2007-2008 Annual Report

Promoting and Protecting the Health of Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline and Thayer Counties
Prevent, Promote and Protect

Welcome from Eric Williams Board President

This is the Board's Fifth Annual Report to the District. This has been a pivotal year for the Department with the completion of the MAPP for a Health Future project. Through this, the priorities of each County were identified along with those of the District as a whole. This report set the foundation of priorities on which major initiatives are being built. While we face challenges brought about by changes in values, economics and technology, we are buoyed by our new focus on action and our "pioneer spirit". We look to the future with our faith, love of the land and strength of will to make the make our District a better, more prosperous and healthy place to be.

The Department's role is to protect the public and also serve as a tool for change, for growth and for making our health the best it can be. It brings people and resources together to make things happen for the good of the area. In addition, just as a Fire Department watches for fires and puts them out, the Department watches for public health threats and then does the same. What has been specifically done this year to make our area better and to protect the health of the public is highlighted in this report.

As the Board President, I am proud of what we have accomplished and look forward to another year of service to you, the public.

In Good Health,

Eric Williams, President
Public Health Solutions District Board of Health

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Bruce Kennedy, DDS
L.W. Kennel, DDS (resigned)

Robert Werner, Thayer County Board (deceased)

Mission

The mission of the Public health Solutions district Health Department 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.

WE PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT THROUGH.......
Assessments of Health Needs:
Public Health Needs in Our District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevention: Chronic Disease and Crises</th>
<th>As a means of controlling/reducing cost of care</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sedentary Lifestyles / Nutrition</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prevention / Wellness Care</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Supporting Healthy Family Relationships</td>
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<td>Supporting a Healthy Elder Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavioral Health</td>
<td>Including Drug and Alcohol Abuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accessibility/Availability of Health Services</td>
<td>Behavioral Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cancer Treatment</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Other? (e.g. Medicaid Dental Services)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Including Population Decline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public Health Needs of our Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fillmore</th>
<th>Sedentary Lifestyle / Nutrition (behavior triggers for obesity, heart disease)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cancer (including cancer care)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cost of Care (including elder care)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Population Decline</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Behavioral Health</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Healthy Family Relationships (abuse prevention, enhancing families)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Drug/Alcohol Abuse</td>
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<td>Obesity</td>
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<td>Water Quality/Quantity (land use effects)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gage</td>
<td>Sedentary Lifestyle</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Behavioral Health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Economic Impacts on Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Access to Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health Education, Information, Promotion</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elder health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Children’s Health</td>
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<td>Saline</td>
<td>Drug/Alcohol Abuse</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elder Care</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preventive/Wellness Care</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cost of Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thayer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

District Maternal and Child Health Needs

The health of mothers and children was specifically addressed through a coalition representing over 30 groups, organizations and service providers. The resulting report highlights areas to change their policies and environment to enhance healthy lifestyles among women and children. Healthy children produce healthy mothers who have healthy babies.

- Increase access to health promoting and health care services for mothers through:
  - Collocation of services
  - Increasing resources and manpower for services such as dental and medical care services
- Establishment of home visitation, case management and improved use of services.
- Improve the Information and Referral System to enable early access to care.
- Support and strengthen rural health services: District Maternal and Child Health Service Network.
- Increase use of preconception service through service development and marketing of the services.
Public Health Surveillance and Disease Investigation
Investigating and Controlling Disease Outbreaks

The Public Health Solutions District Health Department investigated 83 reports of communicable disease. Staff scans, investigates and analyzes reports of disease and illness from the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) and from health care providers and the public. This information helps the public health workers at all levels to work together to implement the best control strategies to prevent further cases. As an example, we investigated the report of a TB case and fund the person had a partially medication resistant TB. 40 close contacts were tested and 24 received prophylactic medication to prevent their infection with TB.

Work With Schools and Health Care Providers

We recorded 7,177 instances of school illness. 32% were from Flu Like Illnesses. There were 177 reports of illness in head starts. Hospitals reported 49 admissions of people with Flu Like illness.

Immunizations

Childhood Immunization Clinics
251 children received immunizations in evening and special clinics to supplement access through physicians, clinics and hospitals.

SKIP FLU- School Kid Immunization Program
The program immunized 1535 kids, school staff and childcare providers in cooperation with the hospitals, physicians and schools. Immunizations were provided at the cost of the vaccine only. No fee was charged for administration, donations were accepted and no one was turned away because of inability to pay.

