

Louisville Metro Board of Health

Director’s Report January – for Services in December

Health Administration

Human Resources

37 jobs posted
 3 FTE’s filled Nov (10 filled Nov)
 1 FTE’s exits Nov (3 FTE Nov)

Communications

Based on the feedback from our listening sessions and learning that there is currently very low trust in government, we are trying something we haven’t done before - partnering with a local influencer and nonprofit owner in Louisville’s Black community, Antonio T-Made Taylor, on a new podcast, “Real Talk with T-Made Taylor.” Antonio and his wife operate the nonprofit, [HHN2L](#) (hip hop n2 learning). He is also a member of the city’s Citizen Review Board. He was a 502LiveStreamer during last year’s protests. He has a large following, particularly among Black women ages 18-40. A segment of each show features interviews with health experts sharing facts and dispelling myths. Dr. Sarah Beth Hartlage and Dr. Mark Burns have been guests on his show. WFPL highlighted the podcast and the report from our listening sessions [here](#). You can find the podcast [here](#).

Health IT

Month	Total Tickets Created	Total Tickets Resolved	Avg Days to Resolution	% of Tickets Missed SLA	Same Month 2020 Total Tickets Created	Same Month 2020 Total Tickets Resolved	Same Month 2020 Avg Days to Resolution	Same Month 2020 % of Tickets Missed SLA
Oct-2021	88	93	4.22	23.4%	85	100	17.22	36.0%
Nov-2021	77	84	19.29	26.2%	87	80	11.33	23.8%
Dec-2021	86	94	8.41	11.8%	44	71	40.61	76.1%
Goal	n/a	na/	5.00 days or less	<= 10.0%	n/a	n/a	5.00 days or less	10.0%

Health IT and LMPHW’s Nursing Director have successfully submitted all required documentation to the Project Team responsible for RFP for Electronic Health Records program. The team is now completing the RFP work-up and will post it for potential vendors to apply. Health IT continues improvements toward meeting goals on both “Avg. Days to Resolution” and “Tickets Resolved within SLA” stats, including routed from other departments after they were already over the target deadline.

Environmental Health, Public Health Preparedness and Laboratory

Food Safety Program

The Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness Food Safety Program has met AFDO Standard 2: Trained Regulatory Staff. This project allowed the jurisdiction the opportunity to assess current training guidelines against the Food and Drug Administrations' Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards. Completing AFDO Standard 2 helped the Food Safety program to advance the development of future and current trainees and the program's training guidelines.

Winter weather has brought an end to most outdoor festivals and allowed the Food Safety program to focus on our regular inspections at annually permitted food establishments. Compliance percentages for inspected facilities continue to improve to over 74% program-wide, though it slowed a little this past month due to the holidays and staff taking needed vacation time.

Food Safety and Environmental Health completed its assistance with Public Health Accreditation Board process. Environmental Health assisted primarily with Domain 6 (enforcing public health laws) and was led by a Food Safety supervisor.

Environmentalist Scott Nethery and Environmental Health Supervisor Ron Friesen presented to Professor Robin Weiss' class within the UofL School of Public Health and Information Sciences on two occasions, speaking on careers in environmental health and food safety to her Public Health Practice class. Presentations gave a broad range of practical experience lessons and advice, both local and international, from our professional background.

Food Safety staff attended the NIEHS virtual workshop in early December on "Addressing Racism as a Public Health Issue" with a focus on environmental justice and health disparities.

Vector control

The Vector Control team is assisting Public Facilities with Hotel inspections and working as transporters for COVID-19 vaccination missions. When not assisting other programs, the Team is working on drafting its annual report.

HazMat

There were 6 Emergency response incidences in December, requiring LMPHW assistance. Our HazMat team was activated early Saturday morning of the December 10th tornadoes performed response research for advanced Incident Command Team deployed to Western Kentucky. Our new HazMat Supervisor attended a Worst-Case Discharge (WCD) Tabletop Exercise (TTX) in Rubbertown with multiple partner agencies.

