

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

GARFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MILESTONES





Over the past year Garfield County Public Health has seen many changes, transitions, and growth throughout the Department.

We said good-bye to a dear friend and mentor, Mary Meisner who after 35 years of service retired from Public Health as Director. Her dedication to this county and its citizens, in the leadership of Public Health will be felt for generations to come.

One of our major goals for 2013 was the completion of our Public Health Improvement Plan. Part of this plan was to engage in a strategic planning process that outlined goals and objectives for the Department's next five years. This plan will guide the team through the many changes that are occurring in the public health field, moving us towards improving the health and well-being of our community through population-based approaches.

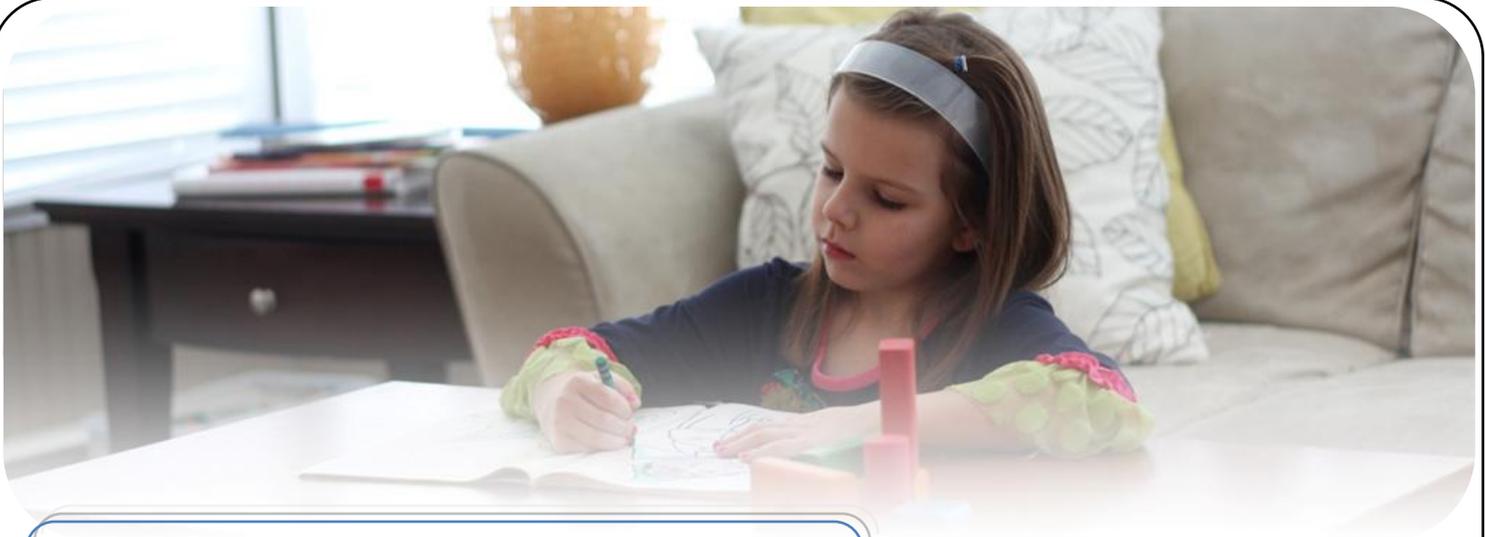
In 2014 our mission continues to be to promote health and prevent disease.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Long

Director, Public Health





Community Outreach

Areas where public health is involved and working in the local community, region, and State

A core component of Public Health is to identify gaps and build capacity. Therefore, Public Health is involved in the following community programs, boards, and coalitions:

