Quarterly Report

Name and address of reporting institution:
Lawrence Public Library
707 Vermont St.
Lawrence, KS 66044-2371

Project Title: Together Prepared Continuity of Health Information Award

Name of person submitting report: Cathy “Cat” Rooney Howland
Email address: catr@ku.edu
Telephone number: 785-727-0808 (c) 785-864-4095 (w)

Reporting Period start date: April 15, 2009
Reporting Period end date: July 14, 2009

Publicity:

Publicity and promotional activities during this quarter primarily revolved around informing the community about the grant award and the plans we want to accomplish as noted in the attached talking points about the project (see attachment 2). Specifically,

1. On April 6, 2009, team member Bruce Flanders, Lawrence Public Library Director sent an email to David Corliss, Lawrence City Manager and Cynthia Boecker, Assistant Lawrence City Manager describing the library’s role and its partners in the community to carry out this grant award (see attachment 3).
2. On April 17, 2009, team member Lisa Horn, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Communication Coordinator issued a news release from Bruce Flanders, Library Director about the grant (see attachment 4).
3. The new release resulted in an article in the local paper, Lawrence-Journal World on April 25, titled, “County has new preparedness project” (see attachment 5).
4. On April 20, 2009, Dan Partridge, RS, MPH Director of the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department updated 10 health department board members about the project and the unique partnership between the health department, library, emergency management agency and university to carry out the grant.
5. On April 22, 2009, team member Kim Ens, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department presented information about the grant’s goals including the call center and website to 20 AARP members.
6. On June 15, 2009, team member Charlotte Marthaler, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department provided an orientation to 15 administrative Library staff members about the project and their new assigned roles at the Library during a disaster.
7. Newsletter announcements about the project included:
   c. An article in the April 2009 quarterly issue of Infection Connection which is sent to healthcare providers in Douglas County (see attachment 8).

Outreach:
Two trainings were presented. One to team members by Regional Medical Library staff and another by a project team member which was recorded on the Outreach Reporting Form:

On June 8th (9:30-11:30 am) 14 people from the Lawrence Public Library, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, University of Kansas, and Douglas County Emergency Management attended an excellent 2-hour training specifically for project team members and library staff on the National Medical Library system and other internet resources. The instructor was Rebecca Brown, Kansas Outreach & Technology Liaison National Network of Libraries of Medicine, MidContinental Region University of Kansas Medical Center. Rebecca is staff at the Regional Medical Library and provided support to the team’s efforts. This activity is listed on the Timeline for the grant. She entered this outreach activity under her duties with the University of Kansas rather then under this project.

On May 9, 2009 team member Michael Fox, University of Kansas conducted two back-to-back trainings that were well received to a total of 82 people via a PowerPoint presentation at the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Symposium. This training was on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities and local efforts of the Together Prepared projects.

Other accomplishments:
We found an easy connection among health department, library, emergency management and the university to carry out this project. It is a successful team as well as all are experts in their field, fully committed to what we are doing, and work extremely well together. Each member is a vital part of the project’s success. See attachment 9 for the contact list of the team members. Each month the team members meet.

At our April 10 meeting contractual arrangements with key personnel and specific project tasks were finalized. The project manager was introduced at this meeting and officially began her duties.

At the May 29 meeting, the group strategized on the best method for fulfilling the grant requirements pertaining to media and promotion planning. We then invited media coordinators from our respective offices to participate in our monthly meetings and provide advice. Bruce Flanders reported on the library’s on-going efforts to upgrade the bandwidth for internet services and the phone lines to meet the demands of this project. He is investigating how a generator might be obtained for backup electrical supply to operate the call center during disasters that
force down power lines or cripple the power plant. The library will also need some electrical
work to make a generator feasible. Different website designs were also reviewed by the team
members for adaptation for this project.

