



SHDHD welcomes 2 nurses to our team: Tam Pauley and Zeld Anderson – working part time in Substance Misuse Prevention and Immunization, respectively.



SHDHD's Hastings COVID-19 Clinic moved from Allen's Store to the South Heartland facility beginning in February. Some of the COVID-19 Immunization Team members at Allen's at the last clinic held there.



Above: Board of Health learns about local nitrate concerns from Tyler Goeschel, Assistant Manager, Little Blue NRD – January 2023




Above Left: One group at Hastings Community Coalition for Diabetes Prevention works on their prototype idea for improving diabetes screening rates among Hastings' adults. Above Right: The Coalition pitches their ideas to a small group of community members for feedback. The coalition is facilitated by a team from UNMC College of Public Health. Coalition Members include representatives from: Hastings Family Care, Catholic Social Services, Adams County Board, Nebraska Extension, Hastings YMCA, Hastings Public Schools, minority community members, medical professionals, Pediatric Dental Specialists, Midland Area Agency on Aging, United Way, Head Start, City of Hastings Parks & Rec, Hastings City Council, Mary Lanning Diabetes Education Program, Hastings Public Library, billing/healthcare coverage, local restaurants, WIC (Women, Infant & Children program) and public health (SHDHD).

Radiogram Ad on KHAS / News Channel Nebraska promoting Colorectal Cancer Screening beginning at 45 years old:

45

is the
new 50!




Colon cancer is the fourth most diagnosed cancer in Nebraska.

Regular screening, beginning at age 45, is the key to preventing colon cancer.

Find out how and where to get screened: 1-877-238-7595

SOUTH HEARTLAND DISTRICT



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
southheartlandhealth.org

SHDHD staff Wear Red for Women's Heart Health – first Friday of February




Below: Minority health education event on blood pressure (BP). SHDHD staff Julia Sarmiento (bilingual community health worker) and Beatriz Mariño Jachim (bilingual public health nurse) talked about BP, BP numbers and managing high BP.



¿Tengo mayor riesgo de desarrollar presión arterial alta?

<p>Aspectos que se pueden controlar son:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> El tabaquismo y la exposición pasiva al humo del cigarrillo <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> La obesidad o el sobrepeso <input type="checkbox"/> Colesterol alto <input type="checkbox"/> Dieta no saludable (alta en sodio, grasas, potasio; y beber mucho alcohol) <input type="checkbox"/> Falta de actividad física 	<p>Los factores que no se pueden modificar o que son difíciles de controlar son:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Antecedentes familiares de presión arterial alta <input type="checkbox"/> Raza/etnia <input type="checkbox"/> Envejecimiento <input type="checkbox"/> Sexo (masculino) <input type="checkbox"/> Enfermedades renales crónicas <input type="checkbox"/> Apnea obstructiva del sueño
---	--





Programa de Autocontrol de la Presión Arterial
Familia Hastings YMCA

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 are made available on our website, links on our website, news releases & interviews to various forms of media, and upon request from partners or others.
 - COVID-19 Dashboard continues to be maintained for certain metrics.
- **SHDHD surveillance staff has investigated:** Salmonella (1), Group A Strep (1), Varicella (1), Hepatitis B (1), Invasive bacterial infections (1), Childhood lead investigations (3), COVID deaths (3), and animal exposures/rabies investigations (3) during this reporting period.
- **Influenza:** Influenza peaked this year around 12/17 and has continued to decline. Last week the SH weekly rate was 2.2%/100,000 (positive labs), but no positive labs were reported this week. Flu may continue to circulate through the spring at low levels. One nursing home has reported a flu outbreak involving 12 residents and 10 staff. Additional surveillance activities that provide insight into community transmission of influenza are school surveillance and reports by our influenza sentinel provider. Prevention messages have been sent to schools to encourage healthy habits and help prevent outbreaks.
- **Respiratory Syncytial Virus. RSV:** RSV cases continue to decrease after a strong surge in November and December in our district. Based on the most current DHHS flu report, the SHDHD case rate per 100K is 0.0%
- **Monkeypox Virus:** SHDHD epi staff continues to monitor monkeypox. Nebraska reports a total of 32 cases. No cases have been identified in our jurisdiction and at least 10 individuals have been vaccinated in order to prevent infection. 30,123 cases have been reported in the US and 85,802 cases reported globally.
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Situation Update / Dashboard Highlights:** As of February 28th 2023, a cumulative 12,079 COVID labs have been reported. We received 84 positive lab reports in the past 2 months and had 5 Nursing homes /LTC facilities in outbreak. We are currently in the "Moderate" category for community spread based on new cases per 100,000 in the past 7 days. Case rate and positivity (percent positive tests) (excluding the nursing home data) are increasing again after trending down in January. Percent of inpatients hospitalized is currently 14.8%.
- **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 157 deaths attributed to COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic.
- **Epi team continues to monitor novel infections:** Marburg Virus has been reported in the Ntem province in the Northwestern part of Equatorial Guinea. As of 2/14/2023, one confirmed case, nine deaths and 16 suspected cases have been reported from two communities in this province. In past outbreaks, Marburg has had a case fatality rate as high as 88%, so we will continue to monitor this outbreak.

