

Nebraska Public Health Conference, April 5-6, 2022

SHDHD staff joined public health colleagues from across the state to “Reset. Restore. Renew. Public Health”. We learned about emerging issues, best practices, and worked on statewide communications. We also met up with some of Nebraska’s public health leaders. We appreciated meeting them in person after 2+ years of working with them by email, phone and Zoom!

Photo below left: SHDHD staff with Dr. Salman Ashraf (Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical Director, Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program) leads Nebraska’s COVID efforts for long term care facilities.

Photo below right: SHDHD staff with Dr. Matthew Donahue, Nebraska State Epidemiologist, Division of Public Health, Nebraska



Left: SHDHD Staff promoting public health and COVID vaccination at the Nebraska Public Health Conference, April 5-6, 2022.

Below: John Bohmfalk (left), Hastings College professor emeritus, gives a presentation on malaria at the March 31 SHDHD Surveillance Team meeting



General Information

- 5 species of parasite in genus *Plasmodium*
- *Plasmodium falciparum* most common in Africa and causes most severe disease
 - *Plasmodium vivax* most common outside Africa
 - *P. vivax* is older species, and *P. falciparum* is newer
- Transmitted by *Anopheles* mosquitos
 - Many species with world-wide distribution
 - Many species capable of transmitting malaria
- Brought to New World by earliest explorers
- Endemic in US until mid 1900s



Left: March 9, 2022. SHDHD Staff talk with Hastings Tribune editor and news director, Andy Raun, for a story he was writing about South Heartland and our reflections on the past couple of years responding to the COVID pandemic. The story was published on March 18, the 2 year anniversary of South Heartland’s first confirmed COVID case.

Bi-monthly Report on the Ten Essential Services of Public Health

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets (*What's going on in our district? Do we know how healthy we are?*)

- *How do we collect and maintain data about conditions of public health importance and about the health status of the population, and how do we make it available to our partners and our community?*
- *What major problems or trends have we identified in the past 2 months?*

- **Surveillance:** A key role of the health department is to monitor what is going on in our communities and share data back to the community so residents can be aware and make their own informed decisions (Essential Public Health Services 1 and 3). Tableau is our data platform for dashboards.
 - Surveillance data, water violations, and other health information is made available on our website, links on our website, news releases & interviews to various forms of media, and upon request from partners or others.
 - SHDHD continues to share an immense amount of COVID data. SHDHD shares color-coded metrics on new cases and positivity to help the public understand the level of community transmission.
 - The vaccine dashboard page shares progress on COVID-19 vaccination rates and the demographic breakdown.
 - The hospital dashboard page shows trends in the aggregate available capacity of the three hospitals in the district.
 - Two public water system violations (both nitrate violations) this reporting period in Edgar and Prosser.
 - SHDHD surveillance staff have investigated norovirus, influenza and metapneumovirus outbreaks during this reporting period. There have been four outbreaks aside from COVID outbreaks since the beginning of the year.

SHDHD will continue to maintain our COVID and Vaccine dashboard pages for the foreseeable future so that South Heartland residents, local organizations and others have a source for information about pandemic status while our staff continue to investigate cases, monitor for variants, administer vaccine and implement other mitigation strategies.

- **Monitoring and Tracking updates:** Continuing to provide trends for local COVID-19 data. As of April 1, 2022, we shifted to provide COVID case data to the public at the health district level only (no longer providing county-level data) due to expiration of the Governor's Executive Order No. 21-18 on March 31. Among the metrics posted on the dashboard are: 7-day rolling average of new cases per 100,000 people, weekly community positivity, long-term care positivity, hospital capacity metrics, variants of concern, residents vaccinated (partially/fully/boosted). We added a link to the CDC's Community Levels tool which provides low/med/high levels by county along with level-specific recommendations for action/prevention.

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Situation Update / Dashboard Highlights:**

- As of April 28, 2022, a cumulative 10,259 South Heartland residents have tested positive for COVID. During this reporting period, 70 Covid cases were reported. Case rate and positivity (percent positive tests) (excluding the nursing home data) is in the low to moderate range. Hospitalizations have been sporadic during this reporting period. There are currently no COVID patients hospitalized in our jurisdiction.
- A total of 255 specimens have been sequenced through 4/22/2022. Thirty-Three specimens have been sequenced during this reporting period, resulting in "Delta" variant as well as "Omicron" and Omicron BA2 variant. The omicron variant has dominated cases this year.
- Vaccination Coverage: 48.8 % of SH residents are fully vaccinated; 29% of residents have received boosters.

