



South Heartland District Health Department table at PRIDE event in Hastings NE on June 2, 2024. Table was staffed by SHDHD program specialist, Chris Junker, and promoted education and awareness on HPV vaccination for cancer prevention, Chlamydia/STD/STI prevention. Hand sanitizers and COVID test kits were given out.



Sam Coutts and Chris Junker at the Mentoring Works Community Event on June 10, 2024 (Photo taken by Jean Korth). SHDHD staff shared information about sun safety, mosquitos, HPV and other vaccines, healthy eating habits and various services at SHDHD.



At the Minority Health "Garden Education" Community Event, June 4, 2024, families learned from HMS 7th grade science teacher Jayson Stoddard about planting gardens and he brought seeds and seedlings for people to take home. SHDHD Community Health workers, Luisa and Aida, brought prizes, like garden tools, and healthy snacks for the attendees. There were 13 adults and 16 kids attending.

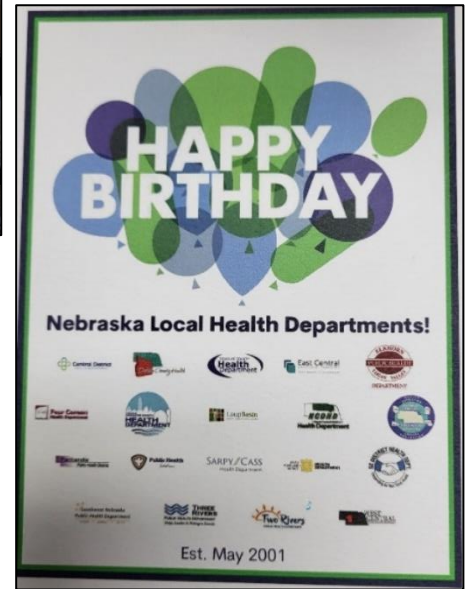




Above: Christian Weigert, summer vector surveillance program assistant, educated about thirty-five 8 to 13-year-olds about ticks and mosquitos at the Webster County 4H Day Camp at Crystal Lake on June 10.



SHDHD staff celebrated Nebraska Public Health's "birthday", recognizing the formation of the district health departments when the unicameral passed LB 692 in May 2001. LB 692 established district health departments and set aside funding in perpetuity from the Master Tobacco Settlement (Nebraska's Health Care Cash Fund) so that all Nebraskans would have access to local public health services. Prior to 2001, only 22 of 93 Nebraska counties had a local health department. In November 2001, SHDHD was the first health department to form under LB 692.



We had "send offs" for two staff:

Emma Severson (left, in the center) has worked at SHDHD as an intern or program assistant since spring of 2021, initially supporting COVID response efforts and eventually supporting a whole host of programs, including trapping ticks and mosquitoes during the summer of 2023. Emma graduated from Hastings College in May and is heading off to medical school in Iowa.

Zelda Anderson (center, left) was a nurse on the OB floor at Mary Lanning and also supported our COVID mass vaccination clinics – at the Fairgrounds and Allen's offsite locations, then at the health department. When she retired from the hospital in 2023, she began working part time for our Hastings/Adams County Immunization Clinic, provided health education at outreach events, and assisted with TB treatment services for SHDHD. When she decided it was time to be completely retired so that she and her husband could have the freedom to travel, Zelda gave her last shot for SHDHD at our June 6 Vaccine for Children clinic.

Below: "Preceptor" Michele Bever working through Zoom with Luke Santos, a student in the Master of Public Health program at UNMC College of Public Health. Luke is completing an Advanced Practice Experience with SHDHD.



We are thankful for all the ways that Emma and Zelda contributed to our team and to the community's health. We wish them well on their next adventures!