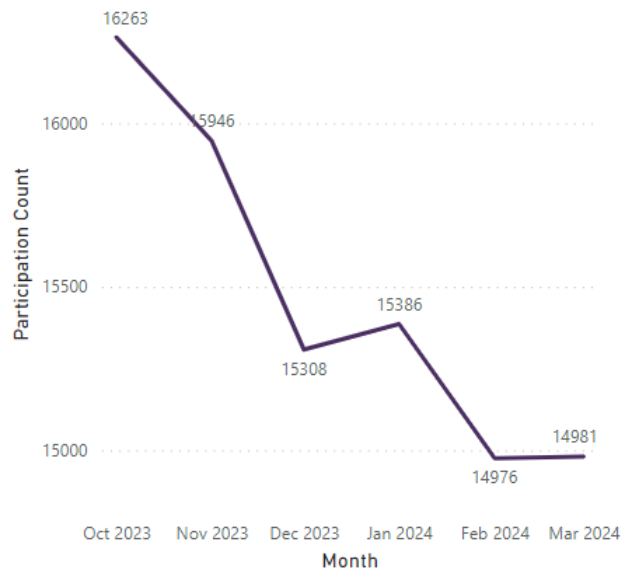


WIC Division Report: April 2024

Submitted by WIC Director, Nicole Koenen



- Accomplishments

- Hired six new employees: 2 Nutritionists, 4 Clerks.
- We are now teaching four different educational classes at each clinic.
- Outreach events are picking up, allowing us to increase our presence in the community.
- New financial software and the filling of the accountant position will soon support WIC billing efforts.
- Corrective Action Plan for the audit has been submitted.
- The milk depot collected 6,946 oz of donor milk in the 2nd quarter. This is the equivalent of 20,838 feedings for fragile, very preterm infants.

- Challenges

- WIC billing is two months behind.
- WIC billing continues to be a challenge and diverts resources away from the typical duties of the WIC Director and supporting staff.
- Short staffing, staff turnover, low wages and poor applicant pool. This is affecting our caseload.
- Pay is not competitive and staff continue to voice that they are having trouble making ends meet due to inflation. Employees who have recently resigned express pay contributed to their decision to leave.
- Submission of the Single Audit Determination form is past due.

- Future Plans

- We will begin offering a 5th class option in July with the goal of improving the shopping experience for WIC foods, especially for Spanish-speaking families.
- On-going meetings with Texas WIC Quality Management Branch to monitor progress on the WIC financials.
- WIC contract for FY 26-30 is in the draft phase.

Community Health and Preparedness Division

April 2024 Report

Submitted by Community Health Director - Rev. Barry Sharp

Activity	Total	Total Encounters
Presentations	3	81
Community/School Events	8	195+
Communications	5	41
Program Development	3	0
Meetings	24	Varied
Touch A Truck	12	300+
Trainings/Conferences	20	137
Grants and Reports	0	0
Totals	75	754

Touch-A-Truck held the last weekend of March (Easter weekend) at the Killeen Special Events Center was a huge success, drawing a bigger crowd (300+) than it did last year. Many thanks to the City of Killeen, Bell County, Fort Cavazos, Texas Parks and Wildlife, City of Harker Heights, PHI air medical transport and many others who brought out emergency equipment, heavy equipment, helicopters and set up information booths for families and children covering health information, financial management, reading and other topics. We even had the Easter Bunny on hand to take pictures. Thanks to Erin Hughley, Jess Harris, Hilton Gilbert, and Jason Stanford for taking the lead on this event. Next spring it will be held in Temple at a date and location to be determined. WIC and Immunizations also had a presence at the event.

Highlights of the month include:

- Finalized preparations for the BCPH response to the April 8 eclipse including testing cell phone communications to ensure that all staff could be contacted, coordinating with staff who were on call and worked over the eclipse weekend monitoring hospitals and disease outbreaks, social and commercial media, and emergency management operations centers. Plans were also coordinated with emergency management staff in Temple, Killeen, Bell County and DSHS Public Health Region 7 to ensure that BCPH would be able to coordinate and respond if necessary. Also, put out education messages to the public using BCPH media channels and press release.
- Enrolled several community health staff into a grant writing certification class offered by Austin Community College. This is a 40-hour, online training course that will give staff the basics for being able to search out and write applications for funding. Staff also took part in a training on Mental Health First Aid.
- Worked with Boys and Girls Club to provide Emotional Health education to middle school students in Nolanville. Laying the groundwork to provide this to additional students in the future as different locations service by the Boys and Girls Club.
- Provided HIV/STI education for the Juvenile Youth Impact Program in collaboration with the Bell County Juvenile Justice program.
- Began initiative to bring Temple clergy together to discuss the health of the community, potentially opening the doors for new partnerships with faith-based communities and building an interfaith ministry alliance for Temple. Such an alliance already exists in Belton and Killeen.

Retail Food Division Report for March 2024

Submitted by Retail Food Director, George Highsmith

Retail Food Inspections conducted: 223 (inclusive of the items listed below + foster homes) inspections. This number reflects an average of 44 per inspector. Currently, the inspection staff are inspecting at a rate of 1.5 times more per inspector than the FDA standard 8 recommendation for inspections/inspector for the year based on 320 maximum for the year.