- **SHDHD's dashboard tracks deaths related to COVID:** This process requires death certificates to be reviewed by DHHS and sent to each jurisdiction. Following the CDC practice, SHDHD includes confirmed (PCR positive) and probable (Antigen positive) COVID-related deaths in our counts. This information is important in understanding fatality rates related to illness. Cumulative 147 deaths attributed to COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. **Current Case Fatality Rate: 1.4%**

- **Community Health Assessment:** SHDHD's Community Health Assessment (CHA) process wrapped up during this quarter. The final report was shared with the core planning team, which consisted Brodstone, Mary Lanning, South Heartland and United Way. The needs assessment was also shared with SHDHD's Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP) steering committees and posted on SH's website. In addition, SHDHD completed a minority-focused community health assessment (using health data, surveys and listening sessions), which was used to develop a minority health action plan and was posted on SH's website.

2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population

(Are we ready to respond to health problems or threats? How quickly do we find out about problems? How effective is our response?)

- *Key activities in the past 2 months to prevent, minimize, and contain adverse health events and conditions resulting from communicable diseases; food-, water-, and vector-borne outbreaks; chronic diseases; environmental hazards; injuries; and health disparities*
- *Emergency preparedness (e.g., planning, exercises, and response activities)*
- **COVID-19 Preparedness and Response:** See COVID Outbreak Situation Update, above. In addition, SHDHD continues to be responsible for receipt, inventory, repackaging and dissemination of PPE for our jurisdiction. To help keep key partners informed, SHDHD sent 8 Alert Sense notifications (March - April) to over 140 individuals each time and issued 10 news releases to media and partners. Staff check the Nebraska Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS), SalesForce, and fax machine for COVID test results.
- **PPE distribution totals:** From the beginning of March 2020 through the April 26, 2022 SH has distributed out: Masks – 235,037, Surgical Masks – 320,600, Cloth Masks – 50,630, Face Shields – 36,838, Goggles – 3,275, Hand Sanitizer – 1,379 containers, Wipes – 11,381 containers, Gloves – 970,700, Gowns – 196,834, Thermometers – 801, Bleach – 12 gal., Eco Lab Disinfectant – 3 containers.
- **E-MED Test Kits:** 4,866 E-MED at-home COVID test kits were received during Feb – April 2022. These kits were inventoried and allocated to schools and child care facilities for their use and to public sites in each county. So far 4,152 kits have been distributed to 69 organizations/individuals across the district. SHDHD office serves as the public site for kit pick up in Adams County.
- **Lead Testing in Drinking Water:** SHDHD, with a student intern's assistance, is phoning all eligible agencies to promote the lead testing program offered by the State to test for lead in drinking water (elementary, preschools, day care centers and in-home daycares). This reporting period: 151 test kits distributed, 68 of those have test results returned (10 Webster, 16 Nuckolls, 17 Clay, 25 Adams), and 1 faucet was identified with high lead levels.

3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it *(How well do we keep all people in our district informed about health issues?)*

- *Examples of key information related to physical, behavioral, environmental, social, economic, and other issues affecting health that we provided to the public.*
- *Examples of health promotion programs that we implemented to address identified health problems.*
- **Community sign boards:** March: "Time to Fight Back Against Colon Cancer" and "Regardless of your Covid-19 Community Level you Should Mask Up". April: "The Distraction is Coming from Inside the Car" and "Vaccination week in the Americas. Get All Your Shots".
- **News releases, public health columns, ads and interviews:** COVID activities have decreased in these last two months, but continue to be the primary topic of news releases and communications. In Mar/April, SHDHD put out 11 press releases and granted phone interviews for TV and radio media requests, focusing primarily on COVID-19-related issues and vaccinations, Kids Fitness and Drug Take Back (prescription drug disposal). Colon Cancer Screening and Safe Driving were the focus of the PH columns.
- **Radio Advertising:** SHDHD continues running PSAs on Flood Communications' stations and KRFS in Superior to promote getting the COVID vaccine and practicing prevention. March PSAs included promotion for vaccination by farm broadcaster Susan Littlefield (produced by United Health Care and UNMC). The current script focuses on the South Heartland website and the information available, such as what to do if you've been exposed, where to go for testing or where to get a vaccine, as well as COVID-19 data.
- **SHDHD Social Media:** During March and April, the English FaceBook page reached 4,523 people, the Instagram page reached 70 people, and the Spanish FB page has reached 1,510. Topics included colon cancer screenings action month, Safe Driving, COVID vaccine and testing, and Building Healthy Families program.
- **Website:** Our website "views" continue to decrease for March (2,304 views) and April (1,374), and continue to be lower than our max views during January (19,204 views). Website views continue to be higher than our pre-

COVID-19 (~450 views/mo). Staff continue to update and improve our website pages; a full website review was initiated by staff during this quarter.

- **COVID-19 Information for Public:** SHDHD staff continues to focus on answering calls accurately, timely, professionally and transparently. Website charts for testing and vaccine information are updated weekly.

