



**Executive Report to the Galveston County United Board of Health**  
**April 30, 2008**

**Texas County & District Retirement System (TCDRS)**

During April, United Board of Health and 4C's Governing Board were provided a presentation which included a review of current plans, a review of the proposed TCDRS plan, and a summary of employee feedback and questions from three town hall meetings. After the presentations, both boards agreed for staff to move forward in obtaining additional information and cost for review by the Finance Committee in meeting with TCDRS representatives. The item will be placed on the agendas of both boards for the May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> meetings for possible adoptions. Employees with any additional questions regarding TCDRS proposal are recommended to email Pisa Lewis, Executive Assistant at [plewis@gchd.org](mailto:plewis@gchd.org).

**National Cover the Uninsured Week**

A guest column on behalf of Dr. Milton Howard, Chair of the 4C's Governing Board and member of the United Board of Health was submitted to the *Galveston Daily News* on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The column was submitted as part of a national effort to **Cover the Uninsured**. Dr. Howard discusses the importance of the 4C's clinics in meeting the needs of the uninsured in Galveston County. The guest column is posted on the website at: [www.gchd.org/press/2008/042508CoverUninsured.htm](http://www.gchd.org/press/2008/042508CoverUninsured.htm).

**County Plans to Purchase Former Wal-Mart Building in Texas City**

Dr. Guidry & Jay Holland were interviewed regarding the problems associated with three Health District facilities targeted for relocation. Subsequently, a *Daily News* editorial supporting the Galveston County Health District and the County of Galveston in their efforts to find new space for District operations was published on April 20<sup>th</sup> in the *Galveston Daily News*. The editorial emphasized the need for additional space and the efforts made by the district to become a more efficient organization. The editorial has been posted at [www.gchd.org/press/2008/042008Ahealthyservice.htm](http://www.gchd.org/press/2008/042008Ahealthyservice.htm). On April 30, 2008, Galveston County Commissioners Court voted unanimously to approve a \$50,000 earnest money contract with 9300 Emmett Lowry, LLC for purchase of the old Texas City Wal-Mart for use as a county health care facility.

**National Infant Immunization Week**

During the observance April 19-26<sup>th</sup>, the District's Immunization program offers free shots at immunization clinics in Galveston, Texas City, and Dickinson. A press release was distributed on April 18<sup>th</sup> to the media encouraging parents and others to take advantage of the free shots and make sure that children are immunized according to the recommended schedule. Information on the event is posted at [www.gchd.org/press/2008/0408Immunizationweek.htm](http://www.gchd.org/press/2008/0408Immunizationweek.htm). The *Galveston Daily News* used information from the press release to publish an editorial on April 23<sup>rd</sup> discussing the importance of immunizations and encouraging residents to take advantage of the free shots being offered by the Health District. This editorial can be found at [www.gchd.org/press/2008/042308Ashotinthearm.htm](http://www.gchd.org/press/2008/042308Ashotinthearm.htm). 420 shots were given to kids this week (compared to 298 the previous week). Staff also searched ImmTrac records for 151 children.

**Gold Ribbon Awards Honors Exceptional Food Service**

On April 9, 2008, the Health District recognized 46 food establishments during its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Gold Ribbon Award Ceremony at the Wayne Johnson Community Center at Carbide Park. County Judge Jim Yarbrough

and Dr. Mark Guidry opened the event recognizing other elected officials and providing a special thanks to Board of Health Member Paulette Roberson, BSN, MSN who graciously participated in the taking of photographs of all of the recipients. These awards are given to those food establishments that show exemplary compliance with the public food service regulations enforced by the Health District. Staff from Immunization was also present to provide information about ImmTrac and other Community Health services. The Consumer Health Services Division looks forward to presenting these very positive awards and the staff deserves to be commended for a job well done.

### **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Taskforce**

At the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, taskforce members heard several updates on grants and developments since the previous meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Members completed an assessment form to determine their agency/individual roles regarding childhood lead poisoning, updates on several submitted and future grant opportunities (e.g., CHAMPION, Kempner, EPA, & HUD), upcoming governmental meetings with CDC and HUD for technical assistance, information gleaned from a recent national conference, etc. Plans for next steps included (1) inviting a Galveston Housing Authority representative to join the taskforce and to discuss their roles and responsibilities, (2) sub-committees work to identify best practices/ordinance in Texas, (3) compiling and sharing results of the assessment, and (4) getting the word out to providers that test results of lead test need to reach the Health District's Epidemiology program for tracking and timely follow up. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the June 12<sup>th</sup>. For more information, see [www.gchd.org](http://www.gchd.org).

