



**Executive Report to the Galveston County 4C's Governing Board**  
**November 1, 2007**

**Influenza Prevention Campaign**

Community Health Services started its annual fight against the flu by offering flu clinics throughout Galveston County. Services have been provided at churches, county and Health District facilities, nursing homes, senior citizen centers, expos, school districts and other learning centers from Port Bolivar to League City. A total of 1,362 flu shots have been administered. Additional flu clinics are scheduled in November at MHMR facilities in Texas City and Galveston, and more churches and schools including the North County. Staff from Public Health Preparedness is also assisting with the campaign by printing signage, meeting with host facilities to plan clinic setup, providing customer assistance at the clinics, and helping in the recruitment of volunteers.

**Childhood Lead Poisoning**

The Health District's 2005 Annual report outlined a long-known public health disparity of an increased burden of childhood lead poisoning in certain zip code areas of Galveston Island and on High Island. In the 2005 report, the state of Texas estimates 3.2% of children under the age of 6 years have had elevated lead levels from 2000 - 2002 data, while Galveston County data reflects 13.1%. The prevalence of childhood lead poisoning is a geographic disparity by zip codes on Galveston Island and Bolivar peninsula. Zip codes with an elevated prevalence of childhood lead poisoning include: 77553 (41.4%), 77552 (27.3%), 77551 (23.6%), and 77550 (19.0%), followed by High Island, 77623 (36%). The Health District's roles are to analyze reports of elevated lead that are reported to GCHD by providers who test children; perform public health nursing education to parents of children; perform environmental assessment to determine the source of lead; and refer parents to any available resources for lead abatement/remediation. A report issued by the Baylor College of Medicine on **Childhood Lead Levels** in Galveston generated numerous media inquiries about nature of problems, governmental roles, and what can be done about it. A story in the *Galveston County Daily News* on Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup> can be found at <http://www.gchd.org/press/2007/10leadreport.htm>. Houston media picked up the story and on Monday October 29<sup>th</sup> the Public Information Office fulfilled media requests from the *Houston Chronicle*, *Univision*, *KHOU Channel 11*, *Fox 26 News*, and *KTRK Channel 13*. For more information, contact Kurt Koopmann, Public Information Officer, at (409) 938-2211 or email [kkoopman@gchd.org](mailto:kkoopman@gchd.org).

**New Phone System Improves Public Services & Disaster Readiness**

Connecting major GCHD buildings in La Marque, Texas City, and Galveston, a new telephone system has been installed. Benefits include 4 digit dialing between personnel in involved buildings, an electronic directory; rotate to cell features for emergency staff, and the technology to develop a phone bank to assist callers during a public health emergency. The implementation was very successful as a result of a careful year of planning, technical support, and executive coordination. The new phone system expands GCHD capacity to assist numerous public callers and requirements for phones to rollover so that a public caller may reach a live person for assistance. A new "contact center" and voice tree was established to help the public get routed to the correct Health District service area. Call (409) 938-7221 to see how the contact center works.

### **Animal Advisory Committee Reviews Shelter Needs**

On October 5, 2007, the advisory committee approved a motion to form a subcommittee to look at needs for a new animal shelter or renovations at the current shelter to meet ever increasing public needs. Lark Tedesco, advisory committee member was elected as subcommittee chair and will work with Ronnie Schultz to secure subcommittee members and work on a plan to educate decision makers. The first objective of the subcommittee is to draft a presentation highlighting the shelter needs for the local mayors association, city councils and commissioner's court.

### **Review of 4C's Referrals to UTMB Specialty Clinics**

For the Quarter of April– June 2007, 4C's Providers made 817 referrals. After reconciliation with UTMB's DAMP office we had a success rate of 23%, 30% were Denied, 1% were Pending, 2% were Declined Appointments, 14% had No Record or were lost by UTMB DAMP, 4% of the patients failed to comply with Financial Office, 17% were unable to be contacted, 2% did not keep their appointment, and 6% were Third Party Qualified (such as Medicaid, Medicare, County Indigent Program). The report has generated interest and concern and is under further review to identify areas for improvement.

