

Director's Update to the Board of Health January 2024

Protecting Health – Preventing the Spread of Infectious Disease

Winter Maladies in General

Flu is rapidly increasing across the country and the state. RSV is showing a slight decline, and COVID is slightly increased nationally and locally. All three of these viruses are preventable and MPHD recommends getting vaccinated/boosted as soon as possible to prevent severe illness. Vaccines are widely available including at MPHD. In the meantime, to reduce the chance of spread consider the usual mitigation strategies: Stay home if you are sick, wear a mask in crowded areas, and socially distance.

RSV Specifically

Starting this week all three preventive health sites began offering pediatric RSV vaccine, Nirsevimab. RSV is one of the most common causes of childhood respiratory illness. It is the leading cause of hospitalization among healthy term infants. Premature infants are three times more likely to be hospitalized for RSV. Nirsevimab is a monoclonal antibody product that provides passive immunity. While not technically a “vaccine” in a traditional sense (active immunization), it is being used in a manner similar to routine childhood vaccines and may be referred to as a vaccine or “immunization” by some entities. This vaccine is available to children entering their first RSV season or those 8-19 months old who are at an increased risk of severe RSV disease and entering their second RSV season. Any interested parent should call the health department with any questions and to schedule an appointment.

Creating Healthier Community Environments

MACC

Metro Animal Care and Control participated in the annual Operation Silent Night event this holiday season, joining Williamson County Animal Center and Nashville Humane Association in the yearly mission to find foster homes for as many dogs as possible over the holidays. This year MACC placed 32 dogs in foster homes as part of Operation Silent Night. Several of those dogs who were placed in foster care were adopted by their foster families, while others were returned to the shelter less stressed and ready to find their adoptive home.

MACC II

MACC director Ashley Harrington and Environmental Health Bureau Director John Finke participated last week in what seems destined to become the first of numerous meetings of the Metro Council's newly created Pet Working Group. The highlight of which (see video) was the reunion of Barrett and Bennett, two dogs removed from a home where they were effectively being starved to death, especially Bennett (the lighter brown one). The working group, which boasts roughly eight to 10 council members, is focused on funding and resources for MACC, a review of state and local ordinances and how they can be strengthened, expanding foster care and adoption, and other issues of interest and import to the animal control operation.

Video link of Barrett and Bennett's reunion:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/0ix7h75aoc0me60jy9u0v/IMG_2974.MOV?rlkey=t0a9b5r9sc52iv8aylybylhlo&dl=0

MACC III

Some 2023 year-end numbers:

- Animal intake 5,013
- Adoptions 1,966
- Animals returned to home 1,022
- Animals pulled by rescue partners 1,126

Improving Health - Services to Individuals & Families

WIC

The WIC staff continues awaiting the outcome of the federal budget imbroglio, hopefully before the January 19 deadline. In addition to our standard funding, the outcome also could impact the extra financial support we have been able to give WIC families for fruits and vegetables specifically. Continuing resolutions have allowed WIC to increase a child's allotment for fruits and vegetables from \$9 a month to \$26 a month, and for pregnant women the amounts increased from \$11 to \$47. We are hopeful the budget decision will continue these increases until permanent legislative changes can be made in WIC's federal regulations.

Improving Access to Healthcare

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

MPHD will participate in Cervical Cancer Awareness month by hosting a "Free Pap" day for individuals who for physical or age-related reasons are not covered by family planning funding, as these services still can be covered under Breast and Cervical Screening funding. Details for the event are listed below:

- What: Screening with cytology (Pap smear) and/or for the Human papilloma virus (HPV) (depending on age) for eligible patients
- When: Tuesday, January 30th, 2024
- Where: Lentz Public Health Center Preventive Health Clinic, Suite 120
- Who Is Eligible:
 - Tennessee Residents
 - Females or transgender males
 - Those meeting clinical and age requirements for cervical screening (21 – 65)
 - Those not currently receiving treatment for cervical cancer
 - Those with income at or below 250% of Federal Poverty Level for family size
 - Uninsured
- Cost: FREE for qualifying patients
- Contact: To Schedule an Appointment, call 615.340.0391

Note: Walk-ins may be seen based on availability.

Organizational Updates

Safety Specialist

Our new (and first) full-time Safety Specialist is Todd Baker.

When he has been able to fit us into his schedule between extended bouts of fishing, Todd has worked for the department almost 20 years. Prior to joining the Human Resources group, Todd worked in

Emergency Preparedness. In his new role he will coordinate and facilitate training for front-line staff on safety related issues, active shooter response, de-escalation techniques for crisis situations, and any other related concerns. Additionally, he will be the designee for the enforcement of the Substance Abuse and Random Drug screening processes, and IOD.

