



Executive Report May 2009

4C's Saturday Clinics Start June 6, 2009

On June 6, 2009 the 4C's Clinic in Texas City will be open most Saturdays from 10:00AM to 5:00PM. The Saturday Clinic is open to all Galveston County residents, both insured and uninsured, as walk-ins only. Fees are based upon the patient's ability to pay, which is determined by the 4C's Governing Board approved sliding fee scale and the patients financial status. The Saturday Clinic will be open for acute medical and dental services, as well as, Lab and X-ray services. The Saturday Clinic is made available through a two-year Increased Demand Service Economic Stimulus (IDS) grant designed to increase access to healthcare for the nation's un- and underinsured while also providing economic stimulus. A press release was issued on May 19th and can be found at www.gchd.org/press/2009/Saturday-clinic.htm. More information about the Saturday clinic may be viewed at: www.gchd.org/4cs/Saturdays.htm

United Board Of Health (UBoH) Members Re-Appointed

On April 8th Commissioners Court recommended the following members to be reappointed to the Board subject to approval by a majority (7) member cities – John Zendt, Hospitality; Ben G. Raimer, MD, UTMB; Ted Hanley, Citizen at Large; Patricia Rogers, MD, Citizen at Large; Wayne Rast, Municipality; Charles Scruggs, DDS, Dentist and Paulette Roberson, BSN, MSN, Registered Nurse. On May 7th, a majority of member cities ratified the county recommendation in accordance with the interlocal agreement. The cities are: *Bayou Vista, Clear Lake Shore, Dickinson, Friendswood, Hitchcock, Kemah and La Marque*. All reappointed members new terms will expire April 2011.

H1N1 (Swine) Flu In The News

As of May 27th, there are 7 confirmed cases of H1N1 flu in Galveston County – (1) Galveston, (1) La Marque, (2) League City and (3) Texas City. Epidemiologists continue to perform active surveillance with Independent School Districts, hospitals and medical community, communicating with regional and state entities and keeping the public and healthcare community informed of any developments. Nine Health Advisories were sent out to the medical community concerning H1N1 between April 23rd and May 22th. Information, recommendations and protocols regarding the outbreak were detailed in the advisories. For more information, visit the GCHD website at: www.gchd.org/press/2009/Swine-flu-information.htm. The emergence of H1N1 flu prompted the *Galveston County Daily News* to request a guest column from Dr. Guidry with information people should know. In the column readers were provided tips on how to prevent the spread of not only H1N1, but regular seasonal flu. The column is posted at www.gchd.org/press/2009/Planning%20for%20influenza%20column.htm. As the novel H1N1 flu continues to spread there have been several news reports published. This story contained information from local schools dealing with the illness www.gchd.org/press/2009/GISD-Planning%20for%20influenza.htm. On May 6th GCHD issued a press release with information on the first probable case of H1N1 in Galveston County www.gchd.org/press/2009/first-case-H1N1.htm. Information in the release was used for a story published in the *Galveston County Daily News* on May 7th www.gchd.org/press/2009/first-case-H1N1-daily-news.htm. A press release announcing a second probable case of the flu was distributed on May 7th www.gchd.org/press/2009/second-case-H1N1.htm, and was also used for a *Daily News* story in their May 8th edition www.gchd.org/press/2009/second-case-H1N1-Daily-News.htm. After the second probable case it was decided that as more cases of H1N1 were identified it would not be issued in a press release but instead posted on the GCHD web site where there is a continually updated list of information on the situation surrounding H1N1 influenza. On the page is a table that contains community specific information on the numbers of probable and confirmed cases in Galveston County. The information can be found at

www.gchd.org/press/2009/Swine-flu-information.htm. On May 14th Public Information was contacted by the *Daily News* after seeing on the site that there was a confirmed case of the illness in Galveston County. A story containing the information was in the May 15th edition www.gchd.org/press/2009/one-case-H1N1-confirmed.htm.

4C's Gearing Up for New Data Systems

After several years of planning and research, the 4C's Governing Board will consider staff recommendations to negotiate with a preferred vendor for a new practice management, medical & dental records systems. Executive staff submitted a comprehensive bid proposal that meets federal expectations and has performed due diligence on-site evaluations of other FQHC's using selected vendors. Following Governing Board approval of the recommended vendor, staff will begin negotiations towards a phase-in plan to first implement the practice management system for billing and appointments. Following that, the electronic medical records systems for both medical and dental will be implemented. As outlined in the 2008 Annual report, the new data systems will afford numerous improvements to billing, collections, management reports, and quality assurance activities. For more information, see <http://www.gchd.org/admin/2008ExecSumFinal.pdf>

County Indigent Eligibility Increases to 50% Poverty

Since Hurricane IKE, access to specialty care for the indigent and uninsured has been a growing problem in Galveston County. On May 13, Galveston County Commissioners Court approved to increase the eligibility requirement from 21% to 50% of the federal poverty level for the County Indigent program. Executive staff has made the necessary preparations to meet the June 1, 2009 implementation date. Thru the Galveston County Indigent Program, Galveston County pays for hospital and specialty care for patients at or below the 50% of the federal poverty level. The 4C's screens potential patients for this program and acts as the patient primary care provider. The State requires county to pay at the minimum eligibility rate of 21%.