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:** SHDHD continues to be responsible for the receipt, inventory, repackaging, and dissemination of PPE for our jurisdiction. To help keep key partners informed, SHDHD sent 2 Alert Sense notifications (January - February) to over 140 individuals each time and issued 2 news releases to

media and partners. Staff check the Nebraska Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) and fax machine for COVID test results. One health alert pertaining to COVID updates was sent out to providers, hospitals, urgent cares, labs and clinics during this reporting period.

- **PPE distribution totals:** From the beginning of March 2020 through February 13, 2023, SH has distributed: Masks – 236,157, Surgical Masks – 334,900, Cloth Masks – 50,740, Face Shields – 36,938, Goggles – 3,315, Hand Sanitizer – 1,380 containers, Wipes – 11,885 containers, Gloves – 1,010,700, Gowns – 196,834, Thermometers – 808, Bleach – 12 gal., Eco Lab Disinfectant – 3 containers.
- **Communications Drills:** No communication drills completed these last two months.
- **Mpox Response:** Staff continue to answer questions from the public, assist health care providers with MPX testing (upon request), and manage vaccine.
- **Long Term Care Fit-Testing:** SHDHD is working with DHHS on the Long-Term Care Facility Strike Team Project. The focus of the project is supporting LTCF throughout the state in getting >90% of their staff fit tested with N95 respirators, and educating LTCF staff in infection control principles. We have received equipment and are contacting LTCF for interest in Fit-Test training.
- **Ebola Response Preparedness:** SHDHD continues to meet with our EMS squads even after the Ebola outbreak has wrapped up in Uganda. We are still wanting them to look at their Highly Infectious plans &, update as needed, and offer assistance if no plan is in place.

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:** January: “National Blood Donor Month”, “Radon” and “HPV vaccine” February: “Making Every Move County – Activity” and “Library Lovers”.
- **News releases, public health columns, ads and interviews:** COVID activities have decreased in these last two months, but were not (for the first time in over 2 years) to be the primary topic of news releases and communications. In January/February, SHDHD put out 5 press releases and granted phone interviews for TV and radio media requests, focusing primarily on COVID-19-related issues and vaccinations, Radon Action Month, HPV cancer Awareness and heart health. Radon and heart health were the focus of the PH columns and news releases.
- **Radio Advertising:** SHDHD continues running PSAs on Flood Communications’ stations and KRFS in Superior to promote receiving the COVID vaccine and practicing prevention. 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, and COVID-19 data. SHDHD continues to utilize the *Live Life Uninterrupted* UNMC messages on the radio as well.
- **TV interviews and Ads:** 1 Healthy Everyday interview about “Radon Action Month” to be aired on Local 4 in January, along with 2 PSAs created around these topics.
- **SHDHD Social Media:** During January and February, the English Facebook page reached 8,326 people, the Instagram page reached 355 people (increased from 71 last report), and the Spanish FB page has reached 400 people. Topics Blood Donor Month, HPV, COVID Vaccine, Mental Wellness, Radon, Heart Month, Tax Help, Employment Opportunity, and Cervical Cancer.
- **Environmental Education:**
 - **Radon:** During the month of January SHDHD staff implemented Radon Action month. Some of that work includes preparing newspaper ads & partnering with CCC Construction Management Program (currently 25 students), updating radon information on SHDHD’s website and providing information to the Minority Health Advisory Council. SHDHD also produced a newsletter on radon that was shared with community partners. During the month of January there were a total of 46 kits sold: 32- Adams, 3 Webster, 8 Clay, 0 Nuckolls and 3 other. This was a noteworthy increase compared to last year (Jan 2022, Nov/Dec 2021) where there were a total of 19 kits sold.

