



Executive Report to the Galveston County United Board of Health

GCHD Response to Tropical Storm Edouard

On August 4, 2008 the Galveston County Office of Emergency Management, activated its Emergency Operation Center in preparation for the strike of Tropical Storm Edouard. Galveston County Health District then activated its emergency plans by assigning roles in accordance with the Incident Command System (ICS), collaborated and participated in conference calls with local, regional and state Agencies. A presentation on the GCHD actions taken was presented to the UBOH at its August meeting. Health District staff manned the Health and Medical Station at the Galveston County and City of Galveston Emergency Operation Centers. Staff were released of duty on Tuesday, August 5 at 11 am. On Wednesday, August 5th, all Health District operations were back in business at 8:00 a.m.

Whooping Cough Infections

In the month of August, the Health District has received 3 laboratory confirmed pertussis (whooping cough) cases from UTMB. They are not epidemiologically linked. All cases were under the age requirements to receive the 1st dose of pertussis (DTaP) and were treated for pertussis. A total of 23 close contacts were identified to receive post-exposure medication and all were educated on transmission, prevention and hygienic practices. For one of the cases, an advisory letter and fact sheet on pertussis were sent to the church administrators for distribution to the parishioners. Pertussis is a vaccine preventable disease caused by bacteria that infects the respiratory system. Galveston County reported 11, 9 and 1 pertussis cases to the Texas Department of State Health Department for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007, respectively.

4C's Providers Recognized for National Community Health Center Week

Recognizing the contribution of the 4C's Clinics the *Galveston County Daily News* interviewed Medical Director Dr. Alhassan and Physicians Assistant Jason Borillo. Both providers discussed why they practice in a community health center and why they find it rewarding. The Story included photographs of serviced being provided in the Texas City clinic. The story is posted on the District web site at www.gchd.org/press/2008/082008ClinicWeek.htm. Dr. Alhassan, Jason Borillo and PIO Kurt Koopmann are recognized on the district intranet site for their positive contributions and increasing community awareness of the 4C's Clinics.

Back to School Immunization Campaign Concludes

The Health District will conclude its annual Back-to-School immunization campaign on August 27th. As of August 26, 2008, 3,311 total shots were administered in the La Marque and Galveston Clinic sites. Last year, 3,450 total were given. This has been a great opportunity for families to make sure their children are adequately immunized and an opportunity for staff to educate parents about the dangers of lead poisoning and to encourage testing of children one to six years of age. Along with the school supplies given out by staff, children have enjoyed books donated by a Ryan Minoit, a local aspiring Eagle Scout, and entertainment from the *La Marque Fire Department* and Wally Wiseguy from Environmental Services. Back-to-School immunizations were the subject of an editorial published August 1st in the *Galveston County Daily News*. In the editorial the concept of "herd immunity" was explained and all parents were encouraged to make sure their children are adequately immunized. See the editorial at www.gchd.org/press/2008/080108Immunizationpriority.htm.

GCHD Developing the Future Public Health Workforce

The CDC Apprentice, Ricca Mauricio, began her 3-year assignment this month. She will receive experience with outreach and case management of Chronic diseases including breast cancer under the supervision of Cassandra Arceneaux MD, MPH her first year. The apprentice may also participate in the establishment of the new Strategic Health Plan for the District under the direct supervision of CEO/Health Authority Harlan “Mark” Guidry MD, MPH. Community Health Services (CHS) works with area nursing schools, medical schools, and residencies to provide public health education to their students and residents. During the month of August, there was one 4th-year Family Medicine Resident and one MPH student that rotated through CHS to gain experience in Public Health. Experience is obtained by meeting with Executive Managers, going out on restaurant inspections, working with staff in the STD/HIV, Tuberculosis, Immunization, WIC and other public health programs.

Planning for Strategic Planning

The Strategic Plan Evaluator attended a one-day training on strategic planning sponsored by the Texas Leadership Institute. Judy Garner, MA, MS, PHR, of JMG Human Resource Consultant, discussed strategy formulation, development, implementation and evaluation including assessing internal and external strengths and weaknesses, external opportunities and threats, resource allocation and performance measures. Other organizations present included city and county government staffs. The Health District has implemented many of the activities presented at the training during the last planning cycle in 2003. We will be starting sessions to formulate the next strategic health plan in 2009.

