

September 27, 2024

Agenda Item 3c Environmental Health Division Update

Introduction:

During the last quarter, Environmental Health (EH) has diligently worked to train 5 Environmental Health Specialists. The team is focused on training the newest hires in the various programs that are under EH purview. We continue to collaborate with CDPHE for training and the official signoffs needed for new inspectors to conduct independent inspections.

- 1 EH Specialist successfully completed Standardization in the Retail Food Program with CDPHE staff. This is required within the first 18 months of hire and again every 3 years. This is a rigorous process that ensures our inspectors are meeting the State's expectations for conducting inspections and maintaining consistency with other inspectors across Colorado. Two additional EH Specialists have been scheduled in the upcoming months.
- 2 EH Specialists have successfully been signed off to conduct independent inspections of retail food establishments. This allows them to be on their own for a period prior to undergoing standardization.
- 1 EH Specialist has been signed off to conduct independent inspections of childcare establishments.
- 1 EH Specialist has been signed off to issue OWTS permits, to conduct independent swimming pool inspections, and to inspect the Sedalia landfill.
- The Environmental Health Supervisor was promoted to the Assistant Director position and the Supervisor position has been filled by an internal candidate.
- 1 EH Specialist has decided to return to school to pursue their master's degree. 1 EH Specialist has transferred, and that position was posted externally. Interviews will occur in the upcoming month.

Summer was a very busy season for Environmental Health. The team connected with numerous Event Coordinators on 28 events around Douglas County that were selling food from June through August. We also conducted inspections at Parker Days, Renaissance Festival, 2024 Fair, and the PGA BMW Golf Tournament. Our largest special event this year had 42 food vendors! We also provided inspections for our residential summer camps to ensure health and sanitation standards were met in these settings. Seasonal pools also wrapped up for the season after receiving a visit from our EH Specialists to ensure that water quality standards were met and maintained.

Unless it is a newly established facility, everyone who holds an active health license has seen an inspector at this point. Newly established facilities are ones that have been newly built or those that have recently changed owners. These facilities are given time to start their operations (hiring, onboarding, training, etc.) before their first routine inspection occurs. During the first routine inspection, inspectors foster a working relationship with the operators and provide the necessary education regarding health and sanitation. We even identified a grocery store that had not been licensed in 12 years!

We continue to work to improve processes and procedures for our programs to ensure we are providing excellent service to our community. We are continuing to build partnerships with many different divisions within CDPHE, the FDA, and our surrounding counties by attending meetings and trainings. We also participate in various statewide EH program manager and director's meetings to ensure that we stay current and updated on trends and unique situations. We look forward to

continuing to improve and grow the depth and breadth of knowledge amongst our Environmental Health team throughout the rest of this year and the years to come.

Activities:

From June 4th through August 30th , Environmental Health has:

- Reviewed Special Event Coordinator Applications for 28 events
 - Our largest event had 42 food vendors consisting of both special event food vendor booths and mobile food trucks.
- Conducted 262 inspections of facilities:
 - 21 childcare facility inspections
 - 45 Recreational Water inspections
 - 205 Retail Food Establishment inspections
 - 1 Waste Tire inspections
- Assisted restaurant owners and builders with 21 plan reviews
- Responded to 39 complaints
- Received 130 Transfer of Title Application permits
- Issued 147 permits:
 - Issued 85 OWTS Use Permits
 - Issued 38 New Installation OWTS permits
 - Issued 10 Major Repair OWTS permits
 - Issued 14 Minor Repair OWTS permits
- Reviewed 16 Land Use referrals