Galveston County Senior Health Survey

The survey developed by the Senior Health Advisory Committee and Health District staff has been administered with the help of Galveston College and UTMB Nursing students to County Senior Centers (*Bacliff, Dickinson, and Texas City*) and to senior living facilities in *Friendswood, La Marque, Galveston, Santa Fe, Texas City, and Kemah*. A total of 169 questionnaires were administered in the community from January to March. The data has been compiled and analyzed and will be presented to the United board of health at it June meeting. The survey assessed socializations, mental and physical health, access to food and healthcare, transportation and safety. The information collected through these surveys will be used to educate citizens and policy-makers about the concerns and needs of the elderly in our community as well as provide useful information in grant submissions. For more information about the survey, contact Dr. Cassandra Arceneaux at (409) 938-2456 or email carceneaux@gchd.org.

State Preparedness Funds Awarded to GCHD

On May 19, 2009, GCHD was awarded 9 proposals to improve our readiness to respond to emergencies such as hurricanes and pandemic flu. The one-time funding based on a state and federal surplus of funds will amount to \$202,508.00, and will be purchased by November 30, 2009. The 9 proposals will consist of the following: 11 Point of Dispensing (POD) boxes, communication notification system, generator maintenance agreement, all in one collator stapler machine for use in the print shop, 17 ft cargo trailer, Adobe Suite and statistical Software, 7 computers, and an IT Disaster Recovery System. The equipment will further assist GCHD preparedness for emergency incidents that occurred in the county.

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.

- **4C's Partnership with UTMB** - A partnership with UTMB's Community Health Program has been established and providers were trained at the May In-Service. This program provides nurse care managers for patients with designated chronic conditions. The nurses assist patients to manage their own conditions through education, monitoring, goal-setting and helping them navigate the health care system. It also provides some specialty care for chronic condition-related needs such as cardiology visits. Patients must be uninsured, have been seen at UTMB within the past year, and go through financial screening and pay a co-pay for specialty visits. Feedback from UTMB is sent to our providers and the care managers have access to 4C's medical records.
- **The Joint Commission Survey Report** - The final report from The Joint Commission Survey in early March has been received. Clinic staff submitted clarifications on two findings and based on the new information, TJC has subsequently accredited 4C's clinics. The final survey report has been received and GCHD has 45 days to submit corrective actions on findings from the survey.
- **Title V Grant Renewal** - The 4C's has completed the renewal grant for Title V Services with the requested amount of \$89,725 from the Department of State Health Services. This is for the grant period from September 1, 2009 thru August 31, 2010. The purpose of this grant is to provide fee for service primary care and dental services to eligible clients. Notification from DSHS of awarded entities usually occurs in late July or early August.
- **Temporary Change in 4C's Dental Clinic Hours** – Due to a Dental Provider shortage, Executive staff has assessed the 4C's Dental Clinic's staffing and hours of operation and determined that a temporary change in 4C's Dental clinic hours of operation in both the Texas City and Galveston clinics is needed. In the Texas City clinic, the hours of operation will be 8:00AM -5:00PM Monday thru Friday and 10:00AM to 5:00PM on Saturday, with no late clinic on Mondays. In the Galveston clinic, the clinic will be open 8:00AM -5:00PM Monday and Wednesday thru Friday (closed on Tuesdays). Executive staff are actively seeking a new dental provider, as well as, exploring the possibilities of a temporary service to fill in the current provider vacancy.

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.*

- **Senior Presentations on Swine Flu** - This month in addition to information on STD/HIV prevention, Cassandra Arceneaux MD, MPH has been giving short presentations on Swine Flu prevention at the monthly senior center meetings. Flyers and information have been given in *Bacliff, Dickinson, League City, and La Marque*.
- **Healthy Weigh Program Ending** – Effective August 31st, the State will discontinue future statewide funding for the Comprehensive Childhood Obesity Program (Healthy Weigh) which provided nutrition and fitness counseling to overweight and obese children 2-12 years of age. Since the program began in September, 25 Galveston county children have received the services.
- **Immunization Core Curriculum** – The Core Curriculum on Immunization Administration was held on April 30th. The class was taught by June Gonzales, RN, La Kesha Brown, Teresa Guzman & Rosa Cruz. There were a total of 14 participants that included school nurses, private provider nurses, a CMA and GCHD personnel. In addition to learning vaccine administration techniques, they also learned about ImmTrac, Texas Vaccine For Children Program, Reactions, and Vaccine Storage & Handling.

