

MINNEAPOLIS

HEALTHY CITY THRIVING FAMILIES



A Quarterly Update from the City of Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support

Fall 2012

Innovative Welfare Project Helping Families Become Self-sufficient

The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) is part of a pilot program to improve the economic and health outcomes of young families on welfare. Through a partnership with the Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department, a new “home visiting” model has been implemented focusing on Minneapolis teenage mothers receiving aid from the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). As the state’s welfare reform program, MFIP helps families transition from government assistance to employment by providing money and food support to low-income families with children.

Under the old model, young parents on MFIP had limited access to Hennepin County’s Economic Assistance staff, which typically happened when mothers were at risk of being sanctioned or having benefits terminated. The home visiting approach is more proactive and supportive of families by pairing them with a nurse who serves as a coach, mentor and health provider. The project targets parents under age 20 who must be enrolled in school to be eligible. The public health nurse is responsible for monitoring parents’ MFIP compliance, connecting them to prenatal care and child development services, monitoring school attendance, and enforcing sanctions if the teen mother fails to attend school and make progress.

Minneapolis was selected to pilot the project due to having the largest number of teen parents in Hennepin County on MFIP. The City of Minneapolis subcontracted with Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency (MVNA) to provide home visiting services to families. Program progress is monitored closely through weekly meetings with a cross-section of partners: Minneapolis Public Schools, MVNA, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Employment and Training Program, and MDHFS. This ongoing communication allows for a seamless, multi-sector approach to working with young families across jurisdictions. Hennepin County is exploring how to expand the model county wide. For more information about this project, contact Stephanie Graves at 612-673-3735 or stephanie.graves@minneapolismn.gov.

School-Based Clinics Transitions to Electronic Medical Records

Following two years of assessment and planning, MDHFS’ School Based Clinics Program went live with its first-ever certified electronic health record (EHR) this past August after staff received extensive training on the new system. The EHR is a powerful tool for clinic staff and administrators to more efficiently communicate, schedule, monitor and track the medical care of patients. Among its many benefits, EHRs enables clinics to receive insurance payments faster, generate more thorough clinical reports, and lead to more accurate charting and data collection than the old paper system. The EHR system bolsters the School Based Clinics Program’s mission to provide accessible, quality care

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School-Based Clinics Participating in Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative

Pregnancy prevention is critical for young girls as they are less likely to graduate from high school and more likely to need public assistance than their peers who are not parents. As part of that effort, the School-Based Clinics Program has implemented the Safer Sex Initiative (SSI), an evidence-based program to reduce sexual risk behaviors and prevent the recurrence of sexually transmitted infection. SSI is a clinic-based intervention targeting young females ages 13 to 19 that have just been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection (STI) – a time when they are most likely to contemplate their sexual risk behavior

The School-Based Clinics began SSI at Edison, Henry, Roosevelt, South, Southwest, and

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Urban Health Agenda: Youth-led Creative Arts Campaigns Raise Awareness of Youth Violence

The City of Minneapolis launched two youth programs this past summer to heighten awareness around youth violence and community prevention strategies. The prevention campaigns, Summer 612 and Picturing Peace, both concluded efforts with events featuring youth artwork at the Minneapolis Central Library.

Summer 612 featured a multi-media event showcasing visual, theatrical and documentary film art from Minneapolis youth. The culminating event at the library on September 22 was free and welcomed over 200 community members and youth. Summer 612 issued micro-grants to youth who developed unique professional skills while interacting with professionally trained photographers, producers, artists and actors. A total of eight youth groups worked on creative projects. Picturing Peace provided creative outlets for youth who took a variety of photographs symbolizing their interpretation of

peace. The contest winners' artwork was then wrapped on 24 city utility boxes throughout the downtown area. To meet the youth artists and view their artwork, visit www.picturingpeacempls.com.

Through MDHFS' support of these campaigns, youth were able to reflect on their personal efforts to address the culture of violence and empowered to share their aspirations to make an impact in the fight to end youth violence with community members, family and peers. The campaigns fulfill part of the City of Minneapolis' Blueprint for Action, a strategic plan to reduce youth violence through public health initiatives by addressing one of the plan's primary goals: recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media and entertainment culture. For more information, contact Alyssa Banks at 612-673-2729 or alyssa.banks@minneapolismn.gov.



Sixteen-year-old Jerrell is featured on a city utility box alongside his Picturing Peace photo, which embodies his vision of peace.

... Transitions to Electronic Medical Records continued from page one

to Minneapolis adolescents by improving patient health care through the integration of vital medical information such as reporting communicable diseases, updating immunization registries, and seamless referrals to other health care providers.