4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health (How well do we really get people and organizations engaged in health issues?)

- *Process for developing SHDHDs community health improvement plan (CHIP) and/or implementing our work plan.*
- *Examples where we engaged the public health system and community to address health problems collaboratively.*
- **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) implementation:** Reports completed: Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Minority Health CHA, Annual CHIP Report with strategy progress dashboard. Reports posted on SH website, shared with partners and with the 5 CHIP Priority steering committees at April meetings.
- **Access to Care CHIP Priority:**
 - **Health Equity (HE):** Medicaid Expansion and ensuring individuals are navigated to services is a priority for both the Access to Care Steering Committee and the Health Equity (HE) grant. SHDHD's 2 Community Health Workers (CHWs) attended an informational meeting about the Medicaid enrollment platforms during the month of April. The HE team also worked on district-wide marketing strategies to reach all populations with health information. Additionally, the Access to Care Steering Committee incorporated the MHI action plan into the their workplan to ensure HE is considered in the objectives.
- **Mental Health CHIP Priority:**
 - **Rural Behavior Health (BH) Network:** The Rural BH Network continues to meet on schedule, but virtually. The network continues to implement their strategic plan evaluating how the group can promote behavioral health screening tools among the area clinics to increase referrals and early detection. The network members met in March and April to discuss pilot site progress and BH provider survey collection for a referral guide.
 - **Maternal Child Health:** SH continues using MCH funding to develop relations with a local pediatric provider and ESU-9 to impact youth and prevent suicide. SH/ESU completed assessment of schools; their efforts/policies that help prevent suicide were shared with the CHIP steering committees. Training will be the emphasis this coming year, so SH continues to work with ESU-9 to develop training plans. SH wrapped up the work with Children Adolescent Clinic of Hastings to improve the work flow/process of suicide and mental health screenings in their offices and is now looking at two new provider partners for next steps.
- **Substance Misuse CHIP Priority:** SHDHD continues to carry out our drug overdose prevention workplan with oversight by the CHIP Substance Misuse Steering Committee. All work plan action items are being completed with the assistance of community partners. This includes reviewing pain management policies, promoting medication takeback events, and developing opioid stewardship programs.
- **Obesity & Related Health Conditions CHIP Priority:**
 - **Building Healthy Families:** SHDHD continues to implement the second cohort for 1 family. The first cohort has completed all 18 of the 18 sessions. The core team (SHDHD, Mary Lanning, UNL Extension and Hastings YMCA) received additional funds to support staff time and increase sustainability! Cohort 3 was set to begin in January, but due to COVID activity and low participant enrollment, cohort 3 will start later in the year with the date to be determined.
 - **Prevention Connection: HALT - Diabetes Prevention Class (DPP):** Hastings & Superior started a combined HALT class (online National Diabetes Prevention Program by Nebraska Department of Health) March 1, 2022 with 11 Participants starting the yearlong classes. Participants receive a weekly video session, track meals, weight, physical activity, receive daily messages from their coach, community messaging. With 8-weeks into the year-long class, so far, the 11 participants have lost 69 lbs. or 3% weight loss. The year goal is to have 5-7% weight loss (1 participant +1%, 1 participant +2%, 2 participants +3%, 3 participants +4% and 1 participant +8%).
 - **Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC):** SHDHD met with both HPS and Harvard to continue implementing their action plans for the 4th year of the grant. Each team has different goals, but both of them are addressing mental health issues related to COVID. SH, HPS and Harvard all attended the WSCC Learning Institutes that were hosted by Nebraska Department of Education in March.
- **Cancer Priority:**
 - **Mary Lanning Healthcare Cancer Committee:** Next meeting is May 12th.

- **Colon Cancer:** No cost FOBT Colon Cancer Screening kits are available at the department and at one site in every county. ML Community Health Center, Sutton Pharmacy, Main St. Clinic and Superior Family Medical Clinic were provided kits along with promotional flyers to post in their locations and around the community. CDC screening messages were posted on signboards, Facebook, in a press release and as Michele invited the media along to her pre-colonoscopy consult with Dr. Farris. Kits can also be accessed through our website and mailed out to clients. 10 kits were distributed in Mar/April.
- **Injury Prevention: Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance & Stepping On Classes:** Stepping On class (January 12 – March 17, 2022) at the Good Sam - Hastings with 20 participants. Beginning Time and Go (TUG) was an average of 11.4 seconds. Ending TUG was an average of 10.6 seconds. (An older adult who takes more than 14 seconds has a higher risk for falling). Stepping On meets once a week for seven weeks for 1 ½ hours with guest experts talking about fall related topics. Tai Chi Beginning classes finished in Superior and Nelson. Tai Chi Advanced classes in Red Cloud continue year around. Starting class in Hastings @ YMCA in March 2022 and will end May 2022. Tried to have a Stepping On class in Sutton for April – May 2022 but no one showed up for class. We are exploring a new partnership with Midland AAA to support/expand fall prevention activities.

