



January 2011 Executive Report
For Galveston County & Cities

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Pulse of the District...

- **Not too Late to Get a Flu Shot**
- **4C's Considers New Name suggestions from Public**
- **Planning for MidCounty Annex**
- **GCHD Starts a Year of Big System Rollouts**
- **Board Considers Homeowner Maintenance of Septic Systems**
- **Texas City Vital Statistics Merge with GCHD**
- **GCHD partners with BP to Educate Public about Air Quality**

It's Not too Late for a Flu Shot

From October 16 – January 21st, the Health District has received a total of 131 reported cases of influenza infections. Flu season typically runs from early October to as late as March. Because we may not have seen the peak of flu numbers, it's not too late to get protected. Anyone interested in a flu shot may call GCHD Immunization Services at 409-938-2244 for information on where to obtain the vaccine. For further information about the flu, see press release at www.gchd.org/press/2010/LC-Flu-Week-2010.html.

4C's Considers New Name Suggestions from Public

On December 17, 2010, the Governing board issued a press release calling for suggestions from the public for a new name for the 4C's Clinics (www.gchd.org/press/2010/Newclinicname2010.html). As of Jan 25th, 122 suggestions have been submitted from 24 individuals. The Governing Board will consider these suggestions at its January 27th meeting and may select a new name for the federally-qualified clinics for which it sets policy.

Planning for MidCounty Annex

On January 14th, GCHD managers reviewed architectural spaces for the public services they supervise and submitted feedback and questions. Executive office met with the architect and answered many of their questions as well as provided information useful to a design that will facilitate services. Particularly noteworthy new information has been gleaned from changed processes in the 4C's clinic as a result of implementing new electronic systems. The new electronic process allows for differing, more efficient pathways of access to medical services using modern tools.

2011 Begins Transforming IT Rollouts

In 2010, the Health District completed the implementation of the Electronic Practice Management system for the 4C's clinics, Disaster Recovery Phase I and Phase I of the

Accounting software. The following are projects planned for 2011 with estimated completion dates:

- EnvisionConnect Upgrade: This is a general upgrade of environmental health inspection software with various background fixes for completion at the end of January.
- NEXTGEN Upgrade 5.6 SP1: This upgrade must be completed prior to conducting system configuration for electronic health and dental records. The upgrade will also meet federal requirements for Meaningful Use. Completion in February or March.
- Disaster Recovery Phase II: Phase II will complete the duplication of all GCHD data from our current production facility at the Emergency Management Facility to our La Marque location. This will be completed in April.
- NEXTGEN EDR: This will convert the dental clinic to using electronic dental records in April.
- INGEN ILI (Influenza Like Illness): This will allow access to the surveillance database which will allow us to track Influenza Like Illness from local ISD's electronically. Estimated completion date is in April
- ShelterPro: This software will assist in tracking incoming animals, adoptions, donations, and will also assist in producing reports by cities of calls, complaints and other activities performed by staff. Estimated completion date is in May.
- NEXTGEN – EHR: This will convert the medical clinic to using electronic health records with interfaces for prescriptions, lab results, digital x-rays, etc... in June.
- Accufund Phase II: Phase II will include projects for the set up of a HR module, Fixed Asset tracking, Budget Development, Cash Drawers, External Accounting Interfaces (NEXTGEN, EnvisionConnect, ShelterPro, etc) and Report and Forms creation. Completion dates will vary for various parts of the project with the entire project completed in August.
- Merging Telecommunication: This project is to merge telecommunication systems with the county when the new Animal Resource Center and Mid County Annex is built. Dates of completion will depend on the completion of the two facilities.
- ESO Upgrade 4.0: This upgrade will improve the flow of inputting patient care information by EMS field staff and has improved ability to monitor for quality assurance. Estimated completion date is October.

Board Considers Homeowner Maintenance of Septic Systems

The January 26th United Board of Health's agenda included the Board considering to amend the policy (On-Site Sewage Facilities) to provide a pathway for homeowners to maintain their own septic system in accordance with state law. Due to a no quorum the Executive Committee will consider the amendment. Two options for homeowners will be considered. Should the Board's Executive Committee proceed with considering a policy amendment, a Notice of a Public Hearing to be held at the Board's February 23rd meeting will be published in the local newspaper. After the public hearing, the board may proceed to obtain comments on the proposal from local governments in the District for review and deliberation at its March 30th meeting where a final decision may be made.

