

ALABAMA'S

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HEALTH

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Update emphasizes the need to eliminate TB

Combating tuberculosis is important for the bottom line. That's the word Alabama industries need to hear. Members of a panel discussing TB contact investigations emphasized this and other recommendations at the Division of TB Control's statewide update March 20-21 in Montgomery.

Tate Gatlin, safety director of an Alabama poultry processing plant, said his company is fully acquainted with the disease, and with the influx of foreign workers, the company now requires pre-employment skin tests. Also addressing their experiences with TB contact investigations in a panel moderated by Jim McVay, Dr.P.A, were Gladys Deese, warden of Julia Tutwiler Correctional Facility; and Greg Walker, media relations director for Spring Hill College.

Tuberculosis control is a core public health program, one which has achieved a 52 percent reduction in the past 10 years from 487 cases in 1993 to 233 in 2002. This success has been felt nearly equally in both white and African American communities. An important contributing factor to this decline in morbidity is Alabama's commitment to directly observed therapy.

Dr. Charles Woernle, assistant state health officer for disease control and prevention, stated, "Given the compelling link between the decline of morbidity and the services you provide in the field, I would like to reiterate something that Dr. Williamson said—that we remain committed to providing medication for all TB patients and resources for DOT."

Greg Locklier, J.D., assistant general counsel, made a presentation on confidentiality, incarceration and liability. The major areas he discussed included records and

information, involuntary commitment/incarceration, liability issues, policies such as HIPAA, and the need to provide complete and consistent documentation.

Dr. John Bass, chairman of medicine at the University of South Alabama Medical School, delivered a presentation titled, "Voodoo, Vampires and TB." He listed the many individuals throughout history from Cardinal Richelieu to Eleanor Roosevelt who have died from TB and recounted a history of how TB has affected mankind as evidenced in Egyptian mummies, to Hippocrates, to Anton Chekhov, to Walker Percy, to Vivien Leigh.

Nancy Brook, TB Division director, said in her closing remarks, "We lead the Southeast in TB control, but despite our success we have gaps and opportunity. With the help of our community partners, we can make our goal of eliminating TB. Now is the time to think of TB elimination."

The National Coalition for Elimination of Tuberculosis stated the following in a news release marking World Tuberculosis Day, March 24:

Globally there are almost 8 million new TB cases annually with over 2 million deaths each year. Over 80 percent of the world's TB cases occur in just 22 countries. In the United States, there has been a 5.7 percent decrease in tuberculosis cases for 2002, as reported by the CDC.

This decline is a stark difference from the late 1980's and early 1990's when there was a national resurgence of tuberculosis accompanied by outbreaks of deadly drug-resistant TB. A major cause for the TB resurgence was a deterioration of TB control programs in many parts of the

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nation. NCET, through coalition and partner efforts, secured the necessary support that reestablished control of the disease in the mid-1990s.

Coalition members are concerned that the national interest in TB has begun to wane in recent years. There is legitimate concern that public awareness of the problem may be diminishing and that communities may again dismantle their control efforts because of the fading concern and growing budget problems faced by many state and local governments. NCET believes we must never again allow a resurgence of TB in the United States. This time, we must eliminate the disease, not the TB control programs.

Tuberculosis in the United States can be prevented. In 2002, for the first time, over half of U.S. TB cases occurred in foreign-born individuals. Still, 49 percent of TB cases in the United States are “homegrown,” occurring in persons born here. The disease particularly affects the disenfranchised, minorities, homeless, prisoners, persons at risk for HIV/AIDS, health care workers, and inner city and rural poor.

In 2001, 30 percent of all TB cases in the United States occurred among black, non-Hispanic individuals, 25 percent of the cases occurred among Hispanics, 22 percent among Asian/Pacific Islanders, 21 percent among white, non-Hispanics, and about 1 percent among American

Indian/Alaskan Natives. TB is also a particular problem for the U.S. South.

The majority of cases in the southeastern states occur in non-Hispanic blacks. The annual case rates in most of these states are higher than the national average; 85 percent of the TB cases in these southeastern states occur in persons born in the United States.

The disease is not gone. The seeds of tuberculosis do germinate and appear in our communities. This happens every day. Outbreaks of TB infection and disease still occur all too often in communities throughout the nation, even in affluent, low-incidence communities. NCET believes this should not happen.