5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health

(What policies promote health in our district? How effective are we in planning and in setting health policies?)

- *What policies have we proposed and implemented that improve population health and/or reduce disparities?*
- *Describe how our department engaged in agency-specific strategic planning to develop a vision, mission, and guiding principles that reflect the community's public health needs, and to prioritize services and programs.*
- *What plans are we developing and implementing to improve our department's quality and effectiveness (plans for quality improvement, workforce development, branding, communication, and performance management)?*
- **New Plans (Grant Proposals, Subawards and Contract Projects):**
 - **Work plans for other grants and subawards:**
 - **Minority Health Initiative (MHI) (\$41,369.79):** SHDHD submitted a workplan to continue working with the MHI program at DHHS. Workplan activities include: 1) education/outreach center for minority, 2) Increasing the cultural competences in health care and increasing the number of bilingual staff 3) Reduce barriers to care for minority.
 - **Maternal Child Health Cont. (MCH) (\$32,134):** This grant continues the work that we had started in December, working with primary care, ESU9 and schools to reduce youth Suicide.
 - **Submitted proposal for QPR/MHFA** (through December 2022: \$3,000) – Decrease suicide in SHDHD rural communities (rural population, First Responder and Middle-age males).
 - **Submitted proposals to Sunnyside Foundation** (up to 12,900) - local funding SH applied for to support 3 initiatives: cancer screenings in low-income women (\$5,200), high lead level mitigation (\$2,000), and daycare physical activity and nutrition (\$5,700).
 - **Plans for ARPA Fund:** Continuing to work with counties and municipalities on potential funding of SHDHD proposals for ARPA funds (mobile public health services project, behavioral health project). Legislature approved State ARPA funds to local public health departments for infrastructure purposes; awaiting additional information on timing for receipt and allowable use of funds.
 - **SHDHD COVID-19 AAR:** Phase 3, June 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021, in progress.
 - **COVID-19 Response Plans:** SHDHD continues to follow and promote evidence-based guidance from the CDC, NE DHHS, Professional Associations, UNMC Specialty Teams and other sources for all of the COVID-19 response activities. New data and evidence-based practices are shared by UNMC Global Center for Health Security and other partners at weekly briefings. Policies and recommendations are data-driven, based on current evidence. Currently implementing plans for distributing at home test kits, antiviral medication distribution/prescriptions, as well as revising plans and processes to match the CDC's and vaccine manufacturer's updated guidance.
 - **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan:** Continuing vaccine distribution via COVID-19 vaccine providers across the district, at our own weekly clinics in Adams County and with partners to reach special populations. SHDHD began March with 1,409 total doses of COVID-19 vaccine in inventory. During March/April, shipments of 2,730 doses were received and 1,616 COVID-19 doses were transferred to providers across the district. SHDHD administered 200 doses of vaccine at VFC/AIP and COVID-19 vaccination clinics during this period.
 - **Vaccine FDA Approval/EUA (Emergency Use Authorization):** SHDHD continues to follow and promote to district COVID-19 vaccine providers, all CDC, FDA, and ACIP recommendations for vaccine approval and Emergency Use Authorization guidance for COVID-19 vaccination procedures, VAERS reporting (vaccine adverse event

reporting system), and stringent adherence to vaccine management and handling procedures. SHDHD informs and educates area COVID-19 vaccine providers and serves as a continual resource for managing all of the complexities associated with multiple vaccines and the frequent changes. SHDHD utilizes our website for providing provider resources as well.

6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health
(When we enforce health regulations are we up-to-date, technically competent, fair and effective?)

- *Describe efforts to educate members of our community on public health laws, policies, regulations, and ordinances and how to comply with them.*
- *What laws and regulations have we helped enforce to protect the public's health?*
- **Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act:** No complaints registered this period.
- **Water Violations:** Received reports of 2 nitrate violations in public water systems.
- **NE Executive Orders:** The final Governor's Executive Order 21-18 expired March 31, 2022.
- **SHDHD's Quarantine and Isolation Authorities:** SHDHD continues to provide education and instruction on isolation or quarantine for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who may have been exposed to individuals who tested positive. Staff provide education over the phone and DIY instructions are on the website. Statutory authorities are outlined in TITLE 173 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CHAPTER 1 REPORTING AND CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.
- **Food Safety Inspection Reports:** SHDHD requested quarterly food safety inspection reports from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture – no reports received since 8/12/2020.

7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy (Are people receiving the medical care they need?)

