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**September 2010 Executive Report**  
Harlan "Mark" Guidry, MD, MPH  
CEO & Health Authority  
Galveston County & Cities

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

- *4C's Practice Management System Go Live October 19<sup>th</sup>*
- *Riding the Waves Conference a Huge Success*
- *Flu Season Kick Off*
- *Collection of Household Hazardous Waste Scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup>*

### **Educating Patients About Phase One of 4C's Electronic Records System Rollout Scheduled for October!**

Staff have developed a DVD now playing in the clinics to inform patients about the temporary impact and the future benefits of the new system and we ask patients, the public, and our partners for patience and understanding during the implementation phase. While the new system will have many benefits, learning the new system will also temporarily impact services as fewer walk-ins will be accommodated during the period of September 27<sup>th</sup> – October 30<sup>th</sup>. For a few weeks the 4C's will commit to almost solely seeing scheduled appointments at a 33% reduced capacity. Therefore, persons without an appointment will be encouraged to make appointments or consider the Texas City Saturday clinic which only sees walk-ins. In addition, a flyer was also distributed that has information patients need to know about the system. The flyer can be found at [www.gchd.org/press/2010/nextgen-flyer.pdf](http://www.gchd.org/press/2010/nextgen-flyer.pdf). Phase one of the rollout of the practice management portion of a new electronic system for the 4C's Clinics will include new software for making appointments, check in processes, financial screening, and billing. Following the roll-out of Phase one on October 19<sup>th</sup>, staff will begin the process of rolling out the electronic medical (health) record and dental record parts of the new NEXTGEN system.

### **Riding the Waves: An Island of Strategies for STDs, HIV and TB Conference A Huge Success**

On September 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>, Galveston County Health District sponsored Riding the Waves Conference: An Island of Strategies for STDs, HIV and TB conference. This event consisted of a network function Thursday evening, September 16<sup>th</sup> followed by a 1 day conference on Friday, September 17, that helped to educate 215 public health officials and individuals in the medical community on current and future strategies to prevent and control the spread of these infectious diseases. Welcoming remarks were given by Dr. Ben Raimer, Vice Chair of the Galveston County United Board of Health, and Dr. Mark Guidry, GCHD CEO & Health Authority for Galveston County & Cities. Keynote speakers include Texas Commissioner of Health, Dr. David Lakey, and Dr. Mary desVignes Kendrick, Research Scientist, National Center for Emergency Medical Preparedness and Response, Texas A&M Health Science Center, along with a host of

other prominent public health experts. Six hours of continuing education were offered for a variety of public health professionals.

### **Flu Season Kick Off**

The Immunization program has geared up for seasonal flu vaccination. Staff has been immunized and flu vaccine is now available to the public at the Immunization Clinics. A number of outreach events are planned for the month of October to encourage the public to get the seasonal flu vaccine. This year's flu preparation includes three strains expected to circulate this season, including H1N1, and is recommended for everyone six months of age and older. Persons with high risk conditions are urged to get the vaccination. The 2010-2011 Flu Season was subject of a press release issued by the Health District on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Information on this year's flu shot with locations where the vaccine will be given. The press release is posted on the District's web site, [www.gchd.org/press/2010/flu-2010.html](http://www.gchd.org/press/2010/flu-2010.html). The *Galveston County Daily News Daily* used information from the release in a story about flu season published September 29<sup>th</sup>, <http://www.gchd.org/press/2010/Health-district-has-new-flu-shot.html>.

### **Galveston County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day**

The HHW planning committee met with Mayor Masters at the City of Dickinson to begin the planning for the November 13<sup>th</sup> Collection Event. We are anticipating and planning for approximately 1200 cars at this four hour event to be held at the Gulf Greyhound Park. The committee was the recipient of a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality grant for \$130,000.00 to fund the disposal of hazardous waste and the recycling of electronic waste. The event is open to all residents of Galveston County accepting household hazardous waste, tires, paint, electronic wastes such as computers, printers, monitors, televisions, etc. The committee will be meeting routinely to finalize the plans.

