

March Director's Report



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Director's Report
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Dates Covered: February 11-March 10, 2026

Mission Moments

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) fosters long-term, trusting relationships with clients that support meaningful personal growth. In February, Nurse Alvarez met with a client she has served for approximately eight months. At the previous visit, Alvarez completed a mental health screening that indicated the client was experiencing significant daily anxiety. At that time, the client was not ready to discuss the results or pursue support.

At the February visit, the client shared that the screening experience—combined with Alvarez's supportive presence—prompted her to reflect on her mental health needs. Between visits, she independently contacted mental health providers to explore medication and therapy options. She told Alvarez that this encouragement helped her recognize that seeking support could improve her well-being and enable her to “be more brave” in parenting her child.

During the visit, Alvarez and the client celebrated her decision to seek help and discussed her aspirations for the kind of parent she hopes to be. These interactions are common within NFP and highlight the impact of sustained, relationship-based home visitation in supporting parents and strengthening families.

Community Health Improvement (CHIP) Headlines

You can find more details on these CHIP headlines in the Program Updates section.

1. CHIP Priority: Economic Security
 - a. Healthcare Leaders Roundtable convened to discuss common challenges and opportunities

- b. Family Connects resources increased thanks to partnership with Colorado Access
 - c. Immunization Program administers 835 vaccines in February
 - 2. CHIP Priority: Community Safety
 - a. ACPH selected to participate in national injury and violence prevention capacity-building program
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Events and Engagement Opportunities

1. **Recent events:**
 - a. 2/12 Family Health Night at Charles Hay World School in Englewood
 - b. 2/19 Aurora Central High School Job Fair and Resource Expo
2. **Upcoming events:**
 - a. 5/1 Senior Resource Fair in Byers
 - b. 5/2 Southeast Aurora Islamic Center Health Fair in Centennial

Please reach out to [Grace Soulen](#) or visit our [Community Engagement Event Request Form](#) to suggest upcoming outreach opportunities. **These efforts are part of the CHIP objective to advance community engagement.**

Program Updates

Executive

1. The Request for Qualifications for a Chief Medical Officer was posted on March 5. Qualifications will be received through www.bidnetdirect.com/colorado until April 16.
2. The second convening of the Healthcare Leaders Roundtable was held February 26 with representatives from hospital systems, mental and behavioral health, safety net, insurers, public health and Board of Health. The group discussed challenges we are facing with the state budget deficit, federal policies, and cuts to Medicaid. The next meeting is scheduled in June. **This effort aligns with the CHIP objective to advance economic security through access to care.**
3. The Public Health Director participated in a 1.5-day retreat with Arapahoe County Elected Officials that focused on facilities and space needs over the next 5, 10, and 20 years.

Partnerships, Planning and Community Health Promotion

1. **Overdose Fatality Review Team**

ACPH was invited to be one of 9 local public health agencies across the state to pilot the establishment of an Overdose Fatality Review Team in alignment with CO SB 24- 047 Prevention of Substance Use Disorders. The Community Health Nursing Division and

PPCHP will partner to oversee the 5-month planning and preparation effort to:

- a. Promote cooperation and coordination among agencies involved in the investigation of drug overdose fatalities
 - b. Develop an understanding of the causes and incidence of drug overdose fatalities in the jurisdiction where the local team operates
 - c. Plan for and recommend changes within the agencies represented on the local team to prevent drug overdose fatalities
 - d. Advise local, regional, and state policymakers about potential changes to law, policy, funding, or practice to prevent drug overdoses.
2. **Aurora Tobacco Retail Licensing Ordinance**

The Aurora City Council unanimously passed the Tobacco Retail Licensing ordinance during its second reading on March 9. The first reading took place on February 23 and received strong public support from Aurora Public Schools, Cherry Creek Schools, Children’s Hospital Colorado, One Chance to Grow Up, and several Aurora residents. Because the ordinance passed unanimously on first reading, it was placed on the consent agenda for the second reading, where it passed without amendment. A related resolution focused on annual reporting and evaluation of the licensing program is still pending. The City Council postponed action on this resolution until the March 23 meeting, where it is expected to be discussed further.

Nutrition

1. **Vitamin Angels**

The Nutrition and Community Health Nursing Divisions continue to partner on the Vitamin Angels grant to provide free prenatal vitamins to pregnant women and those of childbearing age participating in our programs. This is the second round of the grant received by ACPH and we received an additional 1,134 bottles of prenatal bottles to distribute. Each bottle contains a six month supply of vitamins.

2. **RTD Transportation Assistance Grant (TAG) Program**

For a third year in a row, Arapahoe County has been named a recipient of the RTD TAG Program. This round Arapahoe County received 1,555 10-ride ticket books valued at \$42,762.50 to provide community members with immediate transportation needs such as employment, medical appointments, access to social services and homeless shelters. The TAG Program is intended to function as a stopgap while eligible customers sign up for the RTD LiVE Program, an income-based fare discount program. These tickets will be distributed among clients in Community Resources, Human Services and Public Health.