- *Describe the gaps that our department has identified in personal health services.*
- *Describe the strategies and services that we have supported and implemented to increase access to health care and establish systems of personal health services, including preventive and health promotion services, in partnership with the community.*
- **Immunization: Vaccine for Children Program:** SH's immunization team continues to utilize COVID-19 safeguards during clinics to ensure that all staff and patients are protected to the best of our ability. Regular monthly immunization clinics were held in March/April. Staff delivered 83 total vaccinations to 34 VFC patients at the combined clinics. Of the 34 patients, 23 (68%) were uninsured and 11 (32%) had Medicaid coverage. 12 new patients (kid/adults) were seen with referrals coming from local providers, Migrant outreach worker and family/friend referrals. 21 (54%) patients (kids/adults) were provided Spanish print materials and interpretation during their visits and during the appt. reminder calls. Donations totaling \$56.00 were collected during the combined March/April clinics.
- **Immunization: Adult Immunization Program:** 5 vaccinations (Influenza and COVID-19) were administered to 5 adults during the March/April clinics. All 5 were uninsured. All were provided Spanish print materials and interpretation during their visits.
- **Reminder/Recall to improve vaccination rates:** Bi-lingual CHW is working to complete reminder/recall activities each week with continued focus on 11-18 year old clients needing to complete their HPV vaccination series. In March/April, 35 client records were reviewed. 34 calls/voicemails/texts were completed attempted with 10 connections made. 1 client was scheduled to complete their HPV vaccination. Many voiced intent to complete but unwilling to schedule at this time.
- **COVID-19 Vaccinations:** Weekly public COVID-19 vaccine clinics held in the space at the west end of Allen's have continued through March/April. COVID-19 vaccines have also been administered to the uninsured populations attending VFC/AIP clinics at the department and to homebound or incarcerated individuals. Vaccination rates: 52% of total SH Residents have received at least 1 dose, 48.8% of total SH residents are fully vaccinated. 29% of total SH Residents are boosted.
- **Community Health Worker (Bilingual):** Continue with monthly VFC clinics to schedule appointments, assist with interpretation, and reach out to our Hispanic community, as well as for weekly COVID vaccination clinics at Allen's. Translation for many staff projects and posts for Spanish Facebook. Assist and participate in Minority Health grant focus groups and assist with the planning of 2 informative Covid-19 videos in Spanish directed toward the Hispanic population.
- **Community Health Worker (English Only) / Every Woman Matters (EWM) and Health Coaching: Community Health Worker (Bilingual Only) / Every Woman Matters (EWM) and Health Coaching:**

Health Coaching EWM clients for March 2022: Completed 1st Health Coaching call with 0 participants, 2nd Health Coaching call with 0 participants, 3rd Health Coaching call and Every Woman Matters assessment with 0 participants. April 2022: Completed 1st Health Coaching call with 1 participant, 2nd Health Coaching call with 0 participants, 3rd Health Coaching call and Every Woman Matters assessment with 1 participant.

- COVID-19 Testing: Signed an amendment to extend agreement with NE DHHS to offer free testing coordinated with the Nebraska Public Health lab and Regional Pathology Services. Brodstone Hospital is providing these services through a sub-agreement with SHDHD. They stood down their testing during this reporting period due to low volume, but remain ready to reinstate their drive through testing, as needed.

8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce

- *Efforts to evaluate LHD staff members' public health competencies. How have we addressed these deficiencies?*
- *Describe the strategies we have used to develop, train, and retain a diverse staff.*
- *Provide examples of training experiences that were provided for staff.*
- *Describe the activities that we have completed to establish a workforce development plan.*
- The Workforce Development Plan: The organizational chart and supervisory structure QI project is completed. Supervisors continue meeting and providing guidance for supervisees, including workforce professional development goals.
- FIRO-B Training: All staff participated in this team building assessment and training to increase awareness of individual preferences for inclusion, control and affection. This improves our awareness/ability for effective interaction.
- COVID Updates and Briefings: The ED and several other staff continue to participate on weekly statewide COVID briefings and pass along relevant information to other staff and stakeholders. Staff stay current on best practices through weekly Surveillance Staff calls and Public Health Emergency Preparedness staff calls with DHHS. The ED continues to participate in weekly directors' calls w/ DHHS, a weekly director's call with the State Epidemiologist, and biweekly calls with the local health directors. Staff also receive situational training through calls with the CDC.
- Staff COVID Briefings and Surveillance Staff Briefings: Continue to conduct weekly to facilitate the sharing of current situational status, evidence-based practices, updates, policies/plans, messaging, and needs, etc.
- Staff Training: Five SH staff attended the Nebraska Public Health Conference which had a focus on communication (importance, effectiveness, etc). One SH staff attended the National Behavioral Health/Mental Health Conference, learning about different policies and practices for supporting youth mental health. Three staff participated in a Functional Needs Tabletop Exercise hosted by Central District, Two Rivers, and Loup Basin Health Departments in April. This exercise provided planning for an evacuation of nursing homes (skilled and assisted living) using a scenario of potential chemical exposure from the crash of a crop duster.
- Surveillance Staff Training: Dr. John Bohmfalk, HC professor emeritus and SHDHD volunteer COVID-19 disease investigator, continues to provide short weekly refresher presentations on the etiology, incidence, and treatment of diseases that require rapid public health response. In this reporting period: giardia, anthrax, malaria, toxoplasmosis.
- Health Literacy Training: Two staff members are currently enrolled in the Institute for Healthcare Advancement's (IHA) Health Literacy Specialist Certificate Program. The seven-month program, funded by NALHD, covers micro-credential units in Education; Public Health; Community Engagement; Language, Culture and Diversity; Communication, Ethics; and Organizational Systems and Policies.
- UNMC ECHO Training, Health Equity/Quality Improvement: One staff member has completed 12/38 sessions.
- iServe Nebraska Training: 2 staff members completed the iServe training for community partners, to be able to assist clients with enrolling in Medicaid and other state assistance programs.