**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)*

- **Extreme Heat** at the end of August prompted the *Galveston Daily News* to run a story on precautions that should be taken to prevent heat related illness. Public information contributed to the article which can be found at [www.gchd.org/press/2010/Record-heat-8-24-10.html](http://www.gchd.org/press/2010/Record-heat-8-24-10.html)
- Public Information was contacted by the *Galveston Daily News* after a local woman died from **necrotizing fasciitis** with the suspected cause being *Vibriovulnificus*. The paper was given information on the annual number of cases that are usually reported in Galveston County for the story which can be found at [www.gchd.org/press/2010/flesh-eating-bacteria9-9-10.html](http://www.gchd.org/press/2010/flesh-eating-bacteria9-9-10.html). After testing was unable to determine if the resident actually had *Vibrio* the newspaper ran a follow-up story with information provided by the District, [www.gchd.org/press/2010/unable-to-confirm-vibrio.html](http://www.gchd.org/press/2010/unable-to-confirm-vibrio.html).

**4C's Clinic Updates:** *For more information, please contact Patrick Bulter, 4C's Business Director, at (409) 949-3406, or email [pbulter@gchd.org](mailto:pbulter@gchd.org) or Pam Jahnke, Strategic Plan Evaluator at (409) 938-2256 or email [pjahnke@gchd.org](mailto:pjahnke@gchd.org).*

- **Head Start** - The 4C's has been contacted by *Hitchcock Independent School District's Cooperative Head Start* to provide Developmental Examinations, Physical Examinations and Dental Examinations to participants. The 4C's is scheduled to see Hitchcock Head Start children on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The 4C's are working to contract and schedule dates to see children for both the Texas City Head Start Program and the Galveston County Community Action Council Head Start Program (Galveston Head Start).

- **Direct Relief Donations** – Direct Relief has recently made 3 donations to the 4C's Clinic:
  - 216 Teva Pro Air HFA inhalers (thru Teva) for an estimated savings of \$2,712
  - Diabetic supplies (thru Roche) that include, test strips and meters with an estimated value of \$7,965. (The total estimated savings for the above donations is \$10,677; these items have been received and distributed to both clinics.)
  - Free vouchers for seasonal flu vaccine which can be taken to any CVS Pharmacy for the shot. These vouchers will be made available to uninsured, homeless and other high risk persons through the 4C's Case Management Department and through outreach with the Jesse Tree.
- **Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) Site Visit** – On September 23-24, a HRSA site visit was conducted for the 4C's Clinic. HRSA provides a grant of approximately 1.7 million dollars annually to the clinic budget. Reviewers, including our project officer, met with key staff, toured the clinic sites, met with Board members and examined documents and clinic processes. At the Exit Conference the reviewers indicated that the 4C's Governing Board and staff have done an excellent job in meeting the federal requirements for the grant. There was one finding regarding the clinics defined scope of service. Staff will work with our Project Officer to make changes. There were no financial statute findings; however the reviewer did make several recommendations which will be included in the final report. The final report to the Board and staff is due from our Project Officer in 30 to 60 days.

**Office of Community Health Services:** For more information, please contact Pam Jahnke, Interim Administrative Director at (409) 938-2256 or email [pjahnke@gchd.org](mailto:pjahnke@gchd.org).

