

Health Director's Report

February, 2015

Staff

- We continue to experience turnover and are recruiting for:
 - Administrative Assistant - Tersee Flores' last day was 2-20
 - Informatics Manager – Mike Fliss' last day was 2-13
 - We're also recruiting for nurses and front desk staff

BOH Priorities

- We held an exploratory meeting with Luke Smith at El Futuro to discuss ways to provide access to Spanish speakers who need mental health services in light of the refusal by Cardinal Innovations to serve "undocumented" people (even though they receive federal funds, where that is a requirement).
- We held an exploratory meeting with UNC Family Medicine to discuss ways to expand access to primary care services to patients in Hillsborough through a Residency Program expansion.
- We continued our discussions with Piedmont Health Services regarding a partnership with their Medical and Dental programs.

Various

- Communicable Disease - we continue to monitor travelers for Ebola. We've also had a couple CD (Flu and Norovirus) outbreaks in long-term care facilities. Rabies hasn't let up from its record numbers in 2014. The good news is that so far NC has managed to avoid any Disney-related measles cases.
- I participated in the bid review for the county's health insurance broker services. This was an intensive process, but it did allow us to search for a vendor with strong experience in and focus on employee wellness rather than just disease treatment. Now that Orange County is self-insured, there is a huge incentive for a comprehensive employee wellness program here. I'm happy to be involved in that.
- Retreats – I participated in two retreats this month. One with the Board of County Commissioners and the other with the county's department heads. Both were interesting and gave me time to think strategically about how the Health Department fits within both of these broader contexts.
- I'm also a new member of the North Carolina County Commissioner's Association's Health and Human Services Steering Committee. I attended my first meeting this month and the focus was on Mental Health services. Very interesting to hear the counties perceptions of the mental health transition to 4 MCOs.
- As with all bad weather events, the Health Department was involved in advance planning for sheltering. We also had some interesting juggling to ensure all our patients has access to services even when some of our staff couldn't get to work because of the ice. Great Teamwork!