### **Outstanding Volunteers and Community Partners**

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, the Health District will hold a reception on Wednesday, May 7, 2008, at 1205 Oak Street, La Marque (Auditorium) starting at 12:00 Noon to recognize outstanding volunteers and public health partners. Nominated by managers, these volunteers and partners made special contribution to GCHD and to the community's health.

### **Collaboration Meetings**

The following meetings occurred as part of on-going community collaborations: (1) On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Warren J. Holland III, Chief Operating Officer, met with representatives of the Jesse Tree, County of Galveston, UTMB and GCC to review the first quarter report on the Jesse Tree's "Enrollment Project". This collaborative project is designed to expand services to the uninsured through enrollment in services and comprehensive case management. This collaborative project includes UTMB, County of Galveston, GCHD and the Jesse Tree, (2) On April 21<sup>st</sup> with the City and County elected officials party to the EMS interlocal agreement regarding the future of the system coordination agreement and (3) On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the Health District will be a public hearing site for a DSHS Stakeholder Legislative Appropriation Request meeting for 2010-2011 in the Boardroom between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

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

- Dates for upcoming **mammogram screenings** were submitted to the Community Bulletin Board in the *Galveston Daily News* and posted on the district web site [www.gchd.org/chn/dfeet.htm](http://www.gchd.org/chn/dfeet.htm).
- An **outbreak of an unknown illness** at the Joe Vickery **Animal Shelter** prompted a call from the *Galveston Daily News* on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The reporter was informed that the shelter was closed to adoptions at the time and 16 animals had been euthanized in an effort to contain the illness. The story also discussed an ongoing issue with a resident who's had dogs in quarantine in the shelter after an incident involving another animal's death. The story is posted on the web site [www.gchd.org/press/2008/0328Sheltersuspends.htm](http://www.gchd.org/press/2008/0328Sheltersuspends.htm).

- Community Health Services is now offering a **rapid HIV test** through their STD/HIV Program. The Uni-Gold Rapid HIV test is \$30 and meets the needs of those in the community who have requested rapid testing. A press release was distributed and posted on the GCHD web site to inform the public of this valuable service. Additional information released on April 3<sup>rd</sup> can be found at [www.gchd.org/press/2008/0408HIVrapidtests.htm](http://www.gchd.org/press/2008/0408HIVrapidtests.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](mailto:pbutler@gchd.org) or Pam Jahnke, RN, Strategic Plan Evaluator at (409) 938-2256 or email [pjahnke@gchd.org](mailto:pjahnke@gchd.org).

- **Clinic Leadership Team (CLT)** – At the recommendation of the Medical Director and staff, CLT approved the addition of Geodon to the formulary as a Share-the-Care Program drug, available at no cost to the 4C's. Geodon can be used for Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia and Depression.
- **Obesity Grant Application** – A state health department grant will be submitted to establish a Comprehensive Childhood Obesity Service for kids aged 2 to 12. If awarded, beginning September 1, the grant will fund up to \$100,000 per year for a nutritionist and a health educator to work with children who are overweight and at risk of becoming obese. DSHS will provide training to the staff per written protocols. Measures of success would include decreases in weight (BMI), improvement in lipids (a blood test for fats in the blood) if abnormal, and improvements in blood pressure if abnormal. .
- **4C's Provider Vacancies** – We expect 4 vacant medical provider positions in May. Howard Baade, FNP, 4C's mid-level provider, will resign on May 16, 2008 and plans to relocate to Austin. Physicians and midlevel are currently being interviewed with expected offers to be made starting next week. There is currently 1 part-time vacant dental provider position; however, one part-time dental provider is going through the credentialing process and will be able to start work soon after completion with another part-time position pending. Current vacancies have been widely advertized and distributed.
- **4C's Clinic Improvements** – Board approved improvements to the clinics have been completed which included; painting of the front and rear waiting rooms, registration area, and selected hallways in Texas City, as well as the registration area and waiting room in Galveston. Texas City also received new waiting room chairs. The two new x-ray machines mentioned in previous reports have now been installed along with new exam tables and treatment tables in the Texas City clinic. Dental services received the following new equipment; two new x-ray machines, and three new dental chairs in Galveston, and two new x-ray machines, an x-ray processor, vacuum and air compressor and statim in Texas City.
- **New Dental Assistant/Receptionist Competency-based Compensation Plan** – A competency-based compensation plan has been put into place for Dental Assistant/Receptionist positions. The plan includes three levels of Dental Assistants/Receptionists. Level I of the competency checklists has been developed. All Dental Assistants/Receptionists have received the form and will receive an increase in pay once completed. Competency checklists for Levels II and III are in the works.
- **Donation from UTMB Department of Medicine** - The UTMB Department of Medicine, APICS Division, donated two cases of albuterol inhalers to the clinics in April. These medications are used to treat asthma. The inhalers are given to 4 C's patients with any 4C's prescription for the inhaler, old (with refills left) or new, through the clinic pharmacy.

