

Health Director's Report
April 13, 2017

Division / Program: Nutrition/Health Promotion/DINE in Childcare

(Accreditation Activity 10.2 - The local health department shall carry out or assist other agencies in the development, implementation and evaluation of health promotion/disease prevention programs and educational materials targeted to groups identified as at-risk in the community health assessment.)

Program description

- “Eat Right Grow Strong: Nutrition and Physical Activity for Young Children” was presented by a DCoDPH nutritionist at a state-wide conference for child care providers.
- DINE in Childcare program provides services designed to strengthen the quality of nutrition and physical activity practices in child care settings.
- Child Care Services Association (CCSA) is a nationally recognized nonprofit working to ensure affordable, accessible, high quality child care for all families through research, services and advocacy.
- Advancing Skills and Knowledge (ASK) Conference is a yearly statewide early childhood conference for early childhood professionals given by CCSA.

Statement of goals

- To increase childcare directors’ and teachers’ knowledge on childhood obesity and its effects on healthy development of young children.
- To help child care directors learn how to incorporate proper nutrition and physical activity into all aspects of child care.
- To discuss the statistics about our children’s weight and health status, and discuss how directors/ teachers can help to promote nutrition and physical activity in their centers.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - DCoDPH Nutritionist had the opportunity to collaborate with CCSA.
 - DINE in Childcare Nutritionist had the opportunity to speak with early childhood educators from across the state about the unique role that they play in the development of healthy eating and physical activity practices.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**
 - Early childhood educators learned the importance of and need for proactive measures in child nutrition and physical activity.
 - Early childhood educators learned how they can model ways to support nutrition and physical activity in the classroom.
 - Educators now have resources that support positive changes for the nutrition and physical activity environments in their centers.

- CCSA asked about other services that the Department of Public Health can provide for the early childhood education field.
- Comments from the workshop evaluation included:
 - “Very important subject and it was presented well.”
 - “I really enjoyed this session because she shared the best type of foods that children should be eating. She also shared with us how we as teachers can improve our students eating habits along with the family.”
- **Staffing**
 - Presentation conduct by DCoDPH Nutritionist.

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- Follow up with CCSA for future collaborative efforts.

Division / Program: Dental Software: Citrix Server to Enhance Dentrix Software

(Accreditation Activity 3.2: The local health department shall conduct an annual evaluation of the agency’s data system (hardware and software) and plans for upgrades to improve the accessibility, quality and utilization of health data.

Program description

- Citrix enables mobility through the secure delivery of apps and data to any device on any network.
- Because the Tooth Ferry serves patients in various locations, Citrix was originally designated for utilization on the unit as an application server to allow for instant access to digital images and patient records.
- After initial discussions/testing on the Tooth Ferry, it was decided to use the Citrix server for all Dentrix users.
- The Dental Division uses the Dentrix as its practice management software in the clinic, and on the Tooth Ferry. The Dentrix program includes numerous features, including imaging software.

Statement of goals

- To ensure that dental staff working on the Tooth Ferry would have access to digital images (x-rays) in real time.
- To allow dental staff to enter data at off-site location as opposed to having to write things down, and then enter notes, etc. in Dentrix when they arrive back at the Health Department.
- To make certain Dentrix upgrades are completed in a timely manner.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - Dentrix upgrades in the past have been difficult for IS&T since the Dentrix application resides on each individual’s computer. By using the Citrix server (with

the Dentrix application residing there) IS&T will now only have to upgrade the application on the Citrix server and not all the individual computers.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**
 - Testing has been on-going in the Tooth Ferry, and in the dental clinic.
 - All dental staff have been introduced to Citrix, and are participating in the testing.
 - By updating Dentrix via the Citrix server, the process will be timely, less intrusive and the newer version of Dentrix is compatible with Windows 10.
 - Dental staff members working off-site on the Tooth Ferry will be able to view and transmit patient information in real time, and work more efficiently.

- **Staffing**
 - Dental auxiliary staff, front desk team, and Division Director have been engaged in process.

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- Continuing testing and utilize Citrix server for improved proficiency.
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Division / Program: Community Health Division/School Health Program/Mass Vision Screening

(Accreditation Activity 12.3-The local health department shall participate in a collaborative process to implement population-based programs to address community health problems.)