- Beatrice Public Schools
- Bruning Davenport Schools
- Fairbury Public Schools
- Deshler Public Schools
- Diller/Odell Public Schools
- Exeter/Milligan Public Schools
- Freeman Public Schools
- Meridian Public Schools
- Shickley Public Schools
- Southern Schools (Blue Springs and Wymore)
- Thayer Central Community Schools
- Tri-County Public Schools
- St. James Elementary, Crete.
- St. Joseph Elementary, Beatrice
- St. Paul Lutheran Elementary, Beatrice
- St. Paul Lutheran Elementary, Plymouth
- St. Peter Lutheran Elementary, Deshler
- St. Peter Lutheran, Davenport
- Zion Lutheran School, Tobias

Sale Thu The Flu- Late Immunization Program
The program objective was to increase the flu vaccination rates among rural Nebraskans and educate them about the benefits of flu shots even late in the season. Farmers, stockmen and their families attending auctions at sale barns located within the five County District were targeted. From early December through late January, flu shot clinics were held
at participating sale barns and at indoor and outdoor household auctions. Seventy individuals were vaccinated though the project.

**Fillmore County**
- December 1, 2007, at Fillmore County Fairgrounds
- December 8, 2007, at the Fillmore County Fairgrounds
- January 26 2008, at the Fillmore County Fairgrounds

**Gage County**
- December 3, 2007, at Beatrice 77 Livestock

**Jefferson County**
- December 18, 2007, at Fairbury Livestock Company

**Thayer County**
- December 7, 2007, at Thayer County Farm Sale
- December 13, 2007, at Hebron Livestock Commission Company

**Environmental Health Protection Through...**

**Response to problems and complaints**

- **18 citizen complaints** (3 air, 6 food, 8 lead, 1 child care facility)
- **44 citizen and elected official inquiries** (12 toxics, 6 waste/recycling, 5 food, 3 air, 3 general, 3 mold, 3 radon, 3 water, 3 WNV, 2 pests/nuisance, 1 rabies)
- **11 news releases** (5 flood, 4 WNV, 1 grant, 1 water), prompting at least 4 radio interviews and numerous newspaper articles
- **22 reports from health and governmental officials** (10 lead, 4 possible rabies, 2 ammonia releases, 1 fire, 1 meth lab, 1 surface water alert, 1 water system emergency, 1 WNV related, 1 Q fever)
- **8 requests from citizens and local government officials** (3 supplies, 3 assistance, 2 information)
- **12 public water system violations report**
- **12 cases of lead exposure investigated after being identified through Department screening programs**
- **4 potential rabies exposures reported by citizens and local law enforcement**
- **15 lead hazard screens of housing to assist non-profit organizations providing subsidized housing** These were conducted on targeted properties to detect hazards and work to reduce the risk of lead exposure (protected the health of at least 80 children and adults)

![Environmental Health Response by County](image)

**Monitoring and Controlling Environment Related Diseases**

**WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE**
As part of the statewide effort, PHSDHD adapted the West Nile virus surveillance and prevention program to the 5-county district, working to track WNV incidence in the bird and mosquito populations. In addition to collecting dead birds and sampling mosquito pools in the District to gauge prevalence of the disease, staff also used external funding to distribute educational and prevention materials to the community to reduce the risk of contracting the disease.
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM VIOLATIONS TRACKING AND RESPONSE
The Department tracked public water system violations by community/system and violation type, to be able to respond to any developing trends in risks and hazards associated with clean, safe drinking water.

LEAD POISON EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM
Children in the District are at increased risk of exposure to lead due to the prevalence of old homes and low blood testing rates. In 2005 PHSDHD designed and received funding for a 2-year lead poisoning prevention program to raise awareness and reduce risk. By the project's end in 2008, PHSDHD:
- Conducted lead hazard screens on 12 child care and youth-oriented facilities
- Prepared 8 hazard control plans to protect approximately 80 children from risk of lead exposure
- Tested 279 children for lead levels
- Conducted intervention for 28 children with borderline-to-high lead levels.
Educating and promoting a Healthy Environment

ENCOURAGING BATTERY RECYCLING TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

With funding assistance from the DEQ, PHS worked with local businesses.
- Established 14 temporary battery recycling points for disposable batteries
- Collected nearly 4,000 pounds of batteries in 14 sites.
- Established 4 permanent rechargeable battery recycling points enhancing this previously very limited service.

STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

The PH:SDHD was able to leverage funds from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to bring together more than 150 volunteers from 14 communities to reduce storm water pollution in their neighborhoods. This project not only increased community involvement and local water quality, it also spared each participating community from having to spend money down the road as they work to comply with expanding storm water quality regulations.

Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles Through...

Smoking Reduction programs

NEBRASKA TOBACCO QUIT LINE
Number of Callers by County FY 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Calls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fillmore</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saline</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thayer</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gage</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Total</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Education and Early Detection

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS AND DETECTION

Evening in Pink
- In cooperation with the Beatrice Community Hospital and other cancer related organizations the Gage County Breast Cancer Awareness Event – Evening in Pink on October 23, 2007 was conducted. Proceeds from the silent auction went to the Teens Think Pink Project.
- On October 10, 2007, staff provided KWBE radio listeners with information about the Teens Think Pink, the teen breast cancer awareness project and the Evening in Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Event.

Every Woman Matters
As a member of CATCH, we conduct an Every Women Matters(EWM) Recall and Outreach Program. Through this program, cancer screening and awareness is promoted to the public. Uninsured individuating and to follow up. This is a bilingual service for the 5 county area.

Teens Think Pink
- The Teens Think Pink Program was showcased at the National Komen Mission Conference in Washington DC from August 25 through 28. Two presentations were conducted for more than 500 participants. Travel and lodging expenses are paid by the foundation.
- Received a 30% in-kind donation from David Briggs of Sym Labs Production to produce a video for use in the program. Developed an unfunded Komen Step grant proposal for the Teens Think Pink Project in collaboration with CATCH (4 other local health departments and the community action agency).
- Thousands of participants received information about the teen breast cancer awareness project through the Teens Think Pink booth at the Nebraska Race for the Cure.
- Teens Think Pink Program was presented in Dorrchester to 10 12th grade teens.
- Teens Think Pink was promoted to 18 high schools in the 5-county region.
- In conjunction with the school nurse, the Teens Think Pink Program was presented to 40 female teens in Beatrice High School

Worksite Wellness

Staff responded to requests for wellness programs or consultation to 6 organizations involving 142 employees. These included:
- Blue Valley Lutheran Nursing Home
- Friend Public Schools
- Thayer County Health Services
- PHSDHD
- Meridian Elementary School
- Crete Office of Health and Human Services
- The Affiliates
Special Programs:

MINORITY HEALTH INITIATIVE
- A Healthy Families/Obesity Prevention Partnership was developed to foster partnerships to establish an obesity program.
- Collaborated with members of the No-Obesity Partnership to develop a program and received for a childhood obesity reduction and the health literacy program.

ELDER HEALTH
- Worked with elder serving agencies to search for resources for their senior wellness programming
- Presented programs on Sedentary Death Syndrome and the importance of regular physical activity to senior groups in Saline and Gage Counties.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY
School Food Service Worker Education Program
- Facilitated the School Food Service Workshop for 35 Food Service employees from the 55 schools in the 5 county District on August 8. In the workshop evaluation, the majority of those in attendance rated it excellent. Pegler Sysco provided a donation for the lunch
- Per request from the Food Service Staff/Student Wellness group a presentation was provided at a gathering of 300 food service workers in Lincoln.
- In cooperation with Elaine Burda, Food Services Manager for Wilbur Public Schools, a nutrition education program for parents was provided on September 20 and for junior high students on September 21.

Community Initiatives

Safe Routes to Schools
Two major projects were developed and approved for funding through the State Department of Roads, Safe Routes to School program. One called "No Child Left on Their Behind" received $62,863 to promote safe walking and biking and less sitting among 1,000 K-6 students and families in five small communities within the District. These were selected because of the concern that small rural communities are often left without the resources needed to develop the potential of their communities as good places to live and work. These communities are Deshler, Wymore, Exeter, Wilber and Diller. These projects have provided the impetus for the communities to encourage walking and biking as well as identifying environmental changes that maybe needed to encourage these activities in the long run.

The second major initiative, "No Child Left Inside" received $33,922. It is directed towards the ethnically diverse community of Crete and has involved both public and parochial schools. This program focuses on the importance of walking and biking in a more complex community with different challenges and opportunities. While increasing safe walking and biking routes, the program also is enabling the community to identify environmental changes that would encourage the inclusion of walking and biking into everyday life.

