

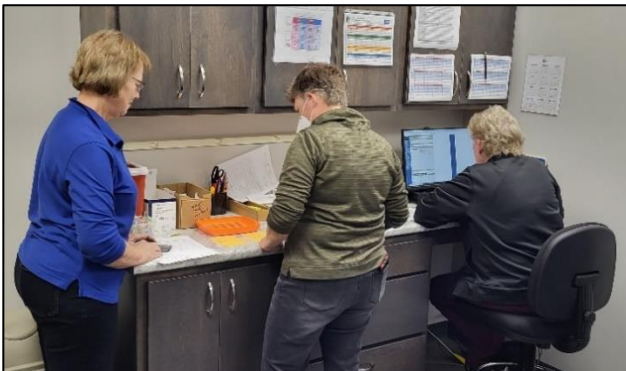
Minority Health Access to Care Advisory Group – 1st Meeting

South Heartland’s bilingual community health worker, Julia Sarmiento, reviewed the minority health improvement plan and the roles and responsibilities of advisory group members. The group currently consists of 7 community members plus bilingual representatives from 7 community partner organizations: (SHDHD, Head Start, Catholic Social Services, United Way, Mary Lanning and the Migrant Education Program).



SHDHD’s Renovated Vaccine Storage/Management Space

Janis Johnson, Shelly Fletcher and Liz Chamberlain work in the newly renovated vaccine storage/management space at SHDHD during an influenza and COVID vaccine clinic (Vaccine for Children program and Adult Immunization Program).



Diabetes Education Event, in Spanish. For her capstone project in the NeDHHS Community Health Worker training, SHDHD’s Julia Sarmiento conducts an educational event for Spanish-speaking community members to share information about diabetes and preventing diabetes.



Diabetes on Track: Community Coalition. Coalition members work with a facilitator from UNMC College of Public Health to identify locations in the community where people are currently accessing diabetes screening, care and management, and prevention opportunities.



17th Annual Kids Fitness & Nutrition Day. More than 300 4th graders from all 4 counties participated in this annual event coordinated by SHDHD along with the YMCA, UNL Extension and additional youth volunteers from Hastings St. Cecilia. Students rotate through stations where they practice being physically active as well as stations with active learning about healthy eating.



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.
 - 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. Links to wastewater surveillance reports (including Hastings) and variant trends (genomics) were also added to the dashboard.
 - The vaccine dashboard page shares progress for demographics and COVID-19 vaccination rates.
 - The hospital dashboard page shows trends in the aggregate available capacity of the three district hospitals.
- SHDHD surveillance staff has investigated salmonella (2), EPEC (4), ETEC (1), Campylobacteriosis (6), Cryptosporidiosis (1), Invasive bacterial infections (2), Childhood lead investigations (6), WNV (4), and three animal exposures/rabies investigations during this reporting period.
- **Influenza:** A few sporadic positive flu labs have been reported. We are not yet experiencing community spread. Hospital ILI Reporting started on October 12th. Additional surveillance activities that provide insight into community transmission of influenza are school surveillance and reports by our influenza sentinel provider.
- **West Nile Virus:** Trapping for West Nile virus (WNV) testing started in the first week of June in Adams Co. with 72 trapped the first week, and 1,651 trapped the second week.
- **Monkeypox Virus:** SHDHD epi staff continues to monitor monkeypox. Nebraska has added three additional cases during this reporting period, for 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 October 28, 2022, a cumulative 11,396 COVID labs have been reported. We received 228 positive lab reports in the past 2 months and had over 10 Nursing homes and 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) remain stable with ~ 20 cases being reported every week. Hospitalizations have been sporadic during this reporting period. Five additional COVID deaths were reported in September.
- **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 155 deaths attributed to COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. Current Case Fatality Rate: 1.4%
- **Epi team continues to monitor novel infections** such as the Sudan ebolavirus as well as reemerging viruses, like monkeypox.

