

Backup Generator Installed

SHDHD's new generator will protect our temperature-sensitive vaccine inventory from power outages.



Picnic Table "Full Scale Exercise"

Staff assembled a picnic table as a project to learn more about the incident command system (some staff dressed for Halloween).



YMCA Halloween Event

SHDHD promoted health to kids and parents attending the YMCA Halloween



We did it *and* it works!

Public Health Emergency Coordination Center (PHECC) on Ebola

SHDHD convened an in-person and virtual meeting of local public health, hospitals, EMS, emergency management for highly hazardous communicable disease planning (Nov. 10, 2022)



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 with daily and weekly metric updates. In November-December, we started removing some of the metrics that were no longer helpful and determining how to scale back the analysis so that updates would all be weekly only, beginning January 2023. We are working to see if we can access numbers of residents who are up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccine. In the meantime, the vaccine dashboard page has been disabled. After a month-long hiatus for a transition to a different statewide hospital reporting system, our hospital dashboard page is again being updated every weekday to show COVID-19 aggregate inpatient census and available capacity of the three district hospitals.
- **SHDHD surveillance staff has investigated:** Salmonella (1), EPEC (1), Group B Strep (1), Varicella (1), Cryptosporidiosis (1), Invasive bacterial infections (1), Childhood lead investigations (3), Histoplasmosis (1), and animal exposures/rabies investigations (1) during this reporting period.
- **Influenza:** SHDHD is experiencing widespread community influenza transmission. We have a current weekly rate of 92.0/100,000 (positive labs). One nursing home has reported a flu outbreak involving eight residents and five 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 surged in November and December in our district and across the US. SHDHD had the 2nd highest rate/100K in Nebraska during the week of 11/27-12/3.
- **Monkeypox Virus:** SHDHD epi staff continues to monitor monkeypox. Nebraska reports a total of 31 cases. No cases have been identified in our jurisdiction and at least 10 individuals have been vaccinated in order to prevent infection. 27,835 cases have been reported in the US and 75,166 cases reported globally.
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Situation Update / Dashboard Highlights:** As of December 30, 2022, a cumulative 11,955 COVID labs have been reported. We received 554 positive lab reports in the past 2 months and had 6 Nursing homes /LTC facilities in outbreak. We are currently in the "Substantial" 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 decreasing from ~ 80 cases being reported every week to 38 reported the week ending December 24th. Average hospitalization is 4-5 per week during this reporting period.
- **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. Current Case Fatality Rate: 1.4%
- **Epi team continues to monitor novel infections:** The Sudan Ebolavirus as well as reemerging viruses, like Monkeypox.
- **West Nile:** The West Nile season ended around November 11th, with freezing temperatures cold enough to kill mosquitoes. We had a total of 6 human cases this season, two of which were neuroinvasive. Trapping and reporting have been completed for this season.

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 4 Alert Sense notifications (November - December) to over 140 individuals each time and issued 5 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 December 30, 2022, SH has distributed: Masks – 236,157, Surgical Masks – 333,250, Cloth Masks – 50,740, Face Shields – 36,938, Goggles – 3,315, Hand Sanitizer – 1,380 containers, Wipes – 11,861 containers, Gloves – 1,008,700, Gowns – 196,834, Thermometers – 808, Bleach – 12 gal., Eco Lab Disinfectant – 3 containers.
- **E-MED Test Kits:** 7,458 E-MED at-home COVID test kits were received from Feb – December 12, 2022. These kits were inventoried and allocated to schools and childcare facilities for their use and to public sites in each county. All 7,458 kits have been distributed to 80 organizations/individuals across the district. SHDHD office served as one of the public sites for kit pick-up in Adams County.
- **Communications Drills:** Continuing to work with pharmacies to assure bi-directional communications can occur, by utilizing the revised points of contact and preferred communications methods to complete a 3rd drill that identified the interest in being part of the “Stop Overdose Nebraska” pharmacy program.
- **Monkeypox Response:** Staff continue to answer questions from the public, assist health care providers with MPX testing (upon request), and manage vaccine.
- **Public Health Coordination Center (PHCC):** We hosted a meeting (in-person and Zoom) to go over the updated Ebola plan (Highly Hazardous Communicable Disease Plan) with various stakeholders so that we are all working the same direction. People in attendance included Emergency managers, Hospital personnel, Health Dept personnel, and the Nebraska EMS coordinator.
- **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. In November, 3 SHDHD staff attended fit testing training in Kearney. In December, 2 SHDHD staff attended additional online training. As of now we have 2 LTCF that are interested in participating in the fit test training.
- **Ebola Response Preparedness:** SHDHD is contacting and meeting with our area EMS squads and hospitals to go over the recent Ebola outbreak in Uganda, ask them to dust off their Ebola plans, assist with table top exercises, make sure they have adequate PPE, and also that they are familiar with the JOT form to order more.

