



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Denver Environmental Health Department

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

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL DIVISION (ACC)

New Activities

- Vaccination Clinic in the Parks. ACC held a vaccination clinic at Garfield Park in southwest Denver on Sunday, September 28. More than 45 animals were vaccinated, and many were also microchipped.
- Microchipping Cats for Free. ACC is participating in a metro Denver-wide effort to microchip 100,000 cats. Free microchips have been provided by participating companies, and chipping and registering cats is free for owners through September, 2009. Denver Municipal Animal Shelter is providing the free microchipping at its weekly cat vaccination clinic on Thursdays, and during other times by arrangement.

Update on Key Issues

- HSUS Update. Staff provided the Greenprint Denver Committee with an overview and answered questions about the HSUS preliminary findings.

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 40th 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.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DECISION SUPPORT (CHDS)

Update on Key Issues

- Decision Support Group (DSG)
 - Chameleon Update. The technology portion of the integration of HLP's Chameleon software with the PeopleSoft CRM (311) is complete and is ready for user acceptance testing and training prior to implementation. Discussions with the Call Center have put this on the schedule to occur in early November.
 - 311 Call Center Issues. The 311 Call Center has implemented a policy to "cold transfer" callers to partner agencies when the Call Center experiences high call volumes, incidences of which have been increasing. Transferring calls cold without background data or information continues to impact DEH customer service particularly in Environmental Quality (EQ) and ACC.



- Mayor's Office of HIV Resources (MOHR)
 - FY 2009 Ryan White Part A Funding. MOHR has completed and submitted our federal application for the Ryan White Part A funding requesting approximately \$7.5 million. In this coming fiscal year funds will be determined on 2/3 of the award being a mathematical formula and 1/3 a competitive process.
 - Disbursements of Ryan White Part A Funding. MOHR dispersed \$826,947 in Ryan White Part A funding to 15 agencies during September. This funding allowed 1,925 unique individuals to receive medical and support service. This accounted for 25,130 units of service provided.
 - Minority AIDS Funds. The first submissions for the Minority AIDS Initiative funding, Conditions of Award (COA) were submitted in September. This submission included an identification of the services to be funded by the Minority AIDS Initiative grant, proposed levels of service, and financial information on allocation of the funds.
 - United States Conference on AIDS. Two members of MOHR attended the United States Conference on AIDS in Florida. This conference focused on the provision of services and changes in the field of HIV/AIDS.
- Denver Healthy People (DPH).
 - Bike Depot. Potential Board members for the new leadership structure were identified by the Steering Committee. CHDS staff attended the National Pro Bike/Pro Walk Conference in Seattle.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (EQ)

Update on Key Issues

- Methane to Energy Plant. The methane to energy plant is fully operational and a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in coordination with Waste Management and the Environmental Protection Agency. Council President Jeanne Robb spoke at the ceremony. Denver City Council Member Marcia Johnson and Aurora City Council Member Renie Peterson also attended the event.
- Civil Penalties. BioEnergy of America was assessed a civil penalty of \$119,172 for violations noted in an inspection conducted under our 2007 stormwater inspection contract.

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER (OME)

New Activities

- Community Outreach.
 - Denver Metro Funeral Directors Association. Dr. Martin presented an overview of OME operations and future direction at the quarterly meeting of the Denver Metro Area Funeral Directors Association. Those attending the meeting reported overwhelmingly positive feedback about the quality of service provided by OME to mortuary customers. Michelle Weiss-Samaras spoke about the construction of the parking garage at the Denver Botanic Gardens, as there is a possibility that human remains from the old cemetery burials will be discovered. A strategy to rebury any recovered remains at Mt. Olivet was discussed.
 - Colorado Association of Criminal Justice Educators. OME presented to the Colorado Association of Criminal Justice Educators explaining the duties of OME and coroner's offices in general.

Update on Key Issues

- Workload: For the month of September, OME performed 72 autopsies, 29 externals and 5 chart reviews/death certifications.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION (PHI)

New Activities

- Retail Food
 - National Food Safety Month. To promote National Food Safety Month, PHI staff partnered with King Soopers staff to distribute home food safety information to consumers for three consecutive afternoons in each of three Denver King Soopers locations.
 - Educational Outreach. PHI partnered with the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to distribute food safety posters (covering hand washing, cooling, and eating/drinking in the kitchen) and information on the FDA's ALERT initiative to nearly 200 high and medium risk facilities that have opened for business in the last year. FDA covered mailing expenses and provided the ALERT initiative materials.
 - Workload. 587 food inspections, two food borne illness complaints, and 37 general complaints were handled by the retail food program in September.
- Body Art. Members of PHI inspected approximately 50 body artist booths during the recent Body Art convention held in Denver. Overall, there was a high level of compliance with regulations and no enforcement actions were necessary.

Update on Key Issues

- Food Safety Program Audit. The Deputy Manager, Division Director, and Retail Food Program Manager attended and presented information to the audit review committee on September 18, 2008 regarding the performance audit conducted on the Food Safety Program by the Denver Office of the Auditor. The committee asked numerous questions regarding the program, and the information presented was well received. Additional information regarding food borne illness is being prepared for the committee in response to the committee's questions.
- Mobile Solutions Project. The department's IT group will be researching PHI's equipment needs for the electronic inspection reporting process and will purchase the equipment within the next few weeks.

COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA UPDATE

- Methane to Energy Plant Opening - The ribbon cutting for the DADS Methane to Energy Plant garnered broadcast coverage on all television stations, including a documentary on renewable energy.
- HSUS Preliminary Evaluation – Following a presentation to the Greenprint Committee, stories appeared in the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Adopt A Dog From A Shelter Month – In celebration of Adopt A Dog From A Shelter Month, Animal Care & Control will host weekly two-hour dog adoption events in the lobby of the Wellington Webb Building. The adoption events will take place one day out of each week, throughout October. Non-service type animals are traditionally not allowed in the Webb Building. Special thanks to General Services for allowing this exception.