Tobacco Licensing

191 Tobacco Retail Licenses have been issued and almost 500 have been applied for.

CLPPP

CLPPP is negotiating with the State CLPPP program on budget allocations. LMPHW staff discovered the CDC award would not cover proposed expenditures for the State, Northern Kentucky and Louisville programs. LMPHW identified the issue and brought all three programs together to discuss the issue and develop budgets that would address each programs' needs.

Public Facilities

Public Facilities onboarded two new team members and now, for the first time in over a year, the program is fully staffed. Jake Gardner, Public Facilities' new supervisor, performed a process improvement analysis on streamlining Animal Bite and Rabies Report procedures, and designed a new method for onboarding and ensuring quality assurance when reports are processed by team members covering for program staff away on vacation or other leave.

Plan Review

Plan Review's Engineer Coordinator position was reclassified as an Engineer Manager. Several promising applicants have applied and interviews are scheduled for early January. As part of this change, several programs currently managed by Public Facilities will be transferred to Plan Review. Public Facilities and Plan Review Team members are planning for this transition, drafting process maps and logic models for the programs to be transferred.

Public Health Preparedness (PHP)

PHP has completed all deliverables for 2QFY22 for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI). The Division is initiating monthly PHP Team meetings to map out the necessary initiatives for 2022 to address the PHP component of the LMPHW Strategic Plan.

PHP offered to provide our eight (8) fully stocked supply trailers including the two (2) Medical Needs Shelter trailers equipped to support up to 100 beds in response to the Western KY tornado disaster. The MRC was alerted for any potential request from the State for medical volunteers. PHP continues the task of authoring two After-Action Reports/Improvement Plans (AAR/IP) for the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) deliverable and for the KDPH deliverable for a Local Health Department AAR/IP.

Laboratory

We continue to provide Covid-19 PCR testing to our clients such as Corrections and confirming antigen test results as needed, giving results within 24 hours. We also are managing the SARS CoV-2 Antigen Test Cards by providing them to community partners. PCR testing volume for COVID-19 has been decreasing.

We perform Covid-19 variant testing on a weekly basis. A spreadsheet with results on specimens of interest is shared between the laboratory and Communicable Diseases/Epidemiology group within the health department. We now have the software update to be able to correctly identify Omicron.

Laboratory vacancies present a challenge, especially our supervisor position.

Center for Health Equity

Policy and Innovation, Health Economist, Academic Health

Overall, this team is supporting the hiring and implementation of the CDC “Health Disparities grant” and the creation of a strategic plan for Center for Health Equity.

Work continues on the Health Equity Report and Health Impact Assessments, and the team has been reviewing potential legislation that may arise during the upcoming state session. In December, the policy team lead met with the CityHealth team and department leadership to accept the 2021 Gold Medal and discuss upcoming policy changes and priorities.

Our health economist, leading the COVID-19 research team, [published a recent round of projections](#) of the potential impact of vaccination rates for those aged 5-11.

The Academic Health Department (AHD) will be welcoming a new Student Experiences Coordinator in January. Work continues on the strategic plan as does recruitment of students for the spring semester. Many students have chosen to extend their experiences with us for the spring.

Performance and Population Health

Our application for reaccreditation has been submitted to PHAB. Once our materials are reviewed, we will have a virtual site visit from the reviewers. They will advise us in advance on any specific items they want to review during the visit- which may include a meeting with the Board of Health. We will advise and brief the Board if that becomes necessary.

We have submitted a report of findings from a series of focus groups/interviews of birthing parents in Louisville to the Ready for K Alliance. Once Metro United Way has reviewed and final edits are complete, we will share the link to the published report with the Board.

Quality Improvement Coordinators have continued to facilitate the development of metrics and action plans for the department’s 2022-2023 bridge plan. A published plan is expected by the end of January 2022.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

The new Community Engagement Manager begins work on January 3. This position will build upon engagement already ongoing throughout the department to focus more specifically on building community power by engaging grassroots community members in decision-making roles withing workgroups, advisory boards, and programs.

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Coordinator was promoted to lead the Healthy Babies Louisville collective impact project full-time and launch the department’s first Maternal and Child Health Community Advisory Board in early 2022.