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:** November: “Diabetes Awareness Month”, and “Live Life Uninterrupted (Covid Vaccines)”. December: “7 Tips to Manage Stress and Mental Health”, “Drive Safe This Holiday Season” and “Germs are Everywhere”.
- **News releases, public health columns, ads and interviews:** COVID activities have maintained in these last two months, but continues to be the primary topic of news releases and communications. In November/December, SHDHD put out 7 press releases and granted phone interviews for TV and radio media requests, focusing primarily on COVID-19-related issues and vaccinations, Diabetes Awareness, and food safety. Diabetes Prevention and winter safety 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 as utilizing the *Live Life Uninterrupted* UNMC messages on the radio as well.

- **TV interviews and Ads:** 2 Healthy Everyday interviews about “Protecting against severe respiratory illness” and “Respiratory Illness Season”, to be aired on Local 4, Fox and 10/11 on Dec 20 and Jan 4, along with 2 PSAs created around these topics.
- **SHDHD Social Media:** During November and December, the English Facebook page reached 7,911 people, the Instagram page reached 71 people, and the Spanish FB page has reached 400 people. Topics included flu vaccine, Covid vaccine, Diabetes Prevention awareness month, Winter Weather Safety, colorectal cancer, and National Influenza Vaccination Week.
- **Environmental Education:**
 - **Radon:** During the month of December SHDHD staff has prepared for Radon Action month in January. Some of that work includes preparing newspaper ads & partnering with CCC Construction Management Program (currently 25 students) for information out on Radon resistant building materials. In addition, radon information has been updated and will be provided at the Advisory Council meeting this next month.
 - **Lead:** November was Lead awareness month. SHDHD added Lead infographics to our educational TV monitors that we have set up in communities in the jurisdiction. Information is available for our monthly VFC clinics and will also be provided at the Advisory Council meeting in January.
- **Website:** Our website “views” continued to maintain for November (1,255 views) but December we have 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 to ensure everything is just 2 clicks deep.
- **COVID-19 Information for Public:** SHDHD staff continues to focus on answering calls accurately, timely, professionally and transparently. Website charts-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 183 pages (assets) have been created or placed in a media library for display.
- **2022 Annual Report:** SHDHD utilized Annual Report to the Nebraska Legislature, as the backbone document for the annual report. SH added more data pieces, images and translated the document. Seeking board approval at January board meeting.

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 has focused HE efforts on ensuring messages were up to date on the electronic communication boards (see above) and began assessing the need for a Medicaid enrollment community night.
 - **United Health Care (UHC):** SHDHD continues to roll out the UHC project during November and December through development of a follow up flu/COVID vaccine card reminder to send out to all UHC members. Additionally, SHDHD developed and sent out Blood Pressure program promotion cards and a reminder to get screened for colon cancer.
- **Mental Health CHIP Priority:**

