



Executive Report to the Galveston County United Board of Health
November 28, 2007

New Community Partnerships

Dr. Guidry gave a presentation about his career and the role of public health physicians to UTMB medical students in a new organization, Public Health Organization on November 2, 2007. The students were delighted and interested in public health rotation and projects offered at GCHD. As a follow-up to other community presentations, Dr. Guidry and staff meet with Dr. David McCormick and a staff member of the “Fit N’ Fun” program at YMCA Galveston which has successfully targeted childhood obesity on the island. As a result of the meeting, GCHD will work with this program to explore the feasibility of starting a mainland area YMCA with a similar program targeting obesity in youth. At the referral of board member, Dr. Milstein, Dr. Guidry meet with John Campbell, head of the board operating teen clinics in Galveston County to discuss ways to collaborate in the future. Parties’ agreed to share information about available services, including develop a way to refer youth seen in teen clinics to the 4C’s dental clinics for needed services.

Public Health Threat - Childhood Lead Poisoning

On November 19, 2007, The Kempner Foundation invited Galveston County Health District and other stakeholders to attend an executive summary briefing on Childhood Lead Poisoning in Galveston, TX. This project was funded by a grant from the Harris & Eliza Kempner Fund. The Health District collaborated with Baylor College of Medicine to identify hot spots of elevated blood lead levels (EBLL) in children within Galveston County. The project utilized data (1993 – 2006) from the Health District, Texas Child Lead Registry, building information from Galveston Central Appraisal District (GCAD); and Census 2000 demographic information to create maps that identified children living in zip code 77550 with the highest mean EBLL, 9 micrograms/deciliter and over 13,000 residential buildings and the year built. The outcome of the meeting was the appointment of two “co-czars” (Dr. Ben Raimer & Dr. Mark Guidry) to follow-up with interested stakeholders to develop an action plan for improving the prevention of childhood lead poisoning and eliminating its sources on Galveston Island. Dr. Dana Beckham, Chief Epidemiologist and collaborator with Baylor, will present current statistics regarding childhood lead poisoning at the United Board of Health meeting on November 28, 2007. A follow-up meeting for developing an action plan will be set in the near future.

Proposal to Improve GCHD Non-Emergency Transfers

In order to better facilitate transfers to both the Galveston and Mainland service areas, a budget amendment has been drafted to add two new positions to the current FY2008 operating budget. These positions include a Transfer Manager who will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the non-emergency transport service, and a Transfer Service Dispatcher who will be responsible for receiving and dispatching all non-emergency calls during peak hours of operations for up to 48 hours per week. The proposal was shared with Medic One representatives for feedback and comment and will be considered by the United board of health at its November 28th meeting. It is anticipated that these two positions will better meet needs for managing and dispatching non-emergency transfers per GCHD contracts and will result in improved customer service,

improved coordination, increased communications with customers, an increase in percent of transfers taken by GCHD, and an increase in revenue.

Environmental Software Implementation

Health District staff continues to meet daily with Decade Software implementation specialists on the configuration of the environmental software purchased to assist the Health District with the tracking of environmental data. The software will have a “public portal” that will allow for us to publish data to the Health District’s webpage (i.e. restaurant reports). In addition, this software will communicate with our current accounting software to expedite the billing and financial tracking for all payments of environmental fees. We anticipate going live with this software early 2008.

Recognizing the Public Health Workforce

The District’s first annual Employee Awards and Service Recognition Ceremony was held November 1st at the Wayne Johnson Community Center. County Commissioner, Steven Holmes attended the event and welcomed all attendees. Board members in attendance included Steven Leach, Dr. Bernie Milstein, Dr. Patricia Rogers, and Virginia Valentino. GCHD’s webmaster was on hand taking photographs of those employees recognized. The photographs have been posted on line <http://10.10.190.15/photo-gallery/index.htm>. New awards went to 2007 Employees of the year by functional area of GCHD. The recipients were Donna Salcido, Community Health Services (Immunization); Gwen Norman, Environmental Health Services (Animal Shelter); Holly Copeland, Fiscal services (Accounting); Dr. Audrey Lacour, 4C's Clinics; David Smith, EMS; and Judie Olivares, Executive Services (Human Resources). A photo of these recipients can be found on the front page at www.gchd.org.

