



**Executive Report to the Galveston County United Board of Health
August 29, 2007**

After Action – Hurricane Dean

On Friday, August 17th at 3pm, with the threat of Hurricane Dean making landfall in the Galveston area, key District staff met to activate emergency plans, establish command, and assign roles in accordance with the Incident Command System (ICS) as staff were instructed from recent ICS 300 training. Some of the steps taken to prepare for the storm included: participating in conference calls, backing-up key databases, preparing public health messages, assigning EMS crews for medical evacuations, and testing back-up power systems. Throughout the time of a possible threat, management and staff were given regular updates regarding the status of the storm and local and state preparations. On Sunday, August 19th at 4:30 p.m., with Hurricane Dean no longer a threat to Galveston County, emergency operations ceased and returned to normal. Lessons learned from Hurricane Dean preparations included: IT back-up may take more time to complete than expected; public information was available by hard copy and saved on a zip drive in the event the Public Information Officer is unable to access the network; Health District staff and county/state agencies maintained good communications.

GCHD Billboards

Two new billboards were recently unveiled promoting important Health District programs - immunizations and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Galveston County Judge Jim Yarbrough is featured on one board at 2222 Highway 146 promoting and recruiting for the MRC which trains community volunteers to assist GCHD in a variety of disasters and public health threats. A grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) provided the funding for the MRC billboard. The second billboard located at I-45 just south of FM 2004 encourages families to immunize their children on time made possible by additional funding from DSHS. Both billboards help the Health District to meet its goal of improving public awareness of services provided, improving immunization rates and being prepared for disaster responses by recruiting community volunteers. The Immunization billboard can be viewed at <http://www.gchd.org/chn/IMM.htm>.

Kids's Health Fest – Back to School Immunization

This event was held August 9-29, 2007. The Dickinson and Texas City clinics were combined into one immunization clinic, providing shots (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.) at the Headquarters in La Marque. The Galveston clinic was also providing immunizations on Mondays and Wednesday during this time period. This is a yearly event focused on providing required immunizations for children returning to school after summer break. It is an awesome opportunity to get children up to date on their vaccinations. As of August 28, 2007, 3,450 shots have been given and 114 TB test were administered.

New United Board of Health Member – Nursing Representative

After representing the nursing community for five years United Board of Health member Jan Winnike, RN, recently resigned. Filling the vacant position is Paulette Roberson, BSN. Ms. Roberson is a certified Nurse Administrator and Nurse Manager in UTMB's Behavioral Medicine Nursing Department. When a vacancy

occurs on the Board, Commissioners Court nominates a new member, subject to approval by a majority (7) of member cities. Approvals received for Ms. Roberson's nomination thus far include the cities of *Jamaica Beach, La Marque, Kemah, Friendswood, Dickinson, Bayou Vista and Hitchcock*. Her new term will expire June 2009.

New 4C's Governing Board Member – Community Representative

Harvey Bazaman resigned his position in June after serving his three year term. Donald S. Glywasky was nominated by the United Board of Health and unanimously approved by the Governing Board to fill this position effective August 1, 2007. Mr. Glywasky is an attorney who has worked for the Galveston County Legal Department for 22 years. He is licensed to practice in all Texas State Courts as well as the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, the US District Court for the Western District of Texas and the US Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. He is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law.

City of Galveston EMS Stations

Galveston City Councilman Danny Weber, Sr. made inquiries of Health District staff about the condition of two city owned buildings which are used by GAAA for providing EMS response in Galveston. The two buildings are located at 5001 Avenue Q-1/2 and at 2602 Avenue Q. Councilman Weber requested the Health District attend the workshop meeting with the City Council on August 23, 2007. Harlan "Mark" Guidry, MD, MPH, Chief Executive Officer, Warren J. Holland, III, COO, Kathy Barroso, CFO, and Mike Carr, JD, EMS Director met with the Galveston City Council. During the meeting, the discussion addressed deficiencies in the City owned buildings. Current status of the facilities was discussed as well as responsibility for major repairs. The City has a long term goal of building a combination Fire and EMS facility near 54th street and Broadway. There was a discussion of short term solutions which resulted in an agreement for the Health District to continue assessment efforts and meet with the City Manager to develop a solution to be brought back to the City Council in September. The Health District welcomed an idea to form an EMS advisory group for the City of Galveston EMS (a contract service) as a forum to share information and plan for a variety of operational issues. As part of the assessment, a full briefing will be given to United Board of Health during the August 29th board meeting, including a history of the building, maintenance cost by the Health District, and next steps with the City of Galveston.

