received the quarterly PHS Healthy Solutions School Newsletter. The newsletter includes information for staff and students on health risk factors and chronic disease prevention as well as PHS programming information.

Public Health Solutions sent out 25 news releases regarding West Nile virus, lead poisoning, radon, flu prevention, water quality, seasonal pests, National Public Health Week, The Great American Smoke-Out, and nutrition/obesity.

core function - policy development

Essential Services

4) Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems

Public Health Solutions was awarded its first federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) the grant was written using LB 692 Funds. The \$85,000 grant is through the Rural Health Network Development Planning program, and is given to rural communities to help them develop formal relationships among health care providers. In our proposal, the intent of network development is to collectively address the health needs of our ever-growing uninsured population more efficiently than our provider community can do individually. The grant is supporting one year of planning to determine a core group interested in working together on this issue and a course of action.

In 2005 Infection Control staff and Hospital Preparedness Coordinators merged into a networking group called the Hospital Preparedness Team meetings. Each facility has a team of staff who work together to create and incorporate their facility planning. Many involve the Director of Nursing, Hospital Administrators, Infection Control, Environmental Services, Lab, and other interested personnel. PHS meets with facility teams individually twice a year as a resource and to provide additional information to facilities. Through these ongoing relationships, PHS and Infection Control staff shares communicable disease information. PHS also offers these teams an opportunity to network and gain resources twice a year as a district. Two Hospital Preparedness Team meetings or training opportunities were offered this fiscal year. The first focused on Rural Hospital Incident Command training and the second featured the Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System Coordinator, Phyllis Dutton as our keynote speaker during a Luncheon in November of 2005. In June, PHS began working with Hospital Preparedness Teams in each county to address areas in preparing for a Pandemic. Issues such as triage, surge capacity, local cache of supplies, will encompass new Hospital Pandemic Plans.

The Surveillance Epidemiology Coordinator (SEC) personally visited most schools participating in the school surveillance project, thanking them for their time and emphasizing the importance of the school surveillance project. Data from this project is shared with area school administration and healthcare partners.

We strengthened relationships through our Public Health Emergency Response Teams (PHERT) in Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, and Saline Counties. PHERT's meet once a month and focus on holistic preparedness planning for the county. A variety of disciplines participant including: law enforcement, healthcare, mental health, city/county government, emergency management, fire/rescue, and public health.

The Health and Wellness Division collaborated with the Beatrice School Food Services Director in creating a workshop for school food service workers in the 5-county region. The workshop provided strategies for 2006/2007 school wellness policy implementation.

PHS implemented or provided continuation of these programs and information sources:

Saline County Health Coalition

Hospital Preparedness Teams

Public Health Emergency Response Teams (PHERT) in Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, and Saline Counties

Local Emergency Planning Committee's in Gage, Jefferson, and Saline Counties

PHS website: www.phsneb.org

School 28 Day Walking Challenge



Crete Breast Cancer Screening Event

School Surveillance Program

Healthy Solutions School Newsletter

School Food Service Workers Implement Wellness Policy Workshop

Library Newsletter

Medical Clinic and Lab Contacts

ILI Surveillance Program

Communicable Disease Investigations

Collaboration with Healthcare entities

Collaboration with Doane College professors on environmental health service projects

Coalitions or groups Public Health Solutions staff participated in:

Cardiovascular Planning Group
Drug-Free Coalition of Fillmore County
Gage County on the Move Committee
Inter-agency meetings in each county
Kids Connection Governing Board
Nebraska Cancer Control Coalition
Fillmore County Coalition
Gage County PATCH/Healthy Lifestyles
Gage County on the Move
Coalition New Dimensions Women's Health
Statewide Nebraska Asthma Team
Statewide Diabetes Public Health System Assessment Group
Teen Parenting Intervention of Crete Group
Tobacco Free Nebraska Coalition
Saline County Interagency Group
Public Health Emergency Response Teams- Fillmore, Saline, Gage, and Jefferson Counties
Local Emergency Planning Committee's- Gage, Jefferson, and Saline
Regional Exercise Design Team
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Southeast Early Childhood Professional Development Partnership
Wellhead Protection Network (Groundwater Foundation)
Nebraska Radon Coalition

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

PHS staff worked with local government and key stakeholders in Gage County through a tabletop exercise to address potential isolation and quarantine issues. Through this contact Health and Human Service System law staff was invited to present on this topic at the annual County Attorney's Association Conference in spring of 2005.

core function - assurance

Essential Services

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

Environmental Health Division worked with local officials to ensure that nuisance codes were being enforced and that local rabies vaccination codes were in line with state legislation.

7) Link people to needed medical and mental health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable



Conducted numerous surveys during the flu season to pharmacies, physician offices, LTC facilities, and hospitals to determine flu vaccine/antiviral drug needs and availability. With a series of faxes kept all entities in our district abreast of the changing Federal and state guidelines concerning the flu vaccine.

A PHS Block grant with Blue Valley Community Action supports a home visitation program for Hispanic families. The program offers case management, transportation, translation, and health education.

8) Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce

PHS employs a staff of six working in the areas of emergency response, health education, environmental health, and surveillance/epidemiology.

Public Health Solutions supports funding to offer continuing education for all of our staff as well as district emergency management, board of health, and PHERT members.

Training and conferences supported include:

ANNCAA Wellness Conference
Bioterrorism Symposia –Kearney, NE & Omaha, NE
ESRI Health GIS – Chicago
Food Safety Task Force – Tabletop Exercise - Lincoln
Minority Public Health Association Annual Meeting
NACCHO Annual Meeting
NACO Conference Lincoln NE
PHAN Annual Meeting
Region VIII Bioterrorism Conference-Rapid City, South Dakota
Psychological First Aid Training- Region V Systems
UNMC Diabetes Epidemic: The Influence of Obesity Symposium
Nebraska Prevention Leadership Institute
Nebraska Action for Health Kids 2005 Conference
Nebraska Family Health Conference
Tobacco Free Nebraska Conference
Technology of Participation – 3 day Training
TGCI Grantsmanship Center Training - Lincoln
National Emergency Preparedness Summit- Washington, D.C.
Public Health Emergency Law Course
National Environmental Health Association Conference – San Antonio
Food-Borne Illness Investigation Course – Lincoln
Environmental Epidemiology Training Course – Lincoln & Norfolk
Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor Courses - Omaha

9) Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services

An outcome of two needs assessments: one for maternal child health and one for women's health was the development of the Women in the Workplace Partnership. Twenty entities within the 5 counties were represented. At quarterly meetings, the partnership determined monthly topics related to infant health, obesity in women, and mental health issues. Consistent health messages and collaboration in implementation within the 5-county region was the objective of this partnership. Grant funds were used for development and LB funds provide partnership sustainability.



10) Research for new insights and innovation solutions to health problems

PHS has been working with Doane College professors, and representatives from UNMC and UNO to develop future research options and opportunities in the area of health assessment.



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

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

Public Health Solutions
975 East Highway 33, Suite 1
Crete, NE 68333-2562
phone 402-826-3880
toll free 888-310-0565
fax 402-826-4101
www.phsneb.org

Prevent ▪ Promote ▪ Protect