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

- Changes have been made on the **GCHD Web Site** by new webmaster Richard Pierce. A new welcome with scrolling photographs and a new banner are included in the changes. A photograph of employees recognized for outstanding service has also been posted on the home page. Visit the site at www.gchd.org. More changes will be coming in the future. Information on staying healthy during the holiday season is currently being featured on the home page with links to CDC information www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/spotlights/holiday_tips.htm.
- Media interest in the recent report on **childhood lead levels** prompted the posting of information on the district’s web site. The information includes the role of the Galveston County Health District when it comes to addressing this important issue in Galveston. The information can be found at www.gchd.org/press/2007/childhood-lead-poisoning.htm. A meeting of community leaders resulted in GCHD Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mark Guidry, and United Board of Health Vice President Dr. Ben Raimer being appointed Chairpersons to address this issue. Meeting actions were covered in the *Galveston Daily News* www.gchd.org/press/2007/11LeadCzarsAppt.htm, and the *Houston Chronicle* www.gchd.org/press/2007/11LeadCzarsChron.htm.
- Public Information facilitated an interview on November 15th with the Galveston Daily News and Ronnie Schultz, Director Environmental Health Programs. The reporter is working on a story about the **storm water management** program which is federally mandated. The mandate was issued in 1989 and final plans from municipalities are due in February 2008. The District at the request of the County Judge has assisted in developing a program for a majority of the county. Schultz also explained that large cities have already been doing this for approximately ten years but this is Phase 2 which requires smaller communities to develop a storm water management program.

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.

- **Title V Grant** – Executive Officers and staff continue development of necessary procedures preparing for implementation of the recently awarded Title V grant from the Department of State Health Services in the amount of \$97,944. A phone conference has been scheduled with the Texas Department of State Health Services on December 7, to review and discuss the implementation. The purpose of this grant is to provide fee for service payment for primary care and dental services to eligible clients.
- **4C's Provider Vacancies** – Two provider vacancies are posted on the Health District's website, TACHC's website, and the Houston Chronicle. These positions were advertised in the Harris County Medical Society Newsletter, Galveston County Medical Society Newsletter, in the October issue of Texas Medicine, and also in the Chicago area. Staff will keep the Board informed when offers are made and accepted.
- **Interim Nursing Director** - Effective October 15, 2007, Lanitra Smith, BSN, RN was appointed to the position of Interim 4C's Nursing Director. Lanitra completed the RN BSN at UTMB in 2001 and served as an LVN several years prior. She has been employed with the GCHD 4C's Clinic as a staff RN since July 2006.
- **Clinic Leadership Team (CLT)** - CLT approved the Terminal Digit Order and the Out Guide and Requisition for Medical Records Slip Procedures. As well as, the 4C's Annual Performance and Improvement Plan and UTMB TALC Survey Proposal, both to be presented to the 4C's Governing Board in November.
- **In-Service** - At the November In-Service 4C's staff enjoyed the Thanksgiving Employee Luncheon after attending department specific trainings. A few examples of the monthly in-service trainings include X-Ray billing procedures, Title V Written Education Plan, Flu Surveillance, Diabetic Care Measures flow sheets, Work Environment and Communication Policy.
- **Galveston County Health Access Program Coalition (G-CHAP)** - On November 5th, Pam Jahnke and Dr. Cassandra Arceneaux attended the yearly G-CHAP "Pacing Event" at UTMB. G-CHAP provides the foundation for various community health collaborations such as the Mental Health Task Force. At the event, progress was reviewed on programs such as the Teen Health Program, the WelCare initiative at St. Vincent's House; the Community Health Network at UTMB that provides nurse case management for patients with chronic conditions and the newly funded Three Share Program that will provide insurance benefits for uninsured working people. It was also announced, and later confirmed, that the previously HRSA-funded project to develop a shared mental health database, putting case managers in community locations and providing support for mobile response teams has now been funded by the Meadows Foundation for 2008 and 2009.

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.