- **Immunization Program** - Kids' Health Fest was held August 5-25, 2010 at the Mall of the Mainland and at the Galveston Immunization clinic. This event provided convenient back-to-school immunizations, shot records and TB skins tests. At the Mall site, 1076 people received 2887 immunizations while in Galveston 141 people received 381 shots. The totals, 1217 people and 3268 shots, are fewer than last year's 1568 people receiving 4225 immunizations. Staff utilized several new "PODs", which are self-contained units that include a small refrigerator, a table and a place for supplies. The revenue for Back to School from immunizations given at Mall of Mainland was \$11,418.00.
- **TB Program Update** - The TB Department currently has three cases/suspects of TB for whom staff is providing Directly Observed Therapy. The three cases currently being treated are a case of recurrent pulmonary TB, a case of pulmonary TB with HIV who recently moved from another county, and a suspect for pulmonary TB who is foreign born and underweight. The TB Department has also been busy doing TB screening (skin tests) at facilities where higher risk persons live or are seen, such as jails, the Salvation Army, treatment centers and social service agencies. Of 1207 persons tested since April, 1071 tests were read and only 23 (2%) have had a positive skin test result, demonstrating that Galveston County is relatively low risk for tuberculosis. During the same time period, the County Jail tested another 1896, 1750 were read and 19 were positive. A positive test indicates prior infection with tuberculosis, but the infection is most frequently dormant in a person with no symptoms (productive cough, weight loss, night sweats). Chest x-ray is done to rule out active disease. The outreach activities were supported by a one-time Social Services Black Grant for counties impacted by Hurricane Ike.

**Office of Environmental Health Services:** For more information, please contact Ronnie Schultz, Director of Environmental Services, at (409) 938-2314 or email [rschultz@gchd.org](mailto:rschultz@gchd.org)

- **Animal Resource Center Construction** – Kim Schoolcraft, Ronnie Schultz and Jay Holland participate in weekly construction meetings at the new Galveston County Animal Resource Center along with the County of Galveston, the construction management company and many subcontractors. Construction issues are discussed and decisions made in order to move forward on the project. The construction schedule for each week is also discussed. Currently, we are about two (2) weeks behind schedule due to the recent wet weather.
- **Storm Water Presentation** – Ronnie Schultz presented information concerning the federally mandated Storm Water Management Program to the Hitchcock/Santa Fe Rotary Club on September 3, 2010. The club was provided an update on the progress that the Health District has accomplished under our current collaboration model with the City of Santa Fe and the Galveston County Drainage District #1. Educational materials have been distributed to the general public, businesses and construction companies. Storm water related complaints were investigated, construction sites have been inspected for storm water controls and the staffs of the City of Santa Fe and the Drainage District were trained on storm water controls. A question and answer session followed.
- **San Leon Town Hall Meeting** – Marty Entringer and Kim Schoolcraft attended and participated in the annual San Leon Town Hall Meeting on 9/13/2010. Following a few statements from the meeting organizer and the Sheriff's Department, attendees made their way around to tables to discuss issues with government representatives. We received inquiries into several public health complaints that we are currently working and received one request to patrol a street in Bacliff to remove some dogs running at large.

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

- **Status of EMS Station in Hitchcock** – Medic 5 has moved into the house that GAAA is renting from the Hitchcock Volunteer Fire Department until a permanent station can be built in the City of Hitchcock.
- **EMS Conducting Community Outreach** – GAAA participated in three community outreach: 1. On September 11<sup>th</sup> at the Bacliff volunteer fire departments dedication of their new fire truck. An ambulance was at the station for tours and first aid information was distributed to the public; 2. Participated in the 9/11 remembrance ceremony held at Moody Gardens honoring those emergency personnel who lost their lives; and 3. Participated in the planning and the mass causality drill for the shooter on site at UTMB's student center. A total of 20 mock patients were to be seen and triaged to the UTMB emergency department. This event was cancelled and will be rescheduled.

**Disease and Disaster Preparedness:** For more information, please 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**

- **Elevated Lead Levels (Galveston and League City)** – There were no new EBLL cases reported to Epidemiology Services from August 18 until present. There are a total of 7 confirmed EBLL cases in Galveston County for 2010. All cases have been referred to Community Health Nursing for a home assessment. Three cases were referred to Environmental Services for an environmental lead investigation due to levels exceeding

20 µg/dL. The following is a demographic breakdown of the EBLL cases: 6 males and 1 female ranging from 10 months – 4 years; (6) **Galveston** (77550) and (1) **League City**.