9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement (*Are we doing any good? Are we doing things right?*).

- *Examples of our evaluation activities related to evidence-based public health programs.*
- *Examples of QI projects that we have completed or are in process.*
- Accreditation Annual Report: Year 2 Annual Report is nearing completion. Due date is May 4, 2022.
- Quality Improvement Projects: Policy review and revisions; Leave process; Travel Reimbursement process.
- Community Health Improvement (CHIP) Implementation: All five priority steering committees met in April to review data and make mid-point corrections and adjustments to the Community Health Improvement Plan (3rd year of 6-year CHIP). Committee action plans and dashboards were updated.

- **COVID19 Response QI/PM:** We began incorporating action steps from the After Action Report-phase 2, into the Public Health Emergency Preparedness workplan activities, including identifying exercises, drills and trainings to include in the Multi-Year Exercise and Training Plan.
- **Performance Management (PM):** We are again (delayed through the pandemic) identifying department-wide performance measures to include in a dashboard for Board of Health and the public. Goal is to help demonstrate the value and effectiveness of the our health department by reporting regularly on key performance measures.
- **PHAB Accreditation Standards and Measures:** New Version 2022 has been launched (10 Domains, instead of 12, to align with the Essential Public Health Services and designates which measures align with the Foundational Capabilities) <https://phaboard.org/version-2022/>. SH Year 2 Report used the previous 1.5 version, but moving forward we will use the new version.

10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

- This essential service includes seven components and we are highlighting one of them for this reporting period: **Employing communications and strategic planning capacities and skills.** In this reporting period, SHDHD acquired a part-time communications specialist to help coordinate our public health messages. Ashley Swanson will be monitoring and linking the communications needs for SHDHD’s many programs and assisting with implementation of the marketing/education/promotion activities in the work plans. To begin with, she is designing social media posts, newsletters, flyers and public service announcements. In the longer term, she will have responsibilities with Strategic Plan Goal 5b: “Communicate the value of public health” by helping us to
 - Share advocacy messages and talking points with Board members to facilitate communication with their constituents and community members
 - Use health literate methods to share data and stories that communicate why we do what we do, our programs and services, our outcomes and successes, and our needs
 - Enhance public relations and visibility, expanding use of social media and other, directed communications
 - Assure frequent, regular communication with city/county/state government and other key stakeholders

Success stories: 2022 Kid’s Fitness and Nutrition Day

The 2022 Nebraska Kids Fitness & Nutrition Day was held on Tuesday, April 19th at the Hastings YMCA in Hastings. A total of 318 4th grade students attended the event from 10 schools in the South Heartland District of Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, and Webster Counties. Approximately 40 volunteers assisted with the event. Volunteers included Sandy Creek and St. Cecilia seniors, Hastings YMCA staff, South Heartland District Health Department (SHDHD) staff, and UNL/Adams County Extension staff.

The 4th graders participated in 14 physical activity stations and 7 nutrition stations throughout the day. The students were engaged the entire day. Students and teachers both expressed having fun and learning a lot throughout the day. Kid’s Fitness and Nutrition Day was a huge success that helped students to understand the importance of taking an active role in their own individual health.