- **Lead:** Information was shared at the Advisory Council meeting in January. SHDHD also connected with Hastings House development to discuss partnership opportunities.
- **Website:** Our website “views” continued to maintain for January (1,011 views) but February has seen a sharp decrease (685), they continue to be lower than our max views (19,204 views) during a single month in the pandemic. Website views continue to be higher than our pre-COVID-19 (~450 views/mo.). SH continues to work to improve the Spanish Tab on our Website, where several key pages have Spanish translation. Additionally, SH is working with Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors (NALHD) to assess the website and improve the layout with the template change being required by Firespring.
- **COVID-19 Information for Public:** SHDHD staff continues to answer calls accurately, timely, professionally and transparently. Website charts for access to testing & vaccine information are updated weekly & as needed.
- **Electronic Communication Boards:** SHDHD has electronic communication boards set up at the Sutton Pharmacy in Clay County, the Superior Pharmacy in Nuckolls County, the Webster County Courthouse and the Hastings Head Start Building, and the Catholic Social Service Office. A total of 265 pages (assets) have been created or placed in a media library for display. Two additional computers were added with purchase of an annual license. One is set up in the SHDHD conference and a second location is being explored.
- **2022 Annual Report:** The SHDHD Annual Report was approved and is now available in print form and online through the SHDHD website. Notification of the availability of the Annual Report is currently displayed on the electronic communication units in the four counties. The annual report is available in Spanish.
- **Health Fairs:** One SHDHD staff attended Werner Construction Health Fair and the Adams County Court House Health Fair, and provided info on Radon, Diabetes Prevention, and Falls Prevention.

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:** SHDHD continues to work on a CHIP dashboard to share with partners and the public to highlight implementation progress. SH Internal CHIP Team is meeting to define our staff roles as “backbone organization” and follow up to-dos from previous meetings (reminders to partners) and prep data, etc. for the five April 2023 Priority Steering Committee meetings.
- **Access to Care CHIP Priority:**
 - **Health Equity (HE):** Educating on 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. During this period, SH continues HE efforts to ensuring messages are up to date on the electronic communication boards (see above) and attended a Medicaid enrollment event.
 - **United Health Care (UHC):** No current UHC activities
- **Mental Health CHIP Priority:**
 - **Rural Behavior Health (BH) Network:** The Rural BH Network continues to meet virtually on schedule to implement their strategic plan. February’s meetings: the network looked at how community referrals and screening could be accomplished. Additionally, the BH Advocacy Group reviewed upcoming legislative action and spoke with local senators on local BH data and concerns.
 - **Maternal Child Health:** SH has an agreement with two local clinics to pilot at least one Mental Health screening assessment for youth to improve mental health outcomes. Both clinics are utilizing the PHQ 4 screening on youth, with the PHQ 9 following positive scores. SH is also partnering with ESU 9 for Mental Health trainings across the district and with 1 school to implement a new MH initiative.
- **Substance Misuse CHIP Priority:** SHDHD continues to carry out our drug overdose prevention workplan with the assistance of community partners, following up with pharmacies on the letter sent out in November. SHDHD is onboarding a new staff member for this project. Additionally, SHDHD attended the Mary Lanning Prescription Drug Management Program (PDMP) learning sessions that was initiated by SHDHD. SHDHD also attended a Region 3 Opioid Settlement planning meeting in January.
- **Dental Health:** SHDHD began exploring and participating in a state wide initiative to expand oral health education throughout our district. SHDHD is identifying what is currently being done and getting orientated with the state wide (NALHD led) work group.
- **Obesity & Related Health Conditions CHIP Priority:**
 - **Building Healthy Families (BHF):** SHDHDs cohort 3 moved into monthly sessions and the team continues to evaluate the programs future in the Hastings community.