Community Health Nursing

1. **Family Connects**

- a. Data snapshot:
 - 72 home visits to date since the inception of the program in September 2025

- 97% of clients say they would recommend the program to a friend
- 100% of clients say they felt respected by their nurse and listened to by their nurse.
- 100% of clients say that their questions were a priority for their nurse, and the nurse explained things in a way that they could understand
- 71% of Family Connects clients speak Spanish, 18% speak English, and 11% speak other languages (we have served 6 total languages).
- 92% of Family Connects families report at least one need, with 2/3 having at least one significant or urgent need, and 1/3 having more than one significant or urgent need.
- The largest category of need is around household safety and material support, followed by caregiver emotional support and caregiver wellbeing. Categories of needs and significance of the need are determined using the Family Support Matrix, an evidence-based assessment tool designed by Family Connects International to ensure a comprehensive review of infant and caregiver physical health, mental health, and safety. **This effort is part of the CHIP objective to advance economic security through access to care.**

b. Family Connects received funding through December 31, 2026, from Colorado Access to support birthing people in completing their six-week postpartum visit through incentive payments. Individuals enrolled in Colorado Access Medicaid who complete a Family Connects home visit will receive a \$75 Visa gift card. If the member also reports completing their six-week postpartum visit at the time of the Family Connects Post-Visit Connect, the birthing person will receive an additional \$75 Visa gift card. This partnership provides funding to support ACPH's Family Connects program operations, advances Colorado Access's goal of increasing six-week postpartum visit completion rates and offers meaningful financial support to participating families. **This effort is part of the CHIP objective to advance economic security through access to care.**

2. Maternal Child Health & Regional Health Connector

- a. To enhance our MCH priority activities, Child Fatality prevention efforts, and CHP Safety work, ACPH applied for the [Safe States Alliance's State Technical Assessment Team \(STAT\) Program](#) to improve capacity for injury and violence prevention programs. STAT is a point-in-time assessment of an injury and violence prevention (IVP) program, conducted by a team of experts in this field. ACPH was selected and will receive a year of technical assistance including an in-person site visit from the expert team in July. This project that will help us better understand and improve our efforts related to the [IVP Core Components](#), focusing on internal infrastructure, data, and community partnerships. **This effort is part of the CHIP priority of advancing community safety.**

3. Immunizations

- a. The Immunization (IZ) Program administered a total of 835 vaccines in February 2026, which included three school-based clinics. **This effort is part of the CHIP objective to**

advance economic security through access to care.

- b. In February, the IZ Program was activated in response to a measles case identified in the metro area. Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) was provided to 36 individuals: 15 were vaccinated at an offsite clinic on February 25, 2026, and 21 were vaccinated at the Englewood office on the same date. Additionally, immune globulin (IG) was administered to two individuals on February 26 and February 27, 2026. The program remains on standby to support further testing or titer services as needed.
- c. On February 26, 2026, the IZ Program presented to the CDPHE Adult Vaccine Work Group regarding ACPH’s recent implementation of titer services within clinic operations.

4. Sexual Health

- a. Sexual Health was invited by Upstream, USA to pilot a program to provide free birth control to people through a phone app called “FreeBC”. Anyone can sign up on the app to learn about their birth control options. They can then either meet with one of Upstream’s virtual providers to receive birth control by mail, or come in to a brick and mortar clinic like ours to receive birth control such as LARCs and injectable contraception that require an in person visit.
- b. Sexual Health enrolled their first patient in the Public Health Intervention Program (PHIP), a program offered by the State to provide free HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis to uninsured patients. As a PHIP provider, the ACPH Sexual Health clinic hopes to see more patients for biomedical HIV Prevention.
- c. In future Director’s Reports, the Sexual Health program will provide an update on communicable disease trends in Arapahoe County related to sexual health. Below is a summary of trends from recent years, including January 2026 preliminary data. *Please note that the syphilis data is incomplete and will be updated in subsequent reports.

Total Cases in Arapahoe County	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea	Syphilis	Congenital Syphilis	HIV	Hepatitis C
2024	3,014	812	443	9	69	98
2025	2,839	676	336	7	69	90
January 2026	205	55	1*	0	5	6

5. Harm Reduction

- a. Harm Reduction leadership met with mental health co-responders at the Englewood Police Department to discuss collaboration and bi-directional referral to services.
- b. Harm Reduction has hired a new Care Coordinator, Dametria Clough, who will be starting on March 9. She has extensive experience in HIV testing and has worked as a Disease Intervention Specialist at the State of Texas. We are excited to have her on board!

6. Nurse Liaison Program

- a. The NLP hired a Senior RN, Amy Wigand, who will be starting March 9. Amy brings more than 20+ years of experience in mom/baby, including certification as International Board Certified Lactation Consultant.