RFP for 4C’s Clinic Management & Electronic Records Systems

Executive staff are finalizing the CMS/EMR RFP, anticipating mail out to potential candidates mid to late September. Priorities for the rollout include: the clinic management system, a dental system, and the electronic medical record system in conjunction with the planned moved to the former Wal-Mart building on 9300 Emmett F. Lowery Expressway, Texas City. Executive and selected staff attended several webinars with BCA, Healthport, and EHS, Inc., who demonstrated their respective EMR systems. Areas of interest include the Clinic Management System, which includes patient registration, appointment scheduling, demographics, billing, reporting, auditing, just to name a few. As well as, the Electronic Medical Record itself, which includes, provider notes, patient vitals, immunizations data, medical alerts, educational materials, prescription writing and tracking, tracking of diabetes, hypertension and other clinical measures.

Status of New UBOH Member Appointments

When a member resigns their position on the Board or their term expires, Commissioners Court nominates a new member, subject to approval by a majority (7) of member cities. On April 30, 2008, six member terms expired. On June 11, 2008, the Commissioners Court nominated members for new terms. On June 16th, the cities were notified of the nominees and requested to ratify the county nominees in accordance with the interlocal agreement. As of 8/27/08, we have received six of the required seven for approval. They are from the cities of *Jamaica Beach, Friendswood, Dickinson, Hitchcock, Santa Fe and Clear Lake Shores*. Until the approval by a majority of member cities, current members will continue to serve on the Board.

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 Daily News* with eligibility guidelines. These sites are submitted to the newspaper on a monthly basis. The community mammogram schedule is posted on the district web site www.gchd.org/chn/dfcet.htm and updated monthly.
- A decision to forward a list of suggested improvements to the **Joe Vickery Animal Shelter** to Galveston County Commissioners Court report was covered in an August 1st story in the *Galveston*

County Daily News. The list was reviewed and approved by members of the United Board of Health at the July meeting. The story is posted at www.gchd.org/press/2008/080108BoardOKsshelter.htm. At a meeting of the commissioner's court the next week commissioners reviewed the list of improvements and discussed putting them on a possible bond election to be held in November. The *Galveston County Daily News* covered the meeting and filed this news story www.gchd.org/press/2008/080708CommissionersAnimalneeds.htm.

- A meeting coordinated by Environmental Services with residents and official from the city of Santa Fe was in the *Galveston County Daily News* August 1st. The meeting was an opportunity for residents to learn more about **Storm Water Pollution Management Plans** required of all municipalities. The notice as published www.gchd.org/press/2008/080108FloodMapmtg.htm. An environmental summit to discuss the plans was also held at Carbide Park on August 6th. Various municipalities attended and brought copies of their storm water pollution management plans. The meeting notice as published for the summit is online at www.gchd.org/press/2008/080408EnviroSummit.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.

- **Medical & Dental Provider Update** – Michael McRaith, DDS a part-time 4C's Dental provider is leaving effective August 20, 2008. Staff continues to search for qualified medical and dental providers to fill open positions, with one possible medical candidate being considered at this time. Current Provider vacancies have been widely advertised and distributed. Information on all Health District positions can be viewed at: <http://www.gchd.org/hr/job.htm>
- **4C's Nursing Director** – Vickie Smith, RN started Tuesday, August 26, 2008 as the 4C's Nursing Director. Vickie has worked in management for hospital based acute care, behavioral health and most recently in case management at Mainland Medical Center. This position supervises a staff of 12 medical aides, six LVNs and one RN.

