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From the Public Health Officer:

During the month of March, we participated in many activities associated with communication and transparency with the community. On March 17th Media Day ([Public Health Media Day 3/17](#)), focused on the ending of Covid and Pandemic orders, and what those changes mean for the community. All meetings with Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs), Rural Clinics, Hospitals, and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) also focused on Pandemic Orders.

As we come to the end of the Pandemic, we can spend more time building back our Public Health Department. Important activities for March included:

- Preparing for May submission of our application for Public Health Accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).
- Improving Community Services through preliminary work on a summit to improve Perinatal access to the Coast and North County, working with Partnership Health Plan to collaborate on childhood vaccines, Home Visiting, and other services, and planning for the quarterly Child Death Review (CDR) meeting.
- Improving Community Safety through work with SafeRx to educate the community about Xylazine causing many narcotic-related deaths in the County, and the potential future risk.
- Environmental Health/Climate Change conversations about how Public Health's Environmental Health Division may help with drought assessment and planning, and attendance at a forum for preparation on Climate Change.
- Engaging in our efforts to imbed Equity in all areas of Public Health, and,
- Recruitment of a Public Health Director.

I'm looking forward to sharing more of our work with you next month!

Andy Coren, Public Health Officer

