

Health Commissioners Monthly Report for June/ July 2015

Submitted by Trish Factor

Staff Meetings

Summer staff meetings have allowed our department to work through various aspects of daily operations of the department in order to make it more efficient and effective. We are also working on aligning documentation methods in order to better prepare ourselves for Accreditation as well as our own Strategic Planning (including more accurate cost analysis').

Funding

I am continuing to monitor, where appropriate, the effects of the states Biennial Budget on Public Health Operations.

Contracts with two school districts have been finalized and are ready for your approval. A cost analysis was completed and is available upon request. The Galion City School District has opted to increase their contract to allow for 40 hours of nursing services. Saint Joseph Catholic School-Crestline has also asked for additional services this upcoming school year, including outreach and education. *See contracts for School Year 2015-16.

Trainings/ Workforce Development

I am continuing to work on a Workforce Development Plan that staff will be able to follow and will be held accountable for training requirements incorporated within. This plan will also include the training plans for newly hired employees. *All staff has access to online training portals

Incident Command System

All Staff have now completed the required series of Incident Command System trainings. These trainings will better prepare them for their roles during an emergency/ disaster.

Quality Improvement Training

Stephanie was able to attend the Quality Improvement training through the 2015 OSU Summer Program (we received a scholarship for this). She was able to bring back great information and it will be incorporated into our Quality Improvement Plan. All staff has also completed basic Quality Improvement training which will assist us as we move forward toward building a culture of Continuous Quality Improvement.

Personal Protective Measures for Biological Events Course

Trish and Ashley will be attending this course 7/15/15. This course is designed to ensure that they have the information and resources needed to properly prepare for and respond to infectious disease outbreaks such as Ebola, and to collaborate with the healthcare sector through participation in regional healthcare coalitions.

ODH is coordinating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) to provide the course. This course will provide an overview of personal protective equipment (PPE), and includes an experimental learning activity (ELA) practicing donning and doffing PPE Level C. Additionally; there is a review of the different types of decontamination and an ELA practicing technical decontamination.

APIC Training (Intensive EPI 101 & 102)

Trish will be attending this course 8/10-14/15. A representative from each department in the Central Planning Region is attending. The cost is being covered through the Regional Ebola Supplemental Funding, any other cost (i.e. travel & meals) are covered through our local Ebola funding.

This course compresses infection prevention fundamentals from the EPI® 101 and 102 classes into a 5-day interactive intensive learning experience. Board certified (CIC®) subject matter experts update course content throughout the year, so we'll learn the newest terminology and current definitions and hear about the regulatory issues of importance today and in the future. This course introduces the various roles and responsibilities of the infection preventionist. Areas of emphasis include how to prepare surveillance and risk assessment plans, regulatory compliance, preventing transmission of infectious diseases, how to handle employee exposures and evidence-based interventions to prevent or reduce risk. A certified and experienced faculty team presents the course with a hands-on training approach.

Network of Care

Trish and Ashley attended the Network of Care training on 6/25/15. This course taught us how to navigate the data available, how to utilize and interpret it, as well as showing the capabilities to share the information through our own website.

Continuous Quality Improvement

Work on the Quality Improvement Plan for the department is going good. Again, this is required for Accreditation. Quality Improvement projects have already begun to take shape based on internal needs assessments. Additions and/or revisions to the plan will be made based on input from staff now that all have had some training in Quality Improvement.

Personnel Policies and Procedures

Additional updates and/or revisions are being considered based on knowledge gained through research. Trish is working with the City Law Director in order to clear up the status of City Health Department Employees; this is highly important in terms of numerous aspects of personnel policies and overall administration of the department.

Family and Children First Council

During the 6/15/15 meeting of the Family and Children First Council, I was named as the Chairperson for the FY16 term. FCFC enhances the well-being of children and families by building community capacity, coordinating systems and services, and engaging families. The vision is for every child and family to thrive and succeed within healthy communities.

Family and Children First Councils are mandated to perform four core functions:

- Engaging and Empowering Families
- Shared Accountability
- Building Community Capacity
- Coordinating Systems and Services

Access to Care

Medicaid Navigators

Trish and Ashley met with a rep to discuss access to care options as well as programming available and location of locally based navigators. Once we are able to determine space availability, we will be able to move forward and hope to be able to offer more assistance to families who need it.

Rite Aid

Trish and Ashley also met with the local Rite Aid Wellness Ambassador to discuss the upcoming flu season. Discussions surrounded target populations for vaccination. There was also discussion regarding the various vaccinations offered by both parties; this was in order to determine any gaps as well as know where to direct people in search of certain vaccines.

Outreach

Safety Town

The Galion City Health Department has been asked to present at the “come back” of Galion’s Safety Town. Buckle Bear (Theresa) will be presenting 8 sessions of car seat safety on Monday 8/3/15 and Kara will be presenting 8 sessions of personal and hand hygiene using Glow Germ on Wednesday 8/5/15.

The health department will be providing various handouts to both kids and parents. We will be providing parents with immunization information to help ensure that all necessary vaccinations for school admission have been obtained. It is a great opportunity to reach out to the youth of our jurisdiction and get them started on the road to a safe and healthy lifestyle; this program is geared toward the incoming Kindergarteners.

Safety Council

Stephanie was asked to speak at the Safety Council meeting on 6/18/15. She was able to share the process of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and answer questions about how the data is utilized in the Community Health Improvement Process (CHIP) that follows. Good feedback was received from this presentation.

Galion City Police, Fire, and Health

Trish will be attending the 7/30/15 meeting and providing updates on the changes occurring within our department, our movement toward Accreditation, as well as having discussions on how our departments can further work together toward common goals.

Community Counseling (Mental Health)

We have again been asked to support mental health outreach by providing space within the Health Department to allow for counseling sessions to take place locally. For many residents, it is a struggle to get to various locations. There has been great feedback and an obvious need for these services to be provided right here in Galion. This allows our department to aid in the outreach of mental health services. *See contract for FY16