- **Rural Behavior Health (BH) Network:** The Rural BH Network continues to meet virtually on schedule to implement their strategic plan. November's meetings: the network looked at the landscape that would impact the work of the group. 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. SH is also partnering with ESU 9 for Mental Health trainings across the district and with 1 school to implement a new MH initiative.
- **Making Connections / VetSET:** VetSET coordinator reached out and delivered 20 Thanksgiving Food Box vouchers to Veterans and their family members in Adams County.
- **Substance Misuse CHIP Priority:** SHDHD continues to carry out our drug overdose prevention workplan with the assistance of community partners. SHDHD sent a letter to pharmacies to encourage them to enroll in the *Stop Overdose Nebraska* pharmacy program and communication to schools about having Narcan onsite. SHDHD continues to work with area libraries to place safe drug disposal kits for community members to take home and utilize. Additionally, we continue to work on general communication to the communities about opioid use and the accompanying stigma.
- **Obesity & Related Health Conditions CHIP Priority:**
 - **Building Healthy Families (BHF):** SHDHD continues to host weekly sessions with the 3 cohort of BHF's which includes 5 families. We have completed 12 sessions with cohort 3 with varying attendance from the 5 families. We continue to promote the program at events and to schools to recruit for future cohorts. The BHF planning team is working closely with the UNK Research Team to modify the program to better meet our local needs, hoping to have the modified program come for the next cohort.
 - **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 41 weeks into the year-long class, so far, the 11 participants have lost 75 lbs. or 3.23% weight loss. The year-end goal is to have 5-7% weight loss (1 participant @ 2%+, 1 participant @ 3%+, 2 participants @ 6%+, and 1 participant @ 14%+). Hastings started their 2nd virtual online yearlong class on October 4th with 6 participants. 10 weeks into the start of the class the 6 participants lost 45 lbs. or 3.5% weight loss (1 participant @ 1%+, 2 participants @ 2%+, 2 participants @ 3%+, and 1 participant @ 7%+). Planning to start 3rd class in February 2023.
 - **Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC):** SHDHD met with both HPS and Harvard to officially submit their action plan in November. The teams are reviewing their wellness policies.
 - **On Track: Transforming Diabetes:** The Community Coalition has held a total of 4 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 will be working 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 will be 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. A total of 32 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 began our CIP projects during the month of November, 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 12 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 Imagining to get these women seen and screened. Thus far we have 1 patient who has been seen by a provider, but yet to make their screening appointment.

- **Injury Prevention: Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance & Stepping On Classes:** Started and finished another Stepping On class at the Hastings Public Library on October 5, 2022, with 17 participants completing the class. Participants started with a Time Up and Go (TUG) with an average of 11.4 seconds, and finished with a TUG at the end of the 7-week class at 9.3 seconds, (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 January 11, 2023, at the Hastings Public Library @ 1:00 pm. Tai Chi classes finished up in November (Hastings-YMCA, Nelson, Superior, and Red Cloud). Next Tai Chi classes will start back up after the first of the year.
- **Weather Education:**
 - **Extreme cold:** We worked with Adams County Emergency Management and Hastings Fire to create a vlog and press release related to the extreme cold temperatures (coldest in over 30 years).

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 (COVID capacity, transforming diabetes, Health Equity, Building Healthy Families and Opioid)
 - **BHF:** SH submitted a Hastings Community Foundation grant application to support the BHF 2023 activities.
- **COVID-19 Response Plans:** We are addressing our action items from our most recent After-Action Review (AAR), and After-Action Plan goals are being cross-walked with an equity QI project supported by UNMC to include coaching and funding for the project.
- **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. 1,695 doses were allocated in November/December to the district COVID-19 vaccine providers.
- **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 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. The Bivalent Booster for both Pfizer 6 mos to 4 yrs. and Moderna 6 mos to 5 yrs. were added December 8, providing protection for the current circulating Omicron variants, B4 and B5. It is also 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:** No complaints registered this period.
- **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 November/December. Staff administered 79 total vaccinations to 34 VFC clients and 2 vaccines to 2 adult clients (AIP).
- **Reminder/Recall to improve vaccination rates:** There have been no Reminder/Recall during this time due to restructuring of the reminder/recall process. A meeting with the state was held to better understand and serve the community. 2022 data will be evaluated to determine plan for 2023.
- **COVID-19 Vaccinations:** Weekly public COVID-19 vaccine clinics held in the space at the west end of Allen's have continued through November/December (with 3 weeks off for holidays - the last week off was the 2021 Thanksgiving week). 291 COVID vaccines were administered at these weekly clinics. COVID-19 vaccines are administered to the uninsured populations attending VFC/AIP clinics at the department and are available to homebound or incarcerated individuals.
- **Community Health Worker (Bilingual):** Continue with Monthly VFC clinics in scheduling/reminder calls for clinic and assist with interpretation. Continue with 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 November 2022: Completed 1st Health Coaching call with 2 participants, 2nd Health Coaching call with 0 participants, 3rd Health Coaching call, and Every Woman Matters assessment with 0 participants. December 2022: Completed 1st Health Coaching call with 1 participant, 2nd Health Coaching call with 2 participants, 3rd Health Coaching call, and Every Woman Matters assessment with 0 participants.
- **COVID-19 Testing:** The agreement between SHDHD and DHHS for COVID testing has ended, which means the sub-agreement between SHDHD and Brodstone Hospital to provide testing, is also ending. Brodstone had already stood down their drive-through testing process due to lack of demand (many people are using at-home test kits rather than going to testing sites).
- **Minority Health Initiative Advisory Council:** SHDHD is leading a MHI Advisory Council to support access to care for all individuals. The group meets every other month, with community partners and community members. During the month of November, the group developed a charter, signed commitment statements and provided feedback on SHDHD's Spanish website tab. Additionally, there was a short presentation by ML staff.