- Prevention Connection: Smart Moves - Diabetes Prevention Class (DPP): Hastings & Superior started a combined virtual *online* National Diabetes Prevention Program by the Nebraska Department of Health on March 1, 2022, with 11 Participants starting the yearlong classes. Participants receive a weekly video session, track meals, weight, and physical activity, receive daily messages from their coach, and community messaging. With 50 weeks into the year-long class, so far, the 11 participants have lost 80 lbs. or 4.5% weight loss. The year-end goal is to have 5-7% weight loss (2 participants @ 1%+, 1 participant @ 3%+, 1 participant @ 5%+, and 1 participant @ 14%+). Hastings started their 2nd virtual online yearlong class on October 4th with 6 participants. 18 weeks into the start of the class the 6 participants lost 37 lbs. or 3.2% weight loss (2 participants @ 1%+, 1 participant @ 5%+, and 1 participant @ 9%+). Planning to start 3rd class February 28, 2023 for Hastings & Superior.
- Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC): SHDHD met with both HPS and Harvard to work on action plans and collect the needed assessment for the grant. The teams are reviewing their wellness policies.
- On Track: Transforming Diabetes: The Community Coalition has held a total of 6 meetings, with each building on the process to Investigate-Design-Practice and Reflect. Recently, the committee identified where people in the community seek care management, screening & prevention and education. The ultimate vision of the committee is to co-design and implement an accessible and coordinated diabetes prevention and care management system across the local community. The Nebraska Diabetes Foundation is supporting 2-year pilot projects in the communities of Hastings and Wayne.
- Cancer Priority:
 - Mary Lanning Healthcare Cancer Committee: SHDHD worked with Mary Lanning endoscopists and private practice endoscopists to offer patient education and risk prevention to Mary Lanning's Healthy Me participants. The fecal immunochemical test (FIT) Screening kit were available upon request for those between the ages of 45-74.
 - Colon Cancer: No cost *fecal immunochemical test* (FIT) Colon Cancer Screening kits became available August 1st for distribution at the department and at one site in every county (ML Community Health Center, Sutton Pharmacy, Main St. Clinic and Superior Family Medical Clinic). Kits can also be accessed through our website and mailed out to clients. As of 2/8/2023, a total of 54 kits have been distributed. *FIT uses antibodies to detect blood in the stool and has an easier stool specimen collection process.*
 - Every Women Matters (EWM) Collaborative Impact Project (CIP): SHDHD continues to work on our CIP projects during the month of January and February, which focus on 1) Screening community members to determine if they are up to date on their breast screening exams. We have partnered with area pharmacies to encourage women to fill out the short screener and once completed, SHDHD follows up with education/barrier reduction. We have received 15 screeners back thus far. 2) Breast navigation and screening for underserved women who do not qualify for the EWM program or have insurance. We are partnering with ML clinic and Hastings Imaging to get these women seen and screened. Thus far we have 5 patient who has been screened.
- Injury Prevention: Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance & Stepping On Classes: Started another Stepping On class at the Hastings Public Library on January 11, 2023, with 7 participants completing the class. Participants started with a Time Up and Go (TUG) with an average of 10.0 seconds, will report ending TUG at the end of the class February 22, 2023 (anything over 14 seconds participants have a better chance of falling). Stepping On meets once a week (7 weeks for 1½ hours) with guest experts addressing fall-related topics (balance & strength exercises, vision, prescribed & over-the-counter medications, obstacles - community & home, shoes, and lifelines). The next Stepping On class will start March 14, 2023, at the Vesty Center - Superior @ 1:00 pm. Tai Chi classes started up in January (Nelson, Superior, and Red Cloud) and February (Hastings – YMCA).

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:
 - SHDHD received approval of the workplans submitted last bi-monthly report (15 in January, 5 in Feb).
 - SHDHD received Kim Foundation funding to expand the mental health wellness kits for all area 9th graders.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan: Vaccine distribution continues via district COVID-19 vaccine providers, our own weekly public clinics and monthly VFC/AIP clinics, and with partners to reach special populations. 1,476 doses were allocated in January/February to the approved district COVID-19 vaccine providers. The Allen's PH clinic moved to SHDHD on 2/8.
- Vaccine FDA Approval/EUA (Emergency Use Authorization): SHDHD continues to follow and promotes 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 & serves as a resource for managing all of the complexities associated with multiple vaccines & the frequent changes (through email, website, phone calls). The Bivalent Booster is available for 6 mos and up, administered 2 months after the last monovalent primary or booster dose.

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: One complaint from the Red Cloud area.
- Restaurant Inspection Reports from Nebraska Department of Ag: Have not yet received Quarter 3 Report – looking into hardwiring this process so that LHDs receive these automatically for every quarter.

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. Monthly VFC immunization clinics were held in January/February. Staff administered 53 total vaccinations to 26 VFC clients and 9 vaccines to 9 adult clients (AIP).
- Reminder/Recall to improve vaccination rates: Following up on previous HPV vaccinations for series completion.
- COVID-19 Vaccinations: Public COVID-19 vaccine clinics held in the space at the west end of Allen's have continued through January. The walk-in clinic moved to SHDHD in February, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 12-4. 78 COVID vaccines were administered at these clinics and 1 homebound. COVID-19 vaccines are administered to the Medicaid, underinsured, and uninsured populations attending VFC/AIP clinics at the department and are available to homebound or incarcerated individuals.
- Community Health Worker (Bilingual): Monthly VFC clinics in scheduling/reminder calls for clinic and assist with interpretation. Covid Spanish outreach via 2 Spanish videos, as well as for weekly COVID vaccination clinics at Allen's. Translation for many staff projects and posts for Spanish Facebook having reached 511 people, as well as the new electronic dashboards. Assist and participate in Minority Health grant projects/networking directed toward the Hispanic population, helping coordinate and participate in MHI Advisory Council. Assist in navigation of women for the EWM/CIP Project.
- Community Health Worker (English Only) / Every Woman Matters (EWM) and Health Coaching: Health Coaching EWM clients for January 2023: Completed 1st Health Coaching call with 0 participants, 2nd Health Coaching call with 1 participant, 3rd Health Coaching call, and Every Woman Matters assessment with 2 participants. February 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 1 participant.
- Minority Health Initiative Advisory Council: SHDHD is leading this Council to support access to care for all individuals. The group meets every other month, with community partners and community members. In February,

