

## **Health Director's Report**

### **Staff recognition**

#### **Miriam McIntosh, Dental Practice Director**

After twenty years of service, Dr. Miriam McIntosh will retire effective February 28, 2018. Over the years, Dr. McIntosh has served as staff dentist, dental director, and dental practice director. She has participated in the many changes in the dental program as it has increased its capacity to serve children and pregnant women. Dr. McIntosh was part of the team that conceived and implemented the idea of a mobile dental program, The Tooth Ferry, to improve access to dental services and reduce school absenteeism due to dental health issues.

Dr. McIntosh's commitment to children and families is notable. Dr. McIntosh will be greatly missed.

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### **Division / Program: Nutrition and Health Education/Receipt of Honorable Mention**

#### **Spotlight Award**

**(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**

- The Durham County Department of Public Health partnering with the Cabarrus Health Alliance and the Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy received a Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge (HCCC) Award in September, 2016.
- The HCCC, is sponsored by Aetna Foundation, the American Public Health Association and the National Association of Counties. The initiative, launched in 2016, supports 50 small-to-midsize cities and counties that are implementing innovative solutions to pressing public health issues in their communities.
- An interim Spotlight Award was awarded to HCCC participants who have identified creative partnerships and enacted programs that address the unique health issues facing their communities in meaningful ways.

#### **Statement of goals**

- To submit Spotlight Award application that highlighted the HCCC work on developing the Community Health Worker (CHW) position, hiring a part time CHW to work in the Transformation in Ten project, working with Durham Technical College for the development and offering of a CHW course and investigation of health care delivery and payment options for the CHW position.

#### **Issues**

- **Opportunities**
  - HCCC work has increased networking, partnering and information sharing between the Margolis Center, Cabarrus Health Alliance and DCoDPH.
  - The partnership between DCoDPH and Durham Technical College increased during the development of the CHW course.
  - HCCC work has allowed for increased knowledge and application of the CHW position.

## **Implication(s)**

- **Outcomes**
  - Ten winners and five honorable mentions were chosen for the Spotlight Award for their ability to address the need to improve opportunities for all Americans – regardless of income, education or ethnic background – to take an active role in healthy living.
  - The Duke Margolis Center/DCoDPH/Cabarrus Health Alliance project received an Honorable Mention Spotlight Award for progress in their CHW work.
  - The Honorable Mention awardees received \$10,000 to help accelerate and advance their work. DCoDPH will receive \$4,000 of this award.
- **Staffing**
  - Staff from the Nutrition (including Community Health Workers) and Health Education Divisions support HCCC activities.

## **Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies**

- Continue HCCC activities.
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## **Division / Program: Community Health / Communicable Disease Program**

**(Accreditation Activity 7.2: The local health department shall conduct communicable disease investigations, follow-up, documentation, and reporting activities.)**

### **Program description**

On December 27, 2017, Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) was notified of a gastrointestinal (GI) illness affecting residents and staff of Rose Manor Rehabilitation Facility. This GI illness was accompanied by vomiting and diarrhea (non-bloody). The onset was 12/26/2017.

### **Statement of goals**

- To thoroughly investigate outbreak.
- To determine the number of residents and staff affected.
- To assist the facility in limiting and ultimately resolving the disease outbreak.

### **Issues**

- **Opportunities**
  - To prevent/limit the spread of the illness in the facility.
  - To reinforce appropriate control measures.
  - To provide education regarding norovirus.
- **Challenges**
  - Getting staff to relay information to DCoDPH in a timely manner.

## **Implication(s)**

- **Outcomes**
  - 43 of 99 residents were ill with GI illness.
  - 13 staff were reported ill during outbreak. (No kitchen staff.)
  - No specimens collected.
- **Service delivery**
  - Facility completed Infection Control in-service.
  - Facility completed proper cleaning.
  - Recommendations to use paper products for meals, dining room closed, no outside activities, no new admissions, to encourage residents to stay in their rooms.
  - Signage was posted to refrain from entering the facility if experiencing vomiting and diarrhea.
  - State CD nurse notified.
- **Staffing**
  - Ponice Moore-Bryant, RN and Cathi Hines, RN investigated the event.
- **Revenue**
  - N/A
- **Other**
  - Last onset of illness was 1/5/2018.

## **Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies**

- Continue to respond to gastrointestinal outbreaks.
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**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.
- **Challenges**
  - Event photography and videography 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
    - BCU Week of Peace Updates – 1/5/2018
    - Stay Connected with DCoDPH January Activities – 1/8/2018
  - Website Updates
    - All Press Releases Added to Website
    - January Events Added to PH Calendar
    - Input January BOH Meeting Agenda on Website
    - Community Connections eNewsletter sent on January 3.
  - Media Archives
    - [Even with 45 Percent Fewer Homicides in 2017, Durham Continues Call for Peace](#) – WRAL – January 1, 2018
    - [Durham community group holding peace vigils throughout the week](#) – WNCN – January 2, 2018
    - [Bull City United Promotes Week of Peace in Durham](#) – WUNC 91.5 – January 8, 2018
    - [Durham Week of Peace Events Set for This Weekend](#) – ABC11 – January 12, 2018
    - [Bull City United Fights Crime in Durham Like It's A Treatable Disease](#) – WUNC 91.5 – January 23, 2018
    - [Many Adults Never Get Tested for HIV. Here are a Few Reasons Why.](#) – News & Observer – January 31, 2018

## Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- Disseminate consistent & timely content
- Engage the public on social media to increase page likes and followers
- Increase the number of monthly eNewsletter subscribers
- Continue to support internal communications strategies