



**June 2010 Executive Report**

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CEO & Health Authority  
Galveston County & Cities

**The Pulse of the District...**

- **Hurricane Season is Here!**
- **Upcoming Conference on STD's, HIV and TB Strategies**
- **Ongoing Major IT Initiatives**
- **United Board of Health**
- **Director of Community Health Services**

**GCHD Ready for Hurricane Season**

- **Hurricane Health** - The *Galveston County Daily News* requested a guest column for their annual hurricane season special section published May 26<sup>th</sup>. The column promoting a variety of things that individuals and families can do to protect their health during and after a hurricane can be found at [www.gchd.org/press/2010/Hurricane-Kurt-Koopman.html](http://www.gchd.org/press/2010/Hurricane-Kurt-Koopman.html).
- **Meetings with Emergency Preparedness Partners** – PHEP staff attended the following Preparedness meetings during June 2010: 1. Attended the Regional SNS Coordinators, Public Health Planners meeting on June 8; 2. Participated in the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Quarterly Technical Assistance Call on June 9; 3. Participated in the State Operations Center Severe Weather Conference Call on June 19; and 4. PHEP staff participated in the Annual Hurricane Preparedness/Response/Recovery meeting at the Jamaica Beach Public Service Building on June 22.
- **Hurricane Season Staff Training** – PHEP staff provided in-service training on the GCHD Hurricane plan for GAAA and 4C's employees. The training included an overview of the forecast for the 2010 Hurricane season and a working review of the GCHD Hurricane operations plan and how it affects staff. The presentation also included information on personal hurricane response planning and evacuation tips.
- **Hurricane Alex Response** – PHEP staff are participating in the preparedness and response process for Hurricane Alex. This consists of attending statewide status conference calls, testing response systems and keeping in touch with local emergency management officials and continuous monitoring of the progress of the storm.

**Speakers Selected for Upcoming Conference on STD's, HIV and TB Strategies**

A number of dynamic speakers have been confirmed for the conference scheduled September 17<sup>th</sup> at Moody Gardens, partially funded by the SSBG grant awarded to the STD/HIV & TB programs. The conference will open with welcoming remarks by Harlan "Mark" Guidry, MD, MPH, Chief Executive Officer of the Health District; a keynote address by Dr. David Lakey, the Texas Commissioner of Health, discussing legislative and policy issues related to the topic, as well as perspectives on the impact of healthcare reform. Other confirmed presenters include Dr. David Wiley, President, American School Health Association; Dr. Brian Smith, Regional Medical Director, Health Service Region 11, Harlingen and

Dr. Mary desVignes-Kendrick of the National Center for Emergency Medical Preparedness and Response, Texas A & M Health Science Center. The afternoon sessions will continue with two TB experts from the Heartland National TB Center: Dr Lisa Armitige and Dr. David Griffith. Dr. Ann Robbins from the Texas Department of State Health Services will continue, and the conference will end with two pediatric experts from UTMB, Dr. Janak Patel and Dr. Joan Richardson. The conference will educate public health officials and the medical community on current and future strategies to prevent and control the spread of these infectious diseases. The conference will also provide a Thursday evening networking opportunities for a Statewide Local Health Authority planning meeting and for all other attendees. Staff are also working with DSHS to explore offering continuing education credits for a variety of health care professionals. A web page which is being updated regularly with information as it is finalized can be viewed at [www.gchd.org/press/2010/Riding-the-Waves-2010.html](http://www.gchd.org/press/2010/Riding-the-Waves-2010.html).

