



Executive Report to the Galveston County United Board of Health
July 25, 2007

Annual News Sensation: “Flesh-Eating Bacteria”

A reported case of *Vibrio vulnificus* being treated at UTMB resulted in several media calls. Channel 2 Houston initially broadcast a story which generated calls from other television and print media. Most of the information provided to callers was to clarify that the Beach Watch program has nothing to do with *Vibrio* which is present in all salt water at all times. Calls were also received from concerned tourists who had vacation plans on the island. In response information about *Vibrio* infection and who is at risk of severe consequences was posted on the GCHD web site Friday, July 20th which can be found at www.gchd.org/press/2007/Vibrio%20Information.htm. The *Galveston County Daily News* ran an editorial urging people to use common sense when it comes to enjoying the beach which can be accessed at www.gchd.org/press/2007/VibrioEditorial.htm.

Big Springs Resident a Potential Public Health Threat on Cruise Ship

On June 29th Galveston County Health District was contacted by the CDC and made aware of a highly suspected TB patient on The Carnival Conquest. The patient had been ill since boarding the ship and did not leave her room except to go to the medical clinic. The patient suffered with nausea and vomiting, shortness of breath and cough. The patient was also feverish and weighed less than 80 pounds. A chest X-ray was done and revealed signs of possible tuberculosis. The ship's physician, CDC, Texas Department of State Health Services, and the Galveston County Health District worked to get the patient to the hospital and restrict exposure to other vacationers. The patient was diagnosed with pneumonia after full evaluation at UTMB.

Meeting with Agencies Doing Business with 4C's Clinic

On July 12th, the GCHD hosted a meeting with various Galveston County agencies which refer clients to the 4C's Clinic for medical and dental services. Agencies represented at the meeting included: ADA House, Bay Area Recovery, CHRISTUS New Horizons, Omega-Alpha House, R. House Inc., Salvation Army – Galveston, Women's Resource and Crisis Center, and Gulf Coast Center Transitional Housing. Many of these clients are not Galveston County residents; therefore, GCHD addressed the need for adequate Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) or contracts with each agency in order to comply with rules and regulations established for FQHCs. In the meeting, it was decided that we would start by getting information about each agency. A questionnaire was developed in order to prepare us for future discussions regarding the individual healthcare needs of each agency's clients. MOUs will be drafted for each agency based on their needs for 4C's services.

Required Incident Command Structure Training

On July 20, 2007, Office of Emergency Management Regional Liaison Officer, David Popoff, conducted an 8 hour Incident Command Structure (ICS) training which consisted of ICS 100, 200, and IS 700 courses held at Health District's Auditorium in La Marque. The executive and public health preparedness staff identified 140 Health District employees based on organizational requirements as Tier 1, 2, 3, and 4 responders in the event of an emergency or disaster. Employees classified as Tier 1, entry level responders, are required to take ICS 100 and IS 700; Tier 2 employees, first line supervisors, are required to take ICS

100, 200, and IS 700; Tier 3 employees, middle management, are required to take ICS 100, 200, 300, IS 700 and 800a; and Tier 4 employees, command and executive staff are required to take ICS 100, 200, 300, 400, IS 700 and 800a. The ICS 100 and IS 700 are introductory courses to ICS and National Incident Management System (NIMS), the ICS 200 consists of basic incident command structure information, the ICS 300 and 400 courses consist of intermediate and advanced incident command structure information, and the IS 800a is an introduction of the national response plan (NRP). All staff identified as a responder must complete the identified training required in their tier by August 31, 2007 to fulfill grant requirements and to meet GCHD duties to respond to health concerns in an emergency or disaster.

Executive Initiatives

On July 25, 2007, Dr. Mark Guidry and Jay Holland met with Curtiss Brown and representatives of UTMB, Mainland Medical Center, Gulf Coast MHMR, and Jesse Tree to continue work on a collaborative proposal to increase capacity of the 4C's clinic and its partners to more comprehensively serve patients with chronic diseases. Mr. Curtiss Brown will share the proposal with county officials on July 26th. Dr. Guidry, Jay Holland and Mike Carr met with Mayor Sanders, City of Hitchcock, on July 19th. The group reviewed EMS services for City of Hitchcock and identified solutions to dispatch and other concerns. Dr. Guidry & Dr. Dana Beckham met with Mainland Communities United Way to discuss reviewing a recent community needs assessment. The group decided to add additional information to the report that will benefit the community and the United Way. Topics reviewed include access to healthcare, childhood's immunizations, etc. On July 24th, Dr. Mark Guidry and Jay Holland met with Commissioners Court to discuss the proposed FY08 County Budget. Issues discussed during this meeting included animal services, emergency medical services, facility renovation/remodeling and additional funding for the 4C's Clinic. It is expected that the Court will approve funding to the District for FY08 in the amount of \$6,424,800. This is level funding from FY 07, however this amount may increase should the Court include any additional funding for the 4C's Clinic and across the board increases for those District employees still on County payroll.