Connections

For over a year we have been attempting to partner with our next-door neighbor, Dismas House. Last month, we (Christine Fouch and Sherronda Broughton) were able to work out the kinks and were granted permission to provide education and STI testing at their site. They did this after hours and after dinner, when the majority of Dismas' clients had returned from work. The gentlemen were welcoming, and hope this will become a regular outreach event. We detected several positive labs and gave treatment in a timely manner. Prior to this, the men had to ride the bus to get their prescriptions filled. The health department was complemented, and Christine heard several times how convenient it all was.

Christine reports: "This made me proud to see the difference we are making in the community."



MACC STATS DECEMBER 2023

METRO NASHVILLE
ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

		Species							Totals	
		Canine			Canine Totals	Feline				Feline Totals
		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		
Beginning Animal Count as of 12/01/2023		161	17	0	178	36	71	1	108	286
I N T A K E S	Stray/At Large	245	45	3	293	43	33	6	82	375
	Transferred in from Municipal Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Transferred in from Other Rescue Group	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Owner Requested Euthanasia	4	0	0	4	2	0	0	2	6
	Relinquished by Owner	10	1	0	11	5	3	0	8	19
	Other Intakes	12	3	1	16	9	0	0	9	25
	Total Intakes	271	50	4	325	59	36	6	101	426
O U T C O M E S	Adoptions	77	22	0	99	43	48	0	91	190
	Returned to Home	74	6	3	83	3	0	0	3	86
	Transferred to Rescue Group	61	27	0	88	21	11	1	33	121
	Other Live Outcomes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Return to Field	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Live Outcomes	212	55	3	270	67	59	1	127	397
	Died in Care	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	3
	Lost in Care	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Euthanasia	69	1	1	71	4	3	2	9	80
	Owner Requested Euthanasia	4	0	0	4	2	0	0	2	6
Total Other Outcomes	74	1	1	76	7	4	3	14	90	
Total Outcomes	286	56	4	346	74	63	4	141	487	
Ending Animal Count as of 12/31/2023		148	9	0	157	24	41	3	68	225
Save Rate		73.78%	98.00%	75.00%	77.57%	91.23%	88.89%	50.00%	87.88%	80.00%



NFHS Basic Data Matrix Deceased Animal Intake Only

12/01/2023 and 12/31/2023

		Species							Totals	
		Canine			Canine Totals	Feline				Feline Totals
		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		
Beginning Animal Count as of 12/01/2023		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
I N T A K E S	Stray/At Large	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
	Transferred in from Municipal Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Transferred in from Other Rescue Group	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Owner Requested Euthanasia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Relinquished by Owner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Intakes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Intakes		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1



2023 MACC STATS

METRO NASHVILLE
ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

		Species							Totals	
		Canine			Canine Totals	Feline				Feline Totals
		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		
Beginning Animal Count as of 01/01/2023		155	3	0	158	17	19	0	36	194
I N T A K E S	Stray/At Large	2605	387	78	3070	401	728	30	1159	4229
	Transferred in from Municipal Shelter	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	2
	Transferred in from Other Rescue Group	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Owner Requested Euthanasia	83	1	3	87	8	0	0	8	95
	Relinquished by Owner	196	27	7	230	88	75	7	170	400
	Other Intakes	170	48	17	235	32	17	2	51	286
	Total Intakes	3054	464	106	3624	529	821	39	1389	5013
O U T C O M E S	Adoptions	912	212	0	1124	287	555	0	842	1966
	Returned to Home	872	43	45	960	50	7	5	62	1022
	Transferred to Rescue Group	677	154	27	858	128	129	11	268	1126
	Other Live Outcomes	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	3
	Return to Field	6	0	0	6	1	0	0	1	7
	Total Live Outcomes	2469	409	72	2950	466	692	16	1172	4124
	Died in Care	6	0	1	7	4	35	1	40	47
	Lost in Care	6	1	0	7	1	0	0	1	8
	Euthanasia	541	7	30	578	66	49	19	134	712
	Owner Requested Euthanasia	80	0	3	83	8	0	0	8	91
Total Other Outcomes	633	8	34	675	79	84	20	183	858	
Total Outcomes	3102	417	106	3625	545	776	36	1357	4982	
Ending Animal Count as of 12/31/2023		148	9	0	157	24	41	3	68	225
Save Rate		81.41%	98.28%	69.90%	83.28%	86.37%	89.77%	48.72%	87.33%	84.42%



NFHS Basic Data Matrix Deceased Animal Intake Only

01/01/2023 and 12/31/2023

		Species							Totals	
		Canine			Canine Totals	Feline				Feline Totals
		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		Adult	Up to 5 Months	Unknown Age		
Beginning Animal Count as of 01/01/2023		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
I N T A K E S	Stray/At Large	8	2	1	11	3	4	8	15	26
	Transferred in from Municipal Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Transferred in from Other Rescue Group	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Owner Requested Euthanasia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Relinquished by Owner	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	3
	Other Intakes	3	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	4
Total Intakes		13	2	2	17	4	4	8	16	33

https://www.nashvillepost.com/business/health_care/metro-seeks-partner-for-opioid-programs/article_0ecef12-afbc-11ee-aac4-1ffed7b0b109.html

