



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Denver Environmental Health Department

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (DEH) Report for January, 2009

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL (ACC)

New Activities

- Vaccinations: ACC began vaccinating all dogs impounded to the Denver Municipal Animal Shelter with the Bordetella vaccine. This protocol is consistent with other shelters in the metro-Denver area, and will reduce canine upper-respiratory infections in the shelter.
- Training: ACC provided a staff training in the following areas:
 - 3-1-1 / Chameleon Integration Training
 - Bordetella Vaccination
 - Chameleon software including animal entry for animal control officers
- ACC Fees and Civil Penalties: ACC is working with DEH's Decision Support Group, to review comparable municipal animal service organizations' fees and penalties, to update ACC's fees and develop the civil penalties process for enforcement of ACC rules and regulations.
- Off-Leash Dogs in Parks: ACC met with City Councilwoman Montero's Office and representatives of Parks and Recreation and Denver Police to discuss off-leash dog complaints in parks, and develop different ideas for addressing the continuing off-lease activity in Denver parks.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DECISION SUPPORT (CHDS)

Update on Key Issues

- Decision Support Group (DSG):
 - DEH Web Development continues and now includes generic search functionality that will be used by most of the department's future applications, adding charting for performance management dashboards and other enhancements to future usability.
 - Office of the Medical Examiner (OME) Technology Update: DSG is coordinating with Technology Services to narrow the options for moving OME's server into the GOV domain. The pros and cons of the best options will be presented to OME management at the beginning of February for a decision moving
 - Environmental Quality (EQ) and Public Health Inspections (PHI) Mobile Solution Update: EQ's Facility Compliance mobile solution has been implemented and is in production. Progress is being made on PHI's Food Program's moving toward a paperless inspection system using a PDA-based mobile solution, including . modifications to the handheld version of the inspection forms . and synchronization to both the inspection database and the

activity database. PHI's pre-pilot testing has been delayed to mid-February to complete design changes on the inspection form and hardcopy printouts.

- Kronos Update: DSG met with the Kronos team to layout a schedule of deliverables, tasks that need to be completed prior to implementation and to discuss the timing for training prior to DEH's "Go Live" date of March 15th.
- Civil Penalties Update: See discussion under ACC, above. Once the business rules are agreed upon, DSG will start determining viable options for automating the process with Accounts Receivable functionality. Other DEH agencies will be integrated into the DEH Civil Penalties process after the ordinance is approved.
- Mayor's Office of HIV Resources (MOHR):
 - Budget Re-allocation: MOHR staff continues to do some final re-allocations in their 2008 budget to ensure efficient use of federal funds to address any additional client needs.
 - Ryan White Part A Grant Update: MOHR staff received the grant guidance for the Minority AIDS stream of funding received as part of the Part A federal award and the staff has begun working on the proposal as the due date for the proposal is March 6th.
 - Provider Site Visits: MOHR staff continues to conduct site visits at all funded providers sites and will most likely continue to do this through the month of February.
 - Training: MOHR held training for funded providers facilitated by Dr. Olga Vera-Nesmith, Ph.D. focusing on understanding characteristics of the Latino community and how to work best with the population. There were 29 attendees at the training.
- Denver Healthy People (DHP):
 - Live Well Colorado Foundation Award: Live Well Colorado Foundation notified our staff that our award for Year 4 is \$249,999 to begin February 1st. DHP staff, Division Director, and DEH Manager met with Live Well Foundation staff to go over some of the strengths and weaknesses of the DHP's proposal, grant expectations, and to generally go over their plans for evaluation of the grant. There was also an opportunity to discuss the potential of a citywide or perhaps a regional approach upon closer examination of lessons learned from specific neighborhood projects the Live Well Foundation has funded. The foundation staff expressed satisfaction with some of the projects undertaken in Park Hill as they will be sustainable long after the grant funds are expended and the City's approach in making some of the necessary policy changes that will ensure continued sustainability.
 - City of Axum Renovation Update: Park Hill Thriving Communities (PHTC) staff is working with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and the City's Parks & Recreation department staff to renovate the park. PHTC staff facilitated two community meetings within the vicinity of the park to discuss park design features the community wants to see in the park and to ensure it facilitates physical activity for the neighborhood's residents. This is part of the initial action plan included in the Live Well Colorado proposal and it will be one of the major undertakings for PHTC staff for Year 4.
 - Bike Depot Update: In January, Bike Depot became its own nonprofit organization with an Executive Director and a community board that will see its financial viability when the Live Well grant ends. There are 32 community members involved in its board and various

committees. This one of the many successes of Park Hill Thriving Communities. DEH's Communications Director coordinated a Channel 4 feature covering the Bike Depot as one of their Fit Colorado stories in February.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- There were no specific new activities or updates for this month's report.

