



## **Executive Director's Update – December 2024**

### Introduction:

The department continues to perform at a high level, serving the needs of the residents of Douglas County.

### 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:

COVID-19, Influenza and RSV cases remain low at this time although it appears Influenza may be starting to increase. We continue to recommend that all people eligible for vaccines receive them as their best protection against respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

There have been a number of cases of Pertussis, mostly among high school age children, the risk here being transmission to younger siblings.

### 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:

Our Vital Records staff continue to produce a truly impressive amount of work. During the period of September through November, our Vital Records Office sold 3,004 Birth Certificates and 1,398 Death Certificates for total revenue of \$76,690.

Medical Officer Transition:

Dr. Greg Smith has served as the Medical Officer for DCHD since 2022, he has announced that he will resign at the end of the month and will be re-locating to Arizona. I want to recognize Dr. Smith for his contributions to our department and wish him well in his next adventures.

Dr. Kamran Dastoury will begin as our Medical Officer starting January 1, 2025. Dr. Dastoury is a highly qualified physician (and dentist) practicing in Highlands Ranch. We are excited to have him join us and look forward to his contributions to the health of Douglas County.