At the June 12 meeting team members debriefed from the excellent training provided by Rebecca
Brown on NLM training to library administrative staff and team members as noted above.
Library staff immediately follow-up with the training suggestions by adding Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention (CDC) H1N1 information widget to the website
(http://www.lawrence.lib.ks.us/), and a del.icio.us reference book markers. We also discussed
what should be covered in this monthly report, what functions we desired on the website, formed
the guidelines subgroup which will meet July 29 to begin discussing the overall structure of the
call center and its formation, and reviewed what information is needs to be collected for
promotions and publicity verses trainings.

We met on July 10 to determine what would be needed to get a small scale call center to be
operating by the time of flu season in/case the H1N1 swine flu becomes active again. This would
dove tail with the preparations that the health department and emergency management are doing
to be ready for the second phase of the swine flu.

**Target audience:**
Our target group is broad and comprises vulnerable populations and the community based
agencies that serve these populations in Douglas County. Prior to the grant being awarded,
Together Prepared had held two community forums to engage vulnerable populations. 130
representatives from local government, no-profit and social services agencies in Douglas County
attended. Their mission is to minimize a disaster’s impact on vulnerable populations by
enhancing personal readiness through training and education. We found people were more
comfortable asking questions to forum panelist at the second forum. Participants are becoming
more knowledge in what is needed, as reflected in the questions they ask us about this project.
The project has been very well received by forum members.

The target audience’s needs have not changed since our initial assessment, yet we see a gap in
representation among the agencies for two vulnerable populations – homeless and foreign
language groups. Thus, we are again contacting agencies serving these populations and
personally asking them to join in the forum meetings.

**Goals, Outcomes, Objectives:**
Our project is at the beginning stages so no thoughts at this time about modifications. After
reviewing what we need from the library infrastructure, it was determined that a $100,000
generator or alternative was in order to assure services during a power outage. Since FEMA is
currently not funding generators, locating a grantee has proven to be difficult.

**Evaluation:**
No formal evaluations conducted to date. Collective observations done by project evaluators,
Michael Fox and Glen White from the University of Kansas have been gathered but not formally
presented.
Impacts and Observations:
The team members of Together Prepared realized that their jobs did not allow them the time needed to manage this project appropriately, thus the grant called for a project manager to enhance its success. This quarter the project manager was hired and taken on appropriate tasks. In addition, the commitment and dedication of all of the team members are unique and make demanding tasks come together with more ease. Many team members have worked together before, have a heartfelt desire to do what is needed to get this project off the ground and successful. The combination of expertise and chemistry between the collaborators cannot be beat. Having the call center housed at a library is unique, yet makes a lot of sense.

Planned Activities:
For this quarter we plan to:

1. Build library’s infrastructures to better serve the operations of the project, continue to work on website design and logo, begin basic outreach activities to potential volunteers for the call center, research and draft portions of the guidelines for the call center, continue promotional, publicity and training activities, and continue team member and key library staff training particularly in H1N1 issues.

2. Have the team members as a whole meet monthly and the sub groups for guideline development and media to meet as needed.

3. Work extensively on drafting guidelines (policy and procedures) for the call center. Due to the threat of a second wave of the H1N1 (swine flu) this fall and winter the project team is pushing for a scaled down/small version of a call center to be in operation and administered at the library during specific library hours to meet public concerns.

4. Present information about the project and preparedness at currently scheduled events and meetings, including:

   ° Team members Bruce Flanders is attending and Rebecca Brown is presenting at The Wyoming Health Symposium on July 15 and 16, which has sessions on organizing community groups to serve in emergency preparedness and response.

   ° PowerPoint presentation by team member Michael Fox, University of Kansas to the Lawrence Public Library Board.

   ° Participating in the August 18 Together Prepared Community Project Forum and providing information about the project to interested persons and community-based service providers for vulnerable populations.

   ° Providing materials at the September 26 Douglas County Emergency Preparedness Fair.

