



Executive Report to the Galveston County 4C's Governing Board
March 27, 2008

2007 Annual Report

During February meetings both boards approved the 2007 Annual Report. The report has been printed and will be distributed to board members, elected officials, and community partners. The report includes an executive summary, an evaluation of progress in accomplishing the strategic health plan for 2004-2010, special reports on access to care, EMS, animal services, and more. Public information staff facilitated the printing of the annual Strategic Health Plan Report. The report includes an executive summary, an evaluation of progress in accomplishing the strategic health plan, and special reports on several service areas. A press release announcing the annual reports can be found at www.gchd.org/press/2008/2007SHPannualreport.pdf. The full report is posted on the GCHD web site www.gchd.org/admin/strat07progress.htm. Before 2010, the District will initiate a new strategic planning process, involving community stakeholders, to develop a second plan for the next decade, 2010-2020.

Food Service Operators Recognized During Public Health Week

As part of the Galveston County Health District's observance of National Public Health Week, 46 food service establishments will be recognized for quality food safety practices. "Gold Ribbon" awards will be presented by the District during a ceremony to be held April 9th at the Wayne Johnson Community Center in La Marque beginning at 6:30 p.m. Galveston County Judge Jim Yarbrough and County Health Authority, Dr. Mark Guidry will be on hand to congratulate the 2008 recipients, while Health District staff distribute the awards. The awards were initiated 12 years ago to identify food service establishments that show exemplary compliance with the Texas Food Establishment Rules. For a complete list of award recipients see: <http://www.gchd.org/press/2008/goldenribbon08.htm>.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Taskforce

The next Taskforce meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 11th at 1:00 p.m. in the Island Community Center (4700 Broadway). Since the last meeting on February 12th, the Steering Committee (Co-chairs, Subcommittee Leads and City of Galveston staff) have been working on various projects which will give focus and direction to the taskforce. Work underway includes: a document that identifies key roles and responsibilities of various agencies and outlines resources needed for a model Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program; application for lead grants has been submitted to National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Center, Kempner Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and a channel 11 News joint interview with the Health District and City's public information officers was conducted regarding an informational Lead flyer that is being distributed throughout Galveston. City of Galveston and Health District staffs are collaborating on seeking grant funding from a variety of sources. One grant was submitted to Kempner Foundation to fund state-of-the-art environmental equipment (LPA-1 Lead Paint Analyzer) to more quickly assess City of Galveston Parks and homes of children diagnosis with lead poisoning at a level of 20 ug/dl or higher. For more information, see www.gchd.org.

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

- Dates for upcoming **mammogram screenings** were submitted to the Community Bulletin Board in the *Galveston Daily News* with eligibility guidelines. These sites are submitted to the newspaper on a monthly basis. The community mammogram schedule is posted on the district web site www.gchd.org/chn/dfeet.htm.
- Reports of **dead bats** testing positive generated public interest and an article in the *Galveston Daily News* on March 2nd. While bats can be found throughout the county recently they have been submitted for testing from the north Galveston County Area. Public Information and Epidemiology Services contributed to the story which is posted at www.gchd.org/press/2008/03Batsshouldnotfrighten.htm.
- As part of their annual "Profiles" series the *Galveston Daily News* ran a story in their health edition on March 16th highlighting new technology available to **EMS providers**. The equipment allows EMS to provide more care directly in the field during emergency situations. Several Galveston EMS providers were quoted in the story accompanied by photographs. The story can be found at www.gchd.org/press/2008/0316Postmodernmedicine.htm.
- Public information placed an advertisement in the Profiles Health Section of the *Galveston Daily News* on March 16th. The **ad promoted the 4C's clinics** as a family home for medical and dental care. The ad can be viewed at www.gchd.org/press/images/daily-news-4cs-ad.pdf.
- Another edition of "Profiles" in the *Galveston Daily News* featuring work stories contained an article on **two GCHD Animal Control Employees**, Josh Henderson, and Gwen Norman. In the feature story both employees discussed what motivates them to work with animals, many of which have been neglected and/or abused. The story was accompanied by a full page photograph of ACO Henderson with some animals at the shelter. The story and photograph is posted on the GCHD web site. www.gchd.org/press/2008/0317Dogsbestfriend.htm.