Metro seeks partner for opioid programs

Pilot to focus on recovery in incarcerated, recently hospitalized populations

HANNAH HERNER
JAN 10, 2024

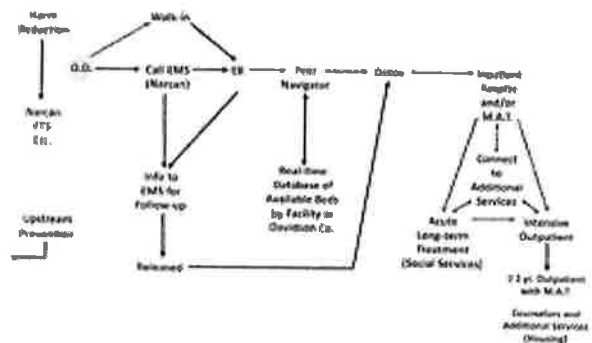
Metro is looking for a partner organization or two to head up a 15-month pilot program and begin spending opioid abatement funds locally.

The Metro Public Health Department issued a request for proposal last week. The program will target 50 to 60 individuals who were formerly incarcerated, recently administered naloxone or hospitalized, connecting them to various recovery services. The program does not have a set budget, though it will use a portion of **\$23 million in opioid abatement funds** the city is slated to receive in the next 18 years as part of settlements from various lawsuits against companies that made, distributed or sold opioid painkillers.

The RFP is set to close Jan. 23, and the Metro Council will need to approve the chosen organizations.

The pilot program will abide by an "Opioid Care Process," a flow chart that starts with an overdose and ends with inpatient respite, **medication-assisted treatment**, acute long-term treatment and/or intensive outpatient services. The outlined process also includes peer navigators who are tasked with creating and using a real-time database of available treatment beds in Davidson County.

Opioid Care Process



Courtesy of Metro Public Health Department

"We are looking forward to seeing the submissions our community has offered to aid in tackling the overdose crisis," Gill Wright, Metro Public Health director, said in a statement to the *Post*. "Properly addressing the problem will take creativity and a willingness to take a new

approach, something this RFP encourages. We eagerly await the start of the work on this pilot project in the hope that 2024 will see fewer overdoses amongst our family members, friends and neighbors.”

In the first and second quarters of 2023, there were 170 and 188 drug overdose deaths, respectively, **in Davidson County**. In the third quarter, 77 overdose deaths were suspected in addition to 85 confirmed, accounting for nearly 500 deaths in 2023 before fourth quarter results were released. The number of deaths has increased in the past three years.

Nashville’s plan is a good one, said Stephen Loyd, chair of the Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council. He’s a proponent of medication-assisted treatment and peer recovery, as someone who is in recovery himself. He also supports the focus on incarcerated individuals, who are especially likely to suffer from substance abuse disorder, and those who recently survived an overdose.

“When I look at what Davidson County has done and the plan that they came up with — it’s solid,” he said. “It’s evidence-based and I think it’ll make a difference.”

Metro can also request additional funds from the Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council, which is anticipated to receive more than \$600 million in the next 18 years. As of the council’s October meeting, there is \$95 million in the state’s bank account. The state’s grant process, **which opened in September** and closed Oct. 16, garnered 396 applications, which are still being scored, Loyd said.

“I’ve been very vocal about wanting an abundance of urgency,” he said. “I hear an abundance of caution, but what about an abundance of urgency? There has to be a balance there. I’m pretty pleased with where we are right now.”

Hannah Herner



Council Members

As established by the Tennessee General Assembly in statute, the Council is to have 15 members appointed by the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the House Speaker, the Tennessee County Services Association, and the Tennessee Municipal League. The Commissioner of TDMHSAS also serves on the Council as a non-voting member. Click on the names below to learn more about the members, their background, and their appointing authority.

- ✓ [Dr. Stephen Loyd – Cedar Recovery – Council Chair](#)

- ✓ [Charme P. Allen - Knox County District Attorney General](#)

- ✓ [Brian Buuck – Ridgeview Behavioral Health Services](#)

- ✓ [Casey Cox – Cumberland County Sheriff](#)

- ✓ [Thomas Farmer – Tennessee Bureau of Investigation](#)

- ✓ [Mike Flynn – Blount County District Attorney General](#)

- ✓ [Armando Fontes – Cocke County Sheriff](#)

- ✓ [Dr. Timothy Fournet, MD FACC – Cookeville Cardiologist](#)

- ✓ [Dr. Clay Jackson – West Tennessee Physician](#)

- ✓ [Dr. Ken Moore – Franklin Mayor](#)

✓ Karen Pershing – Metro Drug Coalition, Knoxville

✓ Judge E. Shayne Sexton – 8th Judicial District

✓ Lisa Tipton – Families Free

✓ Wayne Wykoff – Knoxville Attorney

✓ Stephanie G. Vanterpool, MD, MBA, FASA – UT Medical Center
