Community Transformation Grant (CTG)

The Community Transformation Grant is intended to prevent leading causes of death and disability through evidence-based initiatives, environmental and systems change, and strengthening the health infrastructure. Siouxland District Health Department was one of 26 original counties in the state of Iowa awarded the CTG in Oct 2011. This Sept, the CTG will come to an end after 3 very successful years of policy, environmental, and system level changes being made throughout Woodbury County. To name just a few:

- Several businesses have healthier vending options with items marked yellow or green.
- Restaurants have healthier menu options.
- Let’s Get Healthy media campaigns were on billboards, radio, and worksite posters.
- Worksites implemented wellness, breastfeeding, tobacco, and various other policies for staff.
- Thousands of Woodbury County residents participated in the 100 Day Live Healthy Iowa Program.
- Concession stand menu’s offered healthier options in Sioux City, Sergeant Bluff, and Moville.
- Infrastructure improvements were made along Walking School Bus routes, including curb cuts and crosswalks.
- Bike Racks were installed at various worksite/community locations in Woodbury County.
- Multi-Unit Housing Complexes adopted smoke-free policies for their grounds.
- Physicians throughout the county were educated on Quit line Iowa and the 2 A’s and R (Ask, Advise, and Refer).

Although the CTG is coming to an end, SDHD staff are still available to provide technical assistance to communities, worksites and physician offices on a variety of policy, environmental and system level changes. You may contact Angela Drent by e-mailing adrent@sioux-city.org or Becky Carlson at jrcarlson@sioux-city.org. (Public Health Standard: Promote Healthy Behaviors)

Temporary Food Permits—The Busy Summer Season

SDHD’s Environmental Division has almost survived their summer temporary food permit season, where they issue permits to temporary food stands at a variety of community events. Each summer employees travel to twelve county fairs that fall under SDHD’s jurisdiction to issue temporary food permits, and to provide education about what vendors can and must do to assure our safety at these types of community events. Once the Clay County fair wraps up this month, employees will have completed another fair season. This year, Ragbrai not only started in one of our counties (Sioux), but the first two over nights were also in our territory (Palo Alto and Dickinson), which meant SDHD employee had several temporary food permits to issue in just 2 days. All in all, over 400 temporary food permits will be issued during the summer of 2014. (Public Health Standard: Protect Against Environmental Hazards)
Breastfeeding/Health Fair

SDHD held a Breastfeeding Peer Counseling fair at our public health office on Aug. 6th. The objective of the fair was to educate WIC clients and others in the community about breastfeeding education and support available throughout the community, including the WIC office. Over 40 women attended the fair, that had 10 vendors present. Participants appreciated the opportunity to attend and visit with professionals on this topic. Did you know the SDHD WIC office has two Breastfeeding Peer Counselors to assist WIC clients with their breastfeeding needs? (Public Health Standard: Promote Healthy Behaviors)

Electronic Medical Records—New to Siouxland District Health Dept.

SDHD’s Nursing Division began using Electronic Medical Records (EMR) June 1st. The EMR supports Public Health Service documentation. An advantage the new EMR allows is an integrated client record and an appointment scheduling functionality for many services provided in the Nursing Clinic. The “COW” Computer on Wheels is pictured above, which staff are able to take directly into each of the clinic rooms. (Public Health Standard: Communication and Information Technology)

Living Well Iowa Grant: Healthy Living for People with Disabilities

The University of Iowa, has selected Siouxland District Health Department as one of two pilot sites across the state, to implement the Living Well Iowa Project through June 2015. SDHD Health Planning staff will work on projects that are intended to improve the health status of county residents by identifying priority community health issues that affect those residents with disabilities, and then designing and implementing effective activities to improve inclusion in the health promotion efforts and increase access to preventative health services for this group. After a June 18th focus group was held to identify needs, the following activities were identified to work on in the coming year: increase community garden accessibility and promote gardening to people with disabilities, promote and increase participation in the 14-week program A Healthier You, which is geared towards those living with a disability, and to also work with local health care providers on improving access to care for patients with disabilities and improving their visits with having durable medical equipment available. (Public Health Standard: Promote Healthy Behaviors)

Mayor’s Youth Commission presents to Sioux City Council

SDHD’s Tobacco Education Specialist that oversees the Community Partnerships for Tobacco Use Prevention and Control grant, has spent the last 12 months working with students from the Sioux City Mayor’s Youth Commission developing educational materials to be presented to local PTAs, and the Sioux City Council. The educational materials that were presented showed the importance of implementing a city wide ordinance on restricting any new tobacco licenses to be issued to retail establishments within 1,000 feet of a school. Studies show when there are more tobacco retailers near schools, students are more likely to smoke. Policy information was presented to the Council by two members of the Sioux City’s Mayor’s Youth Commission. (Public Health Standard: Promote Healthy Behaviors)
Siouxland District Health Department—Title V Child Health Program

On May 1, 2014, SDHD became the new home for the Title V Child Health Program serving Woodbury County children, ages 0 through 20 years. The overall goal of this multi-faceted program is to promote the health of children by facilitating access to preventive services, especially low-income families or those with limited access to health services, and promote the development of community-based systems of medical and oral health care. Care for Kids program aides provide education about the benefits available to families that have Medicaid coverage, help families access an array of medical services and screenings with providers in the area, and provide care coordination according to the EPSDT schedule (Early Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment). Transportation vouchers are available for Medicaid approved services. hawki outreach staff assist families in signing up for Medicaid or hawki. The I-Smile program is another part of the Child Health program. Our I-Smile Coordinator focuses on developing oral health infrastructure within Woodbury County and relationships with the oral health community educating them about different dental issues facing children. She provides care coordination services to families in need of dental care. Pictured to the right are our Program Aides for the Care for Kids program. (Public Health Standard: Promote Healthy Behaviors)

Mosquitos and more Mosquitos

During the summer months, the Iowa State University Medical Entomology Laboratory, in a cooperative project with the Iowa Department of Public Health and the University Hygienic Lab (Iowa City, IA), monitors mosquito populations and mosquito-borne diseases in the State of Iowa. This year Weeks 27-29 (July) saw the highest increase in mosquito numbers across Iowa. To keep abreast of mosquito info and West Nile Virus (the disease they carry) visit Siouxlanddistricthealth.org. (Public Health Standard: Prevent Epidemics and the Spread of Disease)

SDHD Awarded Wellmark Grant

The Wellmark Foundation recently awarded the Siouxland District Health Department a $25,000 grant to help fund the Sioux City Walking School Bus Infrastructure Project. The project will include formal assessments to map safe routes for the walking school bus and identify any hazards or issues along the routes. Improvements to the infrastructure and safety of the routes will then be performed, resulting in improved active transportation approaches for students. Siouxland District Health Department, the Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO), Sioux City Community School District and the City of Sioux City are partnering to facilitate the planning, development and implementation of infrastructure projects that will improve safety in the vicinity of schools along a minimum of three walking school bus routes.

Through its 2014 Healthy Communities small grant program, the Foundation received 112 grant requests from various organizations seeking support for smaller community health projects. This grant award to the Siouxland District Health Department represents one of nineteen competitively awarded grants across Iowa and South Dakota to establish pilot efforts or expand upon current community health initiatives. (Public Health Standard: Prevent Injuries and Promote Healthy Behaviors)