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 Health Outreach** – Mr. Charles Kelly, Senior Health Coordinator, continued to promote senior health this month at several locations. One sponsored event topic was “HELP! Emergency Transportation”. Approximately 140 seniors in the Cities of *La Marque, Dickinson, Bacliff, Texas City and Galveston* were educated Tommy Leigh, GAAA, about when to call 911, what to do after the call is made as well as being introduced to the “Vial of Life” program where persons place vital medical information in a vial in their refrigerator for EMS crews to use in case of emergency. On August 22nd, Mr. Kelly participated in the Annual event held at Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church. There were approximately 600 persons who received literature including G-ROPES, GCHD, IMMTrac, STD/HIV, & WIC. On July 30th & 31st Charles Kelly also attended the United Way's Kick-Off Campaigns as a representative of G-ROPES (a United Way Agency). Mr. Kelly encountered a total of 461 persons and passed out brochures and information on the Health District.
- **Health Fairs** – During the months of July/August, GCHD staff participated in 5 health fairs, a total of 282 persons were reached. GCHD Brochures, IMMTrac, STD/HIV, & WIC information was provided.
- **WIC Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)** – The WIC staff attended EBT Training in Austin, August 4th – 8th. The training was successful and on Monday, August 11th, the EBT roll-out occurred

without incident. The transition was smooth and faster than anticipated. Managers were extremely pleased with staff's knowledge of EBT after returning from training.

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*

- **Animal Shelter Renovation/Expansion Project** - On August 6th, as approved by the Galveston County United Board of Health, Ronnie Shultz showed a presentation to the Galveston County Commissioner's Court regarding needs at the Animal Shelter for renovation/expansion. The Judge and the Commissioner's approved of the presentation and agreed to move forward with presenting this information at the Health District's next Animal Summit currently being proposed for October 2008. Several members of the public were in attendance at Commissioner's workshop and supported the need to expand the current shelter. The animal shelter has received lots of attention in the press and is currently proposed to be included as part of bond issue in November.
- **High Island Sewer Project Progress** - 29 certified letters and applications were sent to owners of homes in the High Island area currently discharging sewage to an unapproved wastewater collection and treatment system. The letters notified the homeowners of the recent grant dollars secured by the County of Galveston to assist them, if eligible, with the installation of an on-site sewage facility and the disconnection to the current disposal system. Several residents have responded to the County by completing their eligibility applications. The County of Galveston is currently contracting with an engineering firm to oversee the entire project.
- **Environmental Summit** - The Office of Environmental Health Programs sponsored its annual Environmental Summit at the Wayne Johnson Center on August 6th. The topic of discussion at this year's summit was Storm Water Management Plans. A presentation was prepared for the public to explain the highlights of the federally mandated storm water management programs that the County of Galveston along with many of our cities are required to implement. This public outreach event is actually part of the County's current storm water plan to engage the public. Low attendance was recorded at the event.
- **Consumer Health Permits Overdue** - Seven food service permits and five pool permits were overdue as of 8/1/08. Letters were sent out to the owners and as of 8/25/08, all but two food and one pool facilities have paid and are in compliance with the policy approved by the Board for food service and pool establishments. The unpaid permits still remaining are for Texas City Municipal Pool (food franchise only), The Children's Palace, and Gulf Royale Apartments.

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

- **GAAA Staffing Update**– There are currently 13 vacant full-time field 911 positions and 6 vacant full-time field non-emergency transfer positions. We have three full-time EMT-Basics and two full-time EMT-Intermediates pending drug tests and/or physical results. We are checking references on two EMT Intermediates and have one Paramedic, one Intermediate, and two EMT-Basics scheduled for interviews and testing.
- **Bolivar Peninsula First Responder Program** – Two employees have been hired and are being oriented to Peninsula First Responder Operations. Effective September 1, 2008, the first responders will operate 24 hours per day Monday through Friday on the peninsula.
- **Software Upgrade project** – The project to implement the ePCR (electronic patient care record) continues to progress. Hardware has been delivered and software installed. Staff members are busy making configuration changes and preparing for training staff members which is scheduled for the week of September 8, 2008. The anticipated "Go Live" date remains October 1, 2008.