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.

- **HRSA Performance Review** - On March 18 4C's Clinic staff submitted their response to a review by HRSA's Office of Performance Review (OPR). Analysis of performance and opportunities for improvement were discussed when OPR representatives came down in February. Four measures were examined: the number of clinic users, the ratio of assets to liabilities, the percentage of dental patients that complete a treatment plan, and the percentage of three year olds up to date with their immunizations. The response details activities that the clinic will complete during this year and includes requests for Technical Assistance from HRSA in the areas of billing and collections and dental scheduling and productivity.
- **Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations** - On March 4 clinic staff participated in a web-based training on JCAHO standards presented by Texas Association of Community Health Centers. JCAHO is the national accreditation organization that surveys healthcare organizations. The training focused on new National Patient Safety Standards as well as other difficult standards. In 2008 staff is expected to comply by improving the safety of anticoagulant usage. The clinic will also submit their yearly Periodic Performance Review, a self-assessment of standards compliance, in mid-April. Recently JCAHO simplified its name to The Joint Commission (TJC).
- **4C's Provider Vacancies** – With Dr. Audrey Lacour's change from full-time physician to a part-time as needed physician, there are now three medical provider vacancies. A mid-level provider has accepted a part-time position and is currently being credentialed. Vacancies are posted on the Health

District's website as well as with TACHC and NHSC. Advertisements for midlevel and/or physicians have been placed with the Texas Medical Association (May newsletter), Texas Academy of Family Physicians (April magazine), Harris County Medical Society (April and May newsletters), Texas Academy of Physician Assistants (online posting), and Galveston Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses (online posting). One full-time and one part-time dental provider position are vacant. Two dental provider candidates have offers that are pending (one part-time and one full-time position). The dental position is posted on the Health District's website as well as with the Greater Houston Dental Society, TACHC, and NHSC.

- **TB X-Ray** - The Department of State Health Services approved monies from GCHD's TB program for the purchase of two new X-ray machines to be placed in the 4C's Texas City and Galveston clinics. Additional funds were obtained from the 4C's Governing Board Capital Project Reserve fund (\$7,611) to purchase the machines as the funding from DSHS (\$55,620) did not cover the full cost. The two x-ray machines were delivered in late December and the two 40kilowatt generators have arrived. Installation is scheduled to begin on April 3, 2008 at the Texas City Clinic with the installation at the Galveston Clinic beginning one week later.

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.*

- **Female Cancer Screening Workshop** – On March 4 and 5th in cooperation with The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Professional Education for Prevention and Early Detection, the Community Health Services presented a Cancer screening workshop which also provided clinical breast exam training for Medical Assistants, Nurses and Physician Assistants. This program was well attended, with 22 on day one and 12 on day 2. This program also provided continuing education credits to all that attended.
- **Breast and Cervical Cancer Services (BCCS) Corrective Action Plan Accepted** – The Corrective Action Plan submitted for the site review completed on August 6-7th was accepted by the Department of State Health Services. To insure our plan is affective the Breast and Cervical Cancer Services Program will be visited by state representatives in six months.
- **Senior Services** – Through monthly GCHD Presentations at the Senior Centers, a total of 278 seniors have been reached in 2008. This month the topic was Tuberculosis Elimination presented by TB Elimination Program Manager, Syed Haidry, MD. This resulted in 30 TB tests taken with no positive reactors.
- **Health Fairs** – In the month of March, Community Health Services participated in three health fairs. 1) The Dickinson Community Health & Nutrition Fair sponsored by the *City of Dickinson & Dickinson ISD* was an event to promote community health and nutrition awareness. Activities included Easter Parade & Egg Hunt, Health & Safety Fair, Kids Fitness Zone and Trader's/Craft Market – there were 80 participants; 2) The 14th Annual Galveston County Health Fair, sponsored by UTMB, was planned to inspire the community to lead healthier lives. Health District representatives provided the GCHD Brochures and other program information to 40 participants; and 3) the Spring Health Fair, sponsored by the *La Marque Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.* had the theme, "Spring into Health". Representatives attending from the Health District included Immunizations, Epidemiology, and BCCS/D'Feet. Staff provided educational material to 91 people.
- **Community Health Services Vacancies** – A WIC Site Supervisor, Breastfeeding Counselor, a STD/HIV Disease Intervention Specialist, a TB Outreach Worker, & an Immunization Outreach Worker position are all currently posted on the Health District's website; 2 Community Health Nurse positions are currently posted on the Health District's website, local nursing colleges' websites, TALHO and NACCHO websites. We are actively interviewing for all of these positions except the TB Outreach Worker which was recently posted.