Public Hearing: Proposed Animal Service Policy/Regulations

Notice of a Public Hearing regarding the revised **Animal Services Policy** was posted on the GCHD web site July 27th. The hearing will take place at the United Board of Health meeting to be held on August 29th. New revisions to the policy include clarification of the requirement to have pets registered and licensed within thirty (30) days for a person establishing residency in Galveston County. Previous revisions include requirements on the number of animals that can be kept, dangerous dog requirements, adoption and sterilization requirements, the keeping of dangerous wild animals, and new kennel permit requirements. The policy applies to unincorporated areas of Galveston County and the following cities under contract the *Cities of Bayou Vista, Clear Lake Shores, Dickinson, Hitchcock, Kemah, La Marque, Santa Fe, Texas City, and Tiki Island*. Cities may elect to have additional or more stringent requirements. The notice is located at www.gchd.org/press/2007/08AnimalServicesHearing.htm.

4C's Dental Services Review

A review of the 4C's Dental Services was initiated on April 20, 2007. Areas of review included *Mission and Business, Access to Care, and Human Resources*. There were many findings identified which will improve customer service, productivity, and human resources. A full briefing of findings will be given to the 4C's Governing Board on Thursday, August 30, 2007. Following review by the Board, the

findings and recommendations will be shared with dental staff and an implementation timeline will be developed by the clinic leadership team.

Office of Public Information: *For more information, please contact Kurt Koopmann, Public Information Officer, at (409) 938-2211 or email (kkoopman@gchd.org).*

- **Beach Watch** advisories are being issued on a regular basis and continue to generate media interest. Advisories are distributed to the GCHD Electronic Mail recipients and interested community leaders. They are also posted on the GCHD web site www.gchd.org/pollution/BeachAdvisory.htm. Most recently KHOU Channel 11 researchers have been requesting information for a special report to be aired in the future.
- An annual **Back-to-School** immunizations press release was issued on July 27th stressing the importance of immunizing children on time. The press release is posted at www.gchd.org/press/2007/2007Backtoschool.htm.
- Public information contributed information for the most recent edition of **The Jesse Tree Journal** which has been distributed widely in Galveston County. Information included a telephone list of more commonly called telephone numbers and also Health/Safety Tips for residents after a hurricane.
- Public Information Officer Kurt Koopmann was the guest speaker at a monthly meeting of the **Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce**. Information was presented on the *Strategic Health Plan* and services offered by the Galveston County Health District. District brochures were distributed along with information on the Galveston County Medical Reserve Corps.
- Applications for **Webmaster** have been received and are in the process of being reviewed to determine who will be interviewed.

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).*

- **Primary Health Care** -The 4C's has been awarded a Primary Health Care Grant in the amount of \$100,000. The purpose of this grant is to fund 25 % of a mid-level provider, 25% of support staff, 50% of eligibility staff and 40% of accounting staff to provide primary care services to eligible clients. For a person to be eligible for services under this program they must not have any insurance, be screened ineligible for Medicaid/CHIP and have an income at or below 150% FPL or less. The funds awarded are less than requested in the original grant application, revisions have been made and we are currently awaiting final contracts from DSHS. Prior to signing the final contracts some procedural questions need DSHS clarification. Pam Jahnke, RN, Strategic Health Evaluator is compiling together a list of these issues for review by Executive Officers.
- **Title V Grants** - The 4C's has been awarded a Title V grant in the amount of \$97,944 from the Department of State Health Services. The purpose of this grant is to provide fee for service primary care and dental services to eligible clients. This amount is less than requested in the original grant application, revisions have been made and we are currently awaiting final contracts from DSHS. As with the Primary Health Care grant, prior to signing the final contracts some procedural questions need DSHS clarification. Pam Jahnke, RN, Strategic Health Evaluator is compiling together a list of these questions for review by Executive Officers.
- **Hepatitis C Collaboration with UTMB** - A Case Manager is assisting patients referred from a UTMB study to access clinic services for Hepatitis C. The patients, who have been screened through the study, will be assisted with registration and get an appointment at the clinic to assess possible

liver disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hepatitis C is a disease of the liver caused by the HCV virus and may cause chronic infection and chronic liver disease.

- **Donations** – In the month of August, 2007, 4C's received another donation from Direct Relief estimated at \$650,403.42, including medications, supplies, and reference books to assist providers.
- **Stress and Health Research** – The Stress and Health Study previously approved by the Governing Board is under way and has received a positive reception from 4C's patients in both the Galveston and Texas City clinics. The UTMB Stress and Health Study has been designed to obtain information that will identify the relationship between chronic stressors and the use of substances such as tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and ecstasy by young women between the ages of 18 and 30 in order to decrease and control how often these substances are used.
- **EverCare (United Health Care) Site Visit** - On August 10, 2007, an initial site visit to establish a contract to see EverCare covered patients was conducted to review access and compliance with expected standards which resulted in no findings. We anticipate being able to bill for EverCare patient visits in the near future.