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*

- **Dog Bite Victim** – A five year old dog bite victim underwent surgery at Hermann Hospital to correct a fracture to her arm and to clean and stitch several bite wounds. The victim was attacked at a home that her contractor father was working on in Crystal Beach. When the two entered the yard several dogs charged the girl and knocked her down and attacked her. The owner of the dogs secured them in the yard until a Health District Animal Control Officer arrived to investigate. The owner

relinquished the Rottweiler to our custody for rabies testing. The dog was humanely euthanized and the head sent to the Houston Public Health Lab for testing. The results of the test were negative.

- **Community Advisory Council** - Ronnie Schultz along with Dr. Jonathan Ward from UTMB were the guest speakers at the May 21st meeting of the Community Advisory Council for Texas City/La Marque. Dr. Ward's topic was entitled "Ozone 101" which described the human health effects associated with ozone pollution, the sources of ozone pollution, what is being done to reduce the precursors, and the rules and regulations enacted for the Houston-Galveston area due to our inability to meet the current federal standard. Mr. Schultz's topic was entitled "2009 Toxic Release Inventory, The Data" which graphically reviewed toxic releases to the air, land and water over the past six years which showed an overall downward trend. Petrochemical industries are required by federal law to report releases of toxic substances to state and federal agencies and keep an inventory of these releases. This information is open to the public as required by the Community Right to Know Act.
- **Animal Services Advisory Committee** – The quarterly meeting of the Galveston County Animal Services Advisory Committee was held on May 19th. The committee acted upon several items listed on their agenda including a proposed FY 2010 budget allocation, approved the plans for the upcoming animal summit to be held on Saturday, May 30th at 10:00 a.m. at Runge Park in Santa Fe, and approved a Galveston County Animal Disaster Plan with minor corrections to be completed. The Animal Services Advisory Committee's mission is to review the operations of the shelter, review and provide direction on policy and make recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer at the District.
- **High Island Grant Update** – Certified letters were sent to 20 homeowners in High Island notifying them to take immediate action to disconnect from a substandard sewage disposal system. The letter also outlined a grant program that may pay for the installation of an approved septic system if they meet the eligibility requirements. To date, 16 homeowners have received and signed for the certified letter. Following the mailing of the certified letters, Consumer Health Staff accompanied the soil/site evaluator and designer to High Island to review six properties that have been approved for a free septic system. All sites appeared to have adequate space for a new septic system. Planning materials for these locations have been received by the Health District for review. On May 20, 2009 GrantWorks, Galveston County's grant consultant, held a meeting in High Island to try to gather additional grant applications and answer any questions regarding the project. Health District staff attended this meeting and several questions were answered to help property owners become more comfortable with the grant and what they might expect as a result of participating in the program. GrantWorks expects to see several more applications as a result of the meeting.

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

- **EMS Week Observation** – Local Hospitals and GAAA staff observed EMS week May 17-23, 2009. The annual event calls attention to the lifesaving activities of EMS providers across the nation. Local hospitals offered receptions to EMS organizations and their staff. In Galveston, GAAA Administrative offices hosted morning breakfasts for EMS crews to show our appreciation for the difference the medics make in their daily service to the communities we protect.
- **Hurricane Preparedness Plan In Service Training** – GAAA staff received their annual training on Hurricane preparedness during their May 27, 2009 staff meeting. The newly updated plan was reviewed and volunteers were requested to work in the various capacities needed in a Hurricane emergency. The volunteers will participate in a exercise of the plan in June.
- **UTMB Special Operations** – Since March 16, 2009, GAAA continues to provide a dedicated MICU ambulance to UTMB's urgent care center. The unit is able to provide a high level of care to any

patient that enters the urgent care center, but has medical needs that exceed the center's capabilities. This operation is being discontinued at UTMB's request effective June 4, 2009.