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 8

Alert Sense notifications (September - October) to over 140 individuals each time and issued 8 news releases to media and partners. Staff check the Nebraska Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS), Salesforce, 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 October 31, 2022, SH has distributed: Masks – 235,117, Surgical Masks – 330,700, Cloth Masks – 50,740, Face Shields – 36,790, Goggles – 3,315, Hand Sanitizer – 1,380 containers, Wipes – 11,693 containers, Gloves – 1,003,700, Gowns – 196,834, Thermometers – 806, 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 – October 2022. These kits were inventoried and allocated to schools and childcare facilities for their use and to public sites in each county. So far 6,850 kits have been distributed to 79 organizations/individuals across the district. SHDHD office serves 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 2nd drill that identified vaccine needs by pharmacies.
- **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):** In the past 2 months, we downgraded from weekly to bi-weekly Zoom meetings, with email updates every other week, then revised again to weekly email updates only for the time being. PHCC focus has been COVID for 2.5 years. This summer, we added Monkeypox, and in the past month we added Ebola situational information and pre-planning.

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:** September: “Fight Flu”, “Fall Prevention”, and “Suicide Prevention month”. October: “Flu Shots”, and “Breast Cancer Screening”.
- **News releases, public health columns, ads and interviews:** COVID activities have recessed in these last two months, but continues to be the primary topic of news releases and communications. In September/October, SHDHD put out 12 press releases and granted phone interviews for TV and radio media requests, focusing primarily on COVID-19-related issues and vaccinations, mental health, breast cancer awareness, Kid Fitness and Nutrition Day event and West Nile Virus. Summer Tips for keeping food safe and healthy and health in your back-to-school routine 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. 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, COVID-19 data, as well as back-to-school vaccinations in English and Spanish.
- **SHDHD Social Media:** During September and October, the English Facebook page reached 1,872 people, the Instagram page reached 61 people, and the Spanish FB page has reached 607 people. Topics included flu vaccine, Covid vaccine, breast cancer awareness month, health literacy month, colorectal cancer, and National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.
- **Website:** Our website “views” continued to maintain for September (1,469 views) and October (1,085), and 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.
- **COVID-19 Information for Public:** SHDHD staff continues to focus on answering calls accurately, timely, professionally and transparently. Website charts (testing & vaccine information) 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 85 pages (assets) have been created or placed in a media library for display.

- **2022 Annual Report:** SHDHD reviewed and approved the draft of the Annual Report to the Nebraska Legislature. This document will become the backbone of the annual report that we will provide to the community.

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. SHDHD hosted all 5 priority CHIP steering committee member meetings during the month of October.
- **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 ensuring COVID-19 test kits are available throughout the district.
 - **United Health Care (UHC):** SHDHD began rolling out the UHC project during September and October by developing a flu/COVID vaccine card reminder to sent out to all UHC members. SH developed a “where to get your Flu Shot” table on SHDHD’s website. Additionally, SHDHD developed and sent out Smart Moves/Building Health Family program promotion cards. SHDHD will also be sending out colon cancer screening and healthy blood pressure reminder cards in the coming months.
- **Mental Health CHIP Priority:**
 - **Rural Behavior Health (BH) Network:** The Rural BH Network continues to virtually meet on schedule to implement their strategic plan. No meetings were held these two months.
 - **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.
 - **Other:** Donations from Give Hastings Day were used to make Mental Health Wellness kits for Adams County freshmen students. Four hundred and six (406) were distributed during Suicide Prevention Week, September 4th – 10th.
- **Substance Misuse CHIP Priority:** SHDHD continues to carry out our drug overdose prevention workplan with the assistance of community partners. SHDHD attended State Opioid Summit in late October. 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:** In September, SHDHD completed all of the refresher session with cohort 2 and started cohort 3 with 5 families. We have completed 6 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.
 - **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 33 weeks into the year-long class, so far, the 11 participants have lost 95 lbs. or 4.1% weight loss. The year-end goal is to have 5-7% weight loss (1 participants @ 3%+, 2 participants @ 5%+, 3 participant @ 6%+ and 1 participant @ 14%+). Hastings started their 2nd virtual online yearlong class on October 4th with 6 participants. 2 weeks into the start of the class the 6 participants lost 31 lbs. or 2.4% weight loss.
 - **Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC):** SHDHD met with both HPS and Harvard to plan for the fall institutes. Each of the schools, along with SH staff, participated in the October meetings and will official submit their action plan in November.
 - **On Track: Transforming Diabetes:** Hosted a Kick-Off meeting of the Hastings Community Coalition for Diabetes on Track. The Coalition will review current resources in the community that are supporting diabetes prevention and diabetes care, determine gaps, brainstorm ways to improve, try those, and

evaluate for success. The Nebraska Diabetes Foundation is supporting 2-year pilot projects in the communities of Hastings and Wayne.