   ° Provide training for team members, including the July 16 H1N1 Response meeting and The Disaster Operations Planning Workshops on August 5 and 10.
Talking Points for Community of Health Information Award for Emergency Preparedness

- The project was made possible by a grant to the Lawrence Public Library from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine.
- Much of the project focuses on vulnerable populations, however access to emergency preparedness information is important to everyone.
- As many as 54,000 people constitute a vulnerable population in Douglas County, yet they are often overlooked in disaster or a public health emergency. Ensuring that they have the information and resources they need in an emergency is one of Together Prepared’s main missions.
- The library’s services will be expanded through printed material, staff assistance, the Internet and the library’s mobile van also will be used to inform agencies, organizations and residences that serve vulnerable populations on what to do before, during and after a major emergency.
Library receives "Together Prepared" health information grant

3 messages

Bruce Flanders <bflanders@lawrence.lib.ks.us>  Mon, Apr 6, 2009 at 5:32 PM
To: "David L. Corliss" <dcorliss@ci.lawrence.ks.us>, Cynthia Boecker <cboecker@ci.lawrence.ks.us>
Bcc: adminteam@lawrence.lib.ks.us, Bruce Flanders <bflanders@lawrence.lib.ks.us>

Dave, Cynthia --

This will not be publicly announced for another month, but I wanted to let you know that the library, in collaboration with the Health Department, KU and Douglas County Emergency Management, has been awarded a $15,000 federal grant by the National Library of Medicine / National Institutes of Health through their "Continuity of Health Information" program, in the category of Emergency Preparedness.

You may have heard of the "Together Prepared" project in Douglas County, spearheaded by Kim Ens at the Health Department, to get allied agencies to work together to help people at risk (elderly, disabled, etc.) get through a major disaster or emergency situation. This grant builds on that group's efforts.

The major components of this grant, from my perspective:

1) The Lawrence Public Library will serve as a "call center" in the event of a disaster - the library phone system will be expanded with additional incoming lines, and if a disaster strikes, library staff will coordinate the use of the library's phone system so it serves as the emergency call center, to be manned by Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers (groups formed and coordinated by the Health Department).

2) The Lawrence Public Library will serve as the primary designated Internet access point in the event of an emergency, with priority access to emergency information web resources.

3) Selected library and Health Department staff members will go out prior to a disaster to provide personal preparedness training classes to at-risk groups in places like senior living centers.

We have coordinated all of these plans with Douglas County Emergency Management. Most of these efforts, as funded by the grant, will go into effect this fall, with standard operating guidelines being developed for the call center and Internet access center functions.

The concept for the grant was based on the successful experience of Coffeyville, KS, where the public library was designated as the central information center in the event of a disaster. When a major flooding event occurred there, the library as call center / Internet information center worked out well. Our grant application noted: "As the library already functions as a central place to inform, educate and empower citizens of Lawrence and greater Douglas County, it is logical and feasible to extend the existing role to increase availability of public health information online and in print, to serve as a one-stop center for information and access to resources during an emergency."

I plan to use this grant as a potential springboard to apply for additional grant funds, in larger amounts, from a telecom company and/or the Dept. of Homeland Security, to implement even more capable phone system technology and Internet access (and even emergency backup power generation) at the library. In that sense,
these grants could help strengthen the telecom infrastructure of the library. As I noted above, the publicity effort relating to this grant initiative won't take place until May, but I wanted to give you an early heads-up. I have also informed the Library Board.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Bruce

Bruce Flanders, Director
Lawrence Public Library
707 Vermont Street
Lawrence, KS 66044-2371
785-843-3833 (phone)
785-843-3368 (fax)
bflanders@lawrence.lib.ks.us

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David L. Corliss <DCorliss@ci.lawrence.ks.us>  Mon, Apr 6, 2009 at 5:36 PM
To: "Flanders, Bruce" <bflanders@lawrence.lib.ks.us>, Cynthia Boecker <cboecker@ci.lawrence.ks.us>

Bruce, thanks for information. Congratulations on the grant award. Dave.