Dr. Olawale Afolabi, MPH student at George Washington University, will complete an internship project working with local health care providers and Black grassroots organizations to interview families impacted by childhood asthma about their access to health services, health information, and other resources needed to support the health of their child(ren) with asthma. Because of this project, KDPH (Kentucky Department of Public Health) is granting access to newly available county-level data for asthma hospitalizations.

Behavioral Health Equity (BHE)

BHE has expanded to include two new health program analysts focused on community mental health and harm reduction. We are also in the process of hiring a manager to oversee all mental health efforts.

Eight sites have been identified to host a “Naloxbox” filled with Narcan for emergency overdose reversal. The Reducing Overdoses After Reentry program at Louisville Metro Department of Corrections has completed its first year, distributing over 4,880 doses of naloxone to people exiting incarceration after experiencing withdrawal.

Our Quick Response Team has now been active for six months, visiting over 100 residents after they experienced accidental drug poisoning. The team has made referrals for substance use disorder treatment, harm reduction, mental health, and other supportive services, as well as distributing over 600 doses of naloxone to community members.

Health Services

Program	Month	Number of clients served	Change from last month	Upcoming program activities for the next month	Significant accomplishments for the last month	Current/Future challenges that may require assistance
MORE Center	December	160	No change	Decreasing patient census to align with staffing resources	None at this time	
Specialty Clinic	November	269	Increased from 248	None at this time	Number of clients served increased monthly	
Healthy Start	December	202	Decreased from 216	Hosted a vision board community conversation on HBL Facebook Live.	Completed archiving at one of our sites, thanks to the help of our new clerk. We were mentored by another Healthy Start program in Houston to build collaboration and get some guidance on engaging fathers	Still trying to hire the new fatherhood resource worker. Working to enroll more pregnant women.
WIC	November	14785	Increased from 14642	None at this time.	Was able to fill a position.	Future needs are to increase staffing since participation is increasing

CD	November	1933	Decreased from 2045	Looking to hire temporal Disease investigators due to covid data needs and the surge by Omicron. Five have been identified and some start January 3, 2022. Will continue investigations of reported cases, Observational studies occurring, trend monitoring as well as active case finding.	Health educators within CD forming and creating partnerships within Jefferson and strengthening existing relations. Collaborating with LMPHW Communications Department. Investigations continue for Covid-19 as well as other communicable diseases. LMPHW investigators learned about Hep B and C investigations from a long-time nurse investigator from Northern Kentucky. Management Assistant position interviews were completed	The new surge will require more manpower to investigate. Advocacy is needed for improved systems that help build and sustain surveillance systems and electronically load all reportable diseases into NEDSS.
----	----------	------	---------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

November Reportable Communicable Diseases

County	Condition	Cases
Jefferson County	Campylobacteriosis	8
Jefferson County	Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	1887
Jefferson County	Giardiasis	2
Jefferson County	Hepatitis	1
Jefferson County	Hepatitis B virus infection, Chronic	1
Jefferson County	Hepatitis B, perinatal infection	8
Jefferson County	Hepatitis C, Chronic	6
Jefferson County	Hepatitis C, acute	4
Jefferson County	Legionellosis	2
Jefferson County	Lyme disease	3
Jefferson County	Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome- COVID-19(MIS-C)	1
Jefferson County	Salmonellosis (excluding S. typhi/paratyphi)	4
Jefferson County	Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC)	2
Jefferson County	Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis	4
		1933

Covid-19 Response

By the end of December, Louisville was experiencing 10,000 confirmed cases per week with an average daily incident rate of approximately 180 due to the spread of the Omicron variant. The percentage of residents who received a first and second dose of vaccine were 72% and 62% respectively. Approximately 38% had received a booster. Hospitalizations and

deaths have not risen as fast with 11.5% of hospitalized patients being Covid patients and 16 deaths reported for the final week of December.

LMPHW continues to conduct mobile vaccination missions and five recurring standing sites in areas with low vaccination rates. We continue to fill essential needs requests, which have surged along with case counts. We continue to provide quarantine and isolation housing to those who cannot safely isolate or quarantine at home.