- **Cryptosporidiosis** – On August 26, Epidemiology Services received lab reports from an out of state individual who in turn received a confirmed cryptosporidiosis diagnosis for her and her family by their medical provider. The family resides in another state and was in Galveston County visiting a recreational water facility. Environmental and Consumer Health conducted an investigation of the recreational water facility, which included reviewing records associated with water disinfection. The results yielded no deficiencies and no reports of illnesses associated with people attending the water facility. Texas Department of State Health Services was consulted regarding the testing of the water for the organism. Based on the epidemiology and results of the environmental investigation it was not warranted to test the water for cryptosporidiosis. Cryptosporidiosis is an illness caused by cryptosporidium and characterized by diarrhea, abdominal cramps, loss of appetite, low-grade fever, nausea and vomiting. Outbreaks are associated with drinking water; recreational use of water; swimming pools and lakes. There have been 3, 2 and 0 cases of cryptosporidiosis in 2008, 2009, and 2010 in Galveston County residents. On August 27, Epidemiology Services disseminated public health advisories to hospitals, healthcare providers, school nurses and emergency departments on cryptosporidiosis cluster associated with a history of recreational use of water. The health advisory requested that medical providers have an increased index of suspicion for persons presenting with diarrhea, abdominal cramping, and vomiting (in children) with a history of recreational use of water.
- **Salmonella enteritidis (Egg Recall) Outbreak:** On August 10, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) requested all clinical laboratories to send all Salmonella isolates to the DSHS laboratory in Austin or the City of Houston (when appropriate) for stereotyping and molecular analysis (PFGE). Currently, Galveston County has 2 residents (**Galveston and Texas City**) associated with this cluster. Preliminary investigations have been completed on both cases.
- **In service** – Epidemiology Services provided in-service on disease reporting and flu surveillance to school nurses of La Marque, Clear Creek, Santa Fe ISDs and 4C's medical providers during the months of August and September.

#### **Public Health Preparedness**

- **Meetings with Emergency Preparedness Partners** - PHEP staff attended the following Preparedness meetings during September 2010. Provided an orientation discussion to a public health resident rotating through the GCHD on September 1, 2010. Participated in the DSHS Regional SNS Planners meeting on September 7, 2010 discussing emergency operations and exercise preparations for CRI Exercise in February 2011. Participated in the Houston Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Health and Medical committee meeting on September 8, 2010. Delivered a status report to the City of Galveston Emergency Management Coordinator for the Mayor's Hurricane Preparedness meeting on September 14, 2010. Participated in the DSHS Public Health Preparedness Technical Assistance call on the extension of the PHER 1, 2, & # H1N1 grants on September 14, 2010. Participated in the planning, setup and operation of the "Riding the Waves" conference for communicable disease workers in Texas on September 15, 16, 17, 2010. Met with Galveston County Emergency Management officials and other stakeholders to finalize the Galveston County Mass Fatality Plan on September 22, 2010.
- **Galveston County Mass Fatality Plan** – PHEP staff provided technical support, information and assisted in the development of the Galveston County Mass Fatality Plan. This plan is a comprehensive strategy for dealing with Mass Fatality Incidents

(deaths of more than 15 people in a single incident). It clearly delineates the roles of all responders including Galveston County, GCHD, the Medical Examiner's Office and the Laura Recovery Center in responding to such a situation. The plan categorizes response and provides a blueprint for operations to recover from such an incident. This is the first time that there has been such a comprehensive plan in place in our county. The final plan was delivered on September 22, 2010.

- **PHER Grant Extensions** – The Texas Department of State Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control have extended the Public Health Emergency Response grants issued last year to respond to the threat of H1N1 influenza. Remaining funds will be redirected to planning and prevention efforts. PHEP staff are currently working on a plan for submission to DSHS to address preparing for another pandemic outbreak. The grant has been extended to July 31, 2011.