The switch to EHR was made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Health Information Technology (HIT) for Economic and Clinic Health Act, which provides eligible clinics with incentives to help with the transition. To leverage this federal funding, the School Based Clinics Program teamed up with six other community teen clinics around the metro area and the Regional Extension Assistance Center for HIT. Through this collaboration, implementation was eased by first clarifying the clinics' understanding of their operational requirements to determine which EHR options would best address their needs. For more information, contact Barbara Kyle at 612-673-5305 or barbara.kyle@minneapolismn.gov.

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Washburn high schools in 2011. The evaluation phase began in August 2012 and will last approximately two years. Both clinic staff and the teens who have participated in the program have responded positively to SSI. The initiative is part of a larger federal study evaluating SSI's effectiveness in preventing teen pregnancy within different populations across the nation. Funding is provided by Hennepin County, which secured a five-year federal grant from the Office of Adolescent Health to implement SSI in eight cities (19 clinics) in the county with the highest overall teen pregnancy rates. SSI will reach about 12,000 young women a year throughout the county. For more information, please contact Alison Moore at 612-720-9418 or alison.moore@minneapolismn.gov.

The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS)

VISION:
Health, equity, and well-being for all people in their communities.



MISSION: To promote health equity in Minneapolis and meet the unique needs of our urban population by providing leadership and fostering partnerships.

Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner

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HEALTHY CITY UPDATES

City's Corner Store and Homegrown Minneapolis Reports Released

Due to numerous requests from across Minnesota and the country, MDHFS has released reports describing two of its most successful efforts to improve the local food environment. The Minneapolis Healthy Corner Store Program has taken root citywide and provides fresh produce to people with limited to no access to fruits and vegetables due to transportation and economic barriers, among other factors. Homegrown Minneapolis launched the Minneapolis Food Council to help the community grow, process, distribute, eat and compost healthier, sustainable, locally grown foods. Both initiatives have been made possible through the Statewide Health Improvement Program and Communities Putting Prevention to Work grants. To access the reports – “Homegrown Minneapolis: Expanding the local foods movement” and “Minneapolis Healthy Corner Store Program: Making produce more visible, affordable and attractive” – visit www.minneapolisismn.gov/health/reports.



Farm to School Month: Over 300 Minneapolis Public School students and their families celebrated Farm to School Month at a community picnic on September 21. The school district, with support from MDHFS' Statewide Health Improvement Program grant, is launching an intensive effort to increase the amount of healthy, locally grown foods served in school meals

Emergency Preparedness Exercise Tests Anthrax Detection



In an emergency preparedness exercise, postal workers are seen disembarking a Metro Transit bus at a dispensation site in North Minneapolis where medication was being administered.

On August 21, MDHFS staff participated in an exercise to test the U.S. Postal Service's Biohazard Detection System, which detects anthrax spores in the mail at USPS processing and distribution centers. Hennepin County and Minneapolis emergency responders simulated a workforce mobilization and prophylaxis response for the detection of anthrax, while postal workers were “decontaminated” by the Minneapolis Fire Department. Minneapolis Police Department provided traffic control and security and Metro Transit bused postal workers and other staff to dispensation points where medication was administered. MDHFS staff acted as controllers, evaluators, check in staff, supervisors, ushers, liaisons, and photographer while Public Works personnel provided site setup. In addition, MDHFS participated in a concurrent site set-up and security drill held at the Minneapolis Emergency Operations and Training Facility.

National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention

Building on its local success in youth violence prevention, the City of Minneapolis was one of four new cities selected to become a member of the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention. The prestigious status provides the City with a \$20,000 grant from the National Department of Justice.

The Forum is a new model for federal and local collaboration that encourages members to increase communication and coordinated action.

As part of this national forum, MDHFS will develop a strategic plan building on the City's Blueprint for Action: Preventing Youth Violence. Joining this national forum also provides the City with more opportunities for training, technical assistance and coordination with other member communities in preventing youth violence.

New Trends in Sexual and Reproductive Health

MDHFS research staff working with interns from the University of Minnesota recently completed three reports on sexual and reproductive health issues in Minneapolis. The reports highlight important trends in sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, and teen pregnancy over time and compare rates of these conditions between Minneapolis and other areas in the state as well as between different subsets of the city's population.

MDHFS' and other local organizations' innovative efforts focused on prevention, treatment and support are highlighted in the reports. These reports (HIV Surveillance; Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance; and Teen Pregnancy) can be found on MDHFS' website: www.minneapolisismn.gov/health/reports.

