Welcome

Welcome to the second issue of Gila County Division of Health & Emergency Management’s (GCDHEM) newsletter. This issue highlights our continual commitment to community health and program highlights!

Our Commitment to Community Health

SNAP-Ed: Health, Nutrition & Fitness

SNAP-Ed is an evidence-based program that helps people lead healthier lives that teaches people using or eligible for SNAP about good nutrition and how to make their food dollars stretch further. SNAP-Ed participants also learn to be physically active1…continued on page 2

Health in Arizona Policy Initiative (HAPI)

The Health in Arizona Policy Initiative (HAPI) is an Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) component that enhances Policies, Systems and Environmental (PSE) changes to utilize evidence based approaches and address population health needs. Through HAPI, Gila County Health Department seeks to advance policies in the areas of worksite wellness, healthy community design, school health, clinical linkages and the inclusion of children and youth with special health care needs….continued on page 2.

“What make the farmer’s market such a special place is that you’re actually creating community around food.”

~Bryant Terry

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Health in Arizona Policy Initiative (HAPI)

School Physical Activity: With a focus on policies to improve physical activity in school, the HAPI team served as a subject matter expert participating in a statewide effort to increase recess time in schools during this last legislative session with the state legislature. This included the drafting of HB2082 that would require a minimum of two recess times for elementary students and specify a minimum of 50 minutes of recess during the day. As a result, legislators representing Gila County are now aware of the importance of recess time and physical activity in schools and will be working with the HAPI team in the next legislative session to find an option that works for all Gila County students and schools. Lastly, in an effort to enhance physical activity opportunities and participation with Payson High School HAPI completed a walking needs assessment with the Payson High School Principal to understand strengths, gaps, and limitations of the High School and campus. As a result, it was identified that equipment was needed to improve physical activity participation so the program provided new equipment for the PE and after school programs.

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN): With a focus on inclusion, the HAPI team worked with the Payson Unified School District SHAC lead to incorporate inclusion language into the redrafting of the district Local Wellness Policies (LWPs). The revised policy is currently pending approval and would be one of the first in the state to have inclusion for children and youth with special health care needs incorporated throughout all sections of the wellness policy. The HAPI team also designed and tested the first ever CYSHCN training for early care and education providers that focused on nutrition and physical activity inclusion. This training was provided to the Miami School District Preschool teachers and highlighted policies and support for children with severe or life-threatening food allergies or intolerances.

Snap-Ed continued...

Food Systems: In the first year of service in Gila County, SNAP-Ed successfully brought the Payson Farmers Market on to become a SNAP authorized market. This expands access to healthy local produce to low income families.
What is SNAP?
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) helps families and low income people buy the food they need to have good health. SNAP is based on income and expenses.

How SNAP-Ed Works!
SNAP-Ed works by building partnerships with all types of community organizations.

You can apply online for SNAP in Arizona at Health-e-Arizona Plus. If you prefer to use a paper form, the Arizona SNAP application forms can be downloaded in English and Spanish.

Visit the Arizona Department of Economic Security website to find the SNAP office nearest you.

Arizona State Hotline Number: 1-800-352-8401

Grab N’ Go Breakfast
As a result of this success, year two efforts have focused on advancing this work by assisting the Payson Farmers Market in now also becoming a Double Up Food Bucks Arizona site. Through Double Up, families who shop at the market with their SNAP benefits receive a dollar for dollar match for Arizona grown produce for every SNAP dollar they spend offering up to an additional $20 in free produce every time they shop at the market. This program was just launched at the recent seasonal opening of the Payson Farmers Market.

Active Living: The SNAP-Ed team is hard at work expanding access to, and encouraging use of, the many amazing trails available across beautiful Gila County. As a result of the success of the storybook on the trail event that was held in Globe in year one, the team will now be offering a similar trail event for the Payson community. The goal is to increase trail utilization as a great free physical activity opportunity for Gila County residents and also try to connect trail activities with young children so that they foster an appreciate for outdoor active play. This aligns well with the Adventure Payson efforts.

School Health: The SNAP-Ed team recently expanded our school health efforts with Payson High School, the Globe Unified School District, and the Miami Unified School District. The Payson High School efforts are focusing on a unique partnership with the High School Culinary program students connecting them with nutrition knowledge and fun interactive cooking activities.

The Globe Unified School District efforts are focusing on a partnership with the food service staff to increase awareness of their new and improved menu options, increase awareness of and participation in their new Grab N’ Go breakfast, and work towards making cafeteria design enhancements that support the “Smarter Lunchroom by Design” concepts.

The SNAP-Ed team designed and disseminated a food service survey for the Miami Unified School District that will inform the collaborative efforts of the SNAP-Ed team and the school district in offering students healthy options that better meets students’ demands and needs.
Program Highlights

Gila County Animal Care & Control

As part of the new marketing initiative for Gila County Animal Care & Control (GCACC), we launched a Facebook page January 26, 2017. The goal of the page is to enhance the image of the department, while encouraging responsible pet ownership. Along with this, we want to increase adoptions and reduce the need to transfer surrendered and stray animals to our partners.

Our first "pet for adoption" post was on May 15, 2017. Since then, we have experienced a huge increase in likes and page follows. We are experiencing a lot of "shares," which are crucial in helping us build our following. During the week ending June 11, 2017, we had a reach of 8,420 total with our posts. This compares to 66 for the week ending May 6, 2017. Since its launch, our monthly percentage of pet adoptions have increased up to 66%.

A few of our most popular posts have been: Meet Our Shelter Dog, Lacey the Lab, Give Your Pet, and Found Rottweiler. Meet Our Shelter Dog was for image building and reinforcement that we practice what we preach about responsible pet ownership and adoption. Lacey the Lab was a beautiful lab for adoption. Give Your Pet encouraged licensing, vaccinations, etc., while showing us as animal-loving. Found Rottweiler became a hit as the community rallied all night to help find the owner. We reunited him with his owner, who came into the shelter and said he learned that we had his dog on Facebook.

As with any new initiative, there is a lot of new work to be done. John Castaneda and Felicia Ihrig have worked very hard managing the flow of information. Felicia's great photography has been crucial in showcasing the pets and generating the interest. These both deserve huge thanks!

Meet KeeKe, our office cat! She was a one month old kitten impounded in to our shelter as a stray. During an afternoon kennel checks, we noticed she wanted our attention; we played with her, and fell in love with her. We decided to have her spayed and she is part of our daily routine at the shelter.

Meet Gila, our shelter dog! Gila was picked up and impounded as a dog at large. Upon speaking with her owners, we were asked to keep her. She was untrained; however, now. Although she resisted training initially, through the use of treats and a K9 officer assisting with her training, she has quickly learned and has become the face of GCACC. She is sweet and kind; we couldn’t ask for a better dog!