- **Kids Fitness and Nutrition Day (KFND):** SHDHD hosted KFND on October, 4th 2022 for 4th grade classes in the district. We had 10 elementary schools and approximately 10 schools attend. At the event students spent half of the day learning about nutrition and the other half participating in physical activities. With Hastings College classes unable to provide volunteers, it has been difficult to find volunteers to lead the physical activity stations. Fortunately, our local high schools have been great at providing volunteers. St. Cecelia, Sandy Creek, and Adams Central seniors volunteered at the physical activity stations.
- **Cancer Priority:**
 - **Mary Lanning Healthcare Cancer Committee:** Michele attended and shared SHDHD's cancer screening pilot projects and cancer prevention marketing campaign. Kool-Aid Days: One SHDHD staff member joined the Mary Lanning team in promoting information on Lung Cancer. In addition to radon information, two home test kits were sold at the event.
 - **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 22 kits have been distributed. *FIT uses antibodies to detect blood in the stool and has an easier stool specimen collection process.*
- **Injury Prevention: Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance & Stepping On Classes:** Started another Stepping On class at the Hastings Public Library on October 5, 2022, with 21 participants completing the class. Participants started with a Time Up and Go with an average of 11.6 seconds, and will complete their TUG at the end of the 7-week class (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 & house), shoes, and lifelines). Tai Chi classes start again, in September (Hastings-YMCA, Nelson, Superior, and Red Cloud).

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:**
 - ARPA DHHS Infrastructure Funding: SHDHD submitted for infrastructure funding to support building improvements.
 - SHDHD received approval of the workplans submitted last bi-monthly report (radon, immunization/COVID Immunization Accreditation, EWM-CIP, Health Equity, MAA).
 - SHDHD kicked off the Long-Term Care PPE testing and training workplan
 - **Fall Prevention-** SH submitted for continuation of funds for the Stepping on Program
 - **Lead:** SH submitted for continuation of funds for Lead surveillance.
 - **MHI:** SH submitted for continuation of funds for the Minority Health Initiative 2-year program
 - **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, at our own weekly clinics in Adams County and with partners to reach special populations.
 - **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 5-11 and Moderna 6 years and up

were added in October, 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:** Reached out to Dept of Ag to request that they resume sending quarterly inspection reports that local health departments are supposed to be receiving. SHDHD hadn't received a report since August 2020. We are now connected to the appropriate person and received a report in May 2022. In September, SHDHD was able to connect with the NDA contact to discuss the reporting process and learned about new resources on the NDA website. Subsequently received the 2nd quarter report.

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 VFC immunization clinics were held in September/October with one additional VFC flu shot/covid shot clinic and 2 additional AIP (adult) flu shot/covid shot clinics. Regular VFC clinics: Staff delivered 70 total vaccinations to 30 VFC patients. VFC flu clinic: 23 flu shots.
- **Immunization: Adult Immunization Program:** 2 vaccinations (COVID-19) were administered to parents during the September/October VFC clinics. Two adult vaccination flu clinics were held in October (18 flu & 1 Tdap).
- **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 September/October, 17 client records were reviewed. 9 calls/voicemails/texts were made. 0 client connections were made.
- **COVID-19 Vaccinations:** Weekly public COVID-19 vaccine clinics held in the space at the west end of Allen's have continued through September/October, with 597 COVID vaccines administered. Bert's Pharmacy provided insured 105 flu shots at 2 October Allen's clinics. COVID-19 vaccines have also been administered to the uninsured populations attending VFC/AIP clinics at the department and are available to homebound or incarcerated individuals. Staff flu and COVID vaccination clinics were offered at the Health Department.
- **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.
- **Community Health Worker (English Only) / Every Woman Matters (EWM) and Health Coaching:** Health Coaching EWM clients for September 2022: 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 0 participants. October 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.
- **Community Health Worker (Bilingual Only) / Every Woman Matters (EWM) and Health Coaching:** EWM Clients: Completed 1st Health Coaching call with 1 participants, 2nd Coaching Call with 0 participants, 3rd Coach Call with 4 participants unable to reach.
- **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).