What does this mean? It means that

- Physicians must suspect TB in persons with symptoms.
- Laboratories must be available to identify TB in those persons.
- Quality medical care and treatment must be available for individuals with active TB disease and latent TB infection.
- Health department staff must be available to work with the medical community to make sure that everyone being treated for TB actually takes his or her medicine.

Alabama Department of Public Health

Mission

To serve the people of Alabama by assuring conditions in which they can be healthy.

Value Statement

The purpose of the Alabama Department of Public Health is to provide caring, high quality and professional services for the improvement and protection of the public’s health through disease prevention and the assurance of public health services to resident and transient populations of the state regardless of social circumstances or the ability to pay.

The Department of Public Health works closely with the community to preserve and protect the public’s health and to provide caring quality services.

ALABAMA’S HEALTH

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Donald E. Williamson, M.D. State Health Officer
 Jim McVay, Dr. P.A. Director, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease
 Arrol Sheehan, M.A. Editor
 Takenya Stokes, J.D. Contributing Editor
 Toni Prater Graphic Designer
 Marion Wilford Photographer

Informational materials in alternative formats will be made available upon request..

Wall mural at Cherokee County Health Department is designed for children

The new children's corner at the Cherokee County Health Department in Centre is brightened by a mural painted by Sheila Neumann of Gadsden. The attractive wall mural depicts animals and springtime scenes. The staff is grateful for Mrs. Neumann's talents and they are enjoying the lovely mural on the formerly bare wall.

Mrs. Neumann is the mother of Stacey Neumann, teen counselor. Stacey helped her mother both by keeping her company and painting some blue backgrounds while her mother painted the mural on a recent weekend.

"The staff gave me the idea of some of the things they

wanted and things they didn't want," Mrs. Neumann said.

The mural is painted with tempera and regular wall paints. Although she has experience in painting bedrooms and children's rooms and has also sold some canvas paintings, remarkably she has never studied art or even taken a class in painting.

Commenting on her talent, Mrs. Neumann said, "It's one of those things that is just God-given, I guess." The staff are in the process of creating a children's corner in the lobby waiting room which will offer a seating arrangement with a table, chairs and books for the many youngsters who are waiting for their appointments.

Honor Roll of Service Members



Last month the names of some Alabama Department of Public Health employees and many family members who were called to active military duty were listed in *Alabama's Health*. We would like to recognize them and express our gratitude to all of our employees, their spouses, parents and other family members for their sacrifices for our country.

Marion County Home Health/Life Care

Michael Stidham and William Dace Stidham
sons of Annette Stidham

Derrick Tice and Nicholas Tice
nephews of Sandra Harris

Riley Mills
first cousin of Shannon Sims

John Shotts
stepbrother of Shannon Sims

Shane Stidham
son of Evoyne Stidham
nephew of Bobbie Parker

Toby Humphries
nephew of Gayl Williams

Eric Colburn
son of Linda Colburn

Joseph Williams
cousin of Deborah Sullins

Chris Butler
brother of Shauna Trapp

David Gilbert
first cousin of Anna Robertson

Raymond T. Davis
brother-in-law of Donna Davis

Area 6

* Major Victor Rohler, Army Reserve,
801 CSH, Fort Stewart, Ga., and
Kuwait.
HHN V/CQ Area Educator, Talladega
County Home Health

* SSG Sharlee Bovan, Army, Fort
Polk, La.

Eugene Black, Air Force, Robbins
AFB, Ga.
brother of Ricky Black

Curtis Hines, Army, Kuwait
brother of Linda Thompson

Lester James McLain, SFC, Kuwait
brother of Wynette Burney

Fred Dwayne Williams

son of Bessie Williams, Army, Kuwait

Ricketha Powell
niece of Alva Phifer, Ft Benning, Ga.,
location unlisted

Aaron M. Causey
son of Brenda Causey, Navy, location
unavailable at this time

Makeshia Calhoun
niece of Janice Phillips, Army -
Seattle, Wash.

