

Annual Report



Caldwell County Health Department 2009



Director's Message

Last year, our community faced a Public Health Emergency: the arrival of H1N1 influenza. Even though we had been preparing for



such an event for years, this flu strain came much more quickly than anyone anticipated.

Since no vaccine was available, we educated the public about prevention. When limited quantities of vaccine arrived in October, we targeted our immunization efforts to those at highest risk. The support of our community partners proved to be an essential part of our efforts to keep citizens informed about this serious disease.

We must continue to plan and prepare to respond to public health emergencies such as pandemic influenza. Information must be consistent, correct and current: it is critical in our efforts to prevent the spread of disease.

The 2009 Caldwell County Health Department Annual Report represents the dedication of Caldwell County's public health staff. Efforts to provide quality services help fulfill our mission to "Promote, Protect, and Improve the Health of our Community." We look forward to seeing you at Caldwell County Human Services and working with you to make Caldwell County a healthier place to live in 2010!

Denise M. Michaud, MPH, RD, IBCLC, RLC
Health Director

Child Health Awarded "Best Practice"

During 2009, our Child Health Program received a BEST PRACTICE award from the Children and Youth Branch (a division of Public Health). This award highlighted our partnership with the local Children's Developmental Services Agency. This partnership was developed to help meet the needs of children (especially age birth to 3) within our community who are at risk for developmental delays related to premature birth or with a certain medical diagnosis such as Down's syndrome.

Prostate Screening is a Huge Success

The Caldwell County Health Department and Caldwell Memorial Hospital held the 12th annual Prostate Screening. The screening was available to all men aged 50 or older and consisted of a digital rectal exam along with a PSA blood test. We set a record for participation with an increase of more than 100 individuals for a total of 273 men screened! Twenty-four men had elevated PSA

levels and were referred to a local urologist for follow up.



New Changes for Animal Control

In September 2009, Animal Control completed the transition to

euthanasia by injection or EBI. This method is approved by the American Veterinarian Association and The Humane Society of the United States. North Carolina Department of Agriculture updated the standards for some shelter operations including animal transport and euthanasia methods. All officers with Animal Control have received training to be certified euthanasia technicians (CET) and now meet the new requirement.

H1N1 Pandemic

In April 2009, the World Health Organization declared the novel H1N1 influenza virus a pandemic. Public Health agencies across the state including Caldwell County Health Department activated their Incident Command System and implemented local pandemic influenza plans. Caldwell County Health Department was proactive in efforts to reduce the spread of illness and keep our community safe. We hosted numerous vaccination clinics and provided weekly H1N1 Influenza updates to keep residents informed.



March of Dimes Funding Continues

Our Women's Health Program received additional funding for their program "Taking Care of Mommy and Me" providing education and support to aid in decreasing infant mortality. Approximately 8,600 clinical services were provided to pregnant and postpartum women through Women's Health services.

Susan G. Komen Provides Funding for Mammograms

The Caldwell County Health Department received funding from the Susan G. Komen Foundation to provide mammograms to one hundred and ninety two women. In 2009, four breast cancers were detected and those women were referred for treat-

Home Health Sees Increases in Requests for Services

Caldwell County Home Health serves patients in Caldwell, Burke, Catawba, Watauga, Wilkes and Alexander Counties. We provide Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Medical Social Work and Aide services. Our staff is well trained and knowledgeable not only assisting patients but also training them and their caregivers on the proper way to provide care at home. Caldwell County Home Health has been servicing the citizens of Caldwell County and the surrounding counties for over 30 years. Caldwell County Home Health is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Home Care.

Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Available in WIC

The initiation of breastfeeding peer counselor services has been a highlight for the Caldwell County WIC office in 2009. Mothers who qualify for WIC services can now receive additional support with their decision to breastfeed. WIC mothers are offered breastfeeding support in the local WIC clinic via telephone, home visits, or just after delivery in the local hospital. We have been excited to see breastfeeding initiation and duration rates improve with peer counselor services in our local WIC clinic.



Environmental Health Recognized for Quality Customer Service

The results of customer service surveys sent to onsite and well customers revealed that approximately 9 in 10 customers expressed a positive experience working with Environmental Health.



Dental Clinic Goes Digital

Caldwell County Dental Clinic transitioned to a completely new digital record and X-Ray system. A new digital X-ray system was purchased allowing the clinic to reduce the amount of radiation each patient receives and it permits storage in our new digital (totally paperless) dental record. Both systems enabled us to advance into 21st century technology making the clinic more ecologically friendly and better equipped to serve our residents.

2009 Board of Health Members

Marion Rothrock, PE, Engineer (Chairman)

Jo Murray, General Public

Kay Roukema, General Public (Vice-Chairman)

Angie Ashley, General Public

Rebecca Whisnant, DVM, Veterinarian

Sharon Kimball, RN, Nurse

John Maggione, MD, Physician

Don Barrier, Commissioner

Karen Cannon, RPh, Pharmacist

Allen Hefner, DDS, Dentist