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. Supervisee feedback surveys were completed by all supervisees to help guide training needs for supervisors.
- **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 bi-weekly director's call with the State Epidemiologist, and weekly calls with the local health directors and, as of December, began attending weekly state Medical Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) meetings. Staff also receive situational training through calls with the CDC.
- **Staff Briefings and Surveillance Staff Briefings:** The focus of weekly staff briefings is transitioning away from such a heavy focus on COVID and other disease outbreaks to now include updates and planning for other public

health projects and staff refresher training on a variety of topics (HIPPA, Health literacy, Incident Command). Surveillance team meetings were still focused mainly on updates and planning for disease surveillance and response to outbreaks (COVID, Monkeypox, Ebola), but also included training on other diseases and conditions. Due to reductions in funding and staff assignment changes, the surveillance team was phased out in December. Instead – surveillance staff will meet with emergency preparedness staff on a regular basis. These meetings facilitate the sharing of current situational status, evidence-based practices, updates, policies/plans, messaging, and needs, etc.

- **Staff Training:** All staff Line of Sight training - identify goals & performance measures. Three staff completed Respiratory Protection & Fit Testing Train-the-Trainer. 9 staff completed Stop the Bleed training. Two staff members attended Trauma 101 training offered by Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Network. 1 staff attended *Identifying, Deconstructing, and Reducing Stigma Confirmation Training*. 1 staff member is participating in the Great Plains Leadership Institute.
- **Surveillance Forum:** Recognition, Remembrance, and Reflection: The Syphilis Study at Tuskegee and Macon County, AL. Information disseminated to epi team by team lead regarding ethical issues and lessons learned from this experiment.
- **Health Literacy Training:** SHDHD staff received a brief training in plain language, including tips to use “Plain Language” to improve writing.
- **UNMC ECHO Training, Health Equity/Quality Improvement:** One staff member has completed 28 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:** Reviewing new website and documentation for Y3 Annual Report. Cross walking SH plans (to review/revise) with reaccreditation standards and measures.
- **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. Organizational Chart and Supervisory Structure project: Staff follow up survey data to assess progress, satisfaction is under review.
- **Performance Management (PM):** Building 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; Accreditation Coordinator will host more virtual Learning Community meetings with 4 other health departments.
- **Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) Review:** Staff are reviewing the 15 preparedness capabilities, rating 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: Managing financial and human resources effectively
 - **BEAM training:** SHDHD’s Finance & Operations Manager completed BEAM training, an online certificate program in budget and financial management developed by nationally recognized public leaders and practitioners at the University of Miami’s public health and business programs, the de Beaumont Foundation, and other leading organizations. The curriculum is based on real-world public health scenarios and covers: strategic problem definition, budgeting, procurement, contracts, contract management, and financial health.

Success Stories: How we make a difference...

SHDHD's communications team uses stories to make a difference

Starting this past September, the South Heartland Communications Team is trying a new approach to help us promote healthy behaviors and our SHDHD services and programs. Our Communications Team developed a "Line of Sight" with an ultimate goal to: *Communicate effectively on what we do, why we do what we do, our programs and services, our outcomes and successes, and our needs.*

One step in this *Line of Sight* is that our campaigns **include public health data and stories** to support the message we are directing toward a desired audience. To this end, we have been identifying community members to help tell their stories about health successes because of information or services they received from SHDHD.

In November, for National Diabetes Month, we told the story of Kenny Morris, who had been diagnosed with prediabetes in 2017 and was recommended by his doctor to take SHDHD's Smart Moves Diabetes Prevention Program led by our own Liz Chamberlain. Kenny talked about what he learned, how he fit this year-long program into his life, and what he thought were the keys to his success. At the completion of the class, he had lost weight (38 lbs, 14.6% weight loss) and was no longer considered pre-diabetic. Fast forward to 2022, Kenny has retired, had some surgeries, and was noticing that the weight was coming back on. At almost 70, he decided to take the class again – this time in the online format – for a refresher. He enrolled in the class that started in October.