### **Getting the Word out About Public Health Issues**

Dr. Guidry spoke to a large group of UTMB students and staff in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The talk gave an overview of public health priorities, accomplishments, and problems that need community solutions. As a result of the presentation, many connections have been made to look at future partnerships such as addressing teen health issues, childhood lead poisoning, and promoting fitness and healthy eating behaviors. The Public Health Planner conducted a lecture for preventive medicine students at UTMB on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The lecture provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the District in preparing for and responding to public health emergencies. Joining the Planner were representatives from UTMB who shared how UTMB intends to function during an emergency. The presentation also highlighted what individuals can do to be better prepared and encouraged those attending to join the Galveston County Medical Reserve Corps.

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

- **West Nile virus** was the subject of a press release posted on the web site September 24<sup>th</sup> [www.gchd.org/press/2007/09DSHSMosquito.htm](http://www.gchd.org/press/2007/09DSHSMosquito.htm). Initially distributed by the Texas Department of State Health Services the release stresses that even though fall has arrive residents should still take measures to prevent the spread of WNV.
- Notice of a comment period concerning a revised **On-site Sewage Facility** policy/regulation was posted on October 1<sup>st</sup> and can be accessed at [www.gchd.org/press/2007/09OSSFCityComment.htm](http://www.gchd.org/press/2007/09OSSFCityComment.htm). Comments will be accepted from local member governments until October 31, 2007. The posting also contained a link to the actual policy as approved by the UBOH at the September meeting [www.gchd.org/press/2007/Amendment%20OSSF0907.pdf](http://www.gchd.org/press/2007/Amendment%20OSSF0907.pdf) and also a document summarizing public comments received [www.gchd.org/press/2007/OSSFResponses2.pdf](http://www.gchd.org/press/2007/OSSFResponses2.pdf).
- Information on opportunities to receive flu shots for the **2007/2008 influenza season** was distributed in a press release issued October 5<sup>th</sup>. The release posted on the GCHD web site [www.gchd.org/press/2007/1007FluShots.htm](http://www.gchd.org/press/2007/1007FluShots.htm) also contains a list of the high risk groups that are especially encouraged to get an annual flu shot. On October 18<sup>th</sup> additional flu shot clinics serving

the Bolivar peninsula community were posted on the GCHD web site and distributed to local media [www.gchd.org/press/2007/1016FluShots2.htm](http://www.gchd.org/press/2007/1016FluShots2.htm).

- Intense media interest surrounding **MRSA** infections prompted the Department of State Health Services to issue precautions in an effort to prevent the spread of the infection which GCHD posted on their web site and distributed to the local medical community. The information on MRSA with precautions can be found at [www.gchd.org/press/2007/DSHS-staph.htm](http://www.gchd.org/press/2007/DSHS-staph.htm). All of the prevention guidelines recommended by the state along with other MRSA information can also be found at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/antibiotic%5Fresistance/mrsa/](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/antibiotic%5Fresistance/mrsa/).
- A new **GCHD Webmaster** started at the District on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Richard Pierce has experience in web design, photography and videography. Richard is a graduate of the University of Houston Clear Lake with a Master of Arts in Humanities. We welcome Richard to the Galveston County Health District.