- **Highest WIC Participation** - WIC reached its highest total participation numbers in February 2008 with a monthly total of 7124. Rates increased in 2007 compared to previous years, with the average participation in 2005 and 2006 averaging around 6600 and the 2007 rate averaged around 6800. Management attributes this increase in utility of our services to the hard work of our site supervisors and clerks to insure every available appointment slot is filled.
- **National Nutrition Month Celebration** – National Nutrition Month is a time that WIC highlights the importance of good nutrition by joining community members and health professionals to discuss the importance of health and nutrition. This year the observance was held at the Texas City Community Family Center on March 5, 2008 and, with the assistance of Texas AgriLife Extension, Galveston YMCA, and other community partners, educated 70 community members on the importance of health and nutrition through food demonstrations, and presentations about obesity, physical activity, and nutritious foods.
- **World TB Day March 24, 2008** - In observance of World TB Day, Health District had TB literature and information available to those visiting the Galveston Island Community Center, the Texas City Community Family Center and the GCHD La Marque Headquarters. There will also be a conference held in Austin for TB Managers that Dr. Haidry will be attending.
- **Rapid HIV Testing-** The HIV STD program started doing 10 minute HIV testing. So far, Eugenia James from STD/HIV has tested 5 individuals since starting February 21st. These tests are offered each Wednesday in the Galveston Island Community Center. We will be offering rapid HIV testing each Wednesday from 8-5 and will increase availability with demand.
- **National Infant Immunization Week** - The Health District is preparing for National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), April 19-26, 2008. This week is set aside annually to focus local and national attention on the importance of vaccinating infants and toddlers 24 months and younger. Plans include: providing free childhood immunizations at the three walk-in Health District Clinics during this week, offer ImmTrack record searches to WIC parents at local WIC offices, provide daycares and medical providers infant immunization schedules in English and Spanish, do a press release regarding the event and activities. Volunteers and donations of kid friendly items and entertainment are needed.
- **Immunizations Award** – On February 27th, Immunization staff attended the Annual Immunization Training for Local Health Departments at the DSHS Houston Regional Office. The Health District received an award in recognition of our valuable contribution to the DSHS Imm Trac Texas Immunization Registry. The agenda included updates on the Texas Vaccine for Children Program and Imm Trac, and changes in site visits.

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 Shelter Subcommittee** – The Animal Shelter Subcommittee met on March 18 in the Environmental Auditorium to continue discussions on the options for expansion of the County's current animal shelter. The committee discussed the option of seeking additional land at the current shelter location, Loop 197 North in Texas City. The expansion at this location would be contingent on approval by the Corp of Engineers because of the necessity to add "fill" dirt to build up the site. Other options being considered are the renovation of the current shelter along with the construction of an off-site adoption center and the purchase of a new site location and the construction of a new shelter and adoption center. The committee is compiling its recommendations for a presentation to the Galveston County Animal Services Committee quarterly meeting on May 8, 2008.
- **Public Health Laboratory Certification** – The Public Health Laboratory was notified by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Laboratory Certification Program that our application under the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Certification (NELAC) is

administratively complete. This certification is a federal requirement of all public and private laboratories providing environmental analytical services. NELAC's mission is to promote mutually acceptable performance standards for the inspection and operation of all environmental laboratories.

