



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Denver Environmental Health Department

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (DEH) Report for June, 2008

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

New Activities

- Vaccination, microchip and license clinics: In an effort to meet the division's goals of hosting five vaccination clinics in 2008, the division is doing outreach to schedule clinics at existing events to help increase foot traffic and participation. Approval has been given by the event hosts to hold a clinic/and or an adoption event at the City Park Festival of the Arts on July 20 and we are in the process of identifying other events that would be a good fit with the clinic.

Update on Key Issues

- HSUS Site Visit: The Humane Society of the U.S. conducted an extensive four-day evaluation of Animal Care & Control starting on June 9. HSUS presented management with an overview of their preliminary findings to support our improvement efforts until the group completes and provides the full report in approximately four months.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DECISION SUPPORT

New Activities

- Administrative Citation process: In order to meet our target reduction for our departmental budget, the Decision Support Group (DSG) is spearheading a project to develop an administrative citations process for DEH. Work began with the Animal Care & Control division determining changes needed in our current ordinances, specifically Section 8 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code, and conducted a fee study of current charges at other animal shelters in the metro Denver area. Subsequently, DSG staff will work with Public Health Inspection and Environmental Quality divisions to utilize the Administrative Citation process.
- Recruitment of new Program Manager in Denver Healthy People program: Monica Buhlig submitted her resignation after she was offered a great opportunity at Kaiser. We've conducted several meetings to ensure a smooth transition and to begin recruiting for the position. Her last day is July 7th.
- Mayor's Office of HIV Resources (MOHR) Online Training Module: MOHR staff is currently working with Diverse Management Solutions to create an online training module to go along with its newly created module created for CAREWare which is a software developed to capture service utilization in HIV care systems.

Update on Key Issues

- Decision Support Group (DSG) - Emergency Preparedness: DSG piloted a mobile solution that will incorporate the use of GPS technology for the Democratic National Convention. Changes are

currently being developed to ensure this mobile approach will indeed support emergency preparedness operations.

- Mayor's Office of HIV Resources (MOHR) – All Ryan White Titles Grantee Meeting: MOHR staff submitted two abstracts for the All Ryan White Titles Grantee in Meeting in Washington, D.C. MOHR staff will be conducting two seminars: Quality Management and CAREWare's new module.
- Denver Healthy People – Live Well Thriving Communities: The Bike Depot located in the Park Hill neighborhood opened 2 ½ months ago and has been greatly received. The depot has already has given away 350 bicycles to members of this community to enhance physical activity.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (EQ)

New Activities

- Greenhouse Gas: The Public Utilities Commission approved Denver's intervention in Xcel Energy Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) that affects conversion of Arapahoe Power Plant from coal to natural gas.
- School Idling Campaign: EQ is developing a pilot to reduce idling vehicles at elementary schools during student drop-off and pick-up. We have selected three schools and have agreement from Jefferson County and Boulder County to participate. The Denver school will be Swansea Elementary, which has previously expressed concerns regarding air quality issues. We have secured \$10,000 in funding from the RAQC for the program.
- Hazardous Waste Management: EQ is moving forward with officially transitioning the Roslyn complex from a Large Quantity Generator to Small Quantity Generator status. This change is possible due to an approximately 90% reduction in hazardous waste generation from the facility over the last ten years. This is a significant status change and represents reduced disposal costs, reduced environmental and compliance liability, as well as lower generator notification fees, for the City.

Update on Key Issues

- Noise Ordinance: Final revisions to the noise ordinance were approved by City Council.
- Landfill Gas to Energy Plant: The plant construction is complete and has tested. A preliminary date for the ribbon-cutting ceremony has been set for Sept. 18.

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER (OME)

New Activities

- Community Outreach – Alcohol and Drug Abuse: Dr. Martin and Dr. Carver met with Richard Miech, Ph.D. MPH, Chair of the Department of Health and Behavioral Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at University of Colorado Denver to discuss OME participation in a potential NIH study looking at trends in patterns of drug abuse and mortality in Denver. Dr. Miech and colleges will determine, based on initial information, the feasibility of pursuing an NIH grant for a prospective study using in part drug mortality data from OME. Dr. Martin also spoke with Bruce Mendelson, Senior Data Consultant with the Denver Office of Drug Strategy to discuss providing drug related mortality data. A follow-up meeting is scheduled in July.
- Youth Training: OME participated in the Science Discovery Youth Camp at Auraria Campus.
- Law Enforcement Training: OME participated in the Denver Police Department Recruit Academy.

- Colorado Coroner's Association 2008 Death Investigation Conference: Dr. Martin was an invited speaker to the annual conference, given this year in Cripple Creek, CO. She presented a potpourri of interesting cases, emphasizing interagency teamwork in the investigative process.

Update on Key Issues

- Workload: For the month of June, OME performed 62 autopsies and 15 externals.
- Staffing: In May, OME had an unexpected vacancy in the investigative section due to a promotion to another city agency. Starting the last week of June, OME began the interview process to fill this vacancy.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION (PHI)

New Activities

- Retail Food
 - Meeting with City Attorney's Office (CAO) regarding Retail Food Regulations: A supervisor met with the City Attorney's Office to discuss a recent inquiry from a wholesale operator on our authority to use the Retail Food Regulations for wholesale operations. Historically, PHI has used the same set of regulations for both types of operations. It was recommended by the CAO that the Retail Food Regulations be revised in the future to make it clearer that the regulations apply to both types of operations.

Update on Key Issues

- Retail Food
 - CDPHE Audit: PHI has received the revised audit report from CDPHE regarding the Retail Food program. PHI is in the process of developing a plan to address the recommendations within the report. That plan is due back to CDPHE within 30 days.
 - Meeting with Denver Public Health (DPH) on the DU Outbreak: Members of the food borne illness team met with members of DPH to discuss successes and areas for improvement between departments with respect to the Denver University outbreak. Members of both departments agree that our efforts were well coordinated resulting in a rapid response time to the incident. Further meetings will be held to confirm our interactions and coordination efforts prior to the DNC.

COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA:

Environmental Health had numerous media contacts during the month of June, including:

- A positive story that ran in the *Denver Post* June 4 featuring PHI's restaurant inspectors;
- A *Denver Daily News* story regarding an ongoing bed bug complaint at a local apartment complex that resulted in additional Fox 31, and Univision television interviews;
- Two *Westword* stories regarding the EMS Response Time/Operating Agreement that focused on Denver Health, but eventually involved coordination with DEH and Mayor's Office staff;
- Worked with Parks & Recreation staff to ensure consistent messages on the response to Ferril Lake Algae issues;
- DEH successfully pitched a FOX 31 segment to promote HIV testing day on behalf of MOHR.
- Internal City Environmental Health news included a "Protecting our Waterways at Home" article in the CCD Insight Newsletter, prepared by Dori Brown and EQ staff.