Office of Community Health Services: *For more information, please contact Cassandra Arceneaux, MD, MPH, Director of Community Health Services at (409) 938-2457 or email carceneaux@gchd.org.*

- **World Breastfeeding Day Celebration** – The Annual WIC World Breastfeeding Day Celebration was held on August 1, 2007 at Galveston Island Community Center. The purpose of this event is to bring awareness and to educate Galveston County on the importance of breastfeeding through joining forces with other health professionals. The agenda included educational presentations by Juliet Mckee M.D., Family Practitioner from UTMB, and Sharon Lazorwitz, WIC's Lactation Consultant. In addition to the WIC Program and Children Services, Immunizations, Tuberculosis, Public Health Preparedness, and D'Feet Breast Cancer Screening Program from GCHD participated in this fun filled day. Approximately 100 community members attended the event.
- **Changes in STD/HIV Community Services** – As a result of the loss of HIV education funding, the STD/HIV Program held a luncheon with several community partners to inform them of its current status at the Island Community Center in Galveston on August 23, 2007. Pathway to Recovery, Bay Area Recovery, ADA House, the Galveston County Jail, St. Vincent's House and the Gulf Coast Center were in attendance. The goal of this meeting was to establish who would provide the services formerly provided by Health District which included individual and group HIV education and HIV, syphilis, and Hepatitis C testing. It was decided that the Gulf Coast Centers would offer education and HIV testing though syphilis and Hepatitis C screening would not be provided. They will work with Pathway to Recovery, Bay Area Recovery, and ADA House to provide the available services. The STD/HIV Program Staff will continue to offer HIV and syphilis testing at the County Jail and once a month at the Lafitte's Club with funding from the Department of State Health Services STD program. Planned Parenthood has developed an agreement with St. Vincent's House to offer testing for HIV and syphilis on Monday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. All groups will meet at a later date to assess the progress of this arrangement.
- **BCCS/WIC DSHS Audit** - The Department of State Health Services reviewed the Breast and Cervical Cancer Services and Women Infants and Children Programs on August 6-8th. The WIC program was verbally commended by staff auditors. DSHS will send an official written report of their findings in six weeks and we will have six weeks from that time to respond.
- **Health Fair Participation** - Staff participated in the following events: 1) Interfaith Caring Ministries: Through the Blane Grant from the Space Center Rotary Club, Interfaith Caring Ministries provided 25 people with 75 immunizations. 2) Mall of the Mainland Immunization Awareness Event:

The GCHD Imm Trac booth saw 160 people and was able to review immunization records with 60 participants and provide 11 individuals with a total of 34 immunizations; and 3) NAACP Back to School/Stay in School Info Fair. The NAACP sponsored this event at Dunbar Middle School where 16 people received 41 needed vaccinations on August 18th

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*

- **Dickinson Bayou Watershed Advisory Committee-** Ronnie Schultz attended the August 21, 2007 meeting of the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Advisory Group which provides direction and advice to the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership. This partnership of federal, state, and local governments, private organizations and citizens will review and approve a comprehensive Watershed Protection Plan designed to improve water quality in the Bayou. At the advisory committee meeting, the review of each Workgroup's rough draft of the "State of the Watershed" portion of the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Protection Plan.
- **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Air Monitoring Audit** – The TCEQ conducted an annual audit of the Particulate Matter Monitoring program. This programmatic audit reviewed data collected by the Air and Water Pollution Services Division for data completeness, precision and accuracy. No major findings were verbally cited by TCEQ during the exit interview. The program was commended for its tracking database which TCEQ intends to share with other regions in the state.
- **Animal Shelter Donation** – Ms. Wydell Dixon, owner of Whiskerville Animal Sanctuary in Texas City donated \$250 dollars worth of flea control medication to the Joe Vickery Animal Shelter. This medication will be put to good use on the animals as they are received at the shelter. This is the second donation from Ms. Dixon and the Whiskerville Animal Sanctuary, the first being a microchip scanner.

Office of Emergency Medical Services: *For more information, please contact Mike Carr, JD, EMS Director, (409) 765-2524 or mcarr@gchd.org*

- **Community Outreach** – GAAA EMS Director Michael Carr gave a talk on accessing Emergency Medical Services to Senior Citizens at the Bacliff Seniors Center on August 2, 2007. The group discussed access numbers, injury prevention and the "Vial of Life" emergency information program.
- **Move of Bacliff EMS Station** – GAAA is preparing to move from its current station that is rented from the Bacliff Volunteer Fire Department. The Bacliff VFD is selling the building and will host a temporary facility on their station property at 800 Grand Avenue until the permanent station facility is completed on an adjacent site. The construction is expected to take 3 to 6 months to complete. The move is expected to be completed by August 28th.
- **Staffing Update** – There are currently 23 vacant full time positions in the EMS area. We are currently checking references on four applicants and have testing and interviews scheduled for an additional four full time applicants.