- **Consumer Health Permits Overdue** – Four (4) food service and one (1) semi public swimming pool permits that were overdue at the following establishments: Bottoms Up Sports Grill, International Bistro, Subway, Super Target, and Bayou Lakes Recreational Center. Letters were sent out to the owners on March 4, 2008. As of March 13, all of the facilities have paid and are in compliance with the policy approved by the Board for food service establishments.

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

- **Staffing Update** - There are currently 17 vacant full-time field 911 positions and 3 vacant full-time field non-emergency transfer positions. We have two full-time EMT-Basics and one full-time Paramedic scheduled for interviews. We have a total of three applicants interested in part-time positions who are scheduled for testing.
- **NET Operations** – The pilot study for online request for Non-emergency Transfers has been successfully completed with UTMB being the participant. Plans are for Mainland Center Hospital and the area nursing homes to begin using the system by the end of the week. This will allow for efficient tracking of patient billing and dispatch information.
- **Buildings owned by the City of Galveston and used by GAAA** – Remediation of the 50th & Avenue Q-1/2 building has been completed. Quotes for needed repair work at 50th & Q-1/2 and 2602 Q have been received and, with approval by the United Board of Health at the February meeting, repairs have begun. The repairs will take approximately 8-10 weeks to complete.
- **Employee Promoted to Supervisor** – Edwin Smith, Sr. has been promoted to Supervisor for GAAA emergency operations. Ed brings 15 years of EMS experience to the position including many years managing volunteer EMS operations on the Bolivar peninsula. Prior to this promotion, Ed served as a Paramedic Team Captain on GAAA ambulances.
- **Job Fair Recruiting** – GAAA recruiting efforts continue with Human Resources Director Kathrine Hall, and QI Coordinator, Joe Carranza attending the San Jacinto College Job Fair on February 13, 2008 from 10 am to 2pm. They distributed information about GAAA employment opportunities to students along with answering questions. Staff will continue to participate in job fairs as they arise.

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

- **Public Health Information Network (PHIN) Advisory** - On February 29, the Health District sent out a PHIN advisory to local medical professionals from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on revised directions for Using Rabies Immune Globulin (Human). Human rabies PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) is recommended when potentially infectious material (e.g. saliva) from a rabid animal is introduced via a bite, or comes into direct contact with broken skin or mucous membranes. More detailed information regarding evaluation for and administration of PEP is available at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/information/prevention/pamphlet/> and <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00056176.htm>
- **Bat Rabies in League City** - Galveston County has a total of 3 positive rabid bats for the year 2008. All 3 have been submitted from League City Animal Control. The rabid bats were found at a League City Intermediate School, a person's residence, and Bay Area Christian School. Investigation revealed no human exposures associated with the bats. In the past recent years, the County has 0-6 cases of rabies in bats reported annually.

- **Flu Update** - The flu activity level for Texas for the week ending March 8, 2008 (MMWR week 10) is "widespread." Widespread activity indicates that at least half of the regions in the state are experiencing an increase in influenza-like illness (ILI) and have recent culture-confirmed influenza. Galveston County has reported the following lab confirmed cases: 232 Flu A, 40 Flu B, 2 non-differentiated Flu; and 32 ILI (from November 2007 to February 9, 2008) to DSHS.
- **Presentation on Inequities in Health** - Several Health District employees attended a brief presentation given by Dr. Lauri Andress on Inequities in Health. Dr. Andress discussed a 4 part documentary series called "Unnatural Causes" that will air on PBS starting Thursdays, March 27 to April 17, 2008. The PBS documentary series explores socio-economic and racial inequities in health. Additional information regarding the series may be found at <http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/toolkit.html>

Preparedness Update:

- **Joint Information Center Training** - On February 29, 2009, the Galveston County Health District hosted Joint Information Center (JIC) Training at the Walter Hall Pavilion in League City. The course reviewed and tested participants on communication procedures for working as a group to collect, prepare and release critical information regarding an emergency via a Joint Information Center. The presenter was Mrs. Emily Palmer from the Texas Department of State Health Services. There were 22 attendees.
- **Emergency Preparedness Exercise at Clear Creek High School** - On March 13th, the Public Health Planner and Outreach Coordinator participated in a demonstration at the Clear Creek High School Ninth Grade Campus regarding the response to an anthrax scenario. About 325 students and faculty participated, as well as the League City Police, EMS, Fire Department, Houston HAZMAT and Emergency Management. The Planner and Outreach Coordinator visited with students in various classrooms that were participating to answer their questions. Later the Planner gave a brief lecture to the students to discuss what the district does every day, what the district's role would be in an anthrax event, and career possibilities in public health.
- **Galveston County Emergency Response Collaborative** - The Galveston County Emergency Response Collaborative (GCERC) met on March 13th. The group completed a table top exercise involving a pandemic flu scenario in the United States. The group identified several needs from the exercise including: training in personal protective equipment for law enforcement, updating local protocols, identifying resources for local hospitals and responders, and educating local leaders regarding local planning efforts in pandemic flu planning.
- **Texas Inventory Management (TIMS)** - On March 14, 2008, identified Health District employees attended training for Texas Inventory Management (TIMS). There were 4 participants. This training was designed to familiarize staff with DSHS standard computerized inventory method of purchasing, shipping, receiving and identifying medicines and/or medical supply during a public health outbreak or emergency.
- **Point of Dispensing Exercise in League City** - Preparations continue for the Point of Dispensing exercise to be conducted at Clear Creek High School in League City on Saturday, March 29th. The exercise will test our ability to dispense antibiotics to a large population in response to an anthrax threat. Volunteers are needed to walk through the point of dispensing site from 1pm to 4:30pm. If you are interested in participating or know someone who might be, please contact Fannie Cotton at 409-938-2345, or you can register online at <http://www.gchd.org/SNS-training.htm>.

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

- **Contract with the Managing Pharmacist for the 4C's Clinics**, Don DePasqual, R.Ph., d/b/a DePasqual Enterprises was renewed by COO on March 14, 2008. This contract expires on July 31,

2008. Payment of services will remain the same as previous contract at the rate of \$24,771 per month and shall not exceed \$99,084.00 during the 4-month period.

- **Contract with Web by Design, Inc.** was signed by COO on March 4, 2008. The term of this Agreement is year to year from the effective date and will automatically renew from year to year thereafter, unless earlier terminated. This is a website hosting agreement for a single GAAA Web page form for scheduling service collection.
- **Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Kaplan Higher Education** was signed by the COO on March 5, 2008. The agreement details the terms for a student externship experience at the 4C's Clinics.
- **Interlocal Cooperation Contract with UTMB for a Case Manager** was signed by COO on March 10, 2008. A district case manager will contact Galveston County residents who have presented to the UTMB Emergency Room and who have been referred by UTMB to a 4C's Clinics. District case manager will coordinate further medical care at 4C's Clinics where appropriate. This agreement is for \$12,500 the partial funding of this position.
- **The Clinic Lab supplies bid** was awarded for one-year to **PSS and McKesson**. The COO approved the award on March 13, 2008. The term is March 19, 2008 to March 19, 2009.
- **GAAA Ambulance Services Contract with Hospice Care Team, Inc.** was amended by COO on March 7, 2008. The Amendment updated the 2000 Agreement to reflect our current charges for ambulance services. The Original Agreement included an all inclusive rate of \$50.00 each way. The Amendment increased the charges based on two levels. Level One base rate is \$195 (one-way). Level Two base rate is \$75.00 (one-way). Both levels charge an additional \$50.00 per hour fee for wait time. And, a mileage fee of \$5.00 per mile for traveling outside of Galveston County, if applicable.
- **WIC Obesity Grant** – WIC has been awarded \$10,000 for the proposal, Staying Young at Heart, for the FY 2008 Obesity Prevention Project. This money will be used to educate the community about the importance of good nutrition and increased activity in all age groups, and to inform the public about WIC services.
- **Immunization Services Grant** for FY 2008-09 was submitted to the Department of State Health Services on March 20th with a request for 10% increase in salaries for staff although state guidelines suggested no more than a 5% increase.