Program description

- School nurses are responsible for the assessment, planning, and maintenance of safe and effective medical and nursing management of students with acute and chronic health conditions.
- School nurses also provide case management for chronic illnesses and education about diabetes, medication administration, and other skilled procedures.
- Working collaboratively with pediatric practices ensures that Durham's youth are able to receive the needed health care in the school setting and are ready to learn.
- For the 2016-2017 school year, the school health program began planning to provide Mass Vision Screenings with follow-up referrals as necessary for Durham Public Schools' first grade students.
- Mass vision screenings for first grade students have the ability to identify additional vision issues that may need referral and evaluation by an eye care professional. Adequate vision is closely tied to an ability to access educational activities for students.
- Students whose parents declined to participate in the Mass Vision Screenings were not included in the total number of screenings.

Statement of goals

- 100% of eligible Durham Public Schools first grade students will participate in the district's Mass Vision Screenings for First Grade students.
- 100% of students who fall outside of normal parameters will be referred to a health care professional for further evaluation.
(*For the purposes of this project, eligible is defined as a current student in Durham Public Schools and parents/guardian agree to allow their child to be screening.)

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - Students' eyes continue to develop up to age six.
 - Amblyopia, a common childhood vision problem that may cause blindness in one eye, can be detected and corrected during this stage of development.
- **Challenges**
 - To assure each eligible student participated in the Mass Vision Screenings.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**
 - There were 2,557 students enrolled in DPS first grade classrooms. Of that number 99% of the children were screened.
 - 91% (2,327) had vision screenings that were within normal limits.
 - 8% (214) of the students required vision referrals to a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist.
 - 1% (16) of the students had parents who declined the screenings.
- **Service delivery**
 - 100% (14) of Durham County School Health Program nurses coordinated the planning and implementation of Mass Vision Screenings for Durham Public Schools' first grade students.
 - Each student received a copy of their vision screening results.
 - If a student did not pass the screening, a letter with recommendations for further evaluation from an eye doctor was attached to the screening results.
- **Staffing**
 - Durham County School Nurses (Durham County Public Health and Durham Public Schools)

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- Each school nurse will follow-up on student referrals at each individually assigned schools to determine secured care for vision screenings.

Division / Program: Administration / Communications and Public Relations
(Accreditation Activity 5.3- Health Alerts to Media, 9.1- Disseminate Health Issues Data, 9.5- Inform Public of Dept. / Op. Changes, 10.2- Health Promotion –Disease Prevention, 21.2- Make Available Information About LHD Programs, Services, Resources)

Program description

- The Communications and Public Relations program provides accurate, timely, and relevant information to the residents of Durham County on key health issues as well as informing the public about department programs and services availability. Information is disseminated in many forms, included broadcast, print, and multimedia (web-based).

Statement of goals

- To increase the public's awareness and understanding of important health information and the Department of Public Health's programs and services availability
- To increase the public's utilization of the Department of Public Health's programs and services.
- To become the main, trusted and dependable choice for journalists seeking information and assistance to develop compelling and balanced stories on Public Health issues.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - Being present at events allowed for our work to be captured for historical purposes. Putting more updated material on the website increases viewership.
 - Sending press releases more frequently allows for more familiarity with media and increases our chance of exposure.
- **Challenge**
 - Event photography and videography requests at multiple events at the same time

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**
 - Communication surrounding various health issues and department programs and services are being publicized in a timely, organized manner and with greater frequency.
 - Visibility of public health information from the department has substantially increased.
- **Service delivery**
 - Press Releases
 - Stay Connected with March DCoDPH Activities – 3/2/2017
 - Rabid Skunk Found Near Little River Regional Park – 3/3/2017
 - “Put Your Best Fork Forward” When Dining Out – 3/16/2017
 - Over 2,500 Students Provided Free Vision Screenings – 3/29/2017
 - Website Updates
 - All Press Releases Added to Website
 - March Events Added to ‘Upcoming Events’ page
 - Operation Medicine Drop Announcement Added to Home Page
 - Community Connections eNewsletter sent on March 2.
 - Media Archives
 - Durham County Gets 3 Rabies Cases in One Month – 3/8/2017 (News & Observer)

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- Disseminating consistent & timely content
- Engaging the public on social media to increase page likes and followers
- Increasing the number of monthly eNewsletter subscribers