Vital Statistic Merger

On December 15, 2010, a merger of Texas City and GCHD's Vital Statistics services became effective. GCHD now serves as the Local Registrar of all birth and death records in the county and issues birth and death records according to state laws and local fees. The merging of the Vital Statistics records allows Texas City residents to obtain legal or certified records of birth and death records at any of the current 3 locations (Texas City, Galveston, or La Marque). Upon the relocation of La Marque offices to the Mid County Annex planned for late 2011, all Vital Statistic services will be provided in 1 location - Mid County Annex.

BP and Health District Partnership

The Galveston County Health District's Environmental Health Services will work with BP Corporation to educate the public about issues of air quality and health. Problem pollutants released both outdoors and indoors will be addressed in the brochure as well as human health impacts, things one can do to minimize exposure and resources for healthcare professionals. Plans are to distribute the information by website, mail outs, handouts in offices of government services and healthcare facilities, and distribution at community gatherings.

Office of Public Information

- A **flu shot clinic** held in League City for north county residents was announced in a press release issued December 8th. The release can be found at www.gchd.org/press/2010/LC-Flu-Week-2010.html.
- A decision to rename the **4C's clinics** and an opportunity for the public to suggest new names was the subject of a press release issued December 17th. The release www.gchd.org/press/2010/Newclinicname2010.html looked at the reasons prompting Governing Board members to decide now is a good time for a renaming of the clinics located in Texas City and Galveston.
- A **public health services** one-page informational flyer has been incorporated into the District's welcome page on the website; with question such as, who we are, where we came from, what we do, and where are we going. The information on the page can be found at www.gchd.org/admin/welcome.htm.
- The 4C's Clinics site on GCHD's webpage has also been updated. The new pages and information can be located on the web at www.gchd.org/4cs/index.htm.
- On January 23rd the *Galveston County Daily News* published a lifestyles story on proper **nutrition for dogs** that included tips on the best things to feed mans-best-friend. GCHD Epidemiologist Dr. Dana Beckham contributed to the story which can be seen at www.gchd.org/press/2011/good-bad-dogfood.html.

4C's Clinic Updates

- **Status of 4C's Billing and Collections in NEXTGEN** – Executive Staff continue to monitor and resolve billing and collections issues as they arise, continuing to work aggressively with managers to keep Billing and Collections on track. At the same time, cross training of staff continues with all staff in all billing areas. In our new system, from December 1st to January 21st, there has been 10,748 Self Pay encounters created of

which 8,294 statements have been mailed to patients and 2,685 encounters needing no further action due to charges adjusting off. In addition, 12,432 Self Pay statements from the old practice management system have been mailed out. Collections from our new system from October 19, 2010 to January 21st, include 8924 Self Pay statements billed with \$133,732 collected, 317 Medicaid claims billed with \$21,147.23 collected, 127 claims for Medicare with \$8,016.24 collected, and 52 Commercial claims billed with \$2,286.44 collected. We also continue to receive payments from charges processed through our old billing system. From October 19, 2010 to January 21, 2011, we collected \$12,109 in Self Pay payments, \$162,648 in Medicaid, \$53,658 in Medicare, and \$9,300 in commercial insurance payments from charges billed prior to October 19th.

- **Phase TWO EMR Planning Continues** – The EMR Core Group met with our NEXTGEN project coordinator, Lisa Ford on January 19th. The visit included an overview of the company's website and online support center, a presentation on EMR methodologies and a tour of the Texas City clinic to provide Ms. Ford an idea of the 4C's process. The meeting concluded with an overview of milestones which need to be completed prior to Go Live in mid year 2011.
- **The Title V Audit** - On January 14, 2011 auditors from the Department of State Health Services Region 6/5S in Houston spent a few hours at the Galveston Clinic reviewing well child and dental charts for Title V and Medical patients. Eligibility determinations and billing were also reviewed. The auditors had no findings in the dental charts, and few findings for medical clinical documentation and eligibility determination. The reviewers stated that documentation has improved greatly over the past six months; however, a written report is expected with any identified findings that 4C's must correct.
- **Nursing Director** - Paula Burleson, RN started as the 4C's Clinic Nursing Director on January 12. Ms. Burleson brings experience in nursing management in the fields of dialysis and nephrology, home health and medical devices. Ms. Burleson has worked in nursing for the past 16 years. She reports to the 4C's Medical director, Dr. Alhassan, and will join the team working on implementing the new NextGen Electronic Health Record.