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From: Bruce Flanders [mailto:bflanders@lawrence.lib.ks.us]
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 5:33 PM
To: David L. Corliss; Cynthia Boecker
Subject: Library receives "Together Prepared" health information grant

Dave, Cynthia --

[Quoted text hidden]
Lawrence Public Library
707 Vermont Street
Lawrence, KS 66044
785-843-3833

April 17, 2009

NEWS RELEASE—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bruce Flanders, Director
Lawrence Public Library
785-843-3833, ext. 102
bflanders@lawrence.lib.ks.us

Contact: Lisa V. Horn, Communications Coordinator
Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department
785-843-3060

New project seeks to improve emergency preparedness

Lawrence, KS—Knowing where to go for information in an emergency can be overwhelming. A new project will expand the Lawrence Public Library’s services to improve emergency preparedness for Douglas County residents, with a special focus on vulnerable populations.

The project, funded by a $14,000 grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, partners the library with the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, Douglas County Emergency Management, the University of Kansas Research and Training Center on Independent Living and the community working group, Together Prepared.

The objectives of the project are to:
• Enhance access to public health and preparedness information through printed material, staff assistance and the Internet before, during and after a disaster or public health emergency and to host a call center that will be activated in such a crisis.
• Create a Together Prepared Web site that will offer health and safety information and community links with a specific focus on Douglas County’s vulnerable populations.

• Pilot an outreach program using the library’s mobile van to inform agencies, organizations and residences that serve vulnerable populations on what to do before, during and after a major emergency in Douglas County.

The residents of Coffeyville, Kan. benefited from a similar project in place when floods devastated that community in 2007. Following the flood, the Coffeyville Public Library became a public information and resource center. A library spokesperson stayed in constant contact with city and county authorities to ensure updated information was released. Citizens used the library to get information about applying for assistance and met with agency officials.

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Attachment 5

LJ World.Com


County has new preparedness project

April 25, 2009

Lawrence Public Library director Bruce Flanders last week announced a new project to improve emergency preparedness for Douglas County residents, with a special focus on vulnerable populations.

The project, funded by a $14,000 grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, partners the library with the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, Douglas County Emergency Management, Kansas University Research and Training Center on Independent Living, and Together Prepared, a new community group.

The objectives of the project are to:

• Enhance access to public health and preparedness information through printed material, staff assistance and the Internet before, during and after a disaster or public health emergency, and to host a call center that will be activated in such a crisis.

• Create a Together Prepared Web site that will offer health and safety information.

• Pilot an outreach program using the library’s mobile van to inform agencies, organizations and residences that serve vulnerable populations on what to do before, during and after a major emergency in Douglas County.
February Forum For CBO’s focuses on Collaboration

Approximately 40 people attended Together Prepared’s second quarterly forum for community-based organizations to discuss emergency preparedness for vulnerable populations. The forum was held February 11th at the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.

Participants were given a worksheet to fill out to help them list their resources and brainstorm ways of collaborating with other agencies. Some of the worksheets were returned and compiled into one document that may someday be useful in locating resources during an emergency.

If your agency would like to be included in this document, there is a blank copy of the worksheet attached. Email Laura Poskochil at lposkochil@ldchealth.org to return your worksheet or request a copy of the compiled resource list.

Have Questions About Emergency Response? Ask the Responders!

Due to discussion at the Feb. 11th Forum and results of evaluations, the next quarterly Forum for Community-Based Organizations will be a luncheon meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 with a panel of emergency responders.

Attendees can learn about disaster management terms and processes such as the Incident Command System and Emergency Operations Center, what responders will be able to provide to the community and what CBOs should be expected to provide.

We hope to have panel representatives from Fire & Med, Law Enforcement (Sheriff, KU, LPD), Emergency Management, Emergency Communications, Public Health, Mental Health, and the School District.