**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).*

- **Women's Health Program** – Proposed changes in the Women's Health Program (WHP) will allow FQHC's to be reimbursed for up to three visits annually from only one previously. Currently, FQHC's are waiting on Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to approve the waiver and further directions from WHP. Also, TMHP is authorizing a change for clients; patients can now be seen by another provider other than their PCP after hours or weekends without a referral.
- **Title V Grant** – Executive Officers and staff are developing the necessary procedures in preparation for implementation of the recently awarded Title V grant from the Department of State Health Services in the amount of \$97,944. The purpose of this grant is to provide fee for service payment for primary care and dental services to eligible clients.
- **4C's Provider Vacancies** – Two provider vacancies are posted on the Health District's website, TACHC's website, and the Houston Chronicle. It was submitted to the Harris County Medical Society Newsletter for September, and will be advertised in the October issue of Texas Medicine, and also in the Chicago area. An interview with a Family Medicine MD was held on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Staff will keep the Board informed when offers are made and accepted.
- **Clinic Leadership Team (CLT)** - CLT approved the Dental Customer Service Survey Procedures that is to be presented at the October In-Service and has approved the Dental Medical History Form as is with no additional changes needed.
- **In-Service** - At the October In-Service 4C's staff received the yearly flu shot and training on the newly implemented, Board approved, phone system and dress code, as well as, department specific training such as, Share the Care Qualifications for Providers, Follow-up Procedures with Labs and Rewrites for Nurses/Medical Assistants, Customer Service Survey Procedures and Emergency Patient Guidelines for Dental staff, and Registration Procedures for County Indigent Patients for Patient Services. These are just a few examples of trainings provided at monthly in-service meetings.
- **TACHC Annual Meeting** - The annual Texas Association of Community Health Centers (TACHC) meeting included such sessions as "Federal and State Policy"; "How to Change Community and Political Perceptions of FQHCs"; Financial and Data Implications of Practice Management and EMR Implementation"; Community Health Center Disaster Preparedness Readiness"; and several sessions pertaining to the use of the newly released TACHC Comprehensive Clinical Care Manuals dealing with Compliance and Performance Improvement, Human Resources, Management and Operations and Information Management. The 2008 Annual TACHC Meeting will be held in Galveston.

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

- **Head Start Physicals** - On October 2<sup>nd</sup> GCHD provided 21 head start physicals to 4 and 5-year-olds at Texas City's Calvin Head Start Center. In addition to providing preventive care for young children and meeting a state mandated requirement for the head start program, this program enables GCHD to recruit underserved children to the 4C's clinic for care.
- **STD Statistics** - The number of cases of Gonorrhea, Chlamydia and Syphilis reported to the STD/HIV Surveillance Program has increased compared to last year at this time. The reported cases of Gonorrhea are 427 from January to September 2007 compared to a total of 406 in 2006 during the same timeframe. Similar trends are being seen with Chlamydia and Syphilis. To date there have been 820 reports of Chlamydia compared to 702 and 31 syphilis cases compared with 24 reported. There is a question of this representing more cases or better reporting by the providers in our county, with our STD/HIV program manager reporting reports coming from a more diverse pool and changes in computer systems making reporting more precise in the past year. We may have to wait for 2008 data to make more specific inferences from the gathered data.
- **Breast Screening Increase** - We have increased our rate of breast screenings in the most recent quarter for D'FEET patients from 173 in the first quarter to 215. This is due to improved scheduling practices by staff and the cooperation of Victory Breast Imaging who has donated their facilities for breast screenings several times each month. We continue to fall behind our goal of 250 screenings a quarter, and currently are behind by 112 for the first half of the year. In previous years we had a goal of 750 mammograms and are currently well ahead of that goal, but with the new goal of 1000 mammograms, we are required to tap into additional resources. We are in the process of working with Save Our Sisters, the Black Nurses Association, the Ministerial Alliance, and the Galveston County Housing Authority to increase the number of women reached by this much needed program.
- **Texas Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention System** - Dr. Arceneaux, CHS Director, attended the 2007 Texas Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention System Partner Planning Meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Austin, TX. This meeting gave an opportunity to compare best practices on this issue and develop policy that can improve our approach to the topic at the state level. Heart disease and stroke are listed as the numbers one and three cause of death in the United States.
- **Tuberculosis Program Managers Meeting** - The Department of State Health Services held their annual TB Program Managers Meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>. The most significant topic for the health district is the initiation of Quantiferon Gold use for TB diagnosis by January of 2008. This is a blood test to take the place of tuberculin skin testing on qualified patients, such as those with a history of receiving the BCG vaccine in foreign countries and health care workers. More information will be shared with the board as it becomes available.

