

MANCHESTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY, APRIL 2007

INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS

PROGRAM LISTING:

Arbovirus Surveillance & Control

Chronic Disease Prevention

Communicable Disease Control

Community Epidemiology

Dental Health

Environmental Planning and Pollution Control

Food Protection

HIV Prevention

Immunizations

Institutional Inspections

Lead Poisoning Prevention

Public Health Investigations

Public Health Preparedness

Refugee Health

School Health

Sexually Transmitted Disease Control

Tuberculosis Control

Water Quality

Youth Health Promotion

Mission:

Promote safe and sanitary environments in childcare facilities, foster care homes, schools, and residential group homes to prevent injuries and illnesses associated with such places

Summary of Programs:

The Environmental Health Division is responsible for the inspections of childcare facilities, foster homes, residential group homes and public and non-public schools. These inspections are conducted in fulfillment of the State licensing process. Childcare facilities are inspected every three years as required by New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS), Bureau of Childcare Licensing guidelines. Other facilities are inspected per their licensing regulations.

It is important to note that with the exception of a food permit for those facilities which provide food to more than 12 individuals, all licensing is done by State agencies.

The Division uses forms and checklist provided by the licensing authority. In the absence of such a form, the Division will use the best available professional guidance to determine compliance with environmental health standards. All complaints relative to childcare facilities are handled directly through NHDHHS. The Division will provide assistance as requested.

All public school inspection findings are communicated to the school principal, superintendent's office, and the Facilities Division of the Manchester Department of Public Works for follow-up.

The Division does charge childcare providers for the inspection service. The amount is determined by the size of the establishment. Childcare facilities holding a valid food permit (not including not-for-profit permits) are not charged for a childcare inspection. Foster care inspections are done without charge as are public and non-public school inspections.

Summary of Activities:

- Conducted 7 inspections of home based childcare facilities in FY07*.
- Conducted 20 inspections of group childcare facilities in FY07*.
- Conducted 29 inspections of foster care homes/facilities in FY07*.
- Conducted 32 school inspections in FY07*.

*Year to date

Program Notes and Trends:

The number of all institutional inspections has remained relatively constant over the past few years. The number of inspections for childcare facilities has remained relatively constant of the past five years and little change is expected. With these facilities on a 3-year inspection cycle, the burden on staff time is minimized.

The number of school inspections has fluctuated over the past five years. There are over 40 public and private schools which require inspection. There is a significant burden on worker time (2 hours per inspection), based on the need for inspections, notice given Division staff and the varying (and inconsistent) inspection frequency required. Over the past three years these inspections have tripled. These inspections are not fee based.

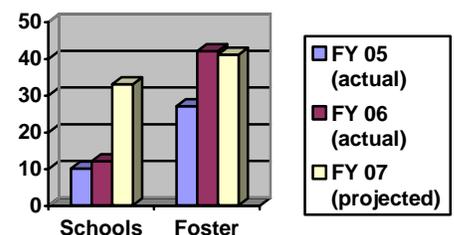
The number of foster care inspections has grown by 55 percent over the past 3 years. These inspections are not fee based.

Recommendations:

Given the issues mentioned above, the following should be evaluated AND policies developed to address them.

1. Schedule a meeting with representatives from the various licensing agencies to better understand their expectations, deadlines and processes.
2. Educate the public school administration to emphasize the sensitivity to our schedules. Ensure that ample notice is given prior to requesting an inspection.
3. Review the Division's cost of services, considering revenue and actual time spent during inspections and re-inspections. The inspections for which we do not charge are in essence and unfunded mandate. Perhaps the Division should explore "charge backs" to the schools or Medicaid in the case of group living.
4. Review other City Departments fee schedules for foster care and non-profit inspection to ensure consistency.
5. Provide these facilities with resources pertaining to environmental health issues, through mailing, site visits and the Internet.

Non-Fee Inspections



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Luxottica Vision Van: Manchester has been chosen to host the Luxottica Group Foundation Vision Van. The Luxottica Vision Van has provided free eye exams and free glasses to hundreds of children in need across North America. On Thursday, May 10th at Beech Street School, and Friday, May 11th at the Manchester Health Department, youth meeting certain specified criteria, will be eligible for a free eye exam and free eyeglasses. The criteria which will be used include: youth between ages 5-21 living in Manchester or our surrounding communities, of low income or of the working poor, and those who have been pre-screened and confirmed as having a visual need. The goal of this offering is to screen 100 youth each day for a total of 200 youth over the two-day period of time. We have reached out to many different community agencies that work with youth within this age range in order to assure we target as many children as possible.

Sustainable Access Project: The Manchester Sustainable Access Coalition has been awarded \$40,000 by the Bean Foundation to continue its planning around the development of a safety net health care delivery system for Manchester. The Coalition has also submitted an Endowment for Health implementation proposal for \$809,715 to support the formalization and further development of a community health system strategic planning board (Strategic Planning Board), the implementation of a new primary care health center on the west side of Manchester (the West Side Neighborhood Health Center) and the technical assistance and support needs of the Manchester Community Health Center's imminent physical move and expansion.

Dotty Bazos, the consultant for the Manchester Sustainable Access Project, and Anna Thomas, Public Health Administrator with the MHD, have submitted an article to the NH Bar Journal entitled "Manchester's Health Care Safety Net 'Intact But Endangered'" for publication in May. The authors conclude that there is a need for the development of an economically sustainable system of comprehensive coordinated primary care for Manchester's most vulnerable populations. The primary care delivery systems in the City are stressed, in large part from serving a growing population of persons who live in poverty, are uninsured, underinsured, or on Medicaid. Since no near-term relief from federal or state government sources is expected, the community has taken a proactive approach to health system reform and has established a community collaborative to strengthen its current health delivery infrastructure.

Oral Health: In Manchester, oral disease impacts the physical, social, economic and psychological health of many families. Among the city's kindergarten population, 32.2% lacked a dental home. Among 2nd and 3rd graders screened in Manchester's Title 1 schools, more than 1 in 2 had experienced tooth decay, and 1 in 4 had untreated decay. Only 27% of these children had sealants, as compared to the Healthy People 2010 Goal of 50%.

In Fiscal Year 2004, a limited restorative treatment program for children was created in collaboration with community dentists. The *Take 5 Program* provides treatment services including oral health evaluations, fillings, extractions, x-rays, sealants and emergency care for children in pain. Created as partnership with the local dental community, the MHD initially received CIP funding in the amount of \$20,000.00 to help offset the costs of the program. Despite reductions in funding, a monthly clinic is held on the Health Department's Dental Van in collaboration with Dr. Sarah Katz.

Continuing the *Take 5 Program* and other community-based programs enhancing access to oral health care such as *Dentists with a Heart*, is a critical role in our community that the Health Department is able to meet.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at <http://www.manchesternh.gov/CityGov/HLT/Home.html>, or call 624-6466

