

# Director's Update to the Board of Health

## October 2012

### Improve Health and Wellbeing of Children

**Fatherhood Program** - The New Life Program, A Place Where Fathers Matter, continues to move forward. We recently began our second year of funding on September 30, 2012. Despite getting off to a slow start in year one, we were able to actively engage and enroll over 300 fathers in the program. The most exciting part of this accomplishment is that these 300 fathers represent well over 700 children in the Nashville community with most of them living in and around the North and East Nashville areas. The enrolled fathers have received numerous resources as a part of the New Life Program. Some of those resources include the following:

- Parenting education
- Employment opportunities/Job placement
- Incentive items
- Healthier marriage and relationship education
- Direct steps to home ownership
- Financial security and self-sufficiency education
- Anger and stress management skills
- Fatherhood support group
- Increased self-esteem
- Modified child support payments
- Development of a positive identity as a man
- Education regarding the importance of fathers

The New Life Program utilizes a network of community organizations to provide most of the above resources to fathers. Our Father Advocates (case managers) have been very successful in developing and maintaining new partnerships with the community to provide the fathers with the resources they need.

Our second class of Fathers will graduate on October 20, 2012. Thirty-two men are in that group. They are now considered New Life Program Certified Fathers which means they have completed between 40-48 hours of our most rigorous instructional program.

For additional question or to schedule a site visit, please contact Robert Taylor, Program Manager at 615-340-8989

Kimberlee Wyche-Etheridge, MD, MPH was recently awarded the 2012 Harvey Sperling Award for Excellence in Leadership. Dr. Kim was selected by her peers due to her outstanding leadership in her role as Chair of the Alignment Nashville Primary Care and Healthy Starts Committees. Congratulations to Dr. Kim.

## **Increase Physical Activity and Healthy Eating and Reduce Tobacco Use In Nashville**

Mayor Karl Dean announced on October 16, 2012 that Nashville will host the 7th Annual Southern Obesity Summit in fall, 2013. He made the announcement at the 6th Annual Southern Obesity Summit, which is being held in Charlotte, N.C. The event is the largest regional obesity prevention event in the country, drawing hundreds of participants from 16 Southern states. Communities Putting Prevention to Work activities along with Mayor Dean's leadership elevated Nashville to the top choice for the 2013 Summit.

### **Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW)**

#### **Nashville BikeShare**

The Nashville BikeShare initiative is making strides on a daily basis. Nashville GreenBikes, located in the Nashville Parks and Greenways, have received an additional 25 bikes to be distributed into the system which extends the reach to 14 facilities. Nashville B-cycle, the fee based bikes, have arrived in Nashville and will be installed and operational by December 18, 2012. These bikes will be available for a yet to be determined fee at kiosks located mostly in the Downtown urban core.

#### **Schools**

Metro Nashville Public Schools has adopted a healthy vending policy. The vending guidelines are based on the Institute of Medicine Standards and TN State Board of Education Minimal Nutritional Standards Rule and are incorporated into the existing Nutrition Education and MNPS Nutrition Services policy. The policy also centralizes the vending contracts for the district. The implementation timeline for this policy is 100% healthy options available by August 1, 2014.

#### **CPPW Youth Serving Organization (YSO) Learning Collaborative**

Seven teams of 48 persons from local YSO gathered on October 16, 2012 at Coleman Park to learn the why and how of policy development and implementation to create an environment that is supportive of healthy eating and active living. Peer mentor organizations will share their experiences with policy. Teams will reconvene November 13 to discuss the successes and barriers they experienced during the six-week implementation phase.

### **HEAL Summit**

Please mark your calendars for the 4th Annual HEAL Summit scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2013. MPHD is partnering with the Nashville Civic Design Center to focus on Health and the Built Environment. Be watching for the invitation and more information as it becomes available.

### **Tobacco Prevention and Control**

MPHD is participating in a national trend to increase the number of smoke-free multi-unit housing complexes. MPHD is partnering with Metro Development and Housing Agency (MDHA) to provide technical assistance as Nashville's public housing authority has adopted tobacco-free policy and began implementation within the seven senior high-rise facilities.

MPHD is proud of the work accomplished by the Tobacco Program. During the last few years, the program has redirected efforts to be more involved in the place-based PSE movement in sync with the CPPW campaign. Tobacco policy efforts are on-going within Nashville workplaces, faith organizations, and higher education organizations.