**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)*

- **Animal Seizures** – The Animal Services Division was kept busy with several civil animal seizures. ACOs assisting Precinct 4 Constables removed 30 suspected fighting Pitt Bulls staked out in a remote, wooded area of **Santa Fe**. The dogs were scarred and bore wounds from recent injuries. Houston SPCA assisted us in housing these animals. Animal Services assisted Habitat for Horses in an equine seizure that included three dogs and two puppies in the unincorporated area of Galveston County. Also, Animal Services staff was called to a scene of over 150 roosters in the **San Leon** area that required cruelty investigators from Houston SPCA to provide an assessment of the condition of the fowl. A seizure was not conducted at that time, however if conditions do not improve, a civil

seizure warrant will be executed. The Animal Services Division was dispatched to a complaint about odors emanating from a mobile home located in the **City of Hitchcock** associated with the hoarding of cats. The resident of the mobile home originally refused to open the door to our officers and a Hitchcock Police Officer. Warrants were secured and eventually the owner allowed us to execute the warrants. Officers removed fifty-two cats from very unhealthy conditions inside the trailer and transported them to the animal shelter. Sgt. Joel Caldwell, Animal Cruelty Investigator, filed criminal animal cruelty charges against the former owner.

- **Petsmart Charities** – The Animal Services Division applied for and received an emergency grant to assist in the care of 52 cats seized during an animal cruelty investigation. This emergency grant funding program is part of the Petsmart Charities grant program that assists government shelters that seize more than fifty animals. The grant provided the following supplies: 25 fold down metal cages, 50 plastic litter pans, 5 cases of canned cat food, cat flea control, ear mite medication, kitten milk replacement, kitten feeding bottles, cat eye wash solution and grooming supplies. In addition, the Charities provided a check in the amount of \$2,646.00 to pay for the veterinary care. The Health District appreciates Petsmart Charities and Dr. Bob Baylor for services provided to the shelter this month.
- **Food Establishments with Expired Permits** - Final notifications were issued to the following food establishments for operating with an expired food service permit – a violation of Texas Health and Safety Code: (1) *HEB, League City*; (2) *Mainland Texaco, Texas City*; (3) *Church's Fried Chicken, Texas City*; (4) *Riley's Donuts, Friendswood*; (5) *The Rat Shack, Texas City* and (6) *Donald's Donuts, League City*. The notification ordered the facilities to immediately obtain a valid permit or immediately close their operation until such time that their facility obtains a successful re-inspection and issuance of a valid permit. Since the delivery of these letters all of these facilities have paid for their health permit.
- **City of Santa Fe's Child Safety Fair** – The Office of Environmental Health Programs attended and participated in the City of Santa Fe's Child Safety Fair on October 6 amidst the clouds and rain that lowered the expected number of attendees. Informational brochures were distributed about environmental issues and appearances by Wally Wiseguy entertained and informed the crowds about chemical emergencies.
- **2006 Toxic Release Inventory Presentation** - Ronnie Schultz along with Dr. Jonathan Ward, Professor of Environmental Toxicology, UTMB teamed up to present information on the 2006 Toxic Release Inventory to the October 11, 2007 Community Advisory Committee. Dr. Ward provided basic information on the Toxic Release Inventory, a federal requirement that requires industry to report chemicals that were released and the amount of the release to the environment. Dr. Ward also spoke about the potential health effects on a community from these releases. Ronnie provided a trends analysis on the toxic release inventory submitted by our local petrochemical industries that shows a downward trend over the past ten years. In 1986, total toxic releases equaled 33 million pounds and in 2006 the releases totaled 9 million pounds.
- **Animal Services Advisory Committee Meeting** – The Animal Services Advisory Committee held its quarterly meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items included: update to the committee on the passage of the new animal services policy, dogs running at large in the Bacliff area and a request to pay overtime for an officer to patrol this area, issues with micro chipping animals, civil seizures on the increase, and committee re-appointments. A list of reappointments was sent for approval by the United Board of Health. A subcommittee was created to look at needs for a new animal shelter or renovations at the current shelter.

