



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Denver Environmental Health Department

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (DEH) Report for October, 2007

### PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION DIVISION (PHI)

#### New Activities

- Residential Health. The Supervisor of the Residential Health program has accepted an invitation from the Department of Human Services to join the Adult Protective Services Team (AP Team). This volunteer team, which is made up of individuals from several different professions, will strive to provide the best possible response and services to adult victims by suggesting strategies for interventions, and by developing comprehensive service plans.
- Communicable Disease Prevention. Two cases of persons infected with Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) were investigated; the first at Ross Library in University Hills and the second at Warren Village Apartment living for single moms with attached child care facility. MRSA is an antibiotic-resistant strain of S. aureus. Neither case has a known or confirmed source. PHI is working with Denver Public Health to investigate both matters.

#### Update on Key Issues

- Retail Food
  - Dogs on Patios. On October 11, 2007, the Board of Environmental Health adopted a proposed regulation, as amended, allowing retail food service establishments to register their outdoor patio as dog friendly. PHI completed implementing the system to allow such registration, including an on-line registration form, appropriate signage, and a registry. The new regulation took effect on November 1. As of the effective date, five retail food service establishments had registered with the department.
  - Standardization. PHI has begun the process of standardizing its retail food staff. Priority is going to employees who are eligible for standardization but have not yet gone through the process; staff members who have already been standardized, but whose standardization has expired, will receive second priority. Danica England is the standardizing officer.
- Residential Health. On October 11, 2007, the Board of Environmental Health adopted the proposed revisions to the residential health regulations.

## **ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL DIVISION (ACC)**

### **New Activities**

- 3-1-1 Integration. Preliminary approval was received for Technology Services to purchase and implement two-way integration between the city's 3-1-1 CRM application and the division's Chameleon software. Integration of 3-1-1 and Chameleon will result in terminating the necessity to 'cut and paste' information from 3-1-1 to Chameleon, and will also allow for better data tracking on the CRM.
- Vaccination Clinic. A vaccination and licensing clinic was held at Cheesman Park on October 6. The staff and volunteer veterinarian vaccinated over 50 dogs and four cats.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH & DECISION SUPPORT (CHDS)**

### **New Activities**

- Mayor's Office of HIV Resources (MOHR) Grant Reviews. MOHR received and began reviewing 54 proposals to provide HIV services in the Denver Transitional Grant Area for the next three years. The grant application committee anticipates completing all reviews by the end of 2007. Upon completion of grant review, the committee will submit recommendations for funding to Mayor Hickenlooper for approval.
- 2006 Annual Joint Report. The joint annual report between Denver Public Health and DEH highlighting programs and 2006 financial information was completed and will be disseminated to the broader community.

### **Update on Key Issues**

- Decision Support Group
  - Emergency Response Information Technology (IT). CHDS received four mobile computers (tablets) purchased with CDPHE grant funds and successfully configured and tested the equipment for the emergency response program. In 2008, this equipment will be outfitted with GPS-enabled prototype software to aid in real-time field mapping support functions.
  - IT Support. CHDS staff completed 52 official IT Requests during October.
  - Grants Policy. CHDS developed a draft grants policy for review and will be participating on a pilot (first of all City agencies) to automate all Executive Order 15.
  - Legislation. CHDS developed the department's 2008 legislative priorities and forwarded to Mayor's Office and the Board of Environmental Health.
- Mayor's Office of HIV Resources. The 2008 application requesting \$8 million for funding HIV services in the Denver Transitional Area was completed and submitted to the Health Resources & Services Administration.
- Denver Healthy People
  - Denver Safe Routes to School. On October 24, 2007, the Denver Safe Routes to School Coalition held its first meeting. The 2007 City Council Proclamation 15 charged this coalition with the establishment of a Denver Safe Routes to School Action Plan which will integrate education, infrastructure, enforcement and policy recommendations to ensure every Denver child has the opportunity to walk/bike to school safely. The Coalition is staffed by Denver Public Works and Denver Healthy People staff within DEH.

- EPA CARE Conference. Staff attended a national Environmental Protection Agency Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Conference on the topic of best practices related to community-based action plans to address environmental concerns.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION (EQ)**

### **New Activities**

- Greenhouse Gas. DEH and the University of Colorado were successful in getting the Denver Board of Realtors to endorse a voluntary Time of Sale Energy Efficiency pilot program in partnership with Denver, CU-Denver, and the Governor's Energy Office. DEH will prepare a seed capital application for a portion of the funds to implement this pilot.
- Emergency Preparedness. DEH opened and staffed its Emergency Operations Center for the two World Series home games. Communication tests were completed with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Denver Public Health Emergency Operations Centers.
- Water Quality. EQ formed an internal working group, including representatives from the DEH, Public Works, Denver International Airport and the City Attorney's Office, to review and provide comment on proposed water quality regulation changes.
- Democratic National Convention (DNC). EQ is actively contributing to various DNC Task Teams. EQ representatives co-chair the Carbon Task Team and the Energy Task Team and participate on the Business/RFP Task Team and the Carbon Task Team.

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

### **New Activities**

- Emergency Preparedness. OME is working with Safeway Distributors to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding for refrigeration units.
- Education. OME staff provided educational presentations to Kids at Risk, Independent Study Forensics/Boulder, Regis students, and Montbello High School.
- Bonus Plan. OME successfully completed its 2007 bonus plan goals. All three investigators passed the ABMDI written examination.

### **Update on Key Issues**

- Caseload. OME conducted 63 autopsies and 26 external examinations during October, 2007. This yields an autopsy rate of 71%.