YTD: 534

Follow-up inspections conducted: 9 (critical items mandating date-specific follow-up) YTD: 26

Total violations: 198 YTD: 468 Complaint inspections: 19 YTD: 36

Foster Homes: 1 YTD: 8 Mobile food operations: 10 YTD: 41

New facilities: 26/YTD: 60, Closed facilities: 13/YTD: 41 Net: +9/ YTD: +14

Facility closures due to imminent health hazards: 5/ YTD 8

Total facilities: 1913 /+31 from previous month

East: 906 (+18 from previous month)

West: 1007 (+13 from previous month)

Division goals for inspections (completions/new facilities, complaints, follow-ups, on-demand, etc.) are being achieved with 100% success. With the exception of uncontrolled circumstances, all assigned inspections are being achieved. This, however, does not reflect the potential impact of the number of inspections that are lower risk that are pushed (allowed by TFER) to a later schedule.

Jennifer continues to do inspection processes for mobile food units (currently 316/+7 from previous report). This number is based on data provided by SAFE and reflects all open/active units with Bell County Permits. This number alone equates to the higher end of 1 FTE employee (inspector) based on FDA Standard 8.

Jennifer's transition/familiarization with RFD Director duties continues as time permits with same standards and criteria illustrated on previous report (January). Jennifer continues to increase her role towards the direct managerial duties associated with the position and is doing a tremendous job in those regards. Strategic planning and processes are continuing with Jennifer taking the lead in these aspects. George is playing an advisor role in most as Jennifer will need to develop her own system to accomplish what is needed. So far, not much has been amended beyond what she as "customized".

Per Jennifer, the vector program continues to draw closer to the kickoff date for setting/collecting and submission of samples. They are continuing to surveil potential trapping locations and work with the cooperative of Austin/Travis County and McLennan County. Their respective roles would be advisory/training with the potential to increase surveillance in their respective geographic locations. Bell County will not be doing any trapping/surveilling in those areas, but this provides the potential for a much larger area (surrounding counties) of surveillance and control. Testing of Bell County samples will begin 4/29/24. Within the next few weeks, trial runs for timing, routes and locations will begin.

OSSF REPORT

Submitted by On-Site Sewage Facility Director, Kent Stephens

3 3/29/2024

Building Permits

	Total	Ave/Mo
2019	221	18.4
2020	341	28.4
2021	365	30.4
2022	320	26.7
2023	336	28.0
2024	48	16.0

All Septic Permits Issued

	Total	Ave/Mo
2019	552	46.0
2020	617	51.4
2021	727	60.6
2022	929	77.4
2023	732	61.0
2024	164	54.7

Septic Applications

	Total	Ave/Mo
2019	801	66.8
2020	1053	87.8
2021	1133	94.4
2022	1225	102.1
2023	909	75.8
2024	190	63.3

SAFE

	Total	Tracked
2019	502	6107
2020	577	6684
2021	641	7325
2022	769	8094
2023	625	8719
2024	110	8829

Sub Evals

	Total	Ave/Mo
2019	174	14.5
2020	100	8.3
2021	154	12.8
2022	138	11.5
2023	115	9.6
2024	32	10.7

Complaints

	Total	Ave/Mo
2019	102	8.5
2020	134	11.2
2021	102	8.5
2022	78	6.5
2023	69	5.8
2024	19	6.3

Real Estate Inspections

	Total	Ave/Mo
2019	98	8.2
2020	110	9.2
2021	44	3.7
2022	23	1.9
2023	6	0.5
2024	7	2.3

M/C Court Cases

	Total	Ave/Mo
2019	169	14.1
2020	143	11.9
2021	396	33.0
2022	195	32.5
2023	208	52.0
2024	64	21.3

New Secretary started 4/1/2024

Clinical Services & Systems

STAFFING

Kurt Krause remains the Clinical Manager at Killeen.

Hollie Cortez has been appointed Interim Supervisor for Temple.

We have several staff out for various reasons right now. Kurt, Hollie, and I have reviewed and discussed their ideas for coverage over the coming weeks. We have begun implementing changes to maximize coverage and continue to serve the population during this time.

GRANT BILLING

As stated previously, Clinical Grant Billing is significantly behind. Casey has taken over the lead on Clinical Grant Billing. She is learning the nuances of the grants, communicating with the state, has submitted amendments for 2 grants once approved she can proceed with billing them, and she is working on a matrix and timeline to get these grant billings submitted as quickly as possible. Amy and other staff are helping/will be helping her as there are several grants and multiple layers to review then submit.

CASELOAD

We are on track to meet caseload and have already fulfilled the requirement that we will not need to pay any funds back for being below caseload as we have in past years.

PROGRAMS

The need and demand for immunizations continues to grow. We are discussing options to address the need.

Although we have made progress with STDs in Bell County, we still have a high need to continue to address and screen for STDs. We are discussing options to address the need.

Dr. Via and Hollie Cortez have taken the lead to contact Brazos County Health District and Williamson Cities and County Health District regarding their process and billing for PrEP. A few other staff have taken on the remaining pieces so that we can implement PrEP fully. Claireisa Spencer, the DNP intern will continue to work on this project as part of her dissertation.