**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](mailto:carceneaux@gchd.org).

- **New CHS Employees** – Stephanie Norris, RN joined our staff on April 28<sup>th</sup> as Community Health Nurse. Stephanie has several years experience as a community health nurse in Ohio. She has experience working with STD/HIV services, tuberculosis, and has training to do well-woman and well-child exams. Stephanie will be doing home visits for clinics and lead exposure, clinical breast exams for our BCCS/D’FEET programs, community education, etc.
- **National STD Awareness Month** – During the month of April, the STD program participated in the Texas A&M Annual Spring Into Wellness Health Fair, the Galveston-YMCA Grand Opening/Kids Day Celebration, the Galveston County Teen Parent Round-Up and the Front Door Social & Charity Club’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual County wide Health Fair and Family Day, in observance of National STD Awareness Month.
- **Senior Services** - Charles Kelly and Senior Services continued health promotion in our elderly community this month with the topic “STDs and HIV”. Ninety-seven seniors were educated about STDs and the importance of protecting themselves. Information and condoms were made available by the STD/HIV program.
- **Senior Health Advisory Committee** - The Senior Services Program will soon be under the financial support of *Galveston ROPES: Galveston Regional Outreach, Public Health, and Education Services*, a new 501©3 non-profit organization supported by members of the former Senior Health Advisory Committee to more broadly service the community. ROPES has submitted a grant application to the United Way to fund GCHD senior services in the future.
- **Electronic Benefits for WIC Participants** - Plans are currently in the process for the installation of WIC’s EBT, which will start on August 11<sup>th</sup>. This month staff from DSHS WIC assessed the 4 WIC sites to analyze staffing needs, workstations, computer equipment layout and counter heights in order to successfully transition from paper vouchers to an electronic benefits card. There will be a training in August held in Austin to educate all clerks on the use of this system to improve care for WIC participants.
- **Health Fairs** – In the month of April, Community Health Services participated in the following five community events: 1) The Galveston ISD & City of Galveston Community Health Fair, 2) Kids Day Community Health Fair, 3) the Texas A & M-Galveston Annual Health Fair, 4) Galveston Family YMCA Grand Opening & Healthy Kids Day Celebration, and 5) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Front Door Social & Charity Club Countywide Health Fair and Family Day. Over 432 people were informed about various GCHD services through these combined events.

**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](mailto:rschultz@gchd.org)

- **Trash Bash** – The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Rivers, Lakes, Bays ‘N Bayous Trash Bash enjoyed picture perfect weather and record crowds. The Health District chairs the committee that plans and implements the Texas City Trash Bash site that recorded the highest volunteer attendance. Following the cleanup, the Trash Bash celebration continues with food, entertainment and all volunteers are provided with several giveaways. This year, the children participated in the first ever Trash Bash Olympics to teach about environmental issues and increase young people’s environmental awareness.
- **Storm Water Management Program Implementation** – As part of our Storm Water Management Plan, a presentation was provided to the La Marques Kiwanis Club on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The presentation covered details of the plan highlighting the need to seek public input to make it effective. As you are aware, the plan has to comply with the state storm water permit that contains 6 minimum control measures to prevent pollutants from entering our storm drain systems.

- **Animal Shelter Donation** – The Shelter Buddies, a volunteer group that assists with donations and by providing volunteers at the Joe Vickery Animal Shelter, collected donations for the purchase of animal supplies. The group donated 1950 doses of vaccine, along with a case of flea spray and several bottles of wormer.
- **Consumer Health Permits Overdue** – 39 food service permits were overdue as of 4/1/08. Letters were sent out to the owners on 4/7/08; as of 4/28/08, two of the facilities are closed and one permit has been suspended awaiting a letter confirming a change of food service classification. The rest have been 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](mailto:mcarr@ghcd.org)*

