

Public Health Update April 2024

Introduction:

Public Health's goal is to safeguard and promote the health and wellness of the community. PH works to protect and improve the health of the community through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, disease and injury prevention, and the promotion of health policies.

April is designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Sexual violence affects every community in the United States. Per the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence. The RAINN association reports that every 68 seconds an American is sexually assaulted. For many survivors, it can take years to heal and for some the pain never heals completely. April is a month to raise public awareness about sexual assaults. This month, we stand with and honor the survivors in our community. We encourage all to stand in alliance by wearing denim on April 24, 2024 (Denim Day). Denim Day started in 1999 to show support of survivors and raise awareness about the crimes of sexual assault.

Effective County Government Organization: n/a

A Safe and Healthy County:

California Children's Services (CCS):

CCS is currently serving 402 medically fragile children and their families. In collaboration with Partnership Health Plan of California, children receive specialized care for their eligible conditions, e.g. diabetes, childhood cancers, and certain orthopedic conditions.

Healthcare Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC):

HCPCFC is currently serving 186 children and youth who have been placed in foster care. The team assures that the children and youth are having their regular well-child exams, dental exams and if necessary, additional medical and mental health treatment services.

Maternal, Child, Adolescent Health (MCAH):

In March, our Healthy Families Mendocino team was able to participate in and share a variety of success stories at the First 5 State of the Child Mental Health Summit. This event focused on tools for healing for professionals in the community who work with children, particularly children who are in the foster system or at risk of entering. This event allowed for increased collaboration and outreach with other local organizations to improve relationships and outcomes for all children and families within our community. Staff came away from this event inspired and enthusiastic as they learned about powerful tools for healing to share!

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The MCAH Unit is also now able to facilitate trainings for anyone administering an ASQ-3 or ASQ-SE-2 developmental screening and looks forward to supporting Public Health programs and others in providing hands on training opportunities around these developmental screenings.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

As an everyday goal, the WIC program continues working on providing healthy lifestyle tips, breastfeeding support, and other community services to our clients. Due to its high performance ending the year 2023 and beginning of year 2024, the caseload was increased from 2,480 to 2,530, allocating a higher budget for the period of (2023-2025). The WIC program has achieved its caseload at an average of 90% so far from January 2024 to March 2024. WIC is currently serving an average of 2,280 individuals per month. We plan to achieve our caseload goal, and will be attending more outreach events this year to promote the program.

A Thriving Economy: n/a

A Prepared and Resilient Community:

Emergency Preparedness:

Public Health deployed a mobile, inflatable decontamination unit to Adventist Hospital Mendocino Coast to support mass decontamination capacity for the entire coast. Hospital staff are being trained on its use and will be deployable to anywhere in the County at the request of Office of Emergency Services (OES).

Public Health also has scheduled AVERT active shooter training for Public Health and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services employees, starting April 2, 2024. This training prepares staff to use the principles of RUN, HIDE, FIGHT when faced with violence, whether in the workplace or in the field.

Public Health is coordinating with the Disaster Healthcare Coalition to improve alternative communication methods during emergencies by utilizing grant funds to purchase satellite communication hubs capable of connecting up to 5 cellular phones to low-earth orbit satellites. These hubs will be pre-deployed to remote facilities that are prone to loss of cellular connectivity. A larger hub capable of connecting up to 10 will remain at 1120 South Dora Street. These will be drilled every 6 months.