



April 2010 Executive Report
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Galveston County & Cities

The Pulse of the District...

- **Understanding the Impact of Healthcare reform**
- **2010 – 2015 District Health Plan Approved**
- **Partners Recognized During Public Health Week**
- **Animal Summit Features New Animal Resource Center**
- **New Non-Emergency Transfer Agreement Fully Executed**
- **Many IT Upgrades and Rollout Underway**

GCHD Analyzes Health Care Reform Law

Health District staff is working to understand the implications of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. A presentation on selected impacts of the new law is scheduled for the April Boards meetings. There are provisions in the Act that will potentially strengthen both the 4C's Clinics and Public Health Services. An \$11 billion fund for expansion of community health centers such as 4C's will be established this year and will take effect in 2011. A Prevention and Public Health Fund of \$15 billion will provide for public outreach and education campaigns over the next ten years. There are also incentives in the new law to expand the health care and public health workforce over the next decade.

GCHD 2010-2015 Strategic Health Planning

The 2010-2015 Strategic Health Plan approved by the Boards of Health at their March meetings is now posted on the District web site. Hard copies of the plan are being printed and will be distributed to county and cities officials. The plan can be found at www.gchd.org/admin/FINAL-DRAFT-SHP-2010-2015.pdf.

National Public Health Week Activities April 8, 2010

On Thursday, April 8th, the Galveston County Health District participated in various activities to observe *National Public Health Week* and *National Immunization*. At Mall of the Mainland **Outstanding Public Health Partners** were recognized for their service to the Health District and community. A list of recognized individual and agencies can be found at www.gchd.org.



Later that day the District's Consumer Health Services honored the 2010 **Gold Ribbon Award** winners during a ceremony at The Wayne Johnson Community Center in La Marque. The award is given annually to food service operators that show exemplary compliance with the Texas Food Establishment Rules as enforced by the District. To see a complete list of Gold Ribbon Award winners see www.gchd.org/press/2010/2010%20Gold%20Ribbon%20Recipients.pdf.

2010 Animal Summit and Expo

The 2010 Animal Summit and Expo was held April 24th at Runge Park in Santa Fe with more than 50 people attending. The annual event which is an effort of Health District staff along with members of the Galveston County Animal Services Advisory Committee is a way to gather public input related to animal services. Presentations at the summit included a discussion on the new Animal Resource Center being built in Texas City, the future of animal services, animal disaster planning and disease control and prevention. Public Feedback was gathered and addressed issues like the use of social networking internet sites, grant writing and animal education. In addition to presentations there were twelve exhibitors with information on low cost spay/neuter, animal rescue, and disaster preparedness. Press information released prior to the summit can be found at www.gchd.org/press/2010/Animal-summit2010.htm.

United Board of Health Membership Status

On April 30th, six members terms will expire (See: www.gchd.org/boards/UBHMembrs.htm). As of April 26th, all but one has confirmed ability to continue serving. In addition, Mainland Medical Center representative, Scott Bentley, CFO, has accepted a new position in Houston; thus, a determination will be made regarding a future representative. Once confirmations of nominees are received a letter will be sent to Commissioners Court for consideration of re-appointment/appointment with a recommendation to member cities for majority approval.

NET Interlocal Agreement Fully Executed

After county legal review, the proposed new interlocal agreement for non-emergency transfers (NET) is now ready for review and execution. In 2008, post-Ike there was a \$127,654 financial deficit. Texas City's Mayor Doyle in early 2009 proposed changing

the agreement such that cities no longer would be liable or recipients of NET year end losses/surpluses. The modified agreement removes member cities from responsibility for yearend losses (and gains) and replaces that obligation with the County of Galveston. Unchanged is the cities' responsibility for establishing ordinances that make GCHD the exclusive NET transfer provider in local jurisdictions. If GCHD is unable to provide a timely transfer other designated ambulances, permitted in the jurisdiction to serve as backup may be used. As of March 19th, all entities have approved and signed the agreement which consist of Galveston County, City of Bayou Vista, City of Dickinson, City of La Marque, The Village of Tiki Island, the City of Texas City and, the City of Hitchcock.