Summer's Emergency Heat Response

This past Fourth of July holiday, a record-breaking heat wave led to an excessive heat warning by the National Weather Service that lasted nearly seven days. The extreme heat was of particular concern due to the many outdoor celebrations and a number of closed public cooling sites. MDHFS was part of a cross-governmental and organizational response team that involved a metro-wide Multi Agency Coordination Center (MACC) consisting of hospitals, Minnesota Department of Health, health care, emergency management services, and local public health organizations. MDHFS and the City Office of Emergency Management response plan focused on prevention and surveillance efforts with 311, 911, police, fire, HCMC and North Memorial Emergency Medical Services. Strategies included media notices promoting cooling sites and tips for staying healthy, as well as outreach through 500 community partners reminding them to check on their vulnerable populations, particularly socially isolated individuals and the elderly.

School-Based Clinics Receive New Exam and Office Furniture

The School Based Clinic Program was one of 109 school based health care centers to receive a Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) capital grant to be used exclusively on new exam and office equipment. To maximize the grant opportunity, a comprehensive assessment of the clinics' needs was first conducted to determine what space improvements would make the clinics more effective, efficient and accessible. Clinics were then redesigned and this fall, new workstations and chairs were installed.

Six of the school clinics received exam tables, otoscopes, and audiometers along with office equipment such as color printer/fax/scanners and digital cameras for practicum student supervision. Several clinics also received new work spaces, offices, laboratories and increased access to electrical outlets and the Internet. Prior to this grant, the clinics used old equipment and furniture handed down by Minneapolis Public Schools and MDHFS. Now the new medical equipment and renovated spaces will help provide better service to adolescent clients and a more productive work environment for staff.

MDHFS Hosts International Visitors

At the end of August, representatives from the City of Minneapolis hosted a special meet-and-greet with nearly a dozen Danish-Somali youth as part of a U.S. embassy-sponsored delegation. The delegation had the opportunity to learn about what life is like for young people and Somalis in Minnesota and met with City Council members to learn about local government. Special thanks to the youth organization Ka Joog and the Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota for sharing their efforts to address youth violence.

In addition, the Minnesota International Center's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) selected MDHFS to educate their Israeli and Palestinian health leaders about efforts to promote healthy lifestyles through nutrition, physical activity and smoke-free living. During a two-hour discussion, MDHFS staff shared their experiences, successes and lessons learned with the visitors.

Staff Updates

Congratulations to MDHFS' staff Skipper Awardees for outstanding contributions:

Lara Tiede, Barbara Kyle and Pam Blixt for their leadership in organizing Public Health Week last April and **Alyssa Banks** for her dedicated work on youth violence prevention initiatives.

A fond farewell and best wishes to departing staff:

Megan Ellingson worked for 14 years with MDHFS spearheading numerous projects including providing emergency assistance during the bridge collapse and North Minneapolis tornado. Megan is joining Allina Health Systems to work on innovative care coordination for hospice patients.

Dave Johnson is leaving MDHFS after 11 years to join Hennepin County as an epidemiology supervisor. Dave's many contributions include coordinating the Seen on da Streets project to improve male reproductive health, and developing the Teen Parent Report Card.

Aliyah Ali has left MDHFS to pursue the CDC's Prevention Specialist Fellowship Program. Aliyah facilitated the adoption of smoke-free policies, the City's Healthy Food Policy and the Healthy Corner Store Program.

A warm welcome to our new MDHFS staff

Antonia (Toni) Hauser is returning to MDHFS as a full-time, permanent employee working on emergency preparedness and is certified by the state as an emergency manager and Pro Board certified in hazmat operations.

Charlene Muzyka is working with Twin Cities Healthy Start and other maternal child health initiatives and has a degree in community health services from the University of Manitoba.

Oliviah Walker is a new youth development coordinator and is completing her master's in education in youth development leadership at the University of Minnesota.

Mindy Fine, a family nurse practitioner at Southwest High School, has worked most recently at the University of Minnesota Boynton Health Service.

Hnee Vang, a certified medical assistant at Roosevelt High School, has years of clinic experience working with diverse populations

Tiffany Harris, a licensed marriage and family therapist at South High School, has returned to Minnesota after six years of studying and working as a therapist in Philadelphia.

MDHFS is honored to host two Centers for Disease Control Prevention Specialists and two Public Health Associates:

Vishwarupa (Vish) Vasani, a CDC Prevention Specialist will be working on Homegrown Minneapolis and Healthy Living food projects.

Nancy Andrade, CDC Prevention Specialist will work on improving male health and increasing fathers' involvement in their families with the Southside Community Health Service.

D'Ana Tijerina, a CDC Public Health Associate, will be working with the emergency preparedness team to improve community resiliency.

Lauren Dawson, a CDC Public Health Associate at Edison and Roosevelt High Schools, will support peer-education programming.

In addition, MDHFS welcomes the following new interns: **YeonSil Kim, Joy Sales, Chee Lee, Jessica Ellison, Michelle Larson, Christina Marie Garner, Erin Jaworski and Mimi Amelang**, an AmeriCorps HealthCorps worker.