- **Health Fair** - On November 10, 2007, Community Health Services participated in the St. Vincent's Welfair. Over 80 participants received educational information on the following services that are offered at the Health District: TB, Women Infant and Children, immunizations, HIV/STD and EMS. The St. Vincent's Annual Welfair is a health education forum for Galveston's underserved community.
- **Immunizations** – On Saturday, November 17, 2007, the Immunizations Services teamed up with UTMB Medical students to conduct a flu clinic at the Salvation Army in Galveston. There were 51

free flu shots administered to participants, in addition, 6 volunteers were recruited as Health District volunteers. The **flu campaign** continues with over 2920 shots given of the 4000 ordered for outreach and the Immunization & Medical Clinics. Seven more outreach sites were conducted in November which included several for Jesse Tree clients, MHMR, a church and a school.

- **Community Health Nursing** - Conducted one DSHS Hearing and Vision Recertification class with 2 participants; is preparing for the DSHS Basic Hearing and Vision Class which is completely booked in December. TML Wellness Train the Trainer Seminar was attended by Nurse Luna on October 23rd & 24th. This seminar was designed to prepare individual trainers to implement a voluntary nutrition and physical activity program within cities or individual agencies and to gain skills to educate/motivate employees from all departments to maintain healthy body weight thru proper nutrition and physical activity.
- **WIC** - On August 6-8, 2007 the WIC Services underwent their regularly scheduled audit from DSHS. The Corrective Action Plan (CAP) from findings was submitted on November 19, 2007. The CAP included specific policies and/or procedures to be developed as well as trainings to be provided along with time frames for implementation of the actions.
- **STD/HIV Educational Presentations**- On October 10, 2007, STD Services provided education to over 300 Hitchcock High School students on sexually transmitted diseases. This presentation resulted from a previous educational venue held earlier this year at Crosby Middle School in Hitchcock. The top 2 reportable STDs for Galveston County are Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. On October 16th, the staff gave a STD/HIV presentation to the UTMB Physician Assistant students, with 57 in attendance. Mr. Jim Hilton, STD/HIV Services Manager has provided this presentation to the PA Students for the past 14 years. On November 20th, staff provided a STD/HIV presentation to 50+ students at Galveston's Central Middle School. Staff will be partnering with St. Vincent's House, the Jesse Tree and the Gulf Coast Center to provide information/education at the 26th World AIDS Day on December 1, 2007.
- **Mammogram Services** - In an effort to increase the number of screening mammograms for the BCCS Program, a partnership with the Galveston Housing Authority has been established to conduct door-to-door mammogram outreach. The first location will be Cedar Terrace in Galveston on November 27th.

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*

- **Bacliff Area Dogs Running at Large** – At the request of Commissioner Doyle, the Health District drafted a proposal and accompanying budget to place an Animal Control Officer in the **Bacliff** area on two Saturdays per month (total of 16 hours). The \$7200.00 cost associated with the request is expected to be picked up by the County of Galveston. Commissioner Doyle has received tentative approval to move forward.
- **Animal Temperament Training** – Several Animal Services staff members participated in the Bay Area SPCA sponsored training seminar on Temperament Testing of animals. The animal temperament assessment training for shelter staff will be used to determine the temperament of the animals prior to the adoption of animals at the shelter.
- **Galveston County Storm Water Collaborative** – The Galveston County Storm Water Collaborative continues to move forward with drafting the federally mandated storm water management plan and notice of intent for the County of Galveston and many of the county's municipalities. The collaborative was formed to look at ways to effectively and efficiently implement these storm water controls that are designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants into

storm drain systems. The state will eventually issue a storm water permit to each effected governmental entity that will cover six minimum control measures: public education, public involvement, construction site runoff, post-construction controls, illegal discharge detection and elimination, and good housekeeping at municipal operations. The storm water management plan and notice of intent are due at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on February 11, 2008.

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

- **Medic One** - Administrators of the Medic One system were scheduled to meet on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, to discuss a proposed reorganization of transfer operations and dispatching. The members were sent information via email and asked to comment on the proposal. The reorganization is intended to streamline the dispatching process and allow for more efficient use of resources.
- **Status of Vacant Employee positions** - GAAA currently has 18 vacancies in the 911 and non-emergency transfer operations. Efforts continue to process applicants as efficiently as possible. There are currently approximately 7 applicants being scheduled to re-test, 4 applicants being scheduled for interviews, and one applicant who we are checking references on.
- **Buildings owned by the City of Galveston and used by GAAA** – GAAA has received a remediation quote for the 50th & Avenue Q-1/2 building. The total cost (remediation, repairs, relocation of staff, etc) is estimated to not exceed \$27, 500. Initial repairs are expected to begin in the next few weeks, with the completion of all renovations expected in the next five months. The 2602 Avenue Q location will also receive extensive renovations during this period.
- **Recruiting Activities at the Texas EMS Conference** – GAAA staff participated in recruiting efforts during the annual Texas EMS Conference, held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston November 18-21, 2007. The conference was attended by more than 2500 certified EMS professionals from all over the state. During the conference, GAAA staff acquired approximately 25 strong applicant leads. Follow up with these leads will occur over the next month.