Is there something you would like to know or discuss? Questions, comments, or concerns you would like brought up at the forum? This is your chance to get your questions answered.

We can not promise every question will be addressed but it is the goal of Together Prepared to provide you, the community-based organizations serving vulnerable populations, the information you want.

Email your discussion ideas/questions to Laura Poskochil at lposkochil@ldchealth.org, call 785-843-3060, or fax them to 785-843-3161.

Any other ideas you might have to make the experience more valuable are welcome as well.
Things to Think About

Find out in advance where you can take your pets when an emergency happens in your community.

Include some entertainment such as playing cards, books or board games in your preparedness kit.

Become more involved in your community by joining a preparedness and response volunteer organization like Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) or the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

To build upon the success of the Coffeyville library, the future project would include improving access to preparedness and emergency information in the library through print and online materials, developing a website for Together Prepared and piloting a preparedness class for CBO staff and consumers.

Keep an eye out for new developments!

March Health Madness Tests Preparedness

You can help test the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department’s preparedness for a public health emergency by participating in a mass dispensing exercise on Friday March 27, 2009, from 9:30—10:30 a.m. at Free State High School.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has set March 23-27 as March Health Madness, a week of exercises that will culminate with the Health Department’s mass dispensing exercise.

A mass dispensing site, also known as Point of Dispensing or POD, is a way to dispense medications to large numbers of people in a relatively short amount of time. During a public health emergency, such as a bioterrorism attack or disease outbreak, the health department could open one to three PODs to dispense medications to Douglas County residents.

Part of the evaluation criteria for the Health Department in Friday’s exercise is how well the needs of vulnerable populations are met.

Any staff or consumers who are interested in taking part in the exercise are highly encouraged to do so. Participants or caregivers who are present must be familiar with current medications to fill out medical history forms. (Note: No real medications will be given, M&M’s are a common medication substitute).

If your agency can help, please contact Kim Ens at kens@ldchealth.org or 785-843-3060 by Monday, March 23.

Together Prepared Seeks Funding for New Projects

Together Prepared has been busy searching for funding opportunities to expand their efforts.

One project currently in planning stages is to collaborate with the Lawrence Public Library to enhance the library’s role as an information center for the public during an emergency and an outreach center for information related to disasters preceding them.

The public Library in Coffeyville, Kansas served a similar role in 2007, in the aftermath of a flood that devastated their community. Selected staff members were designated as the library’s emergency preparedness team. The library itself became the information center for FEMA and the Red Cross so that needed information for both residents and agencies could be found in the most accessible site available.

Together Prepared is an informational resource for CBO staff and consumers. To key in on our progress, you can check out the Together Prepared website online: www.togetherprepared.org. This website contains information on preparedness classes for community members, volunteers, and emergency response staff. It also provides a variety of resources to assist with planning, training, and community organization.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at lposkochil@ldchealth.org or call 785-843-3060.

Get A Kit
Make A Plan
Stay Informed
H1N1 outbreak reinforces need for pandemic preparedness

As of June 15, 2009, 76 countries have officially reported 35,928 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection, including 163 deaths, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

In addition, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department also confirmed on June 1 the first positive test for the H1N1 virus in a Douglas County resident. Another case has since been confirmed.

Kim Ens, Preparedness Coordinator for the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department stresses that everyone should continue to take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs, including frequent hand washing and staying at home to avoid contact with others if you are sick.

Ens said that so far, novel H1N1 has remained fairly mild. However, that could change. “We don’t really know what will happen in the next few months with this novel virus. It could actually change and the outbreak could become more severe in the fall and next winter.” Ens said. “It is important for us all to keep up to date with the latest information and continue to talk to the consumers we serve about being prepared.”

Additionally, taking steps to prepare your agency will help lessen the impact of a pandemic and other disasters in the future.

