



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Denver Environmental Health Department

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (DEH) Report for July and August, 2008

### ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL (ACC)

#### New Activities

- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) Evaluation: ACC is completing the last phase of its personnel restructure by hiring two animal care attendants, which will result in two animal control officers who are currently working in the shelter to be deployed to the field consistent with HSUS recommendations. In addition, ACC presented the preliminary HSUS findings to ACC staff.
- New Pit Bull Release Process: In collaboration with the Mayor's Office, City Attorney's Office, and other City partners, ACC amended the process for second impoundment of pit bulls. Since the inception of the pit bull ordinance in 1989, the process had been that the second impoundment of a pit bull would result in the euthanasia of the dog. The amended process allows a pit bull dog to be relinquished to an out-of-state animal welfare entity with the understanding that the dog will not be permanently relocated out of Denver.
- DogaPOOLooza: ACC, in conjunction with the Parks & Recreation Department, organized and held the annual DogaPOOLooza event where dogs are allowed to swim in City pools, at Berkeley and Cook Parks. The Berkeley event included an adoptathon and a vaccination clinic.

#### Update on Key Issues

- Federal Pit Bull Lawsuit: A new addendum to the Federal Lawsuit was filed to address claims for a second impoundment pit bull that was euthanized in compliance with the pit bull ordinance.
- Democratic National Convention (DNC): ACC worked in conjunction with its partners at the Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation to provide relief stations for service animals at the DNC. However, ACC did not receive any calls for service directly associated with the DNC, and ESF-11 (Emergency Service Function involving animals was not activated during the DNC).

### COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DECISION SUPPORT (CHDS)

#### New Activities

- Healthy Food Retail: CHDS took steps to develop a partnership between Park Hill Thriving Communities, Colorado Health Foundation, Philadelphia Food Trust/Fresh Food Financing to help secure healthy food retail operations near 40<sup>th</sup> and Colorado Boulevard.
- LiveWell: Staff approached Public Works on the viability of using LiveWell funds to paint bike arrows on City streets throughout Park Hill.



## Update on Key Issues

- Decision Support Group (DSG):
  - Chameleon Update: The integration of HLP's Chameleon software with the PeopleSoft CRM (311) is complete and is ready to begin testing prior to implementation. However, the 311 Call Center has issued a moratorium on changes to the system or processes until after the DNC, and implementation of the integration is now delayed until this Fall.
  - 311 Call Center Issues: The 311 Call Center has been frequently announced that they are cold transferring callers to partner agencies "due to high call volumes." Transferring calls cold without background data or information has impacted DEH customer service particularly in Environmental Quality (EQ) and ACC.
- Mayor's Office of HIV Resources (MOHR):
  - Grantee National Meeting: MOHR presented two workshops at the National Grantee meeting in Washington, D.C. One workshop was dedicated to the new module in the CAREWare software package developed in partnership with MOHR's information technology contractor, jProg. The module developed has received national attention and is a project of national significance for other grantees. The second workshop focused on "use of Data in CQI Analysis and Design" in providing lessons learned and best practices derived from Denver's experience.
  - Minority AIDS Funds: MOHR received the federal funding award through the Minority AIDS Caucus reflecting a 3% increase over last year's funding level. The budget year for these funds started August 1, 2008.
  - CQI Activities: MOHR provided three CQI workshops locally to funded AIDS service providers.
- Denver Healthy People (DPH):
  - Park Hill Bike Depot: From April through August, 2008, the Bike Depot has distributed 430 bikes. DPH staff began researching consulting services and costs to develop and transition Bike Depot leadership upon completion of the grant. Staff also researched costs and companies to develop an evaluation database linked directly to the Bike Depot's website. LiveWell staff supported Thriving Communities' request to increase funds to Recycle Bicycles to hire an Executive Director. Bike safety education, bike riding instruction and bike maintenance programs continue via the Bike Depot. Presented the Bike Depot at the National Pro Bike/Pro Walk conference.
  - City of Axum Project: DPH staff brokered financial arrangements to allocate grant funds to Parks and Recreation for construction costs associated with City of Axum Park.
  - Community Action Plan: Staff continue to draft the Community Action Plan for Park Hill Thriving Communities in partnership with LiveWell staff and stakeholders. Final budget and plan due to LiveWell in December 2008.
  - Healthy Food Retail: Staff drafted position paper that will be used to advance policies and strategies to bring healthy food retail options to the Park Hill community.