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

- **Amendment from Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for the Immunization Branch – Locals** was signed by COO on September 21, 2010. This purpose of this amendment is to add the work plan attachment as required for these contracts. No change to budget.
- **Agreement between Health District, Operating through its Galveston County Coordinated Community Clinics, and Don DePasqual, R.Ph., dba DePasqual Enterprises** – was signed by COO on August 2, 2010. Agreement will be from August 1, 2010 to November 3, 2010.
- **Contract NSS/WIC Local Agency with DSHS** was signed by COO on September 15, 2010. Contract period 10/1/2010 to 9/31/2011 – DSHS agrees to purchase, and Contractor agrees to provide, services or goods to the eligible populations for the total amount of \$1,076,554.00 same amount as previous contract.
- **Water Pollution Control and Abatement Services Agreement between Galveston County Water Control and Improvement District No. 8 and Health District** was signed by COO on September 24, 2010. Agreement will begin immediately following full execution of this agreement and expire on September 30, 2011.
- **Water Pollution Control and Abatement Services Agreement between GCHD and the City of Friendswood** was signed by COO on August 27, 2010. Agreement will be from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011.
- **Water Pollution Control and Abatement Services Agreement between GCHD and the City of Santa Fe** was signed by COO on September 1, 2010. Agreement will be from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011.
- **Water Pollution Control and Abatement Services Agreement between GCHD and the City of La Marque** was signed by COO on September 1, 2010. Agreement will be from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011.
- **Water Pollution Control and Abatement Services Agreement between GCHD and The Water Company** was signed by COO on September 1, 2010. Agreement will be from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011.
- **Water Pollution Control and Abatement Services Agreement between GCHD and The City of Texas City** was signed by COO on September 1, 2010. Agreement will be from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011.
- **Water Pollution Control and Abatement Services Agreement between GCHD and the City of Jamaica Beach** was signed by COO on September 1, 2010. Agreement will be from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011.

- **Water Pollution Control and Abatement Services Agreement between GCHD and the City of Hitchcock** was signed by COO on September 1, 2010. Agreement will be from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011.
- **Water Pollution Control and Abatement Services Agreement between GCHD and the City of League City, Texas** was signed by COO on September 1, 2010. Agreement will be from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011.
- **Amendment of Water Sampling Services Contract between GCHD and General Land Office (GLO)** - was signed by COO on September 21, 2010. Purpose of this amendment is the desire to add additional dates to the Sampling Schedule in the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and extend the term of the Contract under same terms for four (4) additional months and all funds for resampling not expended by August 31, 2010 will no longer be available for this Contract. Termination date will be December 31, 2010. Adding funding by \$29,140.00 for the revised sampling schedule only, not to exceed \$155,415.00. Amendment be effective September 1, 2010
- **Amendment from Department of State Health Services for the Public Health Emergency Response – Focus Area I** was signed by COO on September 2, 2010. This purpose of this amendment is to extend term through July 31, 2011 – per CDC extension. No change to budget.
- **Agreement between the Hitchcock Volunteer Fire Department and GCHD** was signed by COO on September 1, 2010. Term of agreement will be from September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011 for lease of a facility to house GAAA staff.

<b>Environmental Health Programs – Notices August 2010</b>		
	<b>Month</b>	<b>Average</b>
Animal Control (dogs running at large, no registration, cruelty, etc.)	71	87
Air Pollution (violation of state air regulations, permits, excessive emissions, etc.)	3	5
Food Services (violations of food service policy requiring voluntary closure, court actions, etc.)	0	0.2
Food Services (letters sent for operating with an expired food service permit)	13	24
Public Health Nuisances (trash and high weeds, violations of health and safety code)	45	23
On-Site Septic Systems (violation of on-site policy)	4	6
Water Pollution (improper disposal, sewage leaks, grease trap violations, etc.)	1	7

*A Monthly Report of  
 The Galveston County Health District.  
 For more information regarding this document,  
 Contact Pisa Lewis, Executive Assistant, [plewis@gchd.org](mailto:plewis@gchd.org) or  
 409-938-2401 or Kurt Koopmann, PIO, at  
[kkoopman@gchd.org](mailto:kkoopman@gchd.org) or 409-938-2211*