State Decision to Not Fund GCHD's HIV Prevention Grant

On June 25, 2007, GCHD was notified that its grant application for HIV/STD Community Education was not selected for funding. In response, GCHD submitted an appeal of that decision and an Open Records Request. While the final appeal decision is pending, 3 staff members funded under this grant were notified of the potential reduction-in- forces (RIF) and that Human Resources would assist them, as feasible, to find other available positions they may be qualified for. GCHD has received education funding for over 22 years. This years funding will end August 31, 2007.

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 County Daily News* with eligibility guidelines. See www.gchd.org/pages/chn/dfeet.htm.
- PIO Kurt Koopmann attended an **emergency drill** conducted by the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station in Wadsworth on July 10th. Members of the Houston/Galveston PIO Network to participated in the mock nuclear incident at the plant.
- Public Information Officer Kurt Koopmann represented the Health District as guest speaker for **North Galveston County Chamber of Commerce** at the South Shore Harbor Country Club on July 17th. GCHD brochures were distributed to about 40 members were in attendance.
- The vacant **Webmaster** position is posted on the GCHD Career Opportunities web page and applications are being accepted. Information is found at www.gchd.org/hr/Webmaster-237.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.*

- **Primary Health Care Grant** – The 4C's Clinic has been tentatively awarded a Primary Health Care Grant from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Staff from DSHS will negotiate the terms of the potential agreement with Health District Executive Managers. If the grant is awarded, funding will begin September 1.
- **4C's Nursing Director** - Wanda Young, MS, MPH, RN, CDE started on July 24, 2007, as the new 4C's Nursing Director. Ms. Young has public health experience in Houston and Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- **Research Collaboration** – Health District Executive staff recently met with physicians from UTMB Department of Family Medicine to explore partnering on research opportunities. Dr. Cindy Ripsin will apply for a research grant to pilot an educational tool for diabetics at the 4C's Clinic.
- **Clinic Leadership Team (CLT)** – A Referral Protocol which provides guidance on the information needed when completing referral forms has been approved and presented to all providers at the July 11, 2007, In-Service training
- **Donations** – On July 18, 2007 Schering-Plough through Direct Relief has made another generous donation of 1, 000 Albuterol inhalers for an estimated savings of \$21,310.00, which brings the total savings to \$30, 500.00, with a total of 1,432 inhalers donated.
- **Stress and Health Research** – In June the Governing Board approved a new study to be conducted at both the Texas City and Galveston clinics. The UTMB Stress and Health Study has been designed to obtain information that will identify the relationship between chronic stressors and the use of substances such as tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and ecstasy by young women between the ages of 18 and 30 in order to be able to decrease and control how often these substances are used.
- **Pharmacy RFP** – The Pharmacy RFP closed on July 10, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. We received three bids from potential candidates. Executive staff has met to discuss the RFP's received and has set-up meetings with two candidates to discuss Pharmacy options and solutions. Executive staff will continue to meet candidates to determine the best possible fit for the 4C's.

Office of Community Health Services: *For more information, please contact Cassandra Arceneaux, MD, MPH, Director of Community Health Services at (409) 938-2457 or email carceneaux@gchd.org.*

- **Community Outreach - Children's Center Inc. Resource and Information Events.** This event was sponsored by the Galveston County Child Welfare Board and The Children's Center Inc. Outreach and Assistance Program. The events were July 12th in Texas City and July 18th in Galveston. The purpose of these events was to educate the community about resources in the community such as the Jesse Tree, the Housing Authority and Health and Human Services, of which they may not be aware or know how to access. GCHD made their services known through this event by providing information about ImmTrac, our statewide immunization registry and making sure children were registered. The community health nurses provided generalized information about the Health District with Dr. Arceneaux and Sharon Woodfox-Ryan giving brief presentations to all participants about services provided by the Health District. The Community Health Nurses spoke individually to a total of 84 participants at the Galveston and Texas City Events. Our immunization team provided information to 244 individuals with 62 registering for Imm Trac.
- **D'FEET Breast Cancer Program First Quarter Report** – The D'FEET Breast Cancer Screening Program provides breast cancer screening for women 40 years of age and older who are uninsured or underinsured. This program is funded through a contract, which utilizes Koman Foundation funds and monies raised through a DeFeet Fun Run at Moody Gardens in October. The Health District provides case management and patient care from screening to cancer treatment if indicated. Our

target for this fiscal year is 1000 screening mammograms. During the first quarter, 173 mammograms were completed of the 250 needed to stay on track. 327 mammograms are needed by the end of September to reach our goal. To achieve this goal we have renewed a relationship with Save Our Sisters, an African American focused breast health program, to help recruit patients. In addition to the Oleander Van, we have also made arrangements with Victory Breast Imaging in Dickinson to provide clinical breast exams and screening mammograms at their facilities. We will also expand our outreach by offering presentations to African American and Latino churches in the county.