- **Staffing Update** – There are currently 12 vacant full-time field 911 positions and 5 vacant full-time field non-emergency transfer positions. We are awaiting a confirmed hire date from one Paramedic for the 911 side and have three EMS-Basics and one EMT-Intermediate in the works on the transfer side.
- **ESO Update** - The Patient Care Report software by ESO Solutions has been rolled out for use in the field. Operational issues are being researched and cured as they are identified by field and administrative staff members. All patient care is now recorded in the ESO application. There are still issues with the transfer of data to GAAA Billing Software, and final implementation of the integration with the City of Galveston dispatch software. Staff members are following up regularly on these two outstanding programming issues of the implementation and progress is being made. GAAA staff are now training on the Quality Management and reporting applications of the system. We expect an improved ability to assess operations and patient care and to target training needs of staff based on analysis of this data.

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

Epidemiology Updates

- **Meningitis in Galveston County** - From April 15, 2009 thru May 20, 2009, the Health District's Epidemiology Services received 2 suspect viral meningitis cases (*Galveston & Texas City*). Investigation of the cases established both cases as confirmed viral meningitis. Viral meningitis is an infection of the fluid of a person's spinal cord and the fluid that surrounds the brain. It is generally less severe than bacterial meningitis and resolves without specific treatment. Additional information on meningitis is available at: www.cdc.gov/meningitis/viral/viral-faqs.htm
- **2009 Lead Poisoning (Texas City)** - For 2009, GCHD has received 2 confirmed elevated blood lead level (EBLL) reports on *Texas City* residents. Both cases have been referred to Community Health Nursing for assessment and 1 has been referred for an Environmental Lead Investigation. All levels above 10 µg/dL warrants public health intervention consisting of a community health nurse assessment and lead poisoning education; levels above 20 µg/dL triggers an environmental assessment conducted on dwelling in which the child spends majority of time.
- **Whooping Cough – Texas City** - On April 24th, Galveston County Health District received its third pertussis case for the year. The case involved a Hispanic, male, one-month-old infant from *Texas City*. The infant had the indicative inspiratory whoop that gives the disease the common name, "whooping cough." Pertussis is a vaccine-preventable disease; however, the infant became infected with the disease before coming to the age of vaccination (2 months). In 2008, the Health District received a total of 11 pertussis reports for the year.

Preparedness Update:

- **H1N1 (Swine) Flu** - From April 27 to May 6 Public Health Preparedness (PHP) participated in daily local and state conference calls regarding H1N1. The calls overviewed how many people were being affected by the virus and the state health department plans concerning how they intend on addressing the issue. During this time, PHP assisted several local health care facilities and providers in Galveston County. PHP placed orders for viral transport media through the Catastrophic Medical Operation Center (CMOC). PHP received seven boxes of Tamiflu and four cases of Relenza from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in preparation of an H1N1 outbreak.
- **Galveston County Emergency Response Collaborative** - The Galveston County Emergency Response Collaborative (GCERC) met on May 14, 2009. The guest speaker was Amita Chawla, Epidemiologist Investigator for the Health District, who provided a brief overview about the H1N1 Virus, the difference between an epidemic and pandemic and how the virus was spreading.

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

- **Amendment to the DSHS CHS-Childhood Obesity Services** was signed by COO on May 5, 2009. The effective date was 4/24/2009. The budget revision deducted \$2,461 from the total reimbursement in the categories of travel, equipment, supplies and other.
- **Addendum to Original Contract with Maintenance of Galveston, Inc. for janitorial services** was signed by COO on May 12, 2009. An additional 6% will be added to original contract of \$61,920.00 per year. New yearly price is \$65,635.20.
- **Memorandum of Agreement** between the District and **D'Feet Breast Cancer, Inc.** was signed by COO on May 18, 2009. The effective date is April 1, 2009 and will continue unless cancelled. The Agreement sets forth the respective obligations of the parties with respect to the breast cancer screening program for underserved and uninsured women between the ages 40 and 64 and women at high risk for breast cancer. The D'Feet grant award is \$155,987.00 with GCHD In-kind award of \$28,110.00. Total budget \$184,097.00.
- **DSHS Community Preparedness Section/ Bioterrorism Discretionary Fund Projects Phase II** was signed by COO on May 19, 2009. The term is from 6/1/2009 and ends on 11/30/2009. The agreement outlines nine (9) projects and activities to be completed. The budget includes Equipment \$153,658.37, Supplies \$34,849.63, and Contractual \$14,000. The total DSHS share equals is \$202,508.00.
- **Amendment to the DSHS EMS – Extraordinary Emergencies** was signed by COO on May 20, 2009. The effective date is May 11, 2009. The purpose of the agreement was to extend contract end date from 5/31/2009 to 7/31/2009 due to the availability to purchase equipment that was awarded.
- **Independent Professional Contract for Registered Dietician Services** for GCHD Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Services was signed by COO on May 20, 2009. Compensation shall be paid at the hourly rate of \$45.00 per hour with the limitation of no more than 32-hours per month.