## Status of IT Rollouts and Upgrades

- **IT Infrastructure Redesign and Disaster Recovery** - We are continuing to make progress on the IT infrastructure project. The build out of the co-location site (County Emergency Management facility) is almost complete, and we are continuing to upgrade equipment and systems as initially outlined in order to optimize performance and increase efficiencies to users.
- **NEXTGEN Phase 1 (Electronic Practice Management), 4C's Clinic software** – Dr. Guidry facilitated a brainstorming meeting with Core Group members on June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> to see where staff are in the implementation process. The outcome of the meeting produced a timeline with tasks that must be completed to meet the Go Live date of August 10<sup>th</sup>. Tasks include complete testing of electronic claims, testing of all forms and alerts in the system, training material for staff by job functions, finalizing dates for staff training, public notifications and potential impact to patients, etc...
- **Accufund, Accounting software** – On June 10<sup>th</sup>, employees began recording work time electronically. Staff are working with our consultant to assure the configuration and calculations are correct in the system. Future upgrades to the Accufund Software include electronic cash drawers and integration of the general ledger, accounts receivable and accounts payable with ShelterPro, NEXTGEN and Decade.
- **ShelterPro, Animal Shelter software** – Staff are in the final stages of software configuration. However, due to unforeseen circumstance, the Go Live for this software will not be until mid August 2010. Staff will stay on track by testing the system with Accufund for the interface of financial information, creating end user training material for staff and ensuring all equipment is purchased and ready for deployment.
- **ESO, EMS software** – A software upgrade of ESO to version 4.0 began on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Staff are working with ESO staff to test the upgrade as ESO migrates data from version 3.0 to 4.0. The upgrade is anticipated to take up to approximately 60 days and will require staff training prior to Go-Live in mid August.
- **Decade, Environmental Health software** – Staff have upgraded to 4.2 with two programming errors the company is currently working on resolving. All steps are being taken to assure information captured in the system is accurate with quality assurance being performed by the Program Manager.

## United Board of Health Membership Status

A majority (7) of member cities (*Jamaica Beach, Dickinson, Bayou Vista, Texas City, Kemah, Friendswood and League City*) have approved the Commissioners Court recommendation of the reappointment of five current members (J.A. Konikowski, MD, Steven Leach, CRNA, Bernard Milstein, MD, Walter Treybigg, III and Bob Baylor, DVM) and the appointment of a new Mainland Medical Center representative, Robert Heifner, Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Heifner will be oriented in the near future and expects to attend his first member on July 28, 2010.

**Dr. Cassandra Arceneaux** resigned on June 30<sup>th</sup> to assume the position of Assistant Professor in UTMB's Department of Family Medicine. As Director of Community Health Services, Cassandra has been with the Health District since April 2007 with duties that included management and medical supervision of several public health programs, community outreach, a deputy local health authority, and coordinating her department's responses to public health emergencies such as Hurricane Ike and H1N1. Dr. Guidry thanked Cassandra for her many contributions to the public's health in Galveston County over her tenure, and congratulated her on her promising new career endeavor. Until the position is filled, Dr Abdul Alhassan will serve as Interim Medical Director and Pam Jahnke, RN will fulfill duties of Interim Administrative Director

**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)).*

- Summer has arrived in Galveston County and while it can be fun the District wants residents to know there are things they should be aware of to enjoy a healthy and safe summer. A press release issued June 1<sup>st</sup> that was published in the *Galveston County Daily News* and *The Post Newspaper* contained information on West Nile virus, heat safety, food safety, and water safety. The full content of the press release can be accessed at [www.gchd.org/press/2010/2010Summer-Health.html](http://www.gchd.org/press/2010/2010Summer-Health.html). The information as published in the *Daily News* on June 9<sup>th</sup> is posted online at [www.gchd.org/press/2010/summer-tps-daily-news9-9-10.pdf](http://www.gchd.org/press/2010/summer-tps-daily-news9-9-10.pdf).
- Local officials from Galveston, Harris and Brazoria counties called a press conference on June 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss plans for any possible impact to local beaches from the Gulf oil spill. The conference held in the lobby of the Galveston County Courthouse was attended by all major media. GCHD Public Information Officer Kurt Koopmann participated in the press conference and did answer one reporter inquiry concerning seafood safety. A *Galveston County Daily News* story covering the event can be found online at [www.gchd.org/press/2010/2010-Oil-spill-plan.html](http://www.gchd.org/press/2010/2010-Oil-spill-plan.html).

**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)).*

- **4C's Vacancies** – Current open positions in the 4C's include two LVN positions, One Medical Aid position, one Dental Assistant/Receptionist position, one Medical Record Clerk position, one full-time Patient Services position and one part-time Patient Services position. More information about these positions and all open GCHD positions may be viewed on the Galveston County Health District's web site at [www.gchd.org](http://www.gchd.org)
- **County Indigent Program** - As of Monday, June 22, 2010, there were approximately 151 patients approved on the County Indigent Program. Currently staff is in the process of interviewing and recommending for hire a County Indigent Case Manager. An additional screener will began on May 27<sup>th</sup>. These positions are to handle the expected increase in workload as the CIHCP program expands to 100% FPL and secondary/tertiary care becomes more readily available as the provider base grows.