This effort is especially impressive given that the MPHD Tobacco Program functions on grant dollars from the Tennessee Department of Health in the amount of \$42,500 and .69 FTE. Nashville's success compares favorably to other communities such as Boston, MA-\$6.1 million, Chicago IL-\$11.6 million or Los Angeles, CA-\$16.2 million that are also striving to achieve smoke-free multi-unit housing but were funded by CPPW awards.

### **MDHA Smoking Cessation Collaboration**

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) taught a 12-week Smoking Cessation Education Series at Edgefield Towers, an MDHA high-rise, with a celebration for those that completed the series on September 17, 2012. There were eight individuals that attended at least one session of the education classes. Three individuals completed the series and while not completely tobacco free, made notable progress toward quitting smoking. Progress included reducing the number of cigarettes smoked, making a commitment to stop smoking and committing to healthier lifestyle choices. BHS staff Jenny Howard Brown, Nichelle Foster and Anita Wilson taught these classes. BHS is working with Edgefield Towers to schedule a second Smoking Cessation Education Series for this fall and winter.

## **Disaster Mental Health Response**

Angie Thompson, Director of Behavioral Health Services, was invited to present the 2012 Tennessee Disaster Mental Health Response Plan (TDMHRP) at the Emergency Management Association of Tennessee's annual conference in Gatlinburg, TN in September 2012. The TDMHRP has been endorsed by the Tennessee Department of Health and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The TDMHRP has been annexed to the State of Tennessee All Hazards Response Plan and Metro Nashville Davidson County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

The International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) presented an award to Angie Thompson on September 21, 2012 in recognition of outstanding contributions in the immediate and long-term behavioral health recovery response to the 2010 Flood.

## **Ensure Cleaner Air and a Safer Environment**

**Air Quality** – There have been no additional exceedances of the 75 ppb ozone standard in the Middle Tennessee area since August 27, 2012 and we would not expect any additional exceedances for this ozone season due to the change in the weather. According to our calculations, the 2010-2012 three year average at Hendersonville remains at 79 ppb. The 2012 data will not be quality assured and certified until May 2013. If the certified data indicates that Middle Tennessee is exceeding the existing 75 ppb standard, the Pollution Control Division will work with the TN Air Pollution Control Division and EPA to develop a plan for bringing the area back into attainment with the existing standard as expeditiously as possible as we wait for a new more stringent standard expected to be adopted in 2014. In the past, most areas in this situation have relied on voluntary measures such as public awareness programs and commuter programs as their plan for bringing the areas back into attainment.

**Radon** – The seven Metro schools that had radon levels in excess of 20 pCi/L have been corrected and we are now working on the remaining 66 schools that have levels above 4.0pCi/L but less than 20 pCi/L. School staff have made many improvements and implemented preventative maintenance programs and changed policies on HVAC systems that has significantly improved indoor air quality for many locations.

**Animal Care and Control** – A new digital phone system is being installed which also has the capability to produce records of customer service.

**West Nile Virus** – As of 10/12/2012, there were 21 positive pools for West Nile Virus and one death in Davidson County.

**Public Facilities** – As the 2012 pool season winds down, we are seeing a significant increase in construction of new pools at apartments and motels/hotels. In addition, we are starting to inspect public and private schools along with child care agencies.

## **Prevent, Detect and Alleviate Outbreak and Emergencies**

For the past two weeks, in support of the nationwide fungal meningitis event, the Immunization, Notifiable Disease and PHEP Teams have assisted the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) to contact, interview and educate Davidson County residents who received epidural steroid injections (ESI) at the St. Thomas Pain Clinic. Nurses from the Community Health and Population Health Bureaus assisted with the investigations. Over 200 persons have been interviewed and their information captured in a common database for analysis by TDH. At present, MPH's Interview Team continues to monitor 91 persons for signs and symptoms of meningitis. Forty plus symptomatic patients who had a diagnostic lumbar puncture performed following their ESI have been referred to TDH for chart reviews and monitoring. Thirty-one patients have been closed to follow-up after they were identified as having no symptoms of disease and choosing not to request additional follow-up by MPH. TDH expects that monitoring of these patients will continue for approximately three months.

## **Improve Access for Everyone to Needed Preventive, Medical and Mental Health Services**

Sanjana Stamm, RN, has been appointed as the new Director of Preventative Health.

Emily Germer is Director of the new South Nutrition (WIC) Center.

## **Management and Accountability**

Dr. Paul and EMT members are tweaking plans for 2013, providing input into the General Plan, preparing to conduct a formal community health assessment and laying the groundwork for the potential prospect of accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board.

Ann Trent will provide a verbal update on the new building progress at the Board meeting.