Many IT Rollouts and Upgrades Underway

There are five IT initiatives Health District staff are currently implementing. **1. NEXTGEN Phase 1 (Electronic Practice Management), 4C's Clinic software** – Staff is working with our consultant on configuration and building necessary tables to prepare for Core Group training schedule for May 18-20th. Also staff are working with a new clearinghouse that will be integrated in the NEXTGEN system providing the Health District the ability to bill electronically, assist with sending out clean claims for reimbursement and verify insurance of scheduled patients prior to arrival for appointments. The Core Group will learn the ins and outs of the system and will be responsible for training all end users prior to Go Live on August 10th. Next phase of this project will be Electronic Health & Dental Records to start in late September 2010 with an anticipated Go Live date in February 2011; **2. Accufund, Accounting software** – Staff is currently working with our consultant on configuration/testing of an electronic timesheet, a new general ledger and a human resources module. Tentative go-live with electronic timesheet (payroll) is June 10 with staff training scheduled for June 1-4. Future upgrades to the Accufund Software include electronic cash drawers and integration of the general ledger, accounts receivable and accounts payable with ShelterPro, NEXTGEN and Decade; **3. ShelterPro, Animal Shelter software** – Staff is working on finalizing software configuration and should begin testing soon. Tentative Go-Live is June 21st with staff training scheduled for June 14-18th; **4. ESO, EMS software** – A software upgrade of ESO to version 4.0 will begin June 15th. This upgrade will incorporate software improvements and the vendor will stop supporting the current version after January 2010. The upgrade will take approximately 60 days and will require staff training prior to Go-Live in mid August; and **5. Decade, Environmental Health software** – Staff is working out plans/schedules to upgrade current software to version 4.2 by the end of May. Staff will be trained as needed prior to Go-Live.

4C's Clinic Updates: For more information, please contact Patrick Butler, 4C's Business Director, at (409) 949-3406 or email pbutler@gchd.org or Pam Jahnke, RN, Strategic Plan Evaluator at (409) 938-2256 or email pjahnke@gchd.org.

- **4C's Dental** – 4C's has a new Supervisor of Dental Assistants/Receptionists, Kimberly Swedberg, who started on April 19, 2010.

- **Joint Commission Training** - The April 14, 2010 in-service provided training to all 4C's staff on a Joint Commission standard that requires an accredited organization to train staff on how to report issues related to safety or quality of care concerns. This training completed the annual requirement for The Joint Commission (TJC) Periodic Performance Review, a self-assessment of compliance with TJC standards.
- **New EKG Machines** - Nursing staff received training on the operation and maintenance of two new EKG machines recently purchased for the two clinics. The Welch Allyn machines are state of the art medical equipment. The EKGs will be able to interface with the NextGen electronic medical record when it is implemented.
- **Patient Services Staff Recognized** – The Chief Executive Officer recognized Patient Services employees Marisa Gonzalez and Renee McCulloch for being observed by their manager effectively handling difficult customer encounters in the Patient Services area of the 4C's Clinic. Both employees were handling difficult customer encounters while maintaining calm, pleasant, and professional attitudes which kept the situation from escalating. In our current healthcare environment with so many frustrating barriers to healthcare for the uninsured, Marisa and Renee were seen by their manager as providing a great example of how to handle such encounters. A presentation outlining 4C's Patient Services staffing and responsibilities was provided to the 4C's Governing Board
- **Proposed Update to Governing Board Policy** – As instructed by the Governing Board at its March meeting, Executive staff have reviewed how the 4C's current policy allows termination or patient warning, but it does not address any mechanism for review and possible reinstatement. The proposed changes to be consider by the Board at its April meeting includes the ability to warn patients of unacceptable behavior before it impacts patient care, terminate a patient's ability to be seen at the clinic for one year for minor behavioral infractions and permanently terminate patients who have demonstrated criminal behaviors. The Board will also consider establishing a review panel that consist of at least 2 Board members and the CEO or designee to review what type of disciplinary action will be taken. Should the proposed policy be approved then the Boards "Consumer Bill of Rights" will need to be modified to meet the requirements of the new Board policy.

Office of Community Health Services: *For more information, please contact Cassandra Arceneaux, MD, MPH, Director of Community Health Programs at (409) 938-2456 or email carceneaux@gchd.org.*

- **Seniors Educated on Vaccine Preventable Diseases** – During the month of April, June Gonzalez, Immunization Program Manager educated 43 seniors on infectious diseases and vaccines that are important to their health such as influenza, pneumonia, shingles, tetanus, and hepatitis Presentations were held in the communities of Bacliff, Texas City and La Marque.
- **Community Outreach** – Staff from Community Health, WIC & Immunization participated in three outreach events: 1. Annual Teen Parent Roundup at La Marque ISD; 2. New Beginnings Ministries Community Health Fair; and 3. The Galveston YMCA Health Fair. 437 people were encountered and 92 Immtrac

researched at these events and all were provided health district brochures, health education materials and incentives.