- **HIV Outreach Conference** – The 13th Annual Street Outreach Workers Conference in Austin, Texas was attended by our HIV/STD Program Manager, Jim Hilton, June 24- 27th. Among topics discussed were Community Building and Outreach among African American Men by Cleo Manago, and Outreach to Sex Workers-Policies and Realities by Carol Leigh. Other sessions included effective outreach for African American men, and Race, Class and the war on Drugs. The goal of this conference was to discuss and share options with other HIV/STD staff about different ways of reaching the goal of controlling the spread of STD/HIV spread in our communities.

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*

- **Valero Odor Complaints** - On July 6, 2007 around 12 noon, the Air and Water Pollution Services Division began to receive several citizen complaints concerning a very noxious odor that was impacting Galveston Island. From eyewitness accounts, the odor was detected at the campus of UTMB, as reported by Mary Anne Holcomb, to our 4C's clinic and all the way past 61st street to the west. Investigation efforts were hampered due to the heavy amount of rain that impacted the area leaving many of the roads in Texas City impassable. Investigators were dispatched to Galveston Island, the City of Texas City and several investigators began a phone survey of local industry to ascertain information on any incidents occurring. Early attempts at locating the source were unsuccessful due to the inability to travel around the City of Texas City. Later that day, the rains subsided and the winds shifted towards the City of Texas City. Citizens in the city began to call about this odor. The second investigation was successful in locating the source of the odor as Valero Refining. Apparently, due to the heavy rains, a floating roof on their slop oil tank sank exposing the contents of the tank to the atmosphere. Company officials through a telephone interview admitted to this occurrence and had contractors on site to remediate the situation. The Health District contacted the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and requested an emission event investigation. The District's investigation and the findings from the TCEQ investigation may lead to formal enforcement against the company that could include penalties.
- **Sexually Oriented Business Hearing** - The Consumer Health Division along with the Galveston County Legal Department has filed a motion for the revocation of the sexually oriented business permit for Dimitri's Cabaret. The revocation is based on the fact that the Cabaret was closed for more than thirty (30) consecutive days as reported to the Health District. This is a violation of the County of Galveston's Ordinance that regulates the activities at sexually oriented business. A hearing was held with Judge Baker presiding and the District is awaiting the results.
- **Animal Shelter Donation** – Mr. and Mrs. David Branstetter of Texas City graciously donated \$300 and two large bags of cat food to the Joe Vickery Animal Shelter. A thank you letter from the Board has been drafted for your approval.

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

- **Community Outreach** – GAAA recently participated in its annual training of fourth year medical students. Two paramedics trained more than two hundred students IV skills. This is the third year that GAAA has been a part of this training effort. This past weekend Galveston's Historical Downtown Partnership and GAAA partnered to provide free Bicycle helmets to Kids, at its 1st Annual Galveston Bicycle Day. The group provided more than one hundred helmets for children and teens. GAAA fitted and provided information on bicycle safety, 911 accesses as well as distributed 55 Vials of Life and other information. GAAA also participated recently in the Jesse Tree Hurricane Preparedness Food Fair.
- **Honorable Mention** - Recently GAAA Supervisor Trey Frankovich was recognized as "one of Galveston EMS' Rock Stars" in a recent article in the Galveston County Daily News, by Galveston Beach Patrol Chief Peter Davis. His photo is currently posted on the GCHD intranet.
- **GAAA City of Galveston Budget** - Staff developed a budget for FY '08. The Finance Committee has reviewed it and staff will be meeting with the city next. The United Board of Health will receive the proposal in August. The draft budget includes the purchase of two ambulances and additional operating equipment (i.e. defibrillators, handheld radios, etc.)