Linking People to Services

MEDICAID PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Based upon the Department's contract with the State, the public health nurses solicit referrals from health care providers of patients (Medicaid or Medicaid eligible), who are not compliant with their care instructions, have missed appointments or use emergency rooms as a source of primary care. The public health nurses work with the patients and their families to address these problems. The Table of data from the Medicaid Outreach Contract program reports those activities performed in terms required by the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEDICAID OUTREACH CONTRACT PROGRAM</th>
<th>Jan. – July</th>
<th>Annualized</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment in Medicaid Public Health Nurse Program</td>
<td>1267</td>
<td>12525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of individuals</td>
<td>19257</td>
<td>1008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Medicaid enrollees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Medicaid enrollees since inception</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Room Follow Ups</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crete Municipal Hospital</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Memorial Hospital-Friend</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thayer County Hospital-Hebron</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Health Center-Fairbury</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beatrice Community Hospital</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fillmore County Hospital-Geneva</td>
<td>1</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EPSDT Health Checks</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>902</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Every Woman Matters Outreach and Enrollment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollees</td>
<td>24</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diabetes Survey</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screenings</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-screenings</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Requests for Health Advice (Triage Calls) |              |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Calls completed                          | 11           | 22           |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHONE Follow-ups</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Follow-up for the month</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>1064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Follow-up for the month</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optometric Follow-up for the month</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>86</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Calls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marketing/Info Presentations</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids Connection Applications distributed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical/Dental/Optometric Home Established</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Assessments completed Tool completed</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Management</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Indigent Program</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Visit by PHN</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Calls</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>992</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fillmore County**
- 69 New Enrollees
- 56 Cases Managed to increase Self Care
- 22 Medicaid Clients counseled to overcome barriers to timeliness
- 2 Emergency room patients counseled on alternatives to ER
- 1 Pregnancy assessments completed
- 1 Health assessment completed
- 1 Referral made for optical home

**Gage County**
- 463 New Enrollees
- 409 Cases managed to increase self care
- 858 Medicaid Clients counseled to overcome barriers to timeliness
- 26 Emergency room patients counseled on alternatives to ER
- 17 Health Assessments completed
- 3 Pregnancy assessments completed
- 6 Asthma assessments completed
- 4 Diabetes assessments and rescreenings completed
- 5 Referrals made for medical home
- 10 Referrals made for dental home
- 8 Referrals made for optical home
- 1 Referral made for medical indigent aid
- 4 Referrals to specialist
- 1 Home visit
- 18 Calls for health care information or health counseling

**Linking people to Services by County:**
Jefferson County
- 151 New Enrollees
- 143 Cases managed to increase self care
- 246 Medicaid Clients counseled to overcome barriers to timeliness
- 16 Emergency room patients counseled on alternatives to ER
- 15 Health Assessments completed
- 5 Pregnancy assessments completed
- 5 Referral made to medical or dental homes
- 2 Referrals made for optical home
- 1 Referral made for medical indigent aid
- 1 Referral to specialist
- 6 Calls for health care information or health counseling

Saline County
- 185 New Enrollees
- 210 Cases managed to increase self care
- 177 Medicaid Clients counseled to overcome barriers to timeliness
- 6 Emergency room patients counseled on alternatives to ER
- 13 Health Assessments completed
- 9 Pregnancy assessments completed
- 11 Referrals made to medical or dental homes
- 9 Home visits
- 1 Call for health information or health counseling
- 3 Educational classes for teen mothers

Thayer County
- 27 New Enrollees
- 4 Cases managed to increase self care
- 33 Medicaid Clients counseled to overcome barriers to timeliness
- 1 Emergency room patient counseled on alternatives to ER
- 4 Health Assessments completed
- 6 Referrals made for dental home
- 1 Referral made for optical home
- 1 Home visit
- 4 Calls for health care information or health counseling

Highlights of Public Health Nursing Service:
- 822 Cases Counseled to Increase self care
- 51 Families Counseled on Alternatives to Use of Emergency Rooms
- 78 Assessed and Counseled on Health Issues
- 54 Families Assisted in Finding a Physician, Dentist, Optometrist or Physician Specialist
- 2 Referrals made for medical indigent aid
- 88 Visits were made to Physicians, Dentists and Optometrists to Improve Program Use
- 19 Visits to Hospitals to Improve Use of the Program
- 12 Program Related Home Visits
- 28 Calls for Health Information Answered
- 5 Kid’s Connection Promotional Events and Medicaid Classes Conducted

Protecting People from Public Health Emergencies through........