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER (OME)

New Activities

- Education: Dr Heather Prouty, a 4th year resident in Emergency Medicine at Denver Health Medical Center, elected to do a one week rotation in Forensic Pathology at OME. Her perspective as a clinician was educational for our staff, and she was able to experience medicine from a forensic perspective. The experience was mutually beneficial.

Update on Key Issues

- Workload: For the month of January, OME performed 70 autopsies, 21 externals and 11 chart reviews/death certifications.
- Fellowship: On January 8th, The Graduate Medical Education Committee at the University Of Colorado Denver School Of Medicine conducted an internal audit of OME's fellowship training program. Since our first fellow in this program, Dr. Mike Burson, will start July 1, 2009, the audit was primarily an examination of the policies, procedures and training plan that has been developed, along with an interview with all three OME physician faculty. The draft report was received from the committee late last month. The comments were quite favorable, recognizing our program as having a "dedicated faculty" and for developing "strong didactic lectures and workshops, which will prepare the fellow for independent practice". The audit team did offer some suggestions on improving the content and format of some of our documents, which will be implemented. Our next audit will likely occur around December 2009/January 2010, and will include an interview with the incumbent fellow.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION (PHI)

New Activities

- Retail Food:
 - Meeting with Excise and Licenses: Members of the department of Excise and Licenses attended the monthly Food Safety section staff meeting to discuss licensing issues that impact both agencies. The meeting was very productive and set the foundation for future meetings in which both agencies will continue to discuss efficiencies identified by the Denver Auditor's office to include increased collaboration and database sharing.
 - Investigation of E. coli outbreak: PHI is collaborating with members of Denver Public Health and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in the investigation of a large multi- county E. Coli outbreak. Although the source of the outbreak is unconfirmed at this point, a number of infected individuals recently attended the Denver Stock Show. The outbreak investigation has expanded to include a number of ill children at a Denver child care facility.
 - Participation on CDPHE Regulation Review Committee: PHI accepted an invitation to participate in a monthly regulation review committee led by CDPHE addressing revisions to the

Colorado Retail Food Establishment Regulations. The revisions are focused on input provided by local regulatory food programs as well as integrating information that was added to the 2005 FDA Food Code. The changes made to the Colorado Retail Food Establishment Regulations will be considered in the next revision that is made to the Denver Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations.

- Child Care: The acting Director of PHI and the Supervisor of the Child Care section met with the Colorado Department of Human Services to discuss the parameters of the Child Care inspection contract. Upon conclusion, both agencies agreed that the contract does not restrict the supervisor of the Child Care section from conducting activities outside of that program. As a result, the supervisor's duties may soon be expanded to assist in providing supervisory coverage in other programs.

Update on Key Issues

- Swimming Pool Inspections: A number of pool licensees have yet to comply with the Virginia Grame Baker Pool Safety Act due to the complexity of the legislation. PHI will be sending a mass mailer in February to all licensed pool operators to facilitate their understanding and compliance with the federal law before the next outdoor pool season begins.
- Child Care: The licensee of Small Fry child care appeared in environmental court on January 22, 2009, and pleaded not guilty to charges of failing to allow access for an inspection, and failing to answer questions of a representative of the department. The jury trial is set for March.

COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA UPDATE

- Health Status Report: DEH and DPH announced the release of the 2008 Health Status Report at an event on Jan. 6. Mayor Hickenlooper joined Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien in promoting city and statewide efforts to address public health issues and recognize partners.
- Bike Depot: As a result of the Health Status Report announcement, DEH/DPH had the opportunity to work with KCNC Channel 4, to do a story on the Park Hill Bike Depot, as a great effort to promote public health.
- Healthy Corners Stores Program: DEH staff also worked with Channel 4 to arrange for a story on the Healthy Corner Stores Program, which works with local grocers to increase the availability of healthy food choices in corner stores.
- ACC Community Outreach Planning: Communications staff has been working with ACC Staff, Parks & Recreation, and external organizations to plan a spring and summer outreach schedule. Tentatively scheduled events include Webb Adoption Events on Feb. 27, Wastewater Building Adoption Event on March 27, Earth Day on April 22, Shelter/Dog Park Clean up on April 25 and joint promotions with Whole Foods throughout May.