- **Social Services Block Grant Application Submitted** - TB Control and STD/HIV staffs submitted a grant application for Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds to the Texas Department of State Health Services. These funds were recently released to address expenses relating to providing health services to populations impacted by Hurricanes Ike and/or Dolly. This funding opportunity was only available to TB and STD/HIV programs in counties affected by the disasters. The funds, if approved, must be expended by September 30, 2010. The budget submitted requested \$119,402 to fund a combined TB and STD/HIV seminar for health professionals, a vehicle for STD/HIV outreach, equipment such as laptop computers for field staff, supplies and temporary data clerk for a TB outreach project that will provide targeted screening of high risk groups, training and travel expenses for STD staff to expand outreach, education, and behavior interventions to high risk populations, and incidents.
- **City of Kemah Public Hearing on Smoking Ban** – On April 24th, Drs. Guidry and Arceneaux attended the City of Kemah Council's public hearing regarding its consideration to expand the city's no smoking ordinance. Dr. Arceneaux informed and educated attendees the hazards of second hand smoke and the health benefits of no smoking ordinances. The city decided not to proceed with a more stringent ordinance; however the presentation was delivered well. Dr. Arceneaux discussed the effects of second-hand smoke on health including heart disease, low birth weight, pre term labor, and cancer. She also discussed the decrease in heart related hospitalizations in areas where smoking bans are in place, and the potential effect on both patrons and employees of these establishments.

Office of Environmental Health Services: For more information, please contact Ronnie Schultz, Director of Environmental Health Services, at (409) 938-2314 or email rschultz@gchd.org

- **Animal Resource Center Begins Construction** – Site preparation began on April 6th at the location of the new animal resource center. Through a cooperative effort of the County of Galveston, the County's Road and Bridge Department and the City of Texas City, the site is being backfilled and compacted in preparation for construction of the structure for a lot less than was originally budgeted. Health District representatives continue to meet with county officials, architects and construction managers.
- **Dog Attack in San Leon** - A 9-year old San Leon girl was attacked and suffered bites from a Rhodesian Ridgeback that severely mangled her ear. The girl was taken to the emergency room and is now doing fine. The Ridgeback was surrendered to Animal Control without incident and euthanized for rabies testing. The test negative for rabies. *Galveston County Daily News* coverage of the incident can be found at www.gchd.org/press/2010/girl-9-fine-after-dog-attack.htm.

Office of Emergency Medical Services: For more information, please contact Trey Frankovich, LP, EMS Director, (409) 765-2524 or frankovich@gchd.org or Mary McClure, GAAA Business Director, (409) 938-2336 or mmcclure@gchd.org.

- **Hitchcock Dispatch** - The Hitchcock 911 ambulance (medic 5) is now being dispatched directly by the City of Hitchcock dispatch office. This action will result in a faster response to medical emergencies within the medic 5 coverage area.
- **New EMS Station** – The shared EMS/Fire station built by the County in front of the Galveston County Justice Center should be ready for occupancy by Memorial Day. Final plans are currently being made by EMS for this much anticipated move. One EMS unit will be housed at the new station which is replacing the EMS station on 50th and Q ½.
- **RAC Drill** – GAAA participated in the Regional Advisory Council mass casualty drill in Alvin. The drill scenario was a post hurricane strike with an explosion at a petrochemical plant which occurred during the refinery start up. EMS organizations from all of Southeast Texas participated including the State Guard. A MASH style hospital tent was set up for use as part of the drill.
- **Moody Garden Drill** – GAAA and Galveston Fire participated in an EMS drill at Moody Gardens with the staff to anticipate access points and movement of patients from the aquarium area.

Disease & Disaster Preparedness: For additional information, contact Dana Beckham, DVM, Chief Epidemiologist, at (409) 938-2322 or email dbeckham@gchd.org or Mike Carr, Public Health Preparedness Manager, at (409) 938-2333 or email mcarr@gchd.org.

- **Flu Surveillance** - From August 1st to April 21st, the Health District has received reports of 949 positive flu cases (111 H1N1, 470 Flu A, 7 Flu B, 361 Undifferentiated Flu). Of the 111 H1N1 cases to date, there have been 9 hospitalizations and two deaths in a 31-year old and a 48-year old, both Galveston Island residents.
- **Elevated Blood Lead Case (Galveston)** – For the month of April, Epidemiology Services received 2 elevated blood lead cases in 2 **Galveston** residents. The cases are unrelated. The 1st case is in a 2-year old with an EBLL of 29.5 µg/dL. The 2nd case is in a 4-year old resident with an EBLL of 12 µg/dL. Both cases were referred to Community Health Nursing for a home assessment. The 1st case of 29.5 µg/dL was also referred to Environmental Services for an environmental lead investigation. For 2010, there are a total of 3 confirmed EBLL cases in Galveston County residents. In 2009, the Health District received a total of 17 confirmed EBLL cases with blood lead levels ranging from 10-29 µg/dL. Only 2 of the 17 cases were referred to Environmental Services for an environmental lead investigation.
- **Lyme Disease (League City)** - On April 16th, Epidemiology Services completed an investigation regarding a Lyme disease case in Galveston County. The case involved a 38-year old **League City** resident. According to the CDC, the bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi* causes Lyme disease that transmits to humans from infected blacklegged tick bites. Symptoms include fever, headache, and a characteristic skin rash (erythema migrans). If left untreated the infection can spread to joints, the heart and the nervous system. For 2009, there were 4 confirmed Lyme disease cases reported to the Health District.

