



MANCHESTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY, AUGUST 2007

MANCHESTER SUSTAINABLE ACCESS PROJECT

PROGRAM LISTING:

Arbovirus Surveillance & Control

Chronic Disease Prevention

Communicable Disease Control

Community Epidemiology

Dental Health

Environmental Planning and Pollution Control

Food Protection

HIV Prevention

Homeless Healthcare Project

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

Summary of Program

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 throughout the community are stressed; in large part from serving a growing population of persons who live in poverty, are uninsured, underinsured, or on Medicaid. Both Manchester residents and providers face increasing economic barriers for getting or providing appropriate health care services. 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, the Manchester Sustainable Access Project (MSAP). MSAP will begin a planning process to evaluate and improve its current health delivery infrastructure. The City of Manchester Department of Health is working in partnership with the following key community organizations and state leaders:

MSAP Community Coalition Member Organizations

Local Members	State Level Members
City of Manchester	Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Catholic Medical Center	Bi-State Primary Care Association
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Manchester	Business and Industry Association
Child Health Services/Teen Health Center	NH Minority Health Coalition
Elliot Health Systems	NH Health Access Network
City of Manchester Department of Health	NH Department of Health and Human Services
Manchester Community Health Center	Easter Seals New Hampshire
The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester	
Health Care for the Homeless Project	

Summary of Activities

MSAP aims to decrease economic barriers and expand access to primary care services in Manchester. Over the course of the next three years, MSAP will establish a community-based integrated health care network that will provide coordinated primary care services to the local population, with a specific focus on serving Manchester's most vulnerable. These services will include proactive, comprehensive, evidence-based, and cost effective mental health, primary care, and dental services. The goals of the project are:

- Develop a leadership coalition tasked to design a long-term strategy to resolve the primary care access issues of Manchester.
- Maximize federal, state, and local funding to reduce barriers to access; specifically work to expand "federally qualified health center" funding.
- Support the relocation and expansion of the Manchester Community Health Center.
- Expand access to primary care (mental health, primary care, and dental services) through the development of additional integrated community primary care health centers, as needed.
- Use local and state data to summarize, and continually evaluate, the economic barriers to access in the Manchester community.

Program Notes and Trends

Since 2005, MSAP has been generously funded by the New Hampshire Endowment for Health; the Norwin S. and Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation; and by the local community providers of Catholic Medical Center, Dartmouth-Hitchcock, and Elliot Health Systems. In July of 2007, MSAP received a \$520,000 grant from the NH Endowment for Health to support its on-going efforts to increase access to primary care. This is the largest grant the Endowment for Health has ever awarded a single community and represents one third of what the Endowment will allocate statewide this year. The MSAP Coalition is planning to hold a community forum on access to care in September and a press conference on project successes in October.

Community Activities

CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH: The Passport to Cardiovascular Health Planning Committee has developed a final version of the Worksite Wellness Toolkit for Businesses and has drafted a Facilitator Guide for the Passport to Cardiovascular Health Program. In collaboration with the Kickin' Butts in Manchester Tobacco Prevention and Control Coalition, the Committee plans to advertise these new resources in the September issue of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce's newsletter. Both tools will be posted on the Health Department's webpage enabling businesses to download these resources free of charge.

ASTHMA PREVENTION AND CONTROL: The proposal submitted to the US EPA's Healthy Communities Grant Program to continue the Multilingual Asthma Education and Outreach Program in Manchester has been awarded full funding (\$27,566 over a two-year period). The grant was one of 17 proposals selected for funding out of 54 submitted and was the only project funded for New Hampshire. In addition, the Asthma Healthy Schools grant project funded by the Southern NH AHEC has received an extension to provide the Open Airways program in the Title One Schools in Manchester.

RESIDENT MOBILIZATION: Tracy Degges, the Weed and Seed Americorps VISTA City Liaison, has joined the Manchester Health Department team to coordinate the neighborhood watch groups and act as a bridge between residents and City Departments. Currently, there are close to 50 active neighborhood watch groups involving hundreds of residents. August 7th was National Night Out, which is national event designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Manchester's National Night Out touted demonstrations and information dissemination on emergency and safety preparedness from the Fire, Police and Health Departments as well as NH Liquor Enforcement and the American Red Cross.

Program Notes

CDC RECOGNITION: Recently the Health Department received notification that five employees had received Honor Award Certificates from the National Center for Preparedness, Detection and Control of Infectious Diseases for "establishing successful partnerships and demonstrating scientific excellence in preventing the importation of disease into the U.S. during an overseas polio outbreak". Recognized for their efforts were the following nurses from the Community Health Division: Susan Gagnon, Kathy Capistran, Georgette Caouette, Bobbie Jensen and Suzanne Rouleau.

REFUGEE HEALTH: During Fiscal Year 2007, a total of 106 refugees resettled within the City of Manchester. Of those new arrivals, 67% (71) were adults and 33% (35) were children. The primary countries of origin included Burundi, Somalia, Uzbekistan, Russia and Sudan.

EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS & WEST NILE VIRUS: The Health Department is continuing its daily surveillance for EEE and WNV. While there have not been any mosquitoes testing positive for these diseases, the public is reminded to take steps to avoid mosquito bites by using an appropriate insect repellent and wearing long sleeved shirts and pants when mosquitoes are most active and to dump standing water to prevent mosquito breeding.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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