- **GAAA Staffing Update**– There are currently 16 vacant full-time field 911 positions and 2 vacant full-time field non-emergency transfer positions. We have one full-time EMT-Basic scheduled for a physical and drug test and one full-time EMT-Basic and Paramedic scheduled for testing. We have two applicants interested in part-time positions who are scheduled for testing.
- **Hurricane Preparedness** – Galveston Area Ambulance Authority staff are ramping up for Hurricane Season. The City of Galveston Mayor’s Hurricane Preparedness program kicked off with the first 2008 meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. There will be monthly meetings through Hurricane season. Also GAAA staff members are reviewing the current Hurricane plan to re-familiarize themselves with operation under the plan. Line staff will be refreshed on the plan at the May Staff meeting.
- **City of Galveston EMS Advisory Committee** – The committee held its second meeting in late March with a walkthrough of the 26<sup>th</sup> street EMS station and a review of the 2008 budget. There was also a discussion of estimated costs for adding a response unit to the Galveston operation and review of a preliminary plan for encouraging additional training and retention of Paramedic staff. Galveston City Council approved a budget amendment to cover software cost.
- **GAAA Treatment Protocols** – GAAA participated in a cooperative review of treatment protocols. This review has been underway for approximately 6 months. The final draft of the protocols was released to administrative review on April 14, 2008. After a short comment period, the protocols will be rolled out with a series of in-service training sessions and written testing to verify comprehension.
- **Delivery of new Vehicle** – GAAA took delivery from the Phoenix Group of a new Type II ambulance. This vehicle will be used for Non Emergency Transfer operations. The vehicle is expected to be stocked, licensed and in service by early May. When operational, the unit will be housed in the Bacliff station. With the addition of this ambulance the NET fleet now has one reserve unit.
- **Online Transfer Request System Operational** -- The online request for non-emergency ambulance transfers is operational with UTMB and Mainland Center being the primary users of the system. This system captures the majority of the NET requests for service.

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

**Epidemiology Updates**

- **Hepatitis A Case in Dickinson** - A retired Dickinson resident tested positive for acute Hepatitis A and was asymptomatic with no history of travel. Investigation revealed the patient did not work in a day care or food serving capacity. One close contact was identified and received post-exposure

prophylaxis (Hepatitis A vaccine and immune globulin). Hepatitis A is a viral condition that is transmitted fecal oral. Galveston county has averaged 7 -9 cases of Hepatitis from 2005-2007.

- **Elevated Blood Lead Cases-Galveston** - Epidemiology Services has received 5 confirmed elevated blood lead cases since February 2008. All five cases reside in Galveston and were referred to Community Health Nursing for a home health assessment. Three of the five were also referred to Environmental for an environmental home assessment because levels were  $\geq 20$  or consistently high at least three months apart. All 3 cases reside in Galveston.
- **Annual Disease in Nature Conference** - Galveston County Health District staff attended and assisted in the planning of the 58<sup>th</sup> annual Diseases in Nature Conference held on April 22-24, 2008, at the Moody Gardens Hotel, Galveston, Texas. The conference focuses on zoonoses of interest to health professionals in the southwestern United States. The 179 participants included physicians, physician assistants, nurses, veterinarians, epidemiologists, military, virologists, microbiologists, public health professionals, animal control officers, and other professionals involved in the diagnosis, investigation, and prevention and control of infectious zoonotic diseases.

***Preparedness Update:***

- **Point of Dispensing Exercise in League City** - Galveston County Health District participated in a Regional Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise conducted at Clear Creek High School in League City on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Additional response entities included Brazoria County Health Department, Liberty County, DSHS HRS Region 6/5 South and CDC. The exercise tested GCHD's ability to dispense antibiotics to a large population in response to an anthrax threat. There were a total of 80 volunteers and Health District staff who participated in the POD exercise.
- **Food Fair in Galveston** - On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Galveston County Public Health Preparedness and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) attended the Jesse Tree Food Fair in Galveston Texas. There were approximately 35 participants. Information was distributed regarding public health preparedness and MRC recruitment.

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

- **Memorandum of Cooperation** between the District and **Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas** was executed on April 2, 2008. The agreement establishes procedures to conduct Partner Elicitations. Both parties will work cooperatively for the public health benefit of eliciting, locating and testing partners of those persons identified with HIV.
- The **Emergency Medical Supply bid** was awarded to **Bound Tree, Henry Schein Matrix, Tri-Anim and Zoll** for one-year. COO approved the bid award on April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The **Public Health Lab Supplies bid** was awarded to **VWR, Gov. Scientific Source, Hach and Idexx** for one-year. COO approved the bid award on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Agreement with Mobile Mini, Inc.** was signed by COO on April 11<sup>th</sup>. They will provide storage units for the Animal Shelter for one year. The total rental cost to District is \$711.45.