**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)).*

- **Senior Health Outreach** – Samantha Brown, Senior Outreach Coordinator promoted senior health this month through the topic "Disaster Services". Approximately 115 seniors were educated by AHEC. The July topic to be discussed is "Incontinence and Hygiene".
- **Health Fairs** – On June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, the H1N1 Health Educator, Chantea Palmer, along with STD/HIV staff encountered 350 people at the Pediatrics by the Gulf Conference sponsored by UTMB. This conference was geared toward medical professionals and was designed to address the challenges faced in the diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions of infants, children and adolescents. Information about Health District services was provided.

- **Provider Choice Training** – On June 25<sup>th</sup>, the GCHD Vaccine for children program held training for the new vaccine order system that will go into effect September 1, 2010. Some of the topics discussed including Legislation regarding the new order system, what will change for providers, what is needed and the timeline for implementation. All VFC providers must be educated by July 31 and Sept 1 respectively.
- **HIV Testing Day** – In observance of National AIDS Testing Day on June 24<sup>th</sup>, the STD/HIV staff provided free HIV and Syphilis testing at the Galveston Island Community Center along with Gulf Coast Center. A total 40 individuals taking advantage of the free HIV and Syphilis testing. These community members will be followed by STD/HIV Staff to insure they receive their results and appropriate follow up as needed.

**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)

- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Grant Proposal Selected** – The Health District represented the City of Dickinson at the request of Mayor Masters to introduce a Household Hazardous Waste Collection grant to the solid waste grant scoring committee at the Houston-Galveston Area Council. The grant was approved (scored 4<sup>th</sup> out of 27 projects) and received full funding at \$130,000.00 by the scoring committee and will be forwarded to the HGAC Board of Directors for final approval on July 20<sup>th</sup>. The grant will fund a one-day event to collect household hazardous waste, Ewaste (computers, printers, etc), tires, and household appliances. In addition, a public outreach and education campaign to educate the public on the proper disposal of household hazardous waste and the use of less toxic alternatives is included. The event is scheduled for November 13, 2010 at the Gulf Greyhound Park.
- **Santa Fe Cockfighting Operation** - On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Santa Fe Police and Galveston County Sheriff's Office raided on a cockfighting operation in the City of Santa Fe where both dead and live chickens were found. Law Enforcement officials summoned the Health District's Animal Control Officers to take possession of the 20 live chickens and to provide care until final disposition was granted by the local Justice of the Peace. *Daily News* coverage of the raid can be found at [www.gchd.org/press/2010/cockfight-santafe.html](http://www.gchd.org/press/2010/cockfight-santafe.html).
- **Bayou Vista Water Sampling** - The City of Bayou Vista has entered into an interlocal agreement with the Health District to provide surface water sampling of the canals within the city. The City was interested in obtaining information on the quality of the water in the canals since the canals are used for recreation. The samples are being tested for bacteriological contamination, ammonia, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (The amount of oxygen required by aerobic microorganisms to decompose the organic matter in a sample of water, such as that polluted by sewage. It is used as a measure of the degree of water pollution), and dissolve oxygen. Sampling will take place during the summer months.
- **Animal Control Sweeps In Contracted Cities** – The Health District's Animal Services Program began directed sweeps within contracted cities and the unincorporated areas of the county. Sweep goals include: public outreach and education on the rules for animal control, issuance of warnings and notices for violations of the animal control rules and the removal of dogs running at large. The Program has received several positive comments as a result of these sweeps.

**Office of Emergency Medical Services:** For more information, please contact Trey Frankovich, LP, EMS Director, (409) 765-2524 or [tfrankovich@gchd.org](mailto:tfrankovich@gchd.org) or Mary McClure, GAAA Business Director, (409) 938-2336 or [mmcclure@gchd.org](mailto:mmcclure@gchd.org).

- **New Ambulance** – Galveston 911 service received the ambulance that was remounted at Frazer Company and was placed in service at the 26<sup>th</sup> and Q main EMS station. This unit is equipped with the reinforced floor and mounting hardware to be utilized as a Bariatric unit if needed. This addition makes two bariatric units for the service.
- **New EMS Station** – Medic 3 moved into the new County built EMS/Fire station located in front of the County Courthouse on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The EMS crew has two bunkrooms, two offices, three large

bays and will share the living and kitchen areas with the Galveston Fire Department. There is also a small meeting room in the facility. An open house and ribbon cutting is planned for July 14<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.