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:** Supervisors continue meeting and providing guidance for supervisees to measure progress for implementing professional development plans and goals. Professional development/evaluations began in October for the staff, including staff engagement and satisfaction surveys.
 - **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. 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 are still focused mainly on updates and planning for disease surveillance and response to outbreaks (COVID, Monkeypox, Ebola), but also include training on other diseases and conditions. Both 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. Staff completed Stericycle Bloodborne Pathogen training. Two Staff attended the Nebraska Environmental Health Association Annual Conference in Ashland. One staff attended at NETEC conference, Ethical Issues in Pandemic Response, Triage and Beyond. One staff completed an accredited training course for Lead Hazard Risk Assessor. One staff completed Recertification Leader Stepping On training. One staff completed "You Call the Shots – Storage and Handling". One staff completed HIPAA Privacy and Security Training. One staff completed Active Shooter Preparedness Webinar. One staff member attended the kick off event for the Great Plans Leadership Institute.
 - **Surveillance Staff Training:** Dr. John Bohmfalk, HC professor emeritus and SHDHD volunteer C-19 disease investigator, continues to provide weekly disease presentations (etiology, incidence, & treatment) that require rapid PH response. September/October: Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, and Rabies.
 - **Health Literacy Training:** Two staff members "graduated" from the Institute for Healthcare Advancement's (IHA) Health Literacy Specialist Certificate Program. The staff members have received their micro-credentials in Education; Language, Culture and Diversity; Public Health, Ethics. Communication and Community Engagement. The staff members also completed a 6 hour Applied Plain Language Writing for Effective Health Communication workshop offered by UAMS Center for Health Literacy.
 - **UNMC ECHO Training, Health Equity/Quality Improvement:** One staff member has completed 24 of 38 sessions.

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 documentation requirements for Y3 Annual Report.
 - **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. Policy review/revisions; Leave and Change of Schedule process; Travel Reimbursement process.
 - **Community Health Improvement (CHIP) Implementation:** SHDHD hosted bi-annual steering committee meetings in October.
 - **Performance Management (PM):** We are conducting staff annual performance evaluations in October/November using our new supervisory structure and based more heavily on strengths management and staff individual development goals.
 - **PHAB Accreditation Standards and Measures:** Assistance and collaboration with 'Accreditation Community of Practice' virtual meetings with Statewide participants; Accreditation Coordinator hosted 2 virtual Learning Community meetings with 4 other health departments.

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
 - SHDHD worked with the Nebraska State Auditor of Public Accounts to complete our annual audit. We appreciate what we learn from this process each year and are pleased to report only one finding, due to a policy discrepancy, which we are in the process of correcting through policy revision.

Success Stories: How we make a difference...

Capstone Project Engages Hispanic Community Members in Diabetes Prevention

As part of my training for the DHHS Community Health Worker Course, I was required to plan and carry out a Capstone Project. The goal of my project was to inform and educate the Hispanic community about diabetes prevention and diabetes care. I planned an hour-long evening event to share educational information about diabetes, the risks that come with diabetes, and possible outcomes from not properly taking care of yourself if you have been diagnosed with diabetes. Some activities included were: educational and informative videos, flyers with information about pre-diabetes and diabetes, samples of a healthy breakfast, lunch, dinner, easy to make recipes at home, and examples of simple and short at home exercises. Pre-diabetes risk assessments were provided along with information on South Heartland’s Smart Moves diabetes prevention program.

The event was a success! We had 10 participants attending and they showed much interest in the Smart Moves program. All in total we had 5 people at the end of the event voice their interest of wanting to participate in an in-person Smart Moves program. A Spanish version of the Smart Moves program is planned to begin in January.