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.*

Epidemiology Updates:

- **Chickenpox Investigations** - Epidemiology Services is investigating chickenpox clusters/outbreak in 3 Galveston County schools. Kubacak Elementary (**Santa Fe ISD**) and KE Little Elementary (**Dickinson ISD**) reported clusters of chickenpox in students to the Health District on October 26 and 29, respectively. Kubacak Elementary reported a total of 10 cases: 1 diagnosed by a healthcare provider and nine suspect cases. K.E. Little Elementary reported a total of 10 cases reported to the Health District, 5 diagnosed by healthcare providers and 5 suspect cases. The Health District is continuing to investigate the chickenpox outbreak at DISD's Barber Middle School; as of Wednesday, November 21, 2007, a total of 37 cases have been reported – 13 diagnosed by healthcare providers and 20 suspect and 4 non cases.
- **Hepatitis A Investigation** - On November 26, 2007, DSHS reported a laboratory confirmed Hepatitis A case to the Health District's Epidemiology Services. The investigation revealed the case resided in the city of Houston with immediate family that lived in Galveston County. The case's place of employment is a local restaurant in south Harris County. Epidemiology Services is continuing to investigate case's close contacts that reside in Galveston County. All pertinent documents gathered from the investigation have been forwarded to appropriate authorities.

Preparedness Updates:

- **Point of Dispensing Clinic Training** - During the month of November, the SNS Coordinator facilitated two Point of Dispensing (POD) trainings. The training provides instruction in how to operate and lead community clinics to disperse medications in the event of a disease outbreak. Eight Dickinson school nurses received training on the operations of a POD on November 9th at Dunbar Middle School. On November 10th, POD Incident Commander training was conducted in the GCHD auditorium for four student nurses from Galveston College and two Texas City ISD school nurses.
- **Galveston County Emergency Response Collaborative** - On November 8th, the Chairperson and the Director of the Catastrophic Medical Operations Center (CMOC) in Houston addressed a meeting of the Galveston County Emergency Response Collaborative (GCERC). The speakers provided an overview of the role and responsibilities of the CMOC in coordinating emergency medical resources in the region in times of disaster. Group members also discussed recent epidemiologic response activities and upcoming training opportunities.
- **Galveston County Medical Reserve Corp (GCMRC) Quarterly Meeting** - GCMRC held its quarterly meeting on November 8, 2007. Tracy Hughes, Galveston County Office of Emergency Management Planning Coordinator presented to 7 MRC members on the Role of Emergency Management in Public Health Preparedness. The next meeting will be held on February 21, 2008.
- **Mass Fatality Training** - The Public Health Planner attended Mass Fatality training at the Houston Emergency Center on November 13th – 15th. The training outlined the roles of government and social services agencies in a mass fatality incident, what resources might be needed, family assistance support operations, and how to take care of staff working in a temporary morgue.
- **Medical Reserve Corp Thanksgiving Food Drive** - The Galveston County Medical Reserve Corps held its first Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive from November 12th – 16th at the GCHD Headquarters, Community Family Center and the Island Community Center. Donations were received from GCHD employees as well as the community. The donation of turkeys and non-perishable items provided 9 families with large Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

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

- **Medical Products Donation Program Agreement with Direct Relief International** was signed by COO on November 15th. Direct Relief International is a non-profit medical relief and health assistance organization that assists in distributing medical goods to charitable health care institutions and organizations for the poor and victims of natural disasters. This agreement outlines our pledge to assume full responsibility for the non-commercial use of the donated products.
- **Contract with the Managing Pharmacist for the 4C's Clinics, Don DePasqual, R.Ph., d/b/a DePasqual Enterprises** was signed by COO on November 20, 2007. Payment of services will remain the same as previous contract at the rate of \$24,771 per month. The contract is from December 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 not to exceed \$99,084.00.