Arizona Department of Health Services

2012 Annual Report

Arizona Department of Health Services

Will Humble, Director

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Office of the Director

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Health and Wellness for All Arizonans
June 11, 2013

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer  
Governor of Arizona  
State Capitol  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

President Andy Biggs  
Senate President  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Speaker Andy Tobin  
Speaker of the House  
Arizona House of Representatives  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Brewer, President Biggs, and Speaker Tobin:

In accordance with ARS 36-137, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Arizona Department of Health Services for the year 2012.

Over the course of last year, the Department undertook significant projects aimed at reducing regulatory burden, integrating behavioral and physical health through licensure and through our behavioral health contracts, and we continue to strive to be a leader in public health nationwide.

Rather than issue an annual report that merely summarizes other agency reports, I want to provide you with highlights and with direct links on the work the Department has completed in 2012.
Over the last year, the Arizona Department of Health Services had many accomplishments.

- Inspected hundreds of Nursing Homes (Long-term Care), Assisted Living Facilities, Medical Facilities, Behavioral Health Providers, and Child Care centers and homes to make sure that folks are being treated right and have a safe environment.
- ADHS continues to work with stakeholders and licensees to currently revise the health care institution rules to allow both behavioral and physical health to be provided at a single facility.
- The State Hospital embarked on a culture of care initiative to improve patient care and increase positive outcomes. This included reviewing and revising clinical programs and processes, revising staff roles and responsibilities, recruiting and retaining talented staff, increasing productivity and improving communication, collaboration and creativity.
- Trained over 1,000 Arizonans from all walks of life on how to identify signs of possible mental illness and connect people with professional help through Mental Health First Aid.
- ADHS, in conjunction with the March of Dimes and the Arizona Perinatal Trust, launched a new Healthy Babies campaign. Through the promotion of the March of Dimes 39-week Toolkit, 90 percent of all APT-certified hospitals have agreed to put a stop to allowing elective inductions and C-sections prior to 39 weeks.
- The Bureau of Tobacco & Chronic Disease, in collaboration with the EMS SHARE Program, launched an initiative to implement trainings for modifying the 911 protocols related to suspected cardiac arrest. Based on early findings from the pilot programs, it is anticipated that dispatcher training and revised 911 protocols will result in as many as 1,000 more survivors of cardiac arrests per year.
- The Bureau of Health Systems Development launched an interactive mapping tool that allows users to search for the nearest Sliding Fee Scale Clinics.
- ADHS completed rulemakings for Group Homes for Individuals Who Are Developmentally Disabled, which removed outdated or overly burdensome requirements to lessen the regulatory burden for stakeholders and reduce costs and Hospitals Providing Psychiatric Services, which eliminated the dual licensing requirements for hospitals that provide organized psychiatric services.
- ADHS began working towards becoming nationally accredited. National Public Health Accreditation verifies the provision of the ten essential public health standards through
quality improvement initiatives. Oversight and guidance for this effort is being provided by the Managing for Excellence program.

- ADHS has developed a Continuous Quality Improvement Program to support the Governor’s Four Cornerstones of Reform as we work to develop metrics to track and monitor our agency’s progress.

- The Smoke-Free Arizona Program celebrated the 5 year anniversary of its successful implementation on May 1, 2012, as detailed in the 2012 Smoke-Free Arizona Annual Report.

- Beginning in 2012, all Arizona's licensed childcare providers and facilities will include the SunWise Program. More than 2000 providers state-wide will be implementing policies to ensure students and staff is protected from harmful UV radiation.

- The Department investigated two large outbreaks of botulism in the state in 2012. During these outbreaks, 12 inmates developed botulism and required hospitalization after consuming prison-brewed alcohol.

- Arranged a statewide assessment of our trauma system by the American College of Surgeons.

- Arizona became one of only a few states to have all county health departments recognized by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR).

- Published the first Annual Medical Marijuana Report after the initiation of the program and an End of Year Report for 2012.

- Published the first comprehensive 2011 Abortion Report.

- Arizona Biomedical Research Commission drafted its first strategic map, created and approved a new mission statement, funded critical research in Arizona, and collected and provided over 1200 cord blood units into the National Marrow Donor Program Registry.

- In 2012, 87,274 babies were born in Arizona. Of those, 96% were screened for 28 metabolic disorders by the newborn screening program, and 99% received a hearing screening at the hospital. 131 infants were diagnosed with congenital disorders and received treatment in a timely manner.
Here are the eight topics required by statute in the Annual Report.

- Each year, ADHS compiles the Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics Report with information on vital statistics and the health status of Arizona residents.
- In addition to the highlights previously outlined, the activities of the Department are chronicled on the Director’s blog.
- County Public Health Departments continue to serve a vital role in public health and had many accomplishments in 2011.
- ADHS monitors and tracks various diseases throughout the state.
- Public health expenditures by the state and counties add up to millions of dollars.
- Obesity remains the largest public health threat to Arizona.
- The Arizona State Hospital serves an important role for the Department.
- The functions of CRS were successfully transferred to AHCCCS in 2011.

There is much more information available about the Department on our website at www.AZDHS.gov. Please feel free to explore the online content for each of our Divisions and the many programs that we provide for the people of Arizona.

Sincerely,

Will Humble
Director, ADHS