

Health Director's Report May, 2015

Note: this Health Director's report is longer than usual because we didn't have a full meeting in April, just the joint meeting with the BOCC, so I have twice as much information to share.

- **Staff**

- We have been doing a lot of interviewing and hiring lately:
 - Since our last meeting, LaToya Strange, Administrative Assistant to the Health Director started. She is fitting in nicely and all of us are benefiting from her wonderful assistance.
 - We have also selected Allison Young as the Informatics Manager, replacing Mike Fliss. We already considered her part of the family because she was working here as an Informatics Fellow prior to this promotion.
 - We've hired three nurses, a Health Educator and a PA in clinic. We are still recruiting/interviewing for a couple more nurses.
 - We have filled our vacant (due to retirement) Soil Scientist position as well.
 - We've also posted our new Dentist and Dental Assistant positions that we expect to hire early July.
- All these new folks will attend at least one Board of Health meeting in the near future, so you'll get a chance to meet them.

- **Board of Health Priorities**

- The Family Success Alliance sent a team of about a dozen people to the Harlem Children's Zone Practitioner's Institute last week. It was a great opportunity to see and better understand the various components of the pipeline they've created over the last 20 years and talk with our group about our vision for moving forward.
- Last night the BOCC approved allocating \$90,000 to our first two FSA interventions: a kindergarten readiness/family literacy project and Zone Navigators. We are awaiting news from the United Way about our Outreach and Evaluation funding request we submitted this spring.
- Community Health Assessment planning is on-going. Liska will provide a more updated report about how Board of Health members can help out and get involved.
- The Manager presented her recommended budget to the BOCC last night. I've emailed you the specifics of what was and was not included in her budget for the Health Department, but I am excited about the \$250,000 in the Health Department's budget for the Family Success Alliance.

- **Various**

- We currently have 3 individuals being monitored for Ebola symptoms. That brings our count so far to 26 since last fall.
- Last night the BOCC approved our recommended centralized permitting software vendor and authorized the Manager to approve and execute a contract. This reflects the end of a two-year vetting and selection process and kicks off our year of implementation. Through it all, staff in Environmental Health has been engaged, professional and dedicated to finding the best solution for all partners.
- HD staff made it to OC California one week early on their walking trip! We celebrated with fajitas and popsicles. ☺
- We are still waiting on the ABC Board grant decision for the Alcohol Misuse Prevention Project Manager. The Town, University and Health Department are committed to making this happen even if not funded, and are meeting next week to iron out the final details before posting the position.
- I participated in a national strategic planning training review committee for the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). This involved 6 weeks of intense review and weekly conference calls, but it was a great learning experience to see how others do strategic planning.
- April was also the Health Director's Legal Conference. This is always my favorite annual conference to attend and I always learn new things.

- Speaking of learning new things, we finally pulled off the statewide FrameWorks training for Health Directors and their communications lead. This training lasted all day and focused on social determinants of health. It was another amazing opportunity to really challenge our assumptions about how effectively we communicate our public health messages.
- Other items that kept me busy this month were:
 - Serving as a member of the 3 person Orange County Personnel Hearing Board (where an employee can appeal the county's decision to terminate them)
 - Multiple meetings with leadership in Raleigh at the Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Human Services and elected members in the General Assembly. The Association of Local Health Directors (of which I am currently President-elect) is working hard to ensure Medicaid reform has a strong preventive and population health focus. We are also advocating for the best public health-related budget we can get.
 - Serving as the statewide Co-Chair of the Practice Based Research Network where we are planning for our part in the fall's NCPHA educational conference.
 - Serving on other boards such as the statewide Care Share Board of Directors, the NC Association of County Commissioners' Health and Human Services Steering Committee and the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council of North Carolina.
 - Serving on the National Research Advisory Group for NACCHO.