- *Lauren Shackelford, 2022 Kid’s Fitness and Nutrition Day Coordinator*




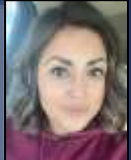


South Heartland Bi-Monthly Board Report: Staff-Specific Program Updates, March-April 2022



 <p>Dorrann Hultman Community Health Services Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Every Woman Matters Health Hub (EWM) Cancer Prevention /Immunization Program / Cancer Grant /CS-CASH:</u> <u>COVID-19 vaccination response:</u> During March and April, we provided COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters at 9 public walk-in clinics at Allen’s and 2 VFC clinics. 73 shots were given in March and 127 in April (as of 4.25.22). 34 vaccine transfers were made to district COVID-19 vaccine providers. Our vaccine storage fluctuates between 1000-2000 doses (~180 VFC) vaccines which we store in an ultra-cold freezer, regular freezer and refrigerator storage units. We experienced an unexpected power outage shortly after arriving to work one morning that thankfully was short in duration and didn’t require vaccine to be relocated to ML pharmacy. With recent high winds and spring/summer storms we are anxious to be getting our new generator soon!</p>
 <p>Liz Chamberlain Community Health Worker</p>	<p><u>COVID-19 Response:</u> Continue to distribute PPE to agencies as orders come in through SHDHD Jot Form (which works out better than doing them once a week), complete PPE inventory and update PPE spreadsheets. Continue to help with weekly Covid Vaccine clinics at Allen’s, delivering Covid Vaccines, also help with monthly VFC clinics. <u>Falls Prevention Classes:</u> Stepping On and Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance (beginning and advanced classes). <u>HALT (Diabetes Prevention):</u> 11 participants started class March 1, 2022.</p>
 <p>Brooke Wolfe Public Health Promotions and Prevention Coordinator</p>	<p><u>COVID-19 Response:</u> Assist as needed, primary person working on staff cross-coordination to ensure the right staff are at the table discussing different topics, facilitating marketing/messaging conversations, breaking down department silos. <u>Grant Management:</u> During this reporting period, we submitted 18 quarter reports on or before the deadline; facilitated 9 internal grant-focused team meetings to better meet grant deliverables and submitted 2 new/renewal grant application requests.</p>
 <p>Jessica Warner Health Surveillance Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Disease Surveillance:</u> COVID cases dropped significantly from 2,307 to 70 (so far this month). The epi team worked on a data audit project, sending specimens in for sequencing and distribution of ~4,270 rapid eMED COVID test kits to over 50 service organizations in the four-county area. The BA2 variant of Omicron was detected in our jurisdiction in April. We are monitoring cases in our jurisdiction in order to send specimens for sequencing and inform the public of the increase of this variant and promote measures to stop the spread. I am also collaborating with a team that is helping a family to get treatment for congenital syphilis.</p>
 <p>Janis Johnson Interim Assistant Director Standards and Performance Manager / Public Health Nurse/</p>	<p><u>Vaccinations:</u> Back up coordinator. COVID vaccination clinic support Maintain current vaccine documents, guidance and messaging. <u>COVID-19 Response:</u> Staff onboarding/training/supervision/logistics. Epi team support. Assist with phone triage/messaging kept current. <u>Standards and Performance Management/Accreditation:</u> Accreditation Annual Report, Year 2-2022; AAR Phase 3 Report. <u>Assistant Director:</u> timesheets, orientation, staffing, staff training, quality improvement & performance management, logistics, assist ED.</p>



