



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Louisville Metro Board of Health

Director's Report August – for Services in July

Health Operations

Human Resources

	Mar 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022
Total FTE	243	240	242	247	248
Total PTE	31	32	31	31	31
Total Contractors	14	14	13	12	12
Total Lacuna Contractors	91	84	81	72	72
Total ARP Contractors	23	23	23	23	0
Grand Total Workforce	402	393	390	385	363
Vacancies	62	69	76	71	76
Filled Pos.	6	6	9	11	3
Exits	0	0	2	4	2

Communications

Website	Jul-22
Total Pageviews	23,953
Most Viewed pages	
Health & Wellness	3,656
Birth & Death Records	1,688
Harm Reduction Outreach Services (Syringe Exchange)	1,295
Average time on page	1.40
Social Media	
Twitter Impressions	29.5K
Facebook Reach	46,996
Instagram Reach	3,834
Earned Media	\$31,667
COVID update with Dr. Howard, monkeypox update, BOH meeting with preso from mayoral candidate Dieruf, update on find a tick and share program, health and safety issues at Budgetel Inn, community grocery RFP award, extreme heat health and safety	
Public Health News and Alerts e newsletter	
Recipients	40,245
Open rate	20%

Health IT

Month	Total Tickets Created	Total Tickets Resolved	Avg Days to Resolution	% of Tickets Missed SLA	Same Month 2021, Total Tickets Created	Same Month 2021, Total Tickets Resolved	Same Month 2021, Avg Days to Resolution	Same Month 2021, % of Tickets Missed SLA
May 2022	74	73	4.07	0.0%	68	67	11.78	22.4%
June 2022	89	97	3.52	0.0%	90	106	6.42	15.1%
July 2022 MTD	74	66	3.86	13.6%	84	74	6.09	13.5%
Goal	n/a	n/a	5.00 days or less	<= 10.0%	n/a	n/a	5.00 days or less	10.0%

Additional Notes

The E.H.R. system efforts are still ongoing, and we successfully scored the top three (3) RFP submissions, and the first round of two-day demo and evaluations start on August 22nd and August 23rd. During these two days, we will have full demos with key stakeholders from all respective departments, as well as have a few sessions dedicated solely to Q&A with all parts of Metro IT.

The Health IT team is also helping spearhead a new methadone dosing program named “MethaSoft” for the MORE Center to use starting August 2022. The team successfully tested and installed the new program and verified it works with their current equipment. We are also working to install recently approved software “Dedoose” on to some of the LMPHW Data team’s laptops.

We have an ongoing dialogue with Baptist Hospital and WIC, as Baptist is looking to pay for a full time Metro WIC Employee to be in the Hospital to help with WIC work and service opportunities. The team is gathering quotes on the additional equipment and working on contractual agreements, specifically, what to do with the equipment if the role phases out completely.

Lab

We continue to provide testing to our clients such as Corrections, and outreach via Kentucky Nurses Association. The PCR testing volume for COVID-19 has decreased slightly, but unfortunately the positivity rate is up. Pool, mosquito and tick testing volume have all increased for the summer season. We continue to have three vacant lab positions. Dr. Wolf is preparing a slide letter agreement for upgrading a lab assistant to a lab technician.

PHP

We had to reapply for the KDPH ENVIRONHEALTHLINK MINI-GRANT, for additional funding to expand the effort to address extreme heat episode in the Louisville Metro area. After resubmission we now have been granted the additional funding to extend this project into late August. Our plan is to expand the scope of translated languages for our different flyers.

PHP was very pleased to obtain two executed Closed POD Partner MOUs from Metropolitan Sewer District and Brown Forman. We are pursuing agreements with, Louisville Water Company, LG&E-KU and Humana and GE.

PHP continues to provide guidance, recommendations, and planning follow-up on the three (3) CIA Tier 1 Prioritization Preparedness Objectives: Documentation, ICS Training, and Equity/Stakeholder Involvement. PHP has realigned the three training tiers to be compatible with their potential assignments in an LMPHW Public Health Emergency response.

Discussions have been initiated surrounding a state-wide reorganization of the MRC Units into eight regional divisions coinciding with the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) regions. The Louisville MRC Unit will be in the HPP Region 3 identified here as the Healthcare Emergency Response Association (HERA). LMPHW and the Louisville Metro MRC Unit leader already work in close collaboration on issues with the healthcare systems here in Louisville.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

The team successfully onboard the new CLPPP Supervisor, Sarah Hofmann. The team worked on a proposed lead ordinance, IDEAS xLab communications campaign, background research on KY and other state's lead strategies. We also completed design and planning for late summer/early fall Healthy Homes, Healthy Community billboard campaign. Billboards will launch in late August to early September.

Food Safety

The inspection compliance rate of food facilities is 83.31% and multiple areas inspection compliance rates of food facilities are above 90%. All foodborne illness complaints met the goal of being investigated within two business days in the month of June. All general food complaints were investigated within five business days.

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has asked the Food Safety Program to participate in the Summer Food Service Program by conducting proper sanitation and health standard compliance inspections within Jefferson County non-school summer feeding sites. In the month of July, the program completed 49 compliance inspections.

Vector Control

The team launched summer camp mosquito and tick educational classes. State and Metro Parks have received high praise from camp hosts and parents. The newest team member successfully completed the State Registered Sanitarian training and certification process.

Summer Workers have all received their State Pesticides Applicator license and are working independently in the field. Mosquito disease surveillance has been occurring since mid to late May. Only recently was disease identified on 07/13/2022 and 07/20/2022. Mosquitos carrying West Nile virus were identified in the following neighborhoods: Irish Hill, Iroquois, Portland, Wyandotte, Old Louisville, Park DuValle, and Smoketown.

Hazardous Materials Response Program

This month, 100% of 5 call outs were responded to within 40 minutes. The team launched bi-weekly community HazMat collaborative meetings with PRP and Louisville Fire. LMPHW HazMat presented this month on its on-call capabilities during responses and provided equipment explanations and demonstrations.

Plan Review and Environmental Health Engineering

Plan review completed 2,700 commercial and residential plans in FY22. This represents a 17% increase from FY21 when Plan Review completed 2,310 reviews. Total revenues decreased 1% in FY22 to \$138,235 compared to FY21 total revenues of \$140,100. The reduced revenues are a result of completing more residential plans, which have lower permit review fees, and delays in receiving payment. To reduce delays, Plan Review launched an on-line plan review fee payment portal during July.

Public Facilities

The team certified over 1,000 lifeguards for the 2022 pool season. These numbers are similar to pre-pandemic numbers, and the majority of licensing was performed via the online portal.

The rabies control website has been redesigned to provide more specific information and guidance on the risk posed by bat exposures to people and pets.

Public Facilities welcomes back Environmentalist Shannon Ruoff, who was deployed for 1 year by the US Army to assist the Federal response to COVID-19. One Environmentalist position became open in July, filling this position will be a top priority.

Environmental Health Education

The team assisted the Public Facilities Lifeguard training program with summer certification, monitoring the testing website and communicating with the developer on improvements.

We collaborated with the Food Safety Program to complete a food safety education presentation for Sullivan University. We also updated and posted a State Fair food safety online quiz and presentation and collaborated with CLPPP to design and draft new presentation designed to educate primary care providers concerning lead poisoning prevention.

Environmental Health Training Coordinator

The team successfully completed quarterly Environmental Health and Preparedness training and submitted the agenda and sign-in sheet for RS documentation. There were forty-eight personnel trained. We also completed 75% of Food Safety program pre-requisite training, evaluations of mobile home parks and school inspections to personal qualification standards.

The team observed inspections for food safety, mobile home park, on-site, swimming pools and shelters, and observed a Foodborne Illness investigation.

Covid-19 Response

Louisville is in the high risk (red) level. There were 2,869 cases reported in the last week which is similar to the week before. The daily average incidence rate per 100,000 was 53.4 and there were 13 deaths reported in the previous week. The percent of residents who have completed a primary vaccine series is 66.7% and 45.5% have received a booster dose.

The Covid-19 testing team established recurring testing thru the end of August at 6 shelters and 1 independent school. The Isolation Quarantine Housing Unit is active and is serving over 30 individuals as of mid-July. Major hospitals are following the referral process which has streamlined services quickly.

The LMPHW testing team met with a testing provider and gathered useful information that may lead to a potential collaboration, the team and testing provider have met and begun coordinating efforts to establish reoccurring testing sites. The goal is to open 2 recurring public testing sites in West Louisville. The LMPHW testing team plans to establish scheduled testing for the entire fiscal year. The testing sites include shelters and an independent school. The goal is prevention of outbreaks.

An LMPHW testing team goal is to finalize subaward agreements with the Kentucky Nurses Association and Family Health Center.

Center for Health Equity

Policy and Innovation

Policy

- The policy team wishes former policy analyst Clayton Oeth the very best in his career as he pursues another health equity position for the city of Chicago.
- Policy team is still actively working on filling 4 policy analyst vacancies.
- The policy team has begun the screening process for a new health impact assessment (HIA) which includes scanning the state and local legislative environment and engaging with stakeholders on their top policy priorities.
- Related to our HIA screening process, our team presented a brief overview of the purpose and process of an HIA in the last Center for Health Equity section gathering. This included a breakout session where we engaged with other teams in CHE to learn more about policies related to their scope of work and the prospect of conducting an HIA to help inform and elevate the issue.
- A kick-off meeting was held between HR, our staff, and some staff from the epi team to begin first steps in evaluating Louisville Metro Government's recent paid parental leave policy for city employees.

Equity Infrastructure

- The Equity Team welcomes a new policy analyst, Maria Warner.
- A draft Equity Team strategy has been created; Strategy includes four major emphasis areas: Organizational assessment, Equity learning culture, Department-wide organization, Operationalize findings.
- Staff are working on finalizing details for each of the domains. The team plans to present an overview of the strategy during the next Center for Health Equity Section Gathering
- The team has created a draft document on integrating equitable practices in Preparedness planning; the team plans to share out this plan with Insights to Action group early next month, August.
- Equity team members examine strategies, share ideas, and plan actions for sustaining or reinventing their organizations, including how to build their organizational culture for the future by attending the annual NAACHO 360 conference both in person and virtually.

Challenges: Hiring continues to be an issue as we work towards increasing our capacity as a team. Offers were extended to two highly qualified candidates for the policy team but were declined due to issues related to salary offers and negotiations.

Research and Academic Partnerships

- Data collection has ended for the Essential Needs Evaluation, the team is now working on data cleaning and initial phases of analysis.
- The epidemiology team continues to support several projects including: evaluations of breastfeeding workshops with Healthy Babies Louisville, community health worker needs assessment, etc.
- Data has been delivered to our vendor, mySidewalk, to develop the behavioral health equity dashboard. The team expects to have a draft to review soon with publication in the fall (pending approvals). Data sources include hospitalizations and deaths, data from EMS, LMPD, and Metro Corrections, programmatic data from LMPHW, US Census American Community Survey, and others.
- The Academic Health Department is completing an annual report that will be available in August. Along with this they are developing their communication strategy which includes a student and staff showcase online to share student deliverables and research publications. Students in the Fall semester will be able to contribute to the showcase.

Challenges: Hiring epidemiologists continues to be a challenge nationwide [as highlighted by the APHA](#). An offer was extended to a highly qualified candidate but was declined by the candidate due to the limited capacity for LMPHW to negotiate salary. This is currently causing planned work for both the epidemiology team and Academic Health Department to remain on hold, including the creation of a research agenda for LMPHW.

Partnerships and Community Engagement

Maternal and Child Health (MCH):

- Met with MCH leadership at the Kentucky Department for Public Health to clarify guidelines for Title V investments in mental health for school-age children.
- Began recruitment of nursing/social work staff from birth hospitals to build Louisville Safe Sleep Task Force.
- Established partnership with regional U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Product Safety Investigator to support renewed focus on preventing child deaths as part of the work of the Jefferson County Child Fatality Review Board.

Healthy Babies Louisville (HBL):

- Recruited four new partners —three private sector and one community-based organization.
- Met with five HBL partners—two private sector and three community-based to learn more about their work and discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- Worked with CHE Epidemiology team to create evaluation plan and forms to evaluate Breastfeeding Education Workshops created by the HBL Breastfeeding Taskforce.

Community Engagement:

- Met with three COVID Vaccine Community Partners to explore opportunities for additional partnerships. Two partners requested support for youth mental health services, and one requested data and CHW assistance to advance their work.
- For Food Systems RFA, received and reviewed applications from 22+ organizations.
- Created draft plan for CHW funding opportunities.
- Began forwarding weekly Public Health News & Alerts Newsletter to Louisville CHW group (150+ CHWs), highlighting one important fact for each week.
- Discussed partnerships with Kentucky Office of Community Health Workers and creation of a CBO training program.
- Invited to Executive Leadership Roundtable discussion about Care Coordination with South Louisville Community Ministries, Metro United Way, and Louisville Coalition for the Homeless to discuss partnerships and amplifying CHW voices.

Asthma/Healthy Homes: Connected JCPS Health Services leadership with KDPH Asthma EXHALE grant staff to discuss funding stock albuterol for JCPS schools.

Kentucky Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP):

- SMP's goal of advancing equitable access to Medicare information led to eight presentations in seven rural counties; Shelby, Spencer, Bourbon, Fayette, Lincoln, Russell, Clinton, and Pike.
- Hosted two SMP Volunteer Meetings to connect volunteers, update them on new SMP information, and review in-person and virtual volunteer opportunities.

Behavioral Health Equity

The Overdose Quick Response Team partnered with La Casita Center, St. Johns Day Shelter, and LMDC to install Naloxboxes that will increase access to NARCAN in areas experiencing higher than average overdoses and serving residents with limited access to naloxone. The team also distributed 22 units of NARCAN at a community Minority Mental Health Summit at St. Stephen Family Life Center

The Suicide Prevention Program is helping to support and promote the implementation of “9-8-8”, the new nationwide replacement for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and other crisis hotlines. This easy to remember number provides callers with 24/7 free and confidential support and joins the crisis text line (text “LOU” to 741741) as an accessible way for people to connect with professional crisis counselors.

The ARP-funded Harm Reduction Supportive Services Hub has served over 1,827 unique participants in its first six months of operations, distributing over 2400 units of naloxone and 500 fentanyl test strips.

Challenges: As reported by other teams, hiring remains a challenge. Fewer candidates are applying for positions than in previous years and the qualified candidates often have salary requirements and/or timelines that are beyond our ability to negotiate under the current system. Further, our inability to hire people who do not reside in the greater Kentuckiana region puts us at a disadvantage with any employer conducting nationwide searches for candidates.

CDC Grant Updates

Quarter 3 reporting is underway. Progress reports and Performance measure updates are being provided for the following strategies:

- **Strategy 1** – Expand existing and/or develop new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19 related disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved
- **Strategy 2** – Increase/improve data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness, and death to guide the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Strategy 3** – Build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved.
- **Strategy 4** – Mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health and disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.

The deadline for submitting quarter 3 reporting is the week of 8/1/2022.

Strategy 2 Update: The CDC project officer has been notified of LMPHW's intent to substitute the initiative to evaluate compliance activities to promote adherence with COVID-19 restrictions, with a new strategy 2 initiative – an evaluation of the vaccine distribution process would be a more feasible project, while also serving our intent of understanding the equity implications of our COVID-19 response.

Challenges:

Strategy 2 is being replaced because upon closer review of data and collaboration with the team who led the inspections, it was determined that LMPHW lacked capacity to process and clean the data to the degree necessary to conduct sufficient analysis.

Proposed Solutions:

Changing the focus of strategy 2 is the best solution to resolve the issue. A plus is that since the overall budget (\$150,000) remains the same for the old and newly proposed strategy, the CDC will have no issues with the change in focus.

Health Services

Program	Month	Number of Clients Served	Clients Served previous Month	Upcoming Program Activities	Significant Accomplishments	Current/Future Challenges
Healthy Start	June	196	Increased	Breastfeeding baby shower for the community. Attending back to school events to find referrals	The last shower was a great success and has led us to offer it once a month not every other month	Staffing concerns, covid numbers on the rise
Specialty Clinic	June	249	Increased	Johns Hopkins University to expand their recommendations for CDC reporting to include PrEP. As a primary CDC focus is HIV prevention	Monkeypox outbreak response.	Vacant LPN position. Difficulty recruiting, no applicants. Amplifies absence of other employees
MORE Center	June	19	Increased	Transitioning from NetSmart to Methasoft with onsite training happening the first week of August. Continue to provide services to VOA clients and LMDC and look to expand services in the future. Finalizing the lease for the new space for the MORE Center.	A Program Sponsor started at the Center on July 5. Have been able to meet with several other OTP's to arrange guest dosing along with help client with a smooth transition back to the home clinic.	Barriers to getting exception waivers signed. Continue to look for financial support as patients transition from LMDC to outside clinic until such time as their insurance is reinstated. Pending approval for MORE staff to be unaccompanied within LMDC.
WIC Breastfeeding	June	82	Decreased	Starting in person breastfeeding classes	Paperwork submitted to hire a peer counselor	Need to fill two more positions that are fully funded
WIC	May	14929	Increased	Held quarterly staff meeting this month	Able to fill two positions	Need more staffing to accommodate increase in participation
Syringe Services	June	2071	Decreased	Zeroing In Ending the HIV Epidemic focus group sessions every Friday at the Social Practice Lab. Beginning interview/hiring process for x2HESII and x1CHC.	Program Manager's abstract was accepted for the 2022 National Harm Reduction Conference in Puerto Rico.	Having difficulties navigating where SSP Expansion Grant Funds have been allocated, which has made reporting for this grant difficult.
HIV Prevention	June	28	Increased	We are expecting the delivery of our new outreach unit. We will use this to expand testing efforts out at campsites around Jefferson County.	N/A	Vehicle access for our new trailer unit.
Communicable Diseases	June	9452	Decreased	Anticipate completion of Notification Project	Monkeypox outbreak response. *(See Chart Below)	Increased COVID19 cases in addition to Monkeypox cases and decreased staffing
TB Clinic	June	80	Decreased	TB 101 Training Session	July 4th Luncheon	Vacant Positions: Social worker, front desk clerk, outreach nurse

*

Disease Counts - June (MMRW Weeks 23-26)	
Jefferson County - Confirmed and Probable Cases	
Investigating Condition Short Name	Investigation Count
Campylobacteriosis	2
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	9385
Ehrlichia Chaffeensis	2
Giardiasis	2
Hepatitis C, Chronic	40
Hepatitis C, perinatal infection	1
Hepatitis C Positive Pregnant Female	2
Legionellosis	5
Lyme disease	3
Salmonellosis (excluding S. typhi/para)	3
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli	1
Shigellosis	1
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis	6