Together prepared plans for new community projects

Together Prepared has been awarded two grants to develop and carry out many new projects that will extend outreach to vulnerable populations and the agencies that serve them in Douglas County.

One project, funded by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, will enhance the Lawrence Public Library’s role as an information center for the public during an emergency and an outreach center for information related to disasters preceding them. On Monday, June 8 select Together Prepared members along with key library staff attended training on online resources available through the National Library of Medicine which will help the public access a wide array of health information.

The second project is funded by Compassion Kansas through Wichita State University’s Center for Community Support and Research. The main goals of this project are to increase involvement within faith-based organizations and neighborhood associations and increase Together Prepared’s capacity to help community-based with Continuity Of Operations Plans or COOPs.

The development of a neighbor-to-neighbor program will teach communities about emergency preparedness, locate and list resources within neighborhoods and congregations and encourage people to form support systems for those who would be most vulnerable during and emergency.

Feel free to distribute this newsletter to co-workers and friends. If you no longer wish to receive updates please email info@togetherpreparing.org.
Online Training Opportunities Can Help Prepare Staff and Consumers

The TrainingFinder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network, or TRAIN, is a learning resource for professionals who protect the public’s health.

From the Kansas TRAIN website you can search a variety of trainings available either online or on-site. Many courses also allow you to earn CEUs, often at no cost.

You can also choose to be a course provider and use the site to publicize courses to thousands of TRAIN users. Post materials, discussion questions, keep track of participants and include evaluations of your course.

Some trainings currently available include:

- Preparedness and Community Response to Pandemics
- Emergency Preparedness for Children With Special Health Care Needs
- IS-547 Introduction to Community of Operations
- IS-197 SP Special Needs Planning Considerations for Service and Support Providers

May Forum Brings Emergency Responders and CBOs Together for Information Sharing

Together Prepared held a third quarterly forum for community-based organizations (CBOs) on emergency preparedness for vulnerable populations on May 13, 2009. At the forum, a panel of emergency responders representing law enforcement, fire and medical, public health, mental health, Emergency Management, Emergency Communications and USD 497 answered questions about how they respond to emergencies and what information they need to know from CBOs.

Pat Roach-Smith, of Bert Nash, facilitated the forum and said the important take-away message is that community first responders and emergency management staff want and need good, specific information from CBOs regarding the clients they serve in the event of an emergency or disaster.

“Some specific things for us to consider are being vigilant that our organizations are prepared to provide specific information regarding what special needs to consider, how many people are involved in a specific incident and what resources we have at our disposal,” Roach-Smith said. “One of the most crucial issues is that we work with our clients to prepare for an emergency both physically (having things you need in an emergency readily available) and emotionally (list of who to call, how to manage in a crisis situation).”

Questions or comments? E-mail us at buickm@kansashealth.org or call 785-843-3000.

Above: Emergency response panelists explain their agency’s role in response to a disaster.
Coalition seeks to assist vulnerable populations

Together Prepared is a group that formed in October 2007 to close critical knowledge and emergency planning gaps for vulnerable populations and the agencies that serve them.

The group is comprised of representatives from 13 local non-profit, social service and governmental agencies.

Agencies include: Douglas County Emergency Management, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, the University of Kansas Center on Independent Living, Success By 6, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, Independence Inc., Lawrence Housing Authority, Centro Hispano Resource Center, Cottonwood Inc. and others.

Together Prepared’s mission is to: Ensure that local capabilities exist for enhancing personal readiness through training and education so that a disaster’s impact on vulnerable populations is minimal.

On Nov. 6, 2008, Together Prepared held a forum for community-based organizations to discuss concerns and challenges they encounter in their emergency preparedness.

Participants reported that their consumers lacked education and resources or that their personal preparedness levels were quite low.

On Feb. 11, a second forum for community-based organizations was held to discuss resource sharing and collaboration during an emergency.