**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)

- **Medic One Administrator's Meeting** – Administrators of the Medic One system met on Tuesday, October 23, 2007. The items discussed included a follow up on mobilization done to prepare for Hurricane Dean, a review of staging operations guidelines for evacuation situations, and discussion of the need for a Memorandum of Understanding between private transfer companies and the Galveston Area Ambulance Authority for backup operations.
- **Status of Vacant Employee Positions** - GAAA currently has 23 vacancies in the 911 and non-emergency transfer operations. Efforts continue to process applicants as efficiently as possible. There are currently 11 applications received waiting to start the screening process, with 9 applicants currently in process.
- **Buildings owned by the City of Galveston and used by GAAA** – GAAA has come to agreement with the City on repair of the two buildings used by GAAA. Initial surveys are completed and tentative repair estimates have been made. GAAA is currently waiting on a remediation quote for the 50<sup>th</sup> & Avenue Q-1/2 building. Extensive repairs are expected to be completed in the next six months.
- **Training Classes Completed** – GAAA has completed two training classes for staff during the month of October. The transfer to 911 transition class was held on October 12, 2007 with five employees attending. The program is designed to prepare medics on transfer units for moving to 911 operations on an “as needed” basis. An advanced Paramedic skills assessment class was held on October 19, 2007 with six employees attending. This class is designed to assess and verify the capabilities of Paramedics who are placed in charge of a 911 unit. The class is a pre-requisite to attaining the position of Paramedic Team Captain with GAAA.
- **QA Report** – Staff recently assessed average response time for GAAA 911 operation areas for year 2007, through September 30<sup>th</sup>. The average response time for the GAAA 911 system is 5 minutes, average response time for Galveston Island: 5.1 minutes, Highway 6 area average response time: 5.9 minutes, Bayshore area average response time: 4.7 minutes.
- **Plan to Improve Management of Transfers** – GAAA staff and the Billing Department staff have been collecting data about non-emergency transfer operations over the last two months. Staff has determined that by actively managing the scheduling and dispatching of transfers, we are able to provide better customer service and respond to more requests for service. GAAA staff is meeting to explore several functional changes to address the challenges to efficient use of non-emergency resources, including scheduling, dispatching and coordination options. A proposal will be developed to the board at a future meeting.

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

**Epidemiology Updates:**

- **Mysterious Fever Illness in Elementary** - On Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007, a Clear Creek ISD elementary school nurse reported that eleven students were absent from the same kindergarten class due to a fever type illness. Epidemiology Services gave the nurse literature on hand washing and respiratory/cough etiquette. Most students were ill for 2-3 days with a fever being the most common symptom. Investigation revealed students were diagnosed with various conditions/diseases such as allergies, strep throat, hand foot mouth disease and gastro-intestinal illness.
- **Barber Middle School Chickenpox Outbreak** - On October 1, Barber Middle School reported to the Galveston County Health District an outbreak of chicken pox among its students. Epidemiology

Services met with school officials and the decision was made to send a letter to parents alerting them of the situation. As of October 30, 2007, there have been a total of 35 confirmed and suspected cases reported to Epidemiology Services. 13 cases were clinically diagnosed by a doctor; 18 cases are considered suspect and four cases ruled out by healthcare providers. Varicella (Chickenpox) is a vaccine preventable disease that is transmitted by direct contact, airborne or droplet of vesicle fluid or secretions from the respiratory tract of cases. It is one of the most readily communicable of diseases. Varicella immunization is recommended at age 12 to 15 months and second booster at age 4 -6 years. For additional information log onto <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/chickenpox/>.

- **Flu Surveillance** - The Health District has invited public health partners to voluntarily report flu data during the months of October thru May. All lab confirmed flu cases and Influenza Like Illness (ILI - fever over 100°F and cough and/or sore throat) will be reported to DSHS. In addition, Epidemiology Services will monitor use of over the counter pharmaceutical medications daily and ISD school communicable disease surveillance reports. Local influenza surveillance efforts remain the only way to collect data that enable health agencies to prepare for new vaccines, assess the severity of the annual epidemic, and detect new strains of the virus before a pandemic influenza strain can emerge. The viral cultures submitted to the state in combination with the state's reported flu activity level and the flu-like illness surveillance will provide important information to CDC for tracking and typing circulating flu.
- **MRSA reported at Hitchcock ISD** - On October 16, 2007, the Hitchcock ISD reported to the Health District a cluster of students with confirmed and suspected staph infections. Staphylococcus aureus, or staph, is a common germ that many people carry in their nasal passages and on their skin with no ill effects. MRSA is a type of staph that has developed resistance to the antibiotic called methicillin. Since staph is spread primarily by direct (skin-to-skin) human contact, anyone with a break in his or her skin is at risk. The Health District sent a letter out to the parents/guardians of the students educating them on transmission, symptoms, and prevention of staphylococcus infection. It was stressed that hand washing is the most important method of hygiene to prevent the spread of germs. For additional information log onto <http://www.mrsaTexas.org/>.
- **Public Health Information Network (PHIN) Advisory** – The following advisories were sent to the medical community via the Public Health Information Network in the month of October: (1) *mosquito precautions*; (2) cases of *Dengue fever* along the Texas-Mexico border; (3) two advisories on the chickenpox outbreak in Dickinson ISD; and (4) staph infection prevention guidelines. The guidelines contain staph infection education, prevention methods, & containment procedures.