Emergency Response Planning

Completion of Required Plans to Assure Readiness
Completed the annual review and redraft of the Department Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to fit the requirements of DHHS. The department worked with three neighboring health departments, Region V Systems, and Volunteer Partners to develop a Personnel Surge Capacity plan required by DHHS.

Vulnerable Populations
A pilot project to prepare vulnerable populations was conducted in Gage County. Staff worked with the Blue River Area on Aging, Gage County American Red Cross and the Good Samaritan Home to discuss preparing vulnerable populations. Senior Caregiver Booklets were distributed through the Area on Aging, Churches, Veterans Officer and BCHC Home Health and Dismissals to vulnerable populations in Gage County.
Shelter planning
Staff met with Region V Behavioral health, Lancaster and Columbus Chapters of Red Cross to discuss the health department role in the operation of shelters.
Assessment and Surveillance
Attended a briefing in order to plan to use the results of the Little Blue and Lower Big Blue Natural Resources Districts' All Hazards Mitigation Plan that includes all 5 counties in our jurisdiction. They have contracted with Olsson & Associates to do the assessment

Cooperation of Emergency Response

Public Health Emergency Response Teams (PHERT)
PHERT workgroups exist in each of the five counties. They are used to prepare plans and conduct training and exercises. They address issues such as transportation, mass dispensing of pharmaceuticals, handling mass fatalities, providing triage centers and clinics, accommodating surges of populations and patients and implementing disease control measures.

Coordination with County Emergency Managers
PHSDHD sponsored a quarterly meeting with County Emergency Managers. Thayer, Jefferson, Gage and Fillmore Counties were present. Items discussed include how to coordinate efforts, what additional resources are needed and how to integrate efforts with Lancaster County.

Regional and State Coordination
- Staff attended the TICP Regional Communication Planning meeting to ensure that Public Health is included in communication planning.
- Staff has been part of the continued development and committee work of the Southeast Nebraska Medical Response System (SEMRS). Discussions include inventory storage, mutual aid agreements, trainings, and available dollars for trainings.

Building System Capacity:

Resources
Staff helped identify and select items for a regional medical cache through the Southeast Medical Response System (SEMRS). These items would serve area hospitals and EMS for medical surge capacity.
- Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Cache purchases were made by March 31st. Public Health Solutions was contracted by DHHS to purchase equipment and supplies totaling $17,903 for the Cache. PHS worked with County Emergency Manager's and Hospitals to identify needs for the purchase, and 4 competitive bids were obtained.
- Strategic National Stockpile HUB and Sub-HUB were reviewed for reorganization to make the system more efficient and secure.

Identified and purchased environmental equipment needed for air, water & temperature testing.

Training
- A Foreign Animal Tabletop Exercise was conducted involving all Southeast Nebraska counties including our five counties, State Department of Agriculture and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.
- Staff assisted the Jefferson Community Health Center with their full scale exercise on August 7th.
- Pandemic Influenza Table Top Exercises were held in Hubbell for Jefferson and Thayer Counties, in Geneva for Fillmore and Saline Counties and in Beatrice for Gage County.
- Assisted with the SEMRS Tabletop Exercise planning meeting involving the State (DHHS and NEMA).
- Began to facilitate Emergency Response Planning for Doane College, and looking at other college plans. This included Pandemic influenza planning and exercises.
- In cooperation with the County Emergency Managers, secured funding for CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) Training for Fillmore, Jefferson, Saline, and Thayer Counties.

Responses to Emergencies

Storm response – over the 2 week time period storms plagued our 5 county jurisdictions. Time was spent following up with Emergency Managers on damage, and needs within their counties. We assisted Gage County by providing supplies for an Emergency Volunteer Center (EVC). Supplies for worker protection: gloves, masks, insect repellent, sunscreen, hand sanitizer, west Nile brochures, and safety vests. We also provided supplies for the EVC, Igloo drink coolers, 100' extension cords, tent, table, mega phone, chairs, and tarps. PHS also contacted 10/11 to emphasis the need for coverage of the damage in the Gage County area, and the request for volunteers. PHS also compiled & provided reports to the State EOC for our 5 counties.
Development of Collaborative Projects and Grants

HRSA Grant- Health Care Network Development Project
Funded: submitted in 2005. $85,000.00: extension requested to end August 31, 2007
Status: Completed. The network development activities and strategic planning process resulted in the identification of priorities and action plans to improve access to healthcare within Saline County.