Health Protection and Response (HPR) Division (*Environmental Health, Communicable Disease Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs*)

1. Environmental Health (EH) Programs

- a. Renewal invoices for Retail Food and Body Art licenses were sent out from late October to early November 2025. All the associated licenses expire December 31 of each calendar year. Renewal licenses brought in approximately \$1.1 million (retail food fees increased 25% in 2026 as part of a three-year phased increase).

In early February, after receiving multiple notices for renewal from ACPH including mailings, calls, and emails, approximately 54 retail food facilities had not paid their invoice and received a \$500 civil penalty notice for operating without a valid license.

The civil penalties for businesses operating without a license resulted in approximately \$15,000 in fees.

Food operators who fail to remit full payment for both their retail food license and civil penalty, and are confirmed to be open and operating, are subject to an injunction ordering their immediate closure until all outstanding fees are submitted. As of 03/04/2026, all facilities assessed a civil penalty for license non-payment are now paid in full. Thanks to the well-coordinated outreach effort involving many staff, ACPH actively worked with operators, prevented dozens of civil penalties and completed the invoicing process by the first week in March.

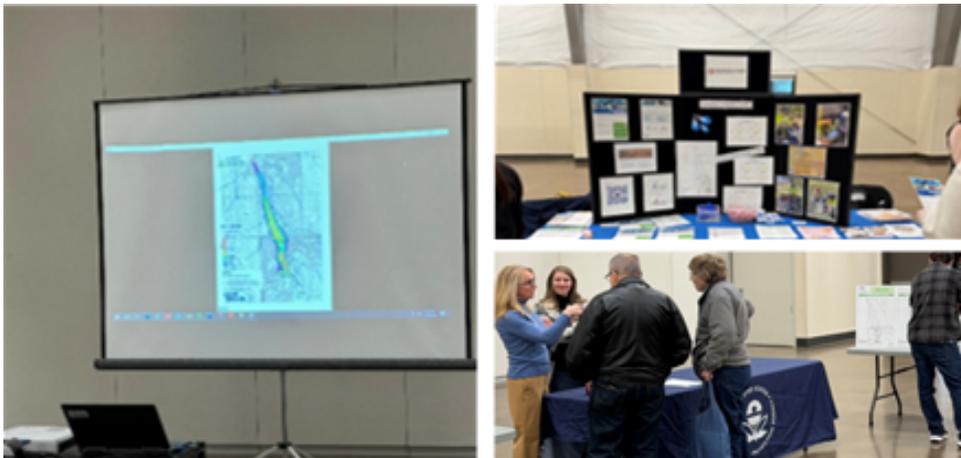
- b. The Lowry Landfill Open House held on 02/18/2026 at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds was a big success. The event included many new attendees, and ACPH received positive feedback from community members regarding the quality of the information shared and the opportunity to learn more about the site. The Lowry Landfill Superfund Site was also highlighted in the February 27 edition of [The County Line](#). ACPH directly supports this engagement and oversight effort as part of our contract work. Through our contract, ACPH provides public health review of technical documents, participates in coordination meetings with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and local partners, evaluates potential exposure pathways, reviews air and groundwater monitoring data, assists with complaint response, and supports community risk communication. Our work ensures public health considerations remain central to site activities and residents have access to clear and timely information regarding conditions at and around Lowry.

The next public event is scheduled for August 26, 2026, and will focus on the *sixth* five-year review of the Superfund Site. During this review, the EPA will evaluate the

implementation and performance of the site remedies to determine whether the site remains protective of public health and the environment. This is another important opportunity for public involvement, site evaluation, and identification of any needed site process improvements.

Note: The previous *fifth* five-year review and other supporting documents are available through EPA at: [USEPA Lowry Landfill Site Documents](https://www.epa.gov/lowry-landfill-site-documents).

Please reach out to Lynn Robbio Wagner at lwagner@arapahoegov.com with questions or additional information.



2. **Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Program**

- a. EPR Program staff Lauren Johnson and Serena Alvarado co-presented at the 2026 Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA) Conference. The presentation highlighted the work in creating and facilitating the statewide Health Equity Workgroup for Public Health EPR efforts. Established in early 2025, the workgroup is transforming the conversation around equity in all phases of emergency management by establishing shared language, developing standardized tools, and advancing the use of the Communication, Maintaining Health, Independence, Support and Safety, and Transportation (C-MIST) Framework to better address access and function needs. Participants at the presentation left with practical examples and tools to better operationalize equity in their own jurisdictional efforts along with ways to get involved in the workgroup, strengthen partnerships, and build greater trust and resilience within their communities.
- b. Federal and state guidance for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program this fiscal year has a focus on recovery planning and operations. ACPH EPR facilitated a recovery planning workshop in February. This workshop brought together partners from EPR programs in fourteen counties to walk through planning assumptions, phases of recovery, and how public health supports the wider health and medical system following a disaster. Information and ideas gained during the workshop are being used to write the ACPH Recovery Annex to the Public Health Emergency Operations

Plan.

3. Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDE) Program

Due to ongoing activation related to measles, Communicable Disease Epidemiology program updates will be provided verbally at the March Board of Health meeting.