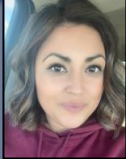



Julia Sarmiento
Bilingual Community Health Worker



South Heartland Bi-Monthly Board Report: Staff-Specific Program Updates, September-October 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. 2,943 COVID vaccine doses were delivered to district approved COVID-19 vaccine providers. Safe COVID vaccine storage ranged from 2165-2653 doses/week (average 2,326 doses/week). <u>Standards and Performance Management/Accreditation</u>: Workforce Development, staff professional development/evaluations. Update WD plan. <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, Lauren and I worked together to host our annual Kids Fitness and Nutrition Day event. We engage outside partners to assist with the day that brings in over 350 4th grade students from across the district. <u>Grants Management</u>: During this reporting period, we submitted 16 quarterly reports on or before the deadline; facilitated 8 internal grant-focused team meetings to better meet grant deliverables, and complete 1 staff evaluation. I have also started 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>: Started another Stepping On class in Hastings @ Library with 20 participants. <u>HALT (Online Diabetes Prevention Program)</u>: 11 participants started a year-long class on March 1, 2022, with a total of 95 lbs. lost (avg 4.1% weight loss) after 34 weeks. Planning on starting another class in October 2022.</p>
<p>Jessica Warner</p>  <p>Health Surveillance Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Disease Surveillance</u>: The epi team has now investigated or documented 11,365 COVID cases. We have been meeting with a local Public Health Coordination Center and Hastings College. I have contacted partners for fall surveillance activities including Hospital ILI, school surveillance and our Sentinel provider. We have investigated five WNV cases this season. I arranged testing for four individuals with active TB exposure. We are currently monitoring monkeypox and continue to answer questions and make referrals as needed. I am reviewing ebola plans and forwarding information on to infection preventionists regarding PPE and ebola planning.</p>
<p>Jean Korth</p>  <p>Chronic Disease Prevention Program Assistant</p>	<p><u>Health Literacy</u>: I successfully completed the Health Literacy Specialist Certificate Program through the Institute for Healthcare Advancement (IHA). <u>Grants</u>: 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. I continue working on the Community Coalition portion of the Transforming Diabetes Care and Education pilot program with Nebraska Medicine and UNMC. <u>CHIP Steering Committees</u>: I participated in the Mental Health, Obesity and Access to Care meetings.</p>
<p>Heidi Davis</p>  <p>Disease Investigator</p>	<p><u>COVID-19 Response</u>: I continue to offer guidance and information for COVID-19 questions and calls. <u>Health Literacy</u>: I successfully completed the Health Literacy Specialist Certificate Program through the Institute for Healthcare Advancement (IHA). <u>Disease Surveillance</u>: I continue to work on learning about and investigating all reportable diseases, and reviewing all labs that we receive in NEDSS. <u>Other programs</u>: I continue to follow up on Radon test results and document mitigation or retesting plans. I recently attended the Nebraska Environmental Health Association’s Annual Educational Conference, which focused on climate change and its effect on Environmental Health.</p>

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<p>Lauren Shackelford</p>  <p>Disease Investigator</p>	<p><u>COVID-19 Response</u>: I continue to offer guidance and information for COVID-19 questions and work with long-term care facilities in COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p><u>Communications</u>: I have helped with the electronic communication boards project. I find and develop content for the boards and our other social media channels.</p> <p><u>Building Healthy Families</u>: We started our 3rd cohort of BHF in September and have completed the first 6 sessions.</p> <p><u>Kids Fitness and Nutrition Day (KFND)</u>: We successfully hosted KFND on October 4th, with 10 schools and approximately 300 students in attendance.</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.</p> <p><u>MHI</u>: I planned and carried out successfully a Capstone Project for the DHHS Community Health Worker Course, which had the objective of informing and educating the Hispanic community of Diabetes Prevention and Diabetes care. Reached a total of 10 participants.</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 and providing various office duties. I am now licensed as a 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; provide support with the Microsoft Office programs, as needed, overhauling the Master Database so resources are accurate and up-to-date, help input Colon Cancer Screening 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>: Erik started at South Heartland on October 17 and has been learning the ropes through orientation and training activities. He is signed up and started taking an Emergency Response Coordinator Immersion Course offered through UNMC.</p> <p><u>Staff Training</u>: Erik began providing small "bites" of training about Incident Command and National Incident Management System to staff at weekly staff meetings. He worked with Epi staff to plan a mini-exercise for all staff to learn more about the incident command system and practice using health literacy Teach Back while assembling a picnic table for the Department.</p>

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Support Staff for COVID-19 response and other projects:

Part-time Hire:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Role. Includes staff like Aida Evans (Interpretation, Minority Outreach) and Emma Severson (Project Support Intern).

Contract (Mary Lanning):

Table with 2 columns: Name and Role. Includes Leslie Anderson, RN (VFC & COVID Clinic Support).

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

Table with 2 columns: Name and Role. Includes Ashley Swanson (Communications Specialist).

Volunteer:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Role. Includes Sue Rutt (Phones, Maintains/assists with HD Highlights) and John Bohmfalk, PhD (Disease Investigation).

Vaccine Clinic Staffing Support:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Role. Includes Mary Lanning (COVID clinic staff if needed).