Suicide Prevention Coalition, Public Information Officers, Dental Health Alliance, Interagency Oversight Group, Family & Community Engagement Team, Community Support Team, Early Childhood Councils, GARCO. Safety Committee, Breastfeeding State Taskforce, Head Start Advisory Board, Live Well, Nurse Family Partnership Advisory Board, District 16 Wellness, Obesity Prevention State Sub-Committee, Regional Care Collaborative, ESF8, COHAN, Senior Wellness, Child Protection Team, Healthy Eating Active Living Coalition, West Mountain Regional Health Coalition, Family Resource Center Board, Human Service Commission, Cradle to Career Initiative, Mid-Valley Access to Care, CALPHO, PHNL, PREP Advisory Board, VVH Safety Fair Planning Committee, Public Safety LEPC, CO Directors of Environmental Health, Garfield Clean Energy, Northwest Oil and Gas Forum, West Slope CO Oil and Gas Association, GARCO Energy Advisory Board, Middle CO Watershed Council, Source Water Protection, Piceance Basin Water Quality Data Repository, CO Basin Roundtable, West Slope Compressed Natural Gas Collaborative, EPR Regional Team, GARCO Air Quality Technical Workgroup, Western CO Reg. Air Quality Collaborative.



Prenatal & Newborn Services

Growing Healthy Families

Served 73 new mothers, 20% of these clients were smoking at initial intake

66% of these smoking mothers enrolled in Baby and Me Tobacco Free and remained smoke free for 12 months post partum

Only 4.3% of the prenatal program babies were born of low birth weight (below 5lbs 8oz). Garfield County is less than half the State low birth weight average of 8.8%.

Prenatal Program staff partnered with the PREP program to teach 60 'sexual health' courses

“Quitting was so hard for me,” said Shelly Strey, Baby and Me graduate. “I started smoking when I was 10 years old. When I got pregnant I was smoking a pack and a half each day. I always said the only way I would quit was if I had a baby.” Strey had not been planning on getting pregnant and admits the one thing she wanted to continue to do was to smoke to manage stress. After becoming pregnant she came to Public Health and enrolled in Baby and Me Tobacco Free. “Just talking to someone was so helpful,” said Strey.” It took her nearly five months before she began to feel better without nicotine. She started working out, eating better. “I was working double shifts. I would work, work-out, then go back to work. It helped me keep my mind off of smoking.”

Once Strey delivered, she had strict rules governing smoking around new baby Elizabeth. “I learned about the dangers of second-hand smoke, I didn’t want that around Elizabeth.” She purchased a new car that would never be smoked in, she made her boyfriend smoke far away from the house so Elizabeth couldn’t see him from the windows, she made him change his clothes after coming in, and required him to wash his hands before holding their new baby. Laughing Strey admitted, “I wanted him to shower and brush his teeth every time too, but that didn’t fly.”

The diapers each month were also a huge motivator for Strey “The Baby and Me program helped our family so much. I have a beautiful, healthy daughter. We are so much healthier now.”



LiveWell Garfield County

Building the capacity to effectively plan, implement, evaluate and sustain interventions specific to healthy eating and active living.

Moved into the mobilization and planning phase of the Garfield County LiveWell grant

Created an 8 member steering committee

Completed a community strategic plan that included over 400 interviews with community residents to determine their interest in healthy eating and active living

Took part in the 4 month long Photo Voice project, where community residents took photos of challenges and successes in relation to healthy living

80 stakeholders gathered for a dinner, photo exhibit, and work session helping to drive the development of the community strategic plan

Nearly 58% of Colorado adults are overweight or obese. If trends continue, only 33% of the State's adults will be a healthy weight by 2020

Public Health Improvement Plan

Entered into Phase 6 of the Colorado Health Assessment and Planning System, creating a local public health improvement plan or PHIP

Hired contractor to compile an easily understandable public document

Created goals and action plans around PHIP top priorities

Final revisions of the plan were submitted to inform the statewide plan

Began Phase 7, implement and monitor the plan



Disease Intervention

- Immunizations, Communicable Disease

123 reported communicable disease cases, a slight increase over 2012

Colorado was in a Pertussis epidemic, with 26 cases diagnosed in Garfield County

25 people were hospitalized with influenza

Case managed 12 food-borne illness incidents

Began billing private insurance companies for insured children

Provide free to no cost immunizations for 1,227 under and uninsured adults

Served 1,574 kids through the Vaccines for Children program, giving 3,494 vaccines

Served 3,030 clients through privately funded immunizations program

Provided 161 foreign travel consultations

Administered 3,214 flu vaccines

Provided 200 clients with immunizations through bi-monthly Carbondale 'off-site' clinics

It is now recommended that all 'baby boomers' born between 1945 and 1965 be screened for Hepatitis C. The majority of the 3.2 million people living with chronic Hep C are boomers who became infected before there was much known about the virus. CDC estimates that 75% of those infected are unaware of their status.