Office of Community Health Services

- **Immunization Program** - Celebrated National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) on December 5-11, 2010. Staff mailed out NIVW information and pamphlets to Vaccine For Children (VFC) providers and school districts. Staff also, displayed NIVW materials in the Immunization Clinics and scheduled two special flu vaccine clinics in League City and Kemah. Immunization Services administered a total of 974 shots in December and 814 in January.
- **Senior Health Outreach** – In the months of December and January, 168 seniors were educated on Dealing with Mental Health and Stress (December) and Preparing Wills, Deeds and Power of Attorney (January).
- **Women Infant Children (WIC)** – On January 11, 2011 WIC staff attended a Breastfeeding Training entitled, "Using Loving Support to Grow and Glow in WIC". The training was held at the Hilton Galveston Island Resort and focused on training educators to attain proficiency in the skills required to promote and support breastfeeding. On January 13-14 the WIC Program Manager attended a mandatory DSHS Breastfeeding training entitled, "Lactation Counseling and Problem Solving". The course is designed for health professionals who counsel breastfeeding mothers and would like to improve problem solving skills. The emphasis is in critical thinking, prevention of problems, enhancing mother-baby-relationships and facilitating early management.

- **WIC Collaborating with Teen Parenting Programs** - WIC's outreach team has had the opportunity to provide nutrition and breastfeeding education to the Galveston County High Schools teen parenting programs. During these visits, WIC has noticed a strong need for more breastfeeding education for both the teen parents and their coordinators. WIC's outreach team has scheduled meetings and developed proposed lessons and activities to increase breastfeeding numbers and educate participants on benefits and myths of breastfeeding.
- **BCCS and DFEET** - DFEET/BCCS programs provided 88 clinical breast exams (CBES) and 103 screening mammograms for December 2010 and for January 2011 88 CBES and 69 screening mammograms. Thus far, a total of 3 patients have been diagnosed with breast cancers for January 2011. For the year 2010, 18 patients have been diagnosed with breast cancer through funding provided by BCCS and DFEET program services. Patients that have been diagnosed with cancer are registered with Medicaid by BCCS staff to follow up with a specialist that will proceed with treatment.
- **TB Program Update** - The TB Department currently has 7 cases (4 suspects and 3 confirmed) of TB for whom staff is providing Directly Observed Therapy. Galveston County is considered to be a county of relatively low TB prevalence; however, each case of TB and their contacts require investigation, screening and often lengthy treatments and follow-up in order to protect the public's health. The number of active TB cases in Galveston County in the past few years is 20 in 2005, 17 in 2006, 18 in 2007, 23 in 2008, 12 in 2009, and 7 in 2010.

Office of Environmental Health Services

- **Animal Seizure** – Following a citizen complaint and subsequent investigation, Animal Services obtained a seizure warrant from Judge Nelson that was served by Precinct 4 Constable Jimmy Fullen's office on an animal hoarder in the City of Santa Fe. Upon arrival, several loose dogs were observed in and outside the residence. Thirteen (13) large dogs were captured and several attempts were made to capture the remaining dogs running loose in a heavily wooded area with no success. It is estimated that approximately ten (10) dogs are still loose near this residence. Two bodies of deceased dogs were found at the rear of the property and collected for possible evidence. Following a court appearance with the animal's owners, the Health District was granted possession of the dogs. Animal Control Officers continue to work with nearby neighbors to capture the remaining dogs.
- **Emu Found Roaming Streets of San Leon** - While Animal Control Officer Tim Hall was patrolling the San Leon area, he came upon an emu running amok on the streets of San Leon. ACO Hall was able to catch the Emu, wrestle it to the ground, and tied up its feet to avoid injury. With assistance from other Animal Control Officers, the Emu was transported safely to the Animal Shelter. Eventually, ACO Hall was able to find the owner of the Emu who after paying fees transported the Emu back to its confinement. The owner explained that the Emu escaped through the fence that was in need of repair. The repaired containment was inspected by our ACO's to assure proper containment.
- **Table Top Drill** – Jack Ellison and Ronnie Schultz participated in the Port of Texas City Security Council's annual security exercise at the Doyle Center in Texas City. This year's exercise, presented in a tabletop (discussion-based) format, focused on the response to a rogue vessel approaching the Port of Texas City. The drill emphasized preparations for the impending arrival of a rogue vessel, the initial steps in a region-wide response to a report of a rogue vessel and the various responsibilities (governmental and non-governmental) for handling a rogue vessel approaching the port. The exercise will build on two drills conducted in the port earlier this year and is intended to lay the

groundwork for a follow-on functional exercise next year. The functional exercise will include a threat that may adversely affect environmental health in the County.