A third forum is scheduled for May 13 at the Community Health Facility second floor meeting rooms. A panel of emergency response agencies will answer questions and discuss their response process. The forum is geared toward community-based organizations and how they can better prepare their consumers on emergency preparedness.

Health Department participates in March Health Madness

The week of March 23-27 was designated as March Health Madness for Kansas health departments and hospitals.

The week was full of activities to test local health departments’ preparedness and response plans, as well as their ability to communicate with partner agencies and the media.

In Douglas County, Monday began with an epi tabletop that included the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Douglas County Emergency Management, KU Watkins Health Center and USD 497 school nurses.

Tuesday included a tabletop exercise at Lawrence Memorial Hospital that involved testing medical surge capacity. On Friday, the Health Department set up a point-of-dispensing (POD) clinic at Free State High School.

The scenario involved a grocery produce worker infected with Hepatitis A who potentially infected thousands of customers.

Free State High School students played the part of people coming to the clinic to be “vaccinated.” Health Department staff, Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, members of the Douglas County Kansas All Hazards

See “POD” on page 2

Free State High School students were some of the ‘patients’ during the Health Department’s point-of-dispensing clinic, an exercise held as part of March Health Madness.
Douglas County Disease Report

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This report includes the number of cases investigated by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. Case classifications include: Confirmed, probable, suspect and those determined to not be a case.

Mumps and pertussis reminder

The Health Department has had a couple of suspect mumps and suspect pertussis cases in the past few weeks.

Please remember to isolate a suspect or confirmed mumps case for five days, draw blood for Mumps IgM testing and obtain a viral throat or buccal swab culture.

If you suspect pertussis, please obtain a nasopharyngeal swab for PCR testing.

If you suspect either of these infections, please notify the Health Department at (785) 843-0721.

New immunization requirements for 2009-2010 school year

The 2009-2010 school year is just around the corner and with it come new immunization requirements for schools and child care centers/programs.

- Tdap will be required for children turning 11 by Sept. 1 if it has been more than two years since a previous dose of Dtap.
- For adolescents older than 11, a Tdap booster is required 10 years after the completion of the primary series of Dtap or previous dose. Three doses of Hepatitis B and one dose of varicella are now required for all students in grades 1-9.
- Kindergarten students are required to have two doses of varicella. Students who have had varicella will need a written note from their health care provider documenting the history of disease.

- For children in day care centers or preschools, who are younger than age 5 by Sept. 1; four doses of Dtap, three doses of IPV, one MMR, one varicella, three doses Hib, three doses hepatitis B, four doses of pneumococcal and two doses hepatitis A are required.
- All adults up to age 65 are recommended to have one dose of Tdap. Additionally, one dose of pneumococcal vaccine is now recommended for adults ages 19-64 who smoke or have asthma.

Health Department announces annual Kay Kent award winner

Charlotte Mathaler, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Director of Policy and Planning, was awarded the Kay Kent Excellence in Public Health Service Award recently. Mathaler has worked at the Health Department for 11 years and was nominated by Barbara Schmittler, Director of Clinic Services.

“Charlotte’s dedication and thoughtful guidance are assets in the provision of quality public health services,” Schmittler said in her nomination.

Laughter is the best medicine

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Behavioral Health team (KAHB) and law enforcement staffed the clinic. Free State Nurse Paula Hatcher served as clinic supervisor and Dr. Lori Hougham, Health Department Health Officer/Medical Consultant also participated.

On the other side of Lawrence, Roger Hill Volunteer Center opened a spontaneous Volunteer Reception Center at the Fairgrounds. To track volunteers in a large disaster, plans include opening a center where unaffiliated volunteers will be checked in and processed.

The week was a success with the many agencies involved learning their strengths and what improvements need to be addressed.

It was on a short-cut through the hospital kitchens that Albert was first approached by a member of the Antibiotic Resistance.
Together Prepared Community of Health Award for Emergency Management
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