Women Infant Children (WIC) Nutrition & Health

Nutrition counseling and vouchers for healthy foods to income-eligible families who are either pregnant or have children ages birth to five years old.

\$800,000 was spent in Garfield County through WIC checks

Averaged 50 new people per month on WIC

30% of the WIC caseload lives in Rifle

The value of a WIC check is approximately \$22

Averaged a caseload of 1151 clients

Taught cooking classes to 43 Upward Bound students

Taught 50 clients how to shop for healthy food on a budget

Above State average with women who continue breastfeeding

at both 6 and 12 months post partum

Call all new moms offering breastfeeding support and troubleshooting problems

Took Body Mass Index measures at District 16 and Re2 hearing and vision screens

Provided fresh locally grown produce to all 7 senior congregate meal sites

Nearly \$12,000 of WIC vouchers were redeemed at farmer's markets

*Breastfeeding
initiation rates in
Garfield County are
at 92%*



Oral Health

Using evidence based best practices to reduce the prevalence of caries in school aged children

Provided students at 17 schools with free oral health screenings, cleanings, fluoride varnishes, and sealants

42% participation rate

Provided dental cleanings to 1182 students

Referred 401 students who had an immediate need to see a dentist

Identified 1153 cavities

Placed 2563 sealants on 723 student's molars

45% of students participating report not having dental insurance

Offer \$5 fluoride varnishes at both Rifle and Glenwood offices

My Teeth felt great! It didn't hurt at all. But, I love the dentist...I love everything...I would love to do it again!
Tanner 2nd Grade



Community

Completed approximately 100 free car seat inspections at the offices and safety fairs

Provided car seat inspections 6 times during the year for the Valley View Hospital new parent safety program

Provide childcare nurse consultation services to New Creation Preschool and Colorado Rocky Mountain Preschool

Suicide Prevention Coalition volunteers provided 6 community Question Persuade Refer courses

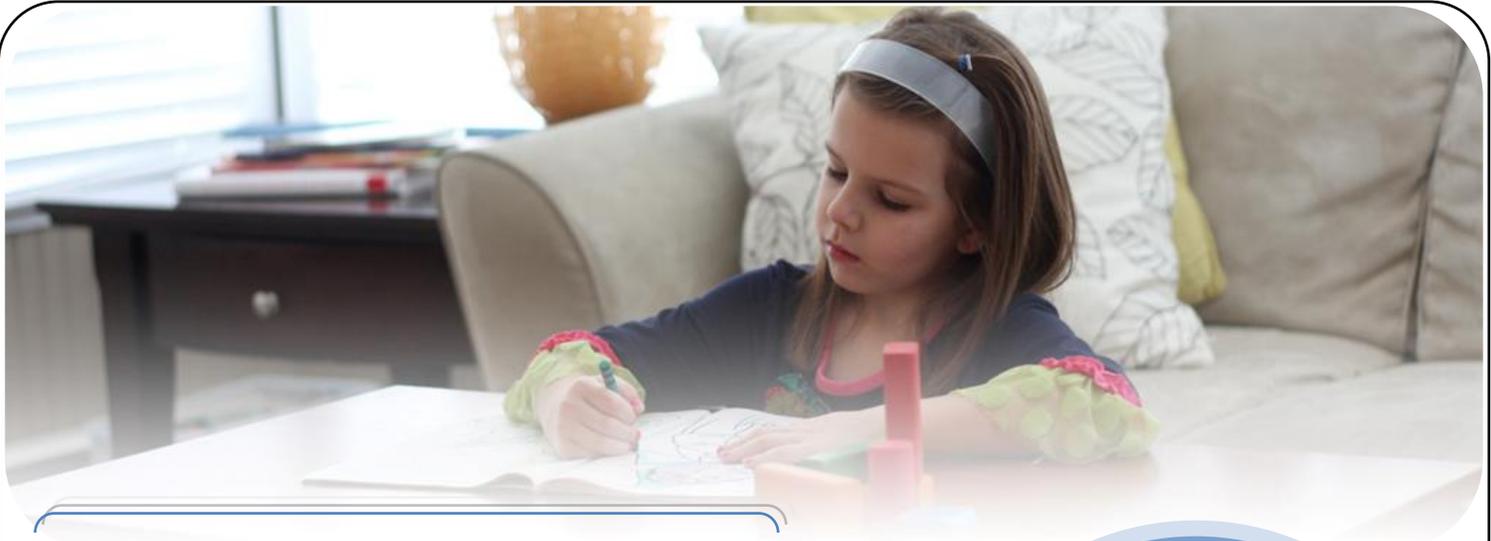
All Healthcare Program for Children with Special Needs clinics have been moved to Grand Junction