Office of Emergency Medical Services

- **Galveston Island State Park Run** – GAAA provided a crew at the 5K and 10K run at the Galveston Island State Park on January 8th. The run was sponsored by Friends of the Park.
- **Funeral Coverage** – Texas Department of Transportation asked GAAA to participate in the planning of the large funeral procession for fallen University of Houston police officer Ann O'Donnell. A GAAA ambulance was at the rear of the procession that went from Trinity Episcopal Church in Galveston to Mount Olivet Cemetery in Dickinson to meet any medical needs that may occur during the funeral.
- **UMTB College of Surgeons Meeting** - GAAA Medical Director Dr. James Vincent and EMS Director Trey Frankovich met with the American College of Surgeons on January 9th along with the staff and administration of UTMB to answer questions the ACS had about the University's trauma services as UTMB moves towards renewing their level 1 trauma status.

Disease and Disaster Preparedness:

Epidemiology

- **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Taskforce** – On January 12th, 2011, the taskforce met in Galveston to update the group on activities related to lead poisoning prevention. The Galveston County Health District and Galveston Housing Authority gave updates. The Center to Eliminate Health Disparities presented results on Childhood Lead Exposure in Galveston, Texas 2006 – 2008. The next meeting will be in April.
- **Elevated Lead Levels – (Galveston - 4 and La Marque - 1)** – In December, Epidemiology Services received 5 confirmed Elevated Blood Lead Level (EBLL) reports in Galveston county residents. This brings the total of confirmed EBLL cases in Galveston County to 18 cases for 2010. All cases have been referred to Community Health Nursing for a home assessment. Two of the 5 new cases were referred to Environmental Services for an environmental lead investigation due to levels exceeding 20 µg/dL. The following is a demographic breakdown of the all EBLL cases: 12 males and 6 females ranging from 13 months – 6 years; (12) **Galveston (77550)**; (1) **Galveston (77551)**; (1) **La Marque**; (2) **Hitchcock**; (1) **Kemah** and (1) **League City**.
- **Gastro-Intestinal Illness Cluster – (Texas City)** - On December 16, 2010, Epidemiology Services received a report that 34 attendees of a neighborhood meeting and dinner held December 15th became ill with gastrointestinal symptoms. Epidemiological investigation revealed the onset of loose stools were 4-17 hours with symptoms lasted from 1-48 hours. Environmental Consumer Health conducted an inspection at the facility that catered the event. Results of the investigation revealed no significant findings or violations.
- **Public Health Advisories** – On January 11th and 14th, Epidemiology Services disseminated public health advisories to hospitals, healthcare providers, school nurses and emergency departments on the MMWR Erratum for STD Treatment Guidelines and CDC Guidance on Use of Flu Antiviral Agents, respectively. The Erratum for STD Treatment Guidelines acknowledged incorrect dosages given and recommended the correct regimen for treating uncomplicated gonococcal infections. The CDC Guidance on Use of Flu Antiviral Agents, contained information on treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza virus infection, and also provide a summary of the effectiveness and safety of antiviral medications.

Public Health Preparedness

- **Meetings with Emergency Preparedness Partners** - PHEP staff attended the following Preparedness meetings during December/January 2010/2011. PHEP staff attended the All Hazards Summit in Houston December 9, 2010. Staff participated in the Regional Pandemic Influenza Response planning meeting on December 13, 2010. Staff participated in a PHEP Statewide Conference call on December 14, 2010. PHEP staff participated in the Psychological Impacts of Disasters II webinar presented by Nat'l Assoc. of Community Health Centers (NACHC) December 15, 2010. PHEP Staff attended the Regional SNS Coordinators, Public Health Planners, and Hospital/Treatment Center Coordinators (Catastrophic Medical Operations Center CMOCC Coordinators) meeting in Houston on January 4, 2011. PHEP conducted a Technical Assistant Review of GCHD SNS Plans with the Department of State Health Services representatives on January 13, 2011.
- **HEART-MRC Recruitment Drive** – Staff participated in the Regional 6 Talon MRC conference call on December 9, 2010. Staff participated in the TX MRC conference call on December 13, 2010. GCHD HEART-MRC received a \$5000.00 MRC Capacity Building Award (CBA) from National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) on January 4, 2011. This program is an affiliate of the Citizen Corp's Medical Reserve Corps. The program is intended to develop a base of volunteers in the community to respond in Public Health Emergencies to assist GCHD staff in response. HEART-MRC has a presentation which consists of a Power Point slideshow and 10-15 minute talk on the need for HEART in our community and PHEP staff members are available to make this presentation to any group who desires to see it.
- **Bio-Watch Exercise** – PHEP staff members are participating in planning for a Regional Exercise of the Bio-Watch system. This late winter exercise will test a full scale response to detection of a Biological agent being dispersed in the region. Detection, notification, decision-making and response are all components of the exercise which will occur over three days. The date for the exercise is February 15-17, 2011.