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

Epidemiology Updates:

- **2008 Elevated Blood Lead Cases** - The Health District has received a total of 14 confirmed elevated blood lead cases from January to present. All 14 cases were referred to Community Health Nursing and 4 were referred for an Environmental Lead Investigation. Demographics on the confirmed cases are as follows: Gender: Male (10), Female (4); Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic (6), Black (5), and White (3); Age ranges were from 1 – 41 years old; Zip Code: 77550 (8), 77551 (2), 77590 (2), 77568 (2); Levels ranged from 10 – 32 mcg/dL, 3 cases was ≥ 20 mcg/dL.
- **Multistate *Salmonella saintpaul* Outbreak** - As of August 14, 2008, the Health District has received 6 *Salmonella Saintpaul* cases that are in Galveston County. No link has been identified with the cases. DSHS is asking that all salmonella case isolates be sent to the DSHS laboratory or City of Houston laboratory through December 31, 2008. Nationally, the CDC has reported 1423 cases and 554 are in Texas.
- **Rabies Update** - Galveston County has a total of 4 positive rabid bats for the year 2008 (3- League City and 1-Santa Fe). For 2008, 6 Galveston County residents have received rabies post-exposure through the Galveston County Health District. In the past years, the County has 0-6 cases of rabies in bats reported annually.
- **Lead Poisoning Training** - On July 28-August 1, 2008, CDC held a national lead training in Chicago. The training consisted of case management, data surveillance, and primary prevention tracks. The data and surveillance track concentrated on submitting data through the stellar database for reporting to CDC. Over 80 participants throughout the nation participated in the training.
- **Epi/BT Meeting** - On August 19, 2008, Epi staff attended the regional epi/bt meeting in Houston. Topics discussed consisted of *Salmonella* outbreak, Hepatitis A, WN virus infections, rabies shortage and utilizing NBS for obtaining electronic laboratory reports. The meeting is a forum for information sharing and presenting state and federal information to local health departments.

Preparedness Update:

- **Medical Special Needs Cache** - Galveston County Health District is earmarked to receive a cache of medical special needs supplies for shelter operations by August 31. This initiative is a result of a regional Department of State Health Services funding project that assist local health departments to prepare for sheltering residents with special needs.

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

- **Contract with the Managing Pharmacist for the 4C's Clinics, Don DePasqual, R.Ph., d/b/a DePasqual Enterprises** was signed by COO on August 6th. Payment of services will remain the same as previous contract at the rate of \$24,771 per month. The contract is from August 1, 2008 through November 30, 2008.
- **Clinical Externship Agreement with Touro University – Nevada (TUN)** was signed by COO on August 8th for three-years ending July 17, 2011. The 4C's Clinic agrees to allow students a clinical learning experience as part of a Master of Physician Assistant Clinical program.
- **GAAA Ambulance Services Contract with Oceanview Transitional Care Center** was signed by COO on August 11, 2008. The contract term is for two (2) years, commencing on June 1, 2008 through may 31, 2010. The rates for patients being transported into or out of the facility one-way are at Level One the base rate is \$195.00 and at Level Two the base rate is \$75.00. There is a \$50.00 per hour fee for wait time. And, a mileage fee of \$5.00 per mile for traveling outside of Galveston County.

- **The Paper Products bid was awarded to Bosworth and Office Max** by COO on August 13, 2008. The term of the contract is August 18, 2008 to August 18, 2009.
- **Amendment to WIC lease agreement with Mainland Children's Partnership, Inc.** was signed by COO on August 19, 2008. District agreed to pay \$3,150.00 inclusive of all utilities and janitorial services (except security beyond 40 business hours weekly). The term of this Lease shall become effective on September 1, 2008 and shall end on August 31, 2009.
- **Contractor Service Agreement with Joe Carranza Jr.** for GAAA stretcher quarterly preventative maintenance and repair was signed by COO on August 22, 2008. GAAA agreed to pay Contractor at the hourly rate of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per hour. This agreement is effective August 25, 2008 through August 24, 2009 and can be terminated at anytime without cause.
- **Addendum to Original Contract with Patterson Dental and AMI Dental** was signed by COO on August 19, 2008. The Dental Equipment/ Supplies bid was renewed for an additional thirty-six (36) months in twelve (12) month increments. Due to increasing fuel cost, an additional 3% increase per line item was added to original contract pricing.