Trained a nurse to become a certified Tai Chi and Healthier Living Colorado instructor. Classes begin in 2014 through the Garfield County Senior programs. Courses promote balance, coordination, and ways to help seniors manage their ongoing health conditions

Began accepting credit cards

Reach out and Read program gave out 1848 new, age appropriate books and 60 gently used books

99.5% of Immunization and WIC clients receive Reach out and Read books from Public Health staff



Healthy Communities

Providing individual support navigating Medicaid and CHP+ health insurance

Trained with Connect for Health Colorado, Health Care Guides to better serve clients

Trained 2 new Health Communities Family Health Coordinators for Eagle County

Collaborate with the Regional Care Collaborative Organization to better serve clients

Assisted over 100 clients with Medicaid and or CHP+ applications

Maintain 100-150 newly Medicaid eligible clients each month

*As of December 2013
172 residents of
Garfield County have
registered for
insurance through
Connect for Health
Colorado*

Emergency Preparedness

Public Health served on the County public safety/ local emergency planning committee
Participated in the 16 health department, Northwest and West region, full-scale emergency preparedness exercise.

The exercise used the Emergency Food Assistance Program of Mesa County to simulate dispensing medical countermeasures.

Exercise participants and local volunteers distributed 22,150 lbs of food to 443 households.



Environmental Health

Air, water, waste and other citizen concerns

Air Quality

Participated in the 2013 Colorado Oil and Gas Air Rulemaking process

Continued gathering data from 5 air monitoring sites

Collected over 60 air samples and gathered continuous data from 5 air monitoring sites

Completed final draft of the 2012 annual air monitoring report

Contracted with CDPHE to produce a screening level health risk assessment from 2008-2012 air quality data (to be completed in 2014)

Worked with CDPHE to produce an air emissions inventory using Garfield County 2010 source data

Implemented plan for systematically checking Air Pollution Control Division enforcement case reports. Having notices of violations better informs Garfield County EH and Oil and Gas Liaison Department of current happenings

Working with CSU on an Oil and Gas Air Emissions Study

Implemented a reduced idling program for Garfield County fleet vehicles, program has been promoted and adapted by other municipal and public fleets outside of the County

Physically tested 79% of all licensed childcare facilities for radon gas

Provided over 100 households with free radon test kits



Environmental Health

Air, water, waste, and other citizen concerns

Water Quality

Served on leadership committee for the Middle Colorado Watershed Council and helped facilitate its incorporation as a non-profit

Began implementation phase of the Source Water Protection Plan for the Colorado River Partnership

Served on steering committee for the City of Glenwood Springs, Town of Carbondale, and Oak Meadows Water and Service Company Source Water Protection Plans

Steering committee for the Piceance Basin Water Quality Data Repository

Participate in the 'consumptive uses' group for development of the Colorado Water Plan by the Colorado Basin Roundtable

Guest presenter on water quality, OWTS, and private drinking water wells for the CSU Extension Master Stewardship course for small acreage landowners

Assisted in Parachute Creek spill

General and Community Outreach

Reviewed land use applications and provided guidance to the County Community Development Department

Provided representation at the CO Directors of EH, Garfield Clean Energy & Western CO Association of Environmental Health Officers

Responded to over 80 public concerns and inquiries

Taught 8 high school courses on radon and air monitoring

Hosted field trip for Roaring Fork High AP Environmental Science Class