NHSS Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP)
Funded: $11,000: through April 2008 (1 year project)
Status: Completed County and District level needs, priorities and action plans were developed. Key performance requirements for this project included: 1) Organize stakeholders, 2) Visioning, 3) Conduct Themes and Strengths Assessment, 4) Conduct Local Public Health System assessment, 5) Conduct Community Health Status Assessment, 6) Conduct Forces of Change Assessment, 7) Identify goals and strategies, 8) Prepare action strategies.

EPA Lead Poisoning Prevention Grant
Status: Educated the public and key groups about the potential of lead poisoning. Tested children at risk and followed up on elevated levels to reduce lead exposure.

Nebraska Environmental Trust “Down the Drain” Grant
Funded: $24,038 for 2 years, ending April 2008
Status: Trained volunteer groups identify and mark drains to educate the public about the impact of storm drain dumping on water quality.

Susan G. Komen “Teens Think Pink”
Funded: $23,706 from April 2006 through March 2007
Status: Completed, This was an intergenerational education program to increase breast self exams and breast health behaviors.

DHSS Preventative Health Block Grant
Funded: $20,000 to Blue Valley Community Action Agency – Year 4 ends September 2007
Status: Completed. The Department provided the services on an unfunded basis when problems occurred with staffing. The Program Outreach Worker was replaced during the funding period. The program increased access to health care services through outreach coordination. BVCA is also funded with Minority Health Grant funds to conduct these services.

EPA Community Action for a Renewed Environment Grant, CARE
Funded: $86,504
Status: Project period: October 2007 – September 2009 (2 years)
Description: district-wide assessment designed to establish a baseline for community environmental health status, and increase local capacity to monitor and mitigate critical environmental health issues.

DEQ Recharge Recycling Grant
Funded: $15,473.00, scheduled to end July 2007, extension to fill remaining collection containers
Status: Completed, Battery collection sites were established and the public educated about the hazard associated with improper disposal of batteries.

NACCHO Sale through the Flu Program
Funded: $9,000, to provide influenza immunizations late in the season (after November) in non-traditional settings
Status: Completed, Influenza immunization clinics were conducted local auctions and sale barns. While the number served was not ideal, the majority of participants had not been immunized before. The project was evaluated regarding effectiveness and citizen response. This was the second year of competitive funding.

NDOR Safe Routes
Safe Routes Five Communities - “No Child Left On Their Behidn”
Funded: $62,883.
Status: This project is encouraging 1,000 K-6 students as well as residents in Deshler, Diller, Exeter, Wilber, and Wymore to do more walking/biking and less sitting. These projects have provided the impetus for the communities to encourage walking and biking as well as identifying environmental changes that maybe needed to encourage these activities in the long run.

Safe Routes Crete - “No Child Left Inside”
Funded: $33,922.
Status: It is directed towards the ethnically diverse community of Crete and has involved both public and parochial schools. This program focuses on the importance of walking and biking in a more complex community with different challenges and opportunities. While increasing safe walking and biking routes, the program also is enabling the community to identify environmental changes that would encourage the inclusion of walking and biking into everyday life.
Revenue and Expenditures

Public Health Solutions
Expenditures by Program
Year End June 2008

Public Health Solutions
Fund Revenues
Year End June 2008

Public Health Solutions
Fund Expenditures
Year End June 2008

Staff Directory

M. Jane Ford Wilthoff, Health Director
Deb Klaus, Administrative Aide
Marcy Bauer, Environmental Health Coordinator/Epidemiologist
Kim Plouzek, Emergency Response/Basis Coordinator
Kim Whitley, Special Projects/ Surveillance Coordinator
Sonya Williamson, Data Aide
Laura Wooters, Acting Public Health Nurse Coordinator
Lori Robinson, Public Health Nurse Coordinator/PHN
Kate Lange, Surveillance Specialist
Tammy Wenz, Public Health Nurse
Danielle Nitzel, Every Women Matters Outreach Coordinator

Staff no longer in service:
Shannon Vogler, Emergency Response Coordinator
Tammie Stolz, Fiscal Aide
Pam Busboom, Administrative Aide
Lisa Otto, Public Health Nurse