**South Heartland Bi-Monthly Board Report: Staff-Specific Program Updates,
March-April 2022**

<p>Jean Korth</p>  <p>Chronic Disease Prevention Program Assistant</p>	<p><u>COVID 19</u>: I continue to support the Epidemiology Team by adding new cases to the master line list and providing phone support for those having questions. I have worked with the team to continue providing eMed Covid Home testing kits to members of the community.</p> <p><u>Health Literacy</u>: I am currently enrolled in a Health Literacy Specialist Certificate Program through the Institute for Healthcare Advancement (IHA), and have successfully completed two of the seven units.</p> <p><u>Grants</u>: I am working with three clinics on grants for either cancer screening or mental health /substance abuse screening.</p>
<p>Heidi Davis</p>  <p>Disease Investigator</p>	<p><u>COVID-19 Response</u>: I continue to work on case investigations for COVID-19 cases. I also have assisted on Lab Requisitions related to sequencing positive COVID-19 cases. I attend Community Call Meetings weekly, presented by UNMC, which addresses the pandemic in our state. I have worked with the team to distribute EMed Covid Home test kits to community members and organizations. In addition I continue to provide support on data analysis reports of COVID-19 for weekly reporting.</p> <p><u>Health Literacy</u>: I am currently enrolled in a Health Literacy Specialist Certificate Program through the Institute for Healthcare Advancement. I have successfully completed two of the seven units for the course. In addition I attend monthly meetings organized by NALHD for the course participants.</p> <p><u>Disease Surveillance</u>: I am currently working on learning about and investigating all reportable diseases. I am working through a training checklist, and reviewing all labs that we receive in NEDSS.</p> <p><u>Public Health Training</u>: I recently attended the Nebraska Public Health Conference in Lincoln. Some of the topics included Wastewater Surveillance, Legal Epidemiology, Nebraska’s Pandemic Response and the Way Forward, and Reframing Public Health. I had many takeaways and collaborating with others in Public Health was great. All was a good learning experience with professional development.</p>
<p>Lauren Shackelford</p>  <p>Disease Investigator</p>	<p><u>COVID-19 Response</u>: I continue to work on case investigations for COVID-19 cases. I have also continued to work with long-term care facilities in COVID-19 outbreak. I have also helped with eMed At-Home test kit distribution.</p> <p><u>Communications</u>: I have developed and shared resources to promote COVID-19, colon cancer prevention, STD awareness, and oral cancer awareness on social media.</p> <p><u>Building Healthy Families</u>: Continue to work with cohorts 1 and 2 on their refresher sessions and recruiting efforts for cohort 3.</p> <p><u>Kids Fitness and Nutrition Day (KFND)</u>: I coordinated KFND including volunteers to lead physical activity stations. We had approximately 320 4th graders from 10 schools in the South Heartland District. Students participated in 14 physical activity stations and 6 nutrition stations.</p>
<p>Julia Sarmiento</p>  <p>Bi-Lingual Community Health Worker / Interpreter</p>	<p><u>Bilingual Community Health Worker (CHW)</u>: I interpret and translate and provide support for both VFC and COVID-19 clinics as needed.</p> <p><u>Communications</u>: I develop and share resources to promote Covid-19/Flu/Immunizations and wellbeing on social media, translating to Spanish for the Spanish Facebook. I am also supporting a community partner we’ve contracted with to create videos in Spanish to provide COVID information and promote COVID vaccination to the Hispanic/Latino community. These videos are being posted on SHDHD’s new YouTube channel.</p>

South Heartland Bi-Monthly Board Report: Staff-Specific Program Updates, March-April 2022

<p>Sam Coutts</p>  <p>Clerical Assistant for Finance and Operations and Vaccine Clinic Support</p>	<p><u>Clerical Assistant for Finance and Operations:</u> I continue to assist the Finance and Operations Manager by providing clerical support and expertise in areas such as grants and contracts, scanning, filing, and reviewing documentation, human resources regulation, and assisting with projects related to organizational policies, performance management/quality improvement, and budgeting, as requested. I assist other staff as needed with these areas as well.</p> <p><u>COVID-19 Clinic Support:</u> I also provide general administrative and clerical support and assist with data entry as needed.</p>
<p>Pam Stromer</p>  <p>Administrative & Technology Assistant</p>	<p><u>Administrative Assistant:</u> I continue to provide office support by answering the phone, mail service, receiving guests and providing various office duties.</p> <p><u>Technology Assistant:</u> I help to maintain and update the South Heartland District web pages, develop on-line surveys as requested, providing support to the various software programs SHDHD uses, provide support with the Microsoft Office programs, as needed, overhauling the Master Database so resources are accurate and up-to-date and continue to compile data for both the SHDHD COVID-19 and hospital dashboards. This last month I also completed the Med-IT Training to help input Colon Cancer Screening Kits.</p>

Support Staff for COVID-19 response and other projects:

Part-time Hire:

Aida Evans	Interpretation, Minority Outreach
Emma Severson	Project Support Intern (Hastings College)
Lindsay Pritchard	Nurse Vaccinator – COVID Clinics
Beatriz Marino Jachim	Nurse Vaccinator - COVID Clinics
Shelly Fletcher	Nurse Vaccinator – COVID Clinics
Kathryn Kamarad	Clinic Admin Support - COVID Clinics

Contract (Mary Lanning):

Leslie Anderson, RN	VFC & COVID Clinic Support
---------------------	----------------------------

NE DHHS Part-time Position (placement at SHDHD):

Ashley Swanson	Communications Specialist
----------------	---------------------------

Volunteer:

Sue Rutt	Phones, Maintains/assists with HD Highlights, COVID history, Accreditation history notebooks
John Bohmfalk	Disease Investigation

Vaccine Clinic Staffing Support:

Mary Lanning is continuing to provide pharmacy staff to draw up vaccine for COVID Pfizer vaccination clinics at the Allen’s building.

Student Practicums and Volunteer Experience (Spring 2022)

Alianna Higgins	Volunteer, assisting with Opioid Prevention project, Hastings College
Katie Heller	Hastings College, assisting with WIIN Grant (drinking water testing for lead contamination)
Courtney Manahan	Volunteer, assisting with a Behavioral Health Provider survey
Luisa Najera	Volunteer, assisting with webpage translations to Spanish