#### **Preparedness Update:**

- **Point of Dispensing Clinic Training** - On October 8<sup>th</sup>, PHP staff hosted a training to teach participants how to manage a point of dispensing clinic. Such clinics might be needed in the event the District needs to dispense antibiotics or other medications to large numbers of individuals as the result of a disease outbreak. 13 people attended the training including district staff, hospital and EMS staff, and sheriff's office personnel.
- **Incident Command Training** - The Galveston County Health District hosted the Incident Command Structure (ICS) 400 course at its La Marque Headquarters on October 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007. This training included exercises in Advanced ICS Command and General Staff Complex Incidents. The instructor was Mr. David Popoff, Governors Office of Emergency Management Regional Liaison. There were 20 participants from surrounding areas including Pearland EMS, City of Galveston, Galveston Police Department, Bayou Vista Police Department, DSHS, NASA, and GCHD. This was one of five FEMA classes that have been offered at the Health District.

- **Disaster Animal Management Planning** - The Galveston County Animal Issues Committee met at the Galveston County Emergency Operations Building on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed the status of agreements with the Humane Society and Habitat for Horses to rescue and shelter animals after a disaster, discussed issues to be addressed in establishing shelters for large and companion animals, and discussed revisions to be included in the county animal issues plan.

**Compliance Reports (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).

- **Semi-Annual Maintenance Agreement with Loftin Equipment Company** for Natural Gas Generator was signed by COO on 10/9/07 for \$1,250.00.
- **Amendment to DSHS TB Prevention and Control Grant** was signed by COO on 10/11/07. This budget amendment is decreasing personnel cost by \$671.00 and funding two X-ray units at \$55,620 for grant period covering 1/1/07 to 12/31/07.
- Addendum to original Contract with **Landscape Professional of Texas** was signed by COO on 10/12/07. An additional 10% will be added to original contract price of \$13,740.00 per year due to rising fuel costs. GCHD will continue this Lawn and Landscape Maintenance contract for one additional year expiring 10/10/08.
- **A-1 Guaranteed Pest Control Service Agreement** was signed by COO on 10/15/07. The service will be performed once a month on the inside and outside perimeter for total annual charges of \$1140.00 Island Community Clinic, \$720.00 for Animal Shelter, \$4830.00 for the La Marque Administration and Environmental building, \$456.00 for Galveston WIC, \$300.00 for Galveston EMS, \$780.00 for Bacliff EMS, and \$660.00 for Hitchcock EMS.
- Nursing Affiliation Agreement with **Regis University - Loretto Heights School of Nursing** was signed by COO on 10/15/07. This agreement establishes the details of a clinical practicum experience.
- **Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital Business Associate Agreement** was signed by COO on 10/15/07. This agreement addresses the use of Patient's Protected Health Information.
- **Corporate Express and Quill** was awarded the Office Supply Bid by the COO on 10/16/07. The bid will be for one year – 10/22/07 to 10/23/08.
- **Essential Messaging Telephone Answering Service Agreement** was signed by COO on 10/18/07. They will provide answering services, seven days a week; 24 hours a day for Galveston Medical Transport at a rate of \$70.00 per month, plus an FCC charge of \$2.92 for 55 minutes of operate time per month.
- **Tuberculosis Program Response to the On-Site Evaluation Report Approved** - The response with corrective actions submitted to DSHS for the Tuberculosis program review held April 9-13<sup>th</sup> was accepted as written on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2007. No further action was requested.