Dwight Lawson ,
cousin of Janice Phillips, Army,
Kuwait

Onawa and Ronnie Reyes, Marines,
Japan
niece and nephew of Patty Williams

Lafon and Selena Wright, Army,
Michigan
brother-in-law and sister-in-law of
Christy Wright

Andre' Wright , Navy, location
unavailable
brother-in-law of Christy Wright

Shameka Gravett, Army, Kuwait
Tekeisha Goggins, Niece's mother

Brian Miller, Special Forces - location

Service.....continued on page 9

Public health offices celebrate National Public Health Week 2003

The Alabama Department of Public Health celebrated National Public Health Week 2003 with a variety of activities. County health departments displayed yellow, blue and red fliers inviting viewers to get in shape for the future with healthy eating and active living. The posters also referred viewers to the Alabama Department of Public Health Web site.

Listed here are some of the county activities in observance of the week.

BUTLER

The theme for Public Health Week was “getting in shape for the future, healthy eating and active living.” Each child under 5 years was asked to name the dental moose. There were many interesting names from which to choose. The first place winner was Ashley McInvale with “Rocky the Moose.” Second place went to Jarquez Clark for “Harry,” and third place went to Jabreem Brantley for “Chuck.” Each child received a prize. The staff of the health department asked area businesses to donate items such as coupons for free food, discount coupons, and gift certificates to give to the participants. Everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by the health department staff. Door prizes were awarded each day.



CALHOUN

A table at the lobby entrance featured pamphlets addressing nutrition and exercise issues, and the National Public Health Week sign was on display at the information table. Cable Channel 9 aired a three-minute segment at the beginning and at the end of the local weekly broadcast on April 6. On April 7 employees wore ADPH tee shirts with the logo on the front and back of the shirts. On April 8 a brief segment aired announcing Public Health Week, discussing the issues, and describing why they are important. As a prop for the segment, a life-sized food model of the food guide pyramid was used on the local cable channel. Public

service announcements on three radio stations announced National Public Health Week and the availability of the pamphlets. At least 25 employees purchased tee shirts to honor Public Health Week.

CLEBURNE

Posters were displayed and pamphlets for services offered were made available. Melody Denton prepared a public health banner. The week wrapped up with juice and muffins donated by the staff and a more extensive pamphlet display in the front foyer for all clients who entered the building. Staff will also participate in a community-wide health fair which will offer blood pressure and hemoglobin checks, blood sugar and cholesterol screenings, a Red Cross blood drive, WIC displays, fingerprinting for children by the local Sheriff’s Department, promotions for ALL Kids, Plan *first* and teen case management by care coordinators, and many more booths provided by other Cleburne County agencies.

GREENE

Employees checked blood pressures and conducted other simple tests. The various programs of public health were explained and refreshments were served. Children enjoyed a contest in which they threw softballs through a board to win toothbrushes. A poster contest was sponsored with winners receiving large baskets full of prizes.

HOUSTON

Fruit baskets were presented to city and county officials, Dothan Head Start, and Dothan’s Boys and Girls Club. Staff talked with them about the nutritional value that fruits and vegetables add to their diet. Deep South Medical Equipment and Southern Respiratory donated fruit baskets. The department partnered with Flowers Hospital to provide information about Body Mass Index (BMI). The public was directed to Flowers’ interactive Web site to calculate their BMI. The Web site also provided access to physical activity and nutritional information. Flowers Hospital also displayed information promoting National Public Health Week. The Houston County Health Department partnered with local grocery stores. Store managers displayed balloons promoting National Public Health Week in the produce sections. Grocery store personnel were featured in the local newspaper displaying nutritional information as well as balloons promoting National Public Health Week. The local *Public Health Week*.....continued on page 5

Public Health Week.....continued from page 5

newspaper ran an excellent article for National Public Health Week with several photos of the health department personnel presenting fruit baskets to Dothan Head Start children and Dothan Boys and Girls Club in addition to local grocery store personnel. The Health Department foyer was impressively arranged displaying health education information. Local health vendors displayed their health-related information as well.

JEFFERSON

The Jefferson County Department of Health celebrated Public Health Week in a variety of ways. Sessions were held throughout the week to address key public health issues. Health officials, community leaders, the public and the media attended the sessions. At the opening session, State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson and Dr. Michael E. Fleenor presented addresses on the state of the health of Alabama and Jefferson County. Jefferson County Commission president Larry Langford and Birmingham Mayor Bernard Kincaid provided proclamations recognizing the week. Health professionals and community leaders attended. Public health awards were presented to persons, organizations and agencies that made