



Executive Director's Update – March 2025

Introduction:

The department continues to perform at a high level, serving the needs of the residents of Douglas County as we begin our 4th year of working together.

Executive Director Activities:

Participated in additional meetings of the Region 12 Opioid Council, to award additional Opioid funding and begin to develop plans for 2025.

Continue to participate in the Douglas County Homeless Initiative monthly meetings.

Participated in regular meetings of the Metro Denver Partnership for Health.

I attended the American Public Health Association annual meeting in Minneapolis in late October along with five staff whose travel was funded through a CDC grant to the state.

Health Department staff continues to work with Human Services staff on the Healthy Families Partnership, a program to give new parents information to get children's lives off to a good start, the first focus being on safe sleep for infants.

Our department continues to work with the two Advent Health hospitals in our county to perform our respective Community Health Assessment processes at the same time in order to increase effectiveness and reduce the frequency of asking our residents and partner organizations for data. We will work with Advent Health in 2025 into 2026 and will share the cost of their consultant.

Infectious Disease Update:

Based on statewide data, hospitalization due to COVID is declining, influenza is rising, and RSV is stable. Diagnoses at emergency departments are declining for flu and COVID while RSV diagnoses are stable. Compared to last year's respiratory season, flu hospitalizations have been slightly higher and RSV diagnoses have been similar, COVID illness was slightly lower this year (with the caveat that reporting requirements from the state have changed so the data may not be directly comparable).

There have been a higher number of cases of Pertussis than expected (double the number of cases seen in the 6-month period of September to February last year), mostly among elementary and high school age children, the risk here being transmission to younger siblings.

We are watching the Measles outbreak in Texas and New Mexico closely to try to head off any cases that make it to our area. We will be collaborating with the other Metro health departments to coordinate messaging around Measles and to publicize the availability of vaccine clinics.

Future Plans:

The county signed a lease for a building in Meridian that will house our department as well as other departments such as the Human Services and Community Justice Services; the targeted move-in date is June 2025.

Health Administration Update:

Richard Miura was promoted to Accounting Supervisor to replace Janelle Vidanes who left for a job with the state.

Our Vital Records staff continue to produce an impressive amount of work. During the period of December through February, our Vital Records Office sold 3,475 Birth Certificates and 3,015 Death Certificates for total revenue of \$108,009. We have entered into arrangements with some funeral homes to deliver death records to them on a regular basis, which accounts for some of the increased revenue.

Medical Officer Transition:

Dr. Kamran Dastoury began serving as our Medical Officer starting January 1, 2025. Dr. Dastoury is pursuing courses provided by the state that are relevant to his service in this capacity and has participated in DCHD Leadership Team meetings.