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (EQ)

### Update on Key Issues

- Democratic National Convention (DNC): DEH provided more than 50 staff members that contributed a total of 3479 personnel hours, staffed five operations centers, and had pre-positioned field teams on call to provide emergency preparedness support for environmental management, logistical, and field support teams 24 hours a day for eight consecutive days throughout the convention. DEH food safety teams, working with state and federal partners, completed 100 food inspections over four days at the Pepsi Center and Invesco; DEH EQ staff, working with state and federal partners, provided technical and field support for incidents ranging from water quality concerns in City ponds to air contaminant modeling for suspicious packages; DEH Residential House and Housing program responded to inspection requests generated during DNC emergency preparedness operations; DEH EQ staff assisted with the greening of the certain convention venues, an idling program for the Convention Center, and a renewable energy display during the DNC; DEH communications staff provided 24 hour support to the City's Joint Information Center.

## **OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER (OME)**

### **New Activities**

- Community Outreach:
  - New Psychiatric Facility: OME conducted an in-service with Sky Ridge, a new psychiatric facility opening at Lowry, regarding information on protocols to follow in the event of a death at the facility.
  - National Institute of Scientific Investigation: The National Institute of Scientific Investigation is a lab that performs a variety of forensic testing. Through this Institute, four representatives from Seoul, Korea were selected by the government to come to the US for an international meeting and were visiting several American medical examiner offices. Young Shik Choi M.D., PhD, forensic pathologist, an official from the Korean government, a forensic psychiatrist, and an information technology specialist for forensic documentation and imaging participated in a conducted tour, and discussed the OME office procedures with our Chief Deputy Coroner.
- Education: Dr. Martin and Dr. Carver have been selected to chair the interim National Association of Medical Examiners meeting February 17, 2009, which will be held in association with the larger American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting scheduled in Denver the week of February 16, 2009.

### **Update on Key Issues**

- Workload: For the month of July, OME performed 74 autopsies and 22 externals. For the month of August, OME performed 66 autopsies, 26 externals and 7 chart reviews/death certifications.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION (PHI)**

### **New Activities**

- Retail Food: Three requests were received for civil penalty hearings. These hearings will be scheduled for the September or October Board meetings based on the availability of the petitioners.
- Body Art: The Denver Tattoo Convention will be held September 18-21, 2008 in Denver.

- Child Care Inspection:
  - Childhood Classroom Licensing: Child care staff worked diligently in the month of August to license over 50 new early childhood classrooms through Denver Public Schools (DPS). The increase in classrooms is related to the success of the Denver Preschool Project.
  - Denver Quality Family Child Care Program: Nine family child care providers have been accepted to the Denver Quality Family Child Care program. This program mirrors the Air Force Quality Family Child Care Project with customization to best meet the parameters of the guidelines from the Mayor's Office of Education and Children (MOEC) and the Denver County Family Child Care Provider participants.

### **Update on Key Issues**

- Democratic National Convention (DNC): The goals of the Food Safety section were met during the DNC. Preparation and partnership with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the DNC was a success. PHI and FDA partners to provide five teams to conduct food inspections both inside and outside the Pepsi Center and Invesco Field venues during the DNC. All operating kitchens were inspected each day of the event. The licensees inside each venue maintained a high level of compliance. However, the primary licensee outside of the Pepsi Center presented numerous problems and failed to comply with repeated orders to correct critical violations. As a result, it was necessary to condemn some equipment in addition to issuing a summons on three separate days. The PHI team was awarded FDA team certificates of appreciation for the DNC collaboration.

### **COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA UPDATE**

- Environmental Health had numerous media contacts during July and August:
- DogaPOOLooza: Excellent pre-and post-event coverage on the DogaPOOLooza event held at Berkeley Park, including two pitched television spots on Fox 31 and 9News, and coverage on a every station on the day of and the day after the event. Photos also appeared in the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post*. Pitched pre-event coverage also resulted in the adoption of one of the shelter dogs (by a Fox 31 producer).
- Pets and Freclosure: Staff successfully pitched a story about pets left in foreclosed homes as an education piece on Fox 31. Staff also provided an educational newsletter article on the topic for distribution to neighborhood organization publications.
- Food Safety at DNC: PHI staff was interviewed by Channel 4 about pre-DNC security measures.
- Pit Bull Ban: Staff spent a significant amount of time managing media surrounding a pit bull second impoundment at the Denver Municipal Animal Shelter. This included more than a dozen stories/photos.
- DNC Joint Information Center Support: Staff provided public information support to the DNC activities throughout the convention as part of the City's Joint Information Center.