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

- **Security Training for Mass Vaccination/Medication Dispensing** - On June 25th, the GCHD Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator facilitated training in security for mass vaccination or mass medication dispensing clinics. The training was conducted at Westbrook Intermediate in Clear Creek ISD by the O'Brien's Group. Fifteen representatives from Clear Creek ISD attended the training. The purpose of the training is to train members of law enforcement and ISD security to complete a security assessment and to develop a security plan for a mass vaccination or medication dispensing sites.
- **Animal Issues Committee Planning** - On July 10th, Chief Epidemiologist Dr. Dana Beckham and Public Health Planner Brian Rutherford along with other Galveston County Animal Issues Committee members, met with animal disaster planners from Harris and Brazoria Counties and the state, to discuss a regional planning approach to the rescue and sheltering of animals after a disaster such as a hurricane. The group discussed local planning efforts, weighed in on the pros and cons of signing an agreement with groups such as the Humane Society of the US to coordinate rescue efforts, and discussed regional coordination of plan development. The group decided to pursue a regional planning approach and will be meeting again in October to further develop regional collaborations in planning.
- **Hurricane Evacuation Planning** - During the 4C's in-service training on July 11th, the Public Health Planner provided an update to all clinic staff regarding hurricane evacuation planning at the state and local levels. He also gave tips to staff in how they could prepare for an evacuation. Also during the in-service, the SNS Coordinator, Amelia Acosta, informed clinic nurses and other staff about their roles in operating mass vaccination or medication dispensing clinics in the event such a response is necessary to control an outbreak of disease in Galveston County.
- **Medical Surge Capacity Collaboration with Local Partners** - Members of the Galveston County Emergency Response Collaborative (GCERC) met on July 12th. Members worked on a medical surge capacity plan for the county, discussed lessons learned from recent measles and TB cases, heard about new planning initiatives in the Strategic National Stockpile for hospitals, and discussed exercise and training opportunities.

- **Planning for Regional Panflu Exercise** - The Galveston County Health District hosted a meeting on July 12th to plan the upcoming regional pandemic flu exercise. Representatives from Health Departments across southeast Texas attended either in person or by conference call to decide on the length and scope of the exercise and address how invitations to the event would be coordinated. The exercise will take place in Conroe on August 16th.
- **Training and Exercise Plan Workshop** - On July 19th, the Public Health Planner and the Community Outreach Coordinator, attended training in Houston to update them regarding federal exercise and training guidelines. About twenty representatives from various health departments around the region attended the training. The class was taught by staff from the O'Brien's Group, a company contracted by local health departments to provide training and moderate the upcoming pandemic flu exercise.
- **Pandemic Flu Training for First Responders** - On July 19, 2007, Galveston County Health District hosted a Pandemic Influenza Information for First Responders Satellite Broadcast training. Eight participants attended the training, including representatives from the Health District, Galveston, Angleton and Manvel area. The broadcast covered topics such as, differentiating influenza (avian, pandemic and seasonal), legal aspects of quarantine, continuity of operations, educating, planning and preparing for panflu at a state, local organization and individual level.
- **Disease Reporting Training to Medical Community** - Epidemiology staff presented at the core immunization class offered by the Health District's Immunization Services on July 20, 2007. 8 medical community participants received training on vaccine preventable diseases and how to report notifiable diseases/conditions to the Health District and DSHS.

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

- **DSHS Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program*** was signed by COO on July 2, 2007. This grant funds breast and cervical cancer screening, diagnosis activities and case management. The amount awarded was \$27,750 for one year period.
- **TCEQ BioWatch Monitoring grant amendment** was signed by COO on July 18, 2007. This agreement extended the term to 8/31/08 in which the GCHD will operate and maintain whole air samplers in the Galveston area.
- **Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) agreement** was signed by COO on July 6, 2007. GCHD has agreed to provide death certificates to TDCJ parolees who expire while they are on parole. The total amount of this agreement shall not exceed \$420.00. The price per death certificate remains the same at the previous contract at \$21.00.
- **Amendment to DSHS CPS Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Grant** was signed by COO on July 9, 2007. This grant funds the dispensing of prophylactic medications during a bioterrorism attack. The amendment to this grant is a reallocation of existing funds to facilitate current planned spending and to purchase equipment.
- **Interlocal Cooperation Act Agreement with UTMB** was signed CEO on July 11, 2007. The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a relationship of cooperation between the GCHD and UTMB for the provision of medications to UTMB patients, employees, students and all dependents in the event of a Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) deployment to Galveston County.
- **The Paper Products bid was awarded to Bosworth and Quill** by COO on July 16, 2007. The term of the contract is July 22, 2007 to July 21, 2008.
- **UTMB Ambulance Transportation Contract was amended** which renewed the original contract was signed by COO on July 2, 2007. GCHD will continue to provide ambulance service to/from UTMB hospitals and clinics. The new term is July 5, 2007 through August 31, 2008.

- **4C's Security Coordinator Agreement with Sgt. Brett Luck** was signed by COO on July 3, 2007. Sgt. Luck will provide security services at the 4C's Galveston Clinic. GCHD has agreed to pay security personnel \$25.00 per hour with a four hour minimum.
- **DSHS CPS Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Grant*** was signed by COO on July 23, 2007. This grant funds the dispensing of prophylactic medications during a bioterrorism attack. The total amount awarded was \$855,373 for the period covering September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2007. The funds average \$427,373 per year. However, the funds for the period September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008 decreased to \$223,194.

* Note: both the DSHS Breast and Cervical Cancer contract and the DSHS CPS Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Grant funded levels represent 6 months of funding. As additional funding becomes available both of these programs will be fully funded.