Disease & Disaster Preparedness *for additional information, contact Dana Beckham, DVM, Director of Disease and Disaster Preparedness, at (409) 938-2322 or email dbeckham@gchd.org.*

- **Measles Scare** - On August 15, 2007, Epidemiology Services received a report from a local day care in Texas City reporting a confirmed measles case. Investigation revealed the child had a measles vaccination reaction. The day care sent a letter out to parents stating they had a confirmed measles

case. In turn, the Health District sent a letter to the day care educating them on the role of the Health District regarding notifiable conditions and offered technical assistance when needed. The day care sent a retraction letter to the parents.

- **West Nile Virus Infection** - August 21, 2007, Epidemiology Services received a report of a 44 year old male resident of Galveston County diagnosed with West Nile fever. Investigation reveals the patient's occupation exposed him at 90 % outdoor activity and travel to areas where arboviral infections are endemic, such as, yellow fever, dengue fever and West Nile virus. This is Galveston County's first 2007 West Nile Virus infection in humans. West Nile Virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Less than 1% of people who get bitten and become infected will get severely ill. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention categorizes West Nile infections as fever or neuron-invasive, depending on symptoms of individual.

Trainings/Meetings:

- **Medical Reserve Corp Activities** - On August 1 and 4, the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) sponsored information tables at the WIC World Breastfeeding Day held at the Island Community Center and Mall of the Mainland Health Fair, respectively. Public Health Preparedness, MRC, Pandemic Influenza, 211 information/brochures and a list emergency kit supplies were distributed to approximately 166 participants at both fairs. On August 9, 2007, the Medical Reserve Corps held their quarterly meeting at the Health District's Headquarters with 14 attendees. An orientation power-point, MRC guidelines, trainings, recruitment, community involvement and dress-code were discussed. Currently, the Galveston County MRC has 68 members.
- **Galveston County Emergency Response Collaborative** - The Galveston County Emergency Response Collaborative (GCERC) met on August 9th. David Popoff, Regional Liaison Officer with the Governor's Division of Emergency Management, conducted a presentation about the recent floods in Marble Falls. The presentation emphasized how emergency managers used local coordination and incident command to achieve an effective response. Also during the meeting, Mike Scott with the Galveston County Emergency Communications Group provided a presentation that illustrated the role HAM operators can play in providing communications during an emergency.
- **2 Day Training on Incident Command Structure** -On August 14th & 15th, the Incident Command Structure (ICS) 300 course was held at the Galveston County Health District. Mr. David Popoff, the Regional Liaison Officer was the instructor. There were 22 participants including GCHD, DSHS and NASA employees. The course is targeted to middle and upper management 1st responders and consists of Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents. The training allowed the Health District's 1st responders to apply their skills during Hurricane Dean preparedness.
- **Regional Pandemic Flu Exercise** - On August 16th approximately 250 individuals from jurisdictions around Southeast Texas participated in a regional pandemic flu exercise at the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe. GCHD Public Health Preparedness staff along with representatives from UTMB, Mainland Medical Center, Devereux Treatment Network, Dickinson ISD, the Galveston County Office of Emergency Management, the Red Cross, *City of League City* EMS, the Galveston County Extension Office, BP, Valero, and Dow Chemical actively participated in the event. Aspects of response tested included: epidemiological investigation, regional coordination, public information, social distancing measures, priority groups for antiviral distribution, incident command structure, and the request for additional resources.
- **Animal Issues Committee** - The Galveston County Animal Issues Committee met on August 22nd. In this meeting the group worked to finalize an agreement with the Humane Society of the US and Habitat for Horses for the care of animals after a hurricane, shared resources for public education, discussed potential sites for staging and sheltering companion animals and livestock, and made

recommendations for information to be included in a resource list to be shared with committee representatives.

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

- **The Work Source Agreement** was signed by COO on August 7, 2007. GCHD agrees to provide work experience and professional supervision to youth interns referred to the Health District. This agreement continues unless notice of termination is given by either party within 30-days.
- **AMI Dental and Patterson Dental** was awarded the 1-year Dental Equipment/Supply bid. COO approved award on August 21, 2007.
- **Department of State Health Services Immunization Grant** was signed by COO on August 24, 2007. The \$239,845 in funding provides for personnel, fringe benefits, travel, and supplies in order to implement the immunization program for children, adolescents, and adults. The term for this grant is September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008.
- **Tuberculosis Budget** - The Tuberculosis Program recently submitted the federal funding budget for the 2008 Fiscal Year. At the request of the Department of State Health Services, two budgets were prepared and submitted. One for \$46,249.00 which is the same as current year dollars and one for \$99,736.00 in case additional funds are made available from the Feds. The 2008 fiscal year is from January to December. We will be made aware of the allocated funds by the end of 2007.