Public Health Preparedness:

- **Incident Command System Instructor Training** – A PHEP Staff member has successfully completed the Texas Department of Emergency Management Train the Trainer course for Advanced Incident Command Courses (ICS 300, 400). These courses are required of senior level staff members by the National Incident Management System and National Response Plan. This training is

required to be eligible for Emergency Preparedness funds. GCHD now has the local capability to provide these courses to staff and other community responders.

- **Meetings with Emergency Preparedness Partners** - PHEP staff attended the following Preparedness meetings during April 2010. Staff participated as active role players in the Pegasus Group Hurricane Drill with the Port of Galveston. Staff attended a Health Fair at Mall of the Mainland as a part of Public Health Week observances. Staff participated in the After Action Review with other Public Health Responders of the local DSHS region in relation to H1N1 vaccination operations from October 2009, through March of 2010. Staff participated along with Emergency Management Staff from Galveston County in the Houston HGAC regional Review of Concept drill for Hurricane preparedness, April 20-22, 2010.
- **Public Health Emergency Planning Discretionary Grant Receipt** – Public Health Emergency Planning staff has received preliminary approval for three projects in the CDC discretionary Funds Grant Program. These grants are to prepare the District to respond to emergencies where there is a public health threat. The grants must be ratified by the CDC and are scheduled to be awarded by June 1, 2010 with completion by November 30, 2010. The three projects are intended to increase the response capability of the Health District to serve the unincorporated communities, in a manner that is equivalent to responses in more populous parts of the county. The projects include completion of a combination transport and outreach trailer, construction of a second trailer to match the first, and purchase of 800 MHz trunked two way radios to allow for communication in disaster situations with our public safety partners.

Signed RFP's, Grants, Contracts & Agreements: *For more information, please contact Kristina M. Garcia, JD, Compliance Auditor, at (409) 938-2213 or email kgarcia@gchd.org*

- **Service Agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc.** was signed by COO on April 4, 2010. This Contractor will conduct a study to find potential revenue through Medicaid for ambulance services performed by the District. The Contractor will receive 15% of actual revenue that is paid to GCHD as a result of this program for the first 16 quarters, unless agreement is terminated.
- **Amendment to DSHS CHS/Breast and Cervical Cancer Services contract** was signed by COO on April 5, 2010. The purpose of the amendment was to increase funding due to realignment of FY10 funds. The total payments for services provided under program must not exceed \$120,221.00 an increase of \$25,327.00.
- **Amendment to DSHS CHS/Fee for Service contract** was signed by COO on April 8, 2010. The purpose of the amendment was to increase funding due to realignment of FY10 funds. The total payments for services provided under program must not exceed \$93,725.00 an increase of \$4,000.00.
- **Business Associate Agreement with Trevor Washington** was signed by COO on the effective date of April 12, 2010. The agreement is to extract data items from the 4C's current data system for transfer into the NEXTGEN data system.

- **EMS Equipment/ Supplies bid** was awarded to Bound Tree, Zoll and Henry Schein/Matrix, Stryker by COO on April 13, 2010. The term of the contract is May 1, 2010 to May1, 2011.
- **Amendment to DSHS CHS/WIC Local Agency contract** was signed by COO on April 22, 2010. The purpose of the amendment was to increase funding due to realignment of FY10 funds. The total payments for services provided under program must not exceed \$1,030,995.00 an increase of \$63,423.00. The rate per participant was increased from \$10.96 to \$11.22.
- **Public Health Lab Supplies bid** was awarded to Government Scientific and Idexx by COO on April 26, 2010. The term of the contract is April 28, 2010 to April 28, 2011.

Environmental Health Programs – Notices February 2010	
Animal Control (dogs running at large, no registration, cruelty, etc)	60
Air Pollution (violation of state air regulations, permits, excessive emissions, etc)	10
Food Services (violations of food service policy requiring voluntary closure, court actions, etc.)	0
Food Services (letters sent for operating with an expired food service permit)	28
Public Health Nuisances (trash and high weeds, violations of health and safety code)	17
On-Site Septic Systems (violation of on-site policy)	7
Water Pollution (improper disposal, sewage leaks, grease trap violations, etc)	22

*A Monthly Report of
 The Galveston County Health District.
 For more information regarding this document,
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