the group supported an educational event to measure and discuss blood pressure for Spanish-speaking community members.

➤ **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:** SHDHD supervisors continue meeting and providing guidance for supervisees to measure progress for implementing professional development plans and goals. Survey information will be incorporated into the review/revision of the WD Plan.
- **Staff Briefings:** These meetings facilitate the sharing of current situational status, program updates, evidence-based practices, updates, policies/plans, messaging, and needs, etc.
- **Staff Training:** 1 staff member is participating in the Great Plains Leadership Institute. 6 staff attended Mental Health First Aid (Condensed version).
- **Health Literacy Training:** Future training is being planned for Health Literacy in Community Engagement and Diverse Populations.
- **UNMC ECHO Training, Health Equity/Quality Improvement:** One staff member has completed 32 of 38 sessions.
- **ERC Immersion Class:** (1) staff is taking the Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) class as well as attending the extra trainings covering topics such as exercise planning, risk communication, and volunteer management.

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:** Addressing the Annual Report, year 3 training and documentation. Plans for staff & domain leads training. Extension requested and received from PHAB for submission on 6/28/23.
- **Quality Improvement Projects:** UNMC ECHO Equity and QI training: QI project to assess our partner's perceptions of SHDHD communication with the Hispanic/Latino population they worked with during the pandemic. Surveys with these partners has been completed; working on next steps.
- **Performance Management (PM):** Continue to build on staff Fall annual performance evaluations to set personal professional and wellness goals & developing performance measures for PM Dashboard from Lines of Sight.
- **PHAB Accreditation Standards and Measures:** Assistance and collaboration with 'Accreditation Community of Practice' virtual meetings with Statewide participants to assist with new standards and measures implementation. Accreditation Coordinator will host more virtual Learning Community meetings with 4 other health departments.
- **Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) Review:** The CPG's were completed and filed ahead of time with the State (5 preparedness capabilities, rated for each whether SHDHD is able to fully implement, prioritizing the importance of each to our jurisdiction, and identifying the gaps and barriers to implementation).

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 – SHDHD's Communications Team has introduced electronic communications stations in 5 sites across the district (Superior Pharmacy, Webster County Courthouse, Sutton Pharmacy, Catholic Social Services, Head Start) with two more sites interested (Hastings Public Library and Clay County Health Department). The monitors share health information and events in English and Spanish and have been well received. SHDHD staff control the content and are updating it frequently with new monthly topics. The team is also making strides in health communications to our minority (Spanish-speaking) population through the electronic communications stations, webpages translated to Spanish, annual report and flyers translated to Spanish, Spanish Facebook page, and health education events planning with the Minority Health Advisory Committee.

.....

<<See Next Page for Success Story>>

Success Stories: How we make a difference...

Radon Awareness Campaign Increases Radon Test Kit Sales

During the month of January SHDHD staff focused on radon awareness for Radon Action month. Some of that work included preparing newspaper ads and providing information on radon-resistant new construction to the CCC-Hastings Construction Management Program (currently 25 students), updating radon information on SHDHD's website and providing information on radon to the Minority Health Advisory Council. SHDHD also produced a newsletter on radon that was shared with community partners, and provided information on radon in the monthly public health column, Sunrise 60 radio interview and also had posts running on our Spanish and English Facebook pages and the SHDHD website. We wrote a story on a local resident who tested her home and found high radon levels; the resident contracted with a local radon mitigation business to install a mitigation system which reduced her home's radon levels. This story prompted an invitation for a live interview on NTV's Good Life to discuss the effects of radon and how to test for it.

The enhanced communications on radon made a difference! Preliminary results show that during the month of January there were a total of 46 radon test kits sold: 32- Adams, 3 Webster, 8 Clay, 0 Nuckolls and 3 other (residents living outside our district). This was a noteworthy increase compared with just 19 kits sold last year (Nov 2021-Jan 2022).