- **Fourth Galveston Unit** – Due to 911 call volume increases on the island, medic 4 is now online 24 hours seven days a week. This is the same hours the unit worked pre-lke. Medic 4 had been online weekends only since October 2009.

**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) or Mike Carr, Public Health Preparedness Manager, at (409) 938-2333 or email [mcarr@gchd.org](mailto:mcarr@gchd.org).

#### **Epidemiology:**

- **Flu Surveillance** - From January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Health District has received a total of 52 positive flu cases (6 H1N1, 31 Flu A, 6 Flu B, 9 Undifferentiated Flu). In the month of May 2010 GCHD received 9 positive flu cases (0 H1N1, 3 Flu A, 3 Flu B, 3 Undifferentiated Flu). For the current month, June 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Health District has received 1 positive flu cases (Flu B).
- **Elevated Lead Levels (Galveston and League City)** - As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, Epidemiology Services has received a total of 5 confirmed Elevated Blood Lead (EBLL) cases. All cases have been referred to Community Health Nursing for a home assessment. One case was referred to Environmental Services for an environmental lead investigation due to a level exceeding 20 µg/dL. The following is a breakdown of the EBLL cases: 5 males ranging from 10 months – 4 years; (4) Galveston and (1) League City.
- **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Taskforce** – On May 25<sup>th</sup>, the taskforce met in Galveston to update the group on activities related to lead poisoning prevention. The Galveston County Health District, City of Galveston and Galveston Housing Authority all gave updates on lead related activities. The Center to Eliminate Health Disparities announced 2 workshops offered to the community: Post lke Environmental Health and Toxins and Healthy Neighborhoods. The next meeting will be in August.
- **Suspect Pertussis in League City** - On June 15, Epidemiology Services received a report of a 48 year old **League City** resident with suspected pertussis. Epidemiology investigation revealed the case had a cough for 2 weeks and tested positive for antibodies against pertussis. The case was treated with appropriate antibiotics and no close contacts were identified for treatment of post exposure. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention a confirmed case of pertussis consist of acute cough illness of any duration and culture positive for pertussis or PCR positive with cough illness lasting 2 weeks. Based upon the findings of the investigation, the type of test that was performed could not confirm pertussis, therefore, it will be reported to DSHS as a probable pertussis case. Pertussis is a vaccine preventable disease and is required to be reported the State Health Department. In 2009, the Health District reported a total of 7 pertussis cases to Texas Department of State Health Services.

#### **Signed RFP's, Grants, Contracts & Agreements:**

- **Extension of Contract with Maintenance of Galveston Janitorial** was signed by COO, expires June 1, 2011.
- **Extension of Contract for General Contractor Services with Texas City Construction** was signed by COO, expires July 8, 2011.
- **Extension of Contract for Spay/Neuter Services with Animal Alliance of Galveston County** was signed by COO, expires July 22, 2011.
- **Renewal of Contract for Software Licenses and Support with Decade Software Company** was signed by COO, expires June 30, 2013.
- **Award of Bid 10-006 for Inkjet/Laser Printer/Fax cartridges to EIS Office Solution and The Office Pal** was signed by COO, expires on July 1, 2011.
- **COO signed 2010-11 Grant from D'Feet Breast Cancer, Inc.** for the provisions of breast cancer screening for underserved and uninsured women 40 to 64 years of age.

<b>Environmental Health Programs – Notices May 2010</b>	
Animal Control (dogs running at large, no registration, cruelty, etc)	75
Air Pollution (violation of state air regulations, permits, excessive emissions, etc)	5
Food Services (violations of food service policy requiring voluntary closure, court actions, etc.)	1
Food Services (letters sent for operating with an expired food service permit)	17
Public Health Nuisances (trash and high weeds, violations of health and safety code)	23
On-Site Septic Systems (violation of on-site policy)	3
Water Pollution (improper disposal, sewage leaks, grease trap violations, etc)	10

*A Monthly Report of  
 The Galveston County Health District.  
 For more information regarding this document,  
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 409-938-2401 or Kurt Koopmann, PIO, at  
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