

Health Director's Report March, 2014

- **Staff**
 - We are currently interviewing for an Environmental Health Specialist which when filled will complete the dominoes in Environmental Health. Our preference is to hire a Registered Sanitarian which will save us about 15 months on training and education.
 - We have also finally filled the shared Preparedness Position. This position will work 50% of the time at the Health Department and 50% of the time at the Emergency Management.

- **Naloxone**
 - The training for nurses to dispense naloxone under a standing order is March 25th. After that training our nurses will be set to dispense the naloxone kits.
 - Corey has arranged for me to be part of a panel on “Innovative approaches to reduce drug-overdose harm” at the Public Health Law conference in Atlanta in October. I went to this conference two years ago and found it one of the better national public health conferences I’ve attended, so I look forward to being able to attend again.
 - Meredith continues to provide her expertise in naloxone to our Emergency Management partners as they work through the logistics (statewide) of naloxone distribution via first responders.

- **Innovation**
 - The abstract we submitted to the National Public Health Service Corps annual conference on creating a culture of innovation in local public health was accepted.
 - I’ve also been asked to speak at the NCPHA annual conference on innovation in local health departments
 - Stacy and I responded to a request for presenters for a TED Talk series on exciting things in government (Ok, I’m paraphrasing). We should know if we’ve been accepted in early April.

- **Various**
 - I’ve had great meetings with the Superintendents of both school districts to let them know about our Childhood Poverty Intervention Program. Both were extremely supportive and excited to be part of the team.
 - We also had a great meeting with UNC Family Medicine. They provide our Medical Director under contract and we needed to make some changes to allow Dr. Monaco to spend more time in clinic (patient numbers are growing!), without increasing the cost of the contract.
 - The state has a new Division of Public Health Director. Penny Slade Sawyer started early March and comes to NC via Washington DC where she was an Assistant Surgeon General. She is originally from Halifax, NC and is a close personal friend of Laura Bush. We are looking forward to educating her about the importance of local public health!
 - We’ve had multiple weather events the last couple months (fingers crossed that the weather promised for Tuesday/Wednesday doesn’t mess up our BOH meeting), that involved activating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and opening shelters. The Health Department is involved anytime the EOC is activated and also staffs the shelters with nurses.