Signed RFP's, Grants, Contracts & Agreements:

(Time period November 2010 – January 2011)

GENERAL (applies to both boards)

1. **Office Supplies bid was awarded to Quill and Standard Stationary** by COO on December 6, 2010. The contract is for one year beginning December 7, 2010 to December 7, 2011.
2. **Addendum to the Agreement between Up To Date and Galveston County Health District** was executed on December 16, 2010. The addendum reflects a one year subscription price of \$5,000. The term is for one year from February 2, 2011 to January 31, 2012.

UBOH

1. **An Interlocal Agreement between City of Texas City and Galveston County Health District** authorizing the consolidation of Texas City and GCHD birth and death records was signed by Chairperson of United Board of Health on December 8, 2010 and adopted by the City of Texas City Council on December 15, 2010.
2. **Agreement for the Provision of Ambulance Services between The Meridian and Galveston Area Ambulance Authority** was signed by COO on December 9, 2010. The Meridian shall compensate GCHD based on ambulance transportation rates.
3. **Agreement for the Provision of Ambulance Services between Ashton Park Care Center and Galveston Area Ambulance Authority** was signed by COO on December 9, 2010. Ashton Park shall compensate GCHD based on ambulance transportation rates.

4. **Amendment to the Department of State Health Services funding grant for Community Preparedness Section/ Public Health Emergency Response** was signed by COO on January 13, 2011. This amendment is to redirect funds from categories and focus areas to purchase additional equipment and supplies.

Governing Board

5. **Addendum to Data Processing Services Agreement between Indigent Health Solutions and Galveston County Health District** was signed by COO on December 7, 2010. The addendum adds one additional concurrent user for \$407.00/month effective January 1, 2011.
6. **Consulting Services Agreement between Ionet Health Resources and Galveston County Health District** was signed by COO on December 22, 2010. Contracted hourly rate will be \$150/hour and any travel expenses, although travel is not anticipated at this time. This agreement begins January 1, 2011.
7. **Medical Products Donation Program Agreement between Direct Relief USA and Galveston County Health District** was signed by CEO on January 10, 2011. Direct Relief will donate medical goods to be dispensed to uninsured low-income individuals who are patients at the 4Cs Clinic.
8. **Independent Professional Contract for a Managing Pharmacist between Don DePasqual, R.Ph., and Galveston County Health District** was signed by COO January 13, 2011. Payment for services will be made at the rate of \$24,771.00 per month. The contract is from November 4, 2010 to February 1, 2011.
9. **Placement Agreement between The Dental Solution, Inc. and Galveston County Health District** was signed by COO on January 19, 2011. Temporary placement fees vary depending on position and hourly or daily compensation. The contract is for two years beginning March 9, 2011.

Pending Signatures

10. **A Breast Cancer Screening Diagnostic and Interpretation Service Agreement between Mainland Radiological Association and Galveston County Health District** was signed by COO on December 7, 2010.
11. **A Breast Cancer Screening Services and Diagnostic Service Agreement between Mainland Medical Center and Galveston County Health District** was signed by COO on December 7, 2010.
12. **Memorandum of Understanding for Non-emergency Supplementation between Galveston Area Ambulance Authority and North Star EMS** was signed by COO on January 3, 2010.
13. **Memorandum of Understanding for Non-emergency Supplementation between Galveston Area Ambulance Authority and Titan** was signed by COO on January 3, 2010.
14. **Personnel Supply Agreement between Certified and Galveston County Health District** was signed by COO on November 30, 2010.
15. **Modification to Subcontract under Texas Health and Human Services Commission Social Services Block Grant issued by University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston with Galveston County Health District as subcontractor** was signed by COO on January 13, 2011. The subcontract is modified to extend completion date to September 30, 2011.

Environmental Health Programs – Notices December 2010		
	Month	Average
Animal Control (dogs running at large, no registration, cruelty, etc)	119	69
Air Pollution (violation of state air regulations, permits, excessive emissions, etc)	3	5
Food Services (violations of food service policy requiring voluntary closure, court actions, etc.)	1	0.25
Food Services (letters sent for operating with an expired food service permit)	37	16
Public Health Nuisances (trash and high weeds, violations of health and safety code)	10	19
On-Site Septic Systems (violation of on-site policy)	11	7
Water Pollution (improper disposal, sewage leaks, grease trap violations, etc)	8	7



STOP THE FLU!

Galveston County Health District
409-938-7221 • Wash your hands • Stay home if sick
 www.gchd.org • Cover your cough • Flu Shot

*A Monthly Report of
 The Galveston County Health District.
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