

Accomplishments told

By Karen Krien

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Mila Bandel, county health nurse, and Amanda Jensen, Healthy Start Home Visitor, were at the Monday Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting. They told about the many accomplishments in the county health department in the last 13 months and their plans for the future.



Bandel



Jensen

School nurse

When school started, Mrs. Bandel took on the job of school nurse at the Cheylin Schools in Bird City. Working only on Mondays, she said that anyone who thinks that the job is a band aid center needs to follow her around.

She conducts screenings throughout the years and keep students up-to-date on vaccinations and says she loves being a school nurse and working with the students and staff.

Other programs

Another program the county health staff works with is the Primary Care Clinic Grant—Charity Care/Case Management. The program is set up through the hospital to work to improve access for financially challenged individuals and families with medical care concerns. Emphasizes are on prevention, education and wellness of health care. It is done in an effective and timely manner to control and reduce long-term costs that pile up through hospital fees.

Mrs. Bandel's duties are focused on nursing duties while Mrs. Jensen's duties include the financial end.

Building patient encounters

The county health department was closed for a short time until Mrs. Bandel was hired for the county health nurse. In the last 13 months, they have had 2,333 patient encounters through some type of educational programming, school enrichment programs, health screening and appointments, to name some.

While the office was closed, they lost some clientele due to the childhood immunization from ages 0 to

5 years of age which were moved to the clinic as well as the Kan Be Healthy program.

This, she said, has caused the county health's volume to decrease in the aspect of immunizations for that age range. We still do school ages and adult vaccines, she said.

Jane Young, board member, asked if the two programs would come back to the department now that it is back up and running. Les Lacy, administrator, said he doubted it as when the children are seen in the clinic, it is considered a patient-doctor visit which helps the clinic.

Kari Gilliland, board member, pointed out that there appears to be some inconsistencies in the costs of children's vaccinations because they are no longer able to get them in the county health department. She wondered why? Mr. Lacy said he didn't have the answer but would get back to her.

Mrs. Gilliland said that there are people who are comparing prices in neighboring counties and she would hate to see the clinic lose these people.

Other services

The county health department helps with health screening, works with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and clients on spreadable diseases such as salmonella, campylobacter, hepatitis, H1N1; environmental hazards, early detection of breast and cervical cancer with screenings; and health fairs.

The staff also works with the emergency preparedness/bioterrorism planning. Last year, Mrs. Bandel planned and conducted a mock emergency and hopes to keep emergencies as "mocks" not real incidents. However, she noted that the mock clinics help if there would be a real emergency.

In the future, the staff plans to add more educational programs by coordinating with the medical providers and setting up mini clinics. She pointed out that one suggestion will be a clinic to help those taking coumadin.

Mrs. Bandel said there are times when people need to know when it is time for nursing home care. There is also a need for education on family planning.

Challenges

They found some of the challenges in the last year was operating with new personnel and making the necessary reports to the state.

"We are a small personnel department with a big subject matter area to conduct," Mrs. Bandel concluded.

For more information on programs, vaccines, or to have blood pressures taken, just to name a few, contact the county health department at 332-2381 in St. Francis.

Also watch for "Moments With Mila," the column written by Mrs. Bandel which is printed periodically in both *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*.



COSTUME PARTY – Kate Jenkins entertained the Red Hat ladies at her home Saturday for a costume party. Sally Wieck (Bud Light) and Nancy McCumber (World Traveler) (top) Ruth Reynolds (witch) (above right) and Madeleine Roberson (Miss Piggy) (above left) came in their best costume.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Student presents vocal concert at college

Colby Community College soprano Katherine Jones will be presenting a sophomore vocal recital at 4 p.m. today (Thursday) in the Frahm Theatre located in the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby college campus. She will be accompanied by vocal music director, Dr. Philip Shuman.

Admission is free and the public is welcome.

The 30-minute recital will feature works by G. F. Handel, W. A. Mozart, G. Puccini, V. Williams, Samuel Barber, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Mary Rodgers.

Jones is a graduate of St. Francis Community High School and is currently in her second year at Colby Community College.



Jones

She is a member of Concert Choir and Sunflower Singers. She also plays flute in Concert Band.

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For more details, contact Casey McCormick at the *Saint Francis Herald* at 785-332-3162
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