

Public Health Matters



January—March, 2008

Points of interest:

- Environmental Health has brochures on the following topics. You can pick them up at one of our three offices
 - Hauled Water Guidelines
 - Gray Water use
 - Food Safety while Hiking, Camping, and Boating
 - Safely Smoke Foods
 - Safe Grilling
 - Egg Safety
 - Cooking Turkey Safely
 - Take Out Food Safety

Inside this issue:

Meals on Wheels	2
Clean Up Success	2
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grant	3
Operation Winterfest	3
Safety Fair	3
Local Incentive Award	4
Public Health Assessment	4

Smoke Free Arizona Case



The Environmental Health Division recently processed their first case under the Smoke Free Arizona law. The initial complaint was received on September 5, 2007. The owner of the establishment was allowing smoking to take place in a bar. A Notice of Violation (with \$100 civil penalty) was issued to the owner and a reinspection scheduled to verify compliance with the Smokefree Arizona Act. The owner also had the option to establish a retail tobacco store located next door to the bar for the patrons to smoke in.

The reinspection conducted on September 24, 2007 found that the owner set up a retail tobacco store next door to the bar, but he had also obtained an extension of premises permit to allow his patrons to take their drinks into the retail tobacco store. The result is that his tobacco store was now considered part of the bar and no smoking is allowed in bars. His options were to stop smoking in the retail tobacco store/bar or to get rid of his extension of premises permit and not allow drinks into that side of the facility.

A reinspection was conducted on October 30, 2007 and the same violations were found. Another Notice of Violation (with \$300 civil penalty) was issued and another letter mailed was to the owner advising him of his options to be in compliance with state law. On November 1, 2007 another Notice of Violation (with \$500 civil penalty) was issued and the case submitted to the Mohave County Attorney's office. Additional inspections were conducted to determine if the owner had complied with the terms of the Notice of Violation.

On January 7, 2008 the case went to court in Lake Havasu City. The Judge ruled in favor of Mohave County and upheld all civil penalties assessed on all three Notice of Violations. In addition, the judge added two more \$500 civil penalties for willful violations on October 30 and November 1. Penalties collected were \$1900.

Tuberculosis Investigations

The Public Health Nursing communicable disease team continues to work on the Tuberculosis (TB) investigations reported last quarter. Investigation of people in contact with TB patients and treatment of these contacts is continuing. As of April 8th, there have been 502 people identified as potentially exposed to an active case and they have been evaluated for TB infection. As appropriate, individuals are placed on treatment for TB which consists of 9 months of daily treatment.



27% Increase in Meals on Wheels services

Senior Programs has seen a 27% increase in home delivered meals over the course of the last three years. In February 2008, there were 93 people on waiting lists for meals on wheels. In order to keep up with growth and eliminate waiting lists for the program, Senior Programs applied for two Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).



The County Board of Supervisors approved \$172,000 of CDBG funds to purchase ten vehicles to be used to increase the senior programs meal delivery fleet. This increase will allow senior programs to add more meal delivery routes in Bullhead City, Golden Shores, Kingman and Lake Havasu. The Kingman City Council approved \$76,000 of CDBG funds to purchase kitchen equipment, computers for the computer center located in the Kathryn Heidenreich Adult Center and other items aimed at increasing programming opportunities and cooperation between the County Senior Nutrition Program and the Katherine Heidenreich Adult Center. These funding recommendations from the County and City will go to the state for final funding determinations.



Second Clean Up a Success

Another property that posed a potential health threat was cleaned up with funding provided by the Board of Supervisors in 2007. A complaint was received in June, 2007 regarding the property in Dolan Springs. A Notice of Violation was sent that same month and a Compliance Order was issued in September, 2007.

The property is a rental property that had been cited previously in 2005 and 2006. Property clean up was completed in the past by the tenants. The property was abandoned around June, 2007. It was left littered with 10-15 cubic yards of rotting household garbage which posed a potential public health threat. Numerous large appliances, tires, and household furnishings were also left outside.

The case was taken to court in February, 2008 and civil penalties imposed. The cost of the clean up was approximately \$2,175 and a lien was placed on the property for \$3,271 (includes clean up, civil penalties, inspection charges).