After Kenny's story was out, Liz began hearing from people who read it. **Six community members have contacted her to express interest in registering for the next class!** The article also ran in other counties. Our Brodstone partners reported that community members were asking about the class, which they have taught in the past (in-person version). Brodstone will continue to partner with SHDHD for the on-line version!

South Heartland Bi-Monthly Board Report: Staff-Specific Program Updates, November-December 2022

<p>Janis Johnson</p>  <p>Interim Assistant Director Standards and Performance Manager / Public Health Nurse</p>	<p><u>Vaccinations:</u> Interim coordinator – COVID, Influenza and Monkeypox (JYNNEOS) vaccine management and administration. <u>COVID-19 Response:</u> Assuring SHDHD and vaccine provider partners are up to date on COVID-19 vaccine guidance and recipients provided with current EUAs/registration forms. 1,695 COVID vaccine doses were delivered to district approved COVID-19 vaccine providers. Safe COVID vaccine storage ranged from 1158-2610 doses/week (average 1,759 doses/week). <u>Standards and Performance Management/Accreditation:</u> Workforce Development, QI-PM Plan, Accreditation: cross walk plans, staff domain assignments & annual report Yr 3 planning. <u>CHIP:</u> Serve as the backbone member for Access to Care Steering Committee. <u>Assistant Director:</u> orientation, staffing, staff training, logistics, assist ED.</p>
<p>Brooke Wolfe</p>  <p>Public Health Promotions and Prevention Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Program Activity:</u> During this period, ASAAP and I worked together to get a letter to all pharmacies about the <i>Stop Overdose Nebraska</i> pharmacy program and a note to all school nurses about the value of having Narcan onsite in case of emergencies. <u>Grants Management:</u> During this reporting period, we submitted 5 quarterly reports on or before the deadline; facilitated 12 internal grant-focused team meetings to better meet grant deliverables, and began a CHIP internal team to better document/support the work of the CHIP. I have also continued the Great Plain Leadership Academy.</p>
<p>Liz Chamberlain</p>  <p>Project Specialist / Community Health Worker</p>	<p><u>COVID-19 Response:</u> Continue to help as Back-Up Vaccine Coordinator, weekly Covid Vaccine clinics at Allen's, delivering Covid Vaccines to providers in the district, and also helping with monthly VFC clinics with data entry. Continue to distribute PPE to agencies as orders come in through SHDHD Jot Form, complete PPE inventory, and update PPE spreadsheets. Report to state weekly on E-Med Test Kit distribution. <u>Falls Prevention Classes:</u> Finished Stepping On class in Hastings @ Library with 17 participants. The beginning TUG was 11.4 seconds, ending TUG was 9.3 seconds. The next Stepping On class will be on January 11, 2023, at Hastings Library from 1:00 -2:30 pm. <u>HALT (Online Diabetes Prevention Program):</u> 11 participants started a year-long class on March 1, 2022, with a total of 75 lbs. lost (avg 3.23% weight loss) after 41 weeks. 2nd DPP class started 10-4-22 with 6 participants with a total of 45 lbs. or 3.5% weight loss at the end of 10 weeks. Next class will start the end of February 2023.</p>
<p>Jessica Warner</p>  <p>Health Surveillance Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Disease Surveillance:</u> Over the past two months, we have experienced a surge of RSV, influenza and COVID infections in our district. We have investigated or processed 11,955 COVID cases since March 2020. There were 83 Long-term or assisted living facility residents testing positive for COVID during this reporting period. Additionally, one influenza outbreak occurred with eight residents and five staff infected, resulting in one death. Three additional children were reported to have high levels of lead since 11/1/2022. Communications were sent to parents for reducing exposure and eliminating lead ingestion. I continue to send social media messages aimed at eliminating lead exposure.</p>
<p>Jean Korth</p>  <p>Chronic Disease Prevention Program Assistant Health Literacy Specialist</p>	<p><u>Grants:</u> I have helped organize the Community Coalition portion of the Transforming Diabetes pilot program with UNMC/Nebraska Medicine. I am working on the electronic communication boards as part of the Health Equity grant, with all five units up and running; distributing and monitoring colorectal cancer screening FIT kits as part of Every Woman Matters program, and working with two clinics to explore and pilot an evidence-based screening assessment to improve mental health outcomes. <u>CHIP Steering Committees:</u> I participated in the Mental Health, Obesity and Access to Care meetings and am serving as the backbone member for the Cancer Committee.</p>
<p>Heidi Davis</p>  <p>Disease Investigator</p>	<p><u>Disease Surveillance:</u> I continue to work and maintain my knowledge and understanding in disease investigation, as well as answering calls and questions for COVID cases. <u>Long-term Care Facility Strike Team Project:</u> I recently completed Respirator Fit Test Training, and will be the lead trainer for LTCF to be fitted and trained to fit test with N95 Respirators. <u>Other programs:</u> I continue to follow up on Radon test results and document mitigation or retesting plans. January is Radon Action month, so I have been busy working on action items for media and education pieces. I am working on Every Woman Matters/Community Impact Project to help identify and navigate individuals in need of Breast Cancer Screening.</p>

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	<p><u>CHIP Steering Committees:</u> I participated in the Mental Health, Substance Misuse meetings and am serving as the backbone member for the Mental Health Committee.</p>
<p>Julia Sarmiento</p>  <p>Bi-Lingual Community Health Worker / Interpreter</p>	<p><u>Bilingual Community Health Worker (CHW):</u> I continue to interpret and translate and provide support for both VFC and COVID-19 clinics as needed as well as other program translations.</p> <p><u>Communications:</u> I continue to develop and share resources to promote Covid-19/Flu/Immunizations and wellbeing on social media/dashboard and translating to Spanish for the Spanish Facebook. I am overseeing and editing the translations of important/key pages for the Spanish Tab on our website and cooperating with other staff in finding and developing content in Spanish for the electronic communication boards. I have assisted with the editing and planning of 3 Covid-19 videos in Spanish directed to the Hispanic/Latino community.</p> <p><u>MHI:</u> I am currently assisting with the Every Woman Matters/Community Impact Project with the objective of identifying and navigating individuals in need of Breast Cancer Screening.</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> Currently planning/organizing to begin a Smart Moves Diabetes Prevention class in Spanish, with start date in January.</p>
<p>Sam Coutts</p>  <p>Clerical Assistant for Finance and Operations & 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 provide office support by answering the phone, processing mail, receiving guests, providing various office duties as well as being a licensed Notary Public.</p> <p><u>Technology Assistant:</u> I help maintain and update the South Heartland District web pages, develop on-line surveys as requested, provide support to the various software programs SHDHD uses; support the Microsoft Office programs, as needed, continue to overhaul the Master Database so resources are accurate and up-to-date, help input Colon Cancer Screening (FIT) Kit registrations, provide technical support to the new TV's & Dashboards for the counties and compile data for both the SHDHD COVID-19 and hospital capacity dashboards.</p>
<p>Erik Meyer</p>  <p>Preparedness & Response Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Orientation/OnBoarding:</u> I have just completed my 2nd month with SHDHD and continue to learn the ins and outs of public health. It's been a very enjoyable journey so far.</p> <p><u>Training activities:</u> Emergency Response Coordinator Immersion Course has really taken off and is helping me use my prior experience to a public health setting. I have several trainings coming up in January that should expand on this.</p> <p><u>Ebola and EMS:</u> I am setting up meetings to talk face to face with our local EMS squads about the correct PPE for Ebola and what is available thru South Heartland.</p> <p><u>Staff Training:</u> I am continuing with the ICS training bits at our weekly staff meetings.</p> <p><u>Tabletop ERC Exercise:</u> I have partnered with our neighbouring health departments to create and practice a wildland/urban interface fire scenario in the Kearney area. This has been a fantastic opportunity for me to learn first hand the role of public health in emergency response.</p>

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Support Staff for COVID-19 response and other projects:

Part-time Hire:

Aida Evans	Interpretation, Minority Outreach
Emma Severson	Project Support Intern (Hastings College - HC)
Lindsay Pritchard	Nurse Vaccinator – COVID Clinics
Beatriz Marino Jachim	Nurse Vaccinator - COVID Clinics
Shelly Fletcher	Nurse Vaccinator – COVID Clinics, VFC/AIP Clinics
Kathryn Kamarad	Clinic Admin Support - COVID Clinics
Luisa Najera	Summer/Fall Intern (HC) - Webpage translations to Spanish

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

Ashley Swanson	Communications Specialist
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Volunteer:

Sue Rutt	Phones, Maintains/assists with HD Highlights, COVID history, Accreditation history notebooks
John Bohmfalk, PhD	Presentations on various diseases to Epi Team

Vaccine Clinic Staffing Support:

Mary Lanning	COVID clinic staff if needed (Pharmacy, Nurses)
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