



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Memorandum for: Louisville Metro Board of Health

From: Connie Mendel, Interim Chief Health Strategist

Subject: September Director's Report - Trends and Insights from 7/1/23 - 8/30/23

- **Applegate response** LMPHW is actively involved in recent events regarding the hazardous and explosive materials found in two homes in Louisville's Highview neighborhood. Multiple staff are embedded across the incident command system, working along with our local, state, and federal partners to determine the safest possible resolution.
- **Opioid settlement.** Louisville Metro Council approved the first \$1.7 million in disbursements from the opioid settlement to immediately save lives and prevent deaths related to substance use. LMPHW has been appointed to chair the Opioid Settlement Distribution Advisory Board that will make recommendations to Louisville Metro Government decision makers on future evidence-based investments from the settlement.
- **Evaluation of healthcare buffer zone.** LMPHW submitted a [report](#) to Metro Council, as required by Louisville Metro Code of Ordinance § 132.09, regarding the efficacy of the buffer zone meant to allow unobstructed entry to and exist from a healthcare facility. The data collected show that the buffer zone at EMW Women's Surgical Center has been effective at improving accessibility and safety for patients, staff, and volunteers. Evidence also shows there are opportunities for improvement.
- **Suicide Fatality Review Board.** LMPHW along with partners from the University of Louisville Center for Family and Community Well-being, Louisville Health Advisory Board, Spaulding University, Seven Counties, and the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities are reviewing suicide fatalities to develop data-informed prevention initiatives to prevent future deaths. This is just one of LMPHW's current collaborative suicide prevention projects which also includes developing a citywide suicide prevention plan and a suicide prevention communications campaign.



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- **WIC clinics are open to the public.** Starting August 10, we returned to full services in our [WIC clinics](#). Participants will once again have to visit a clinic in person to enroll, re-enroll, and pick up their WIC benefits.
- **Electronic health records (EHR) implementation.** The system is built including interface and data conversions and core/super utilizer training is complete. In the next month, end-user trainings will be conducted, and our first four programs will go live.
- **CDC Public Health Infrastructure Grant revised award.** Funding for foundational capabilities in the second year of the grant was increased by over \$390K. This additional funding will provide significant opportunities to continue the work we are doing to enhance organizational competencies as well as improve workforce systems and processes.
- **Flood recovery and building restoration.** The second floor and the west side of the third floor at 400 E. Gray St. have reopened for staff and visitors. The east side of the third floor and the remaining asbestos abatement on the first floor and in the basement are expected to be completed before the end of the year.



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