The next door neighbor contacted our office to thank us, stating that they were glad we could get the property cleaned as it added greatly to their quality of life.

“This clean up was made even more gratifying than normal because the next door neighbor called to thank us for taking care of the problem.”

Rachel Patterson
Environmental Health

Before

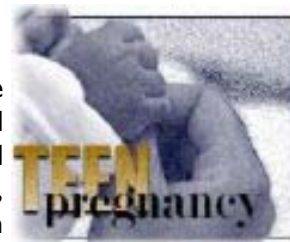


After



Teen Pregnancy Prevention

The Nursing Division received a grant to address teen pregnancy concerns in Mohave County. The Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Steering Committee was formed and met in January. The committee consists of representatives from schools, faith based organizations, medical providers, teenagers, probation and the correctional facility, parents of teenagers, and the Mohave County Department of Public Health (MCDPH).



Members discussed issues that have been identified throughout the community related to teen pregnancy, barriers to preventive services and possible interventions that could be implemented to help reduce the rate of teen pregnancy in Mohave County. MCDPH provided statistics on teen pregnancy rates for the county and established goals of the TPP program. The group discussed targeted populations and worked to develop strategies for new programs that would be effective toward reaching the youth. MCDPH is in the process of recruiting TPP staff to implement the program in Kingman, Bullhead, and Lake Havasu.

Operation Winterfest

The Department of Public Health conducts flu vaccination clinics each fall. While these clinics allow us to refine our ability to coordinate and run mass vaccinations, it doesn't provide us with the opportunity to handle large numbers of unscheduled patients. We determined that we needed to test our ability to conduct mass vaccinations of unscheduled patients in a short amount of time. A perfect opportunity was presented in February with the Lake Havasu City Winterfest. Our goal was to partner with the LHC Fire Department and provide up to 2500 vaccinations in a four hour period.



Although we didn't reach our goal of 2500 vaccinations, we did administer 306 vaccinations. The shortest amount of time to go through clinic was 2 minutes 46 seconds and the longest time was 7 minutes 3 seconds. Paramedics with the LHC Fire Department assisted with the exercise which provided them with information on mass vaccination clinic operations. This information will be useful if we ever have to conduct mass vaccination clinics in response to an emergency or disaster.



Safety Fair

Volunteers from the Department of Public Health's Lake Havasu Medical Reserve Corps provided information and answered questions on emergency preparedness at the Lake Havasu City Safety Fair, on Saturday March 29th.

Our Mohave County Department of Public Health Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers are Making a Difference.



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PUBLIC HEALTH**

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**We're on the web:
www.HealthELinks.com**

Edited by Jennifer McNally



Local Incentive Award

The Nutrition and Health Promotion Division of the Public Health Department receives the Local Incentive Award (LIA) grant. The program's focus is to conduct nutrition education in school's where 50% or more of the students qualify for the free or reduced school lunch program and also to teach nutrition education to Food Stamp eligible populations. LIA has conducted 33 Fruit and Vegetable/5 A Day programs for the 1st and 3rd graders and 15 Building Better Bones Programs for the 5th graders in five Kingman schools and Beaver Dam Elementary School in the Littlefield School District. We have collaborated with the Food Stamp Office to host monthly food demonstrations and to teach Food Stamp applicants about nutrition topics such as eating more fruits and vegetables, eating meals together as a family, drinking low fat milk and including more movement in their daily activities.



Public Health Assessment

The Mohave County Department of Public Health has started the process of completing an assessment of the public health system in Mohave County. The first assessment was held in Bullhead City on January 12th. The public health system includes all entities that contribute to the public's health and well being. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in partnership with other national health organizations, created assessment tools that are part of the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHSP). The assessment tools are based on ten essential public health services and a final report is developed from the voting and discussion that takes place during the assessment meeting.



Report data will identify strengths and weaknesses within the local system and the community and help pinpoint areas that need improvement. The reports can be utilized by agencies within the communities to identify health concerns in their communities and to develop coalitions to address these concerns. The report can also be used in support of grant and funding applications that address concerns within a community.

“The community assessment process helps improve collaboration and can be used to more effectively and efficiently use resources to improve the health and safety of our community.

In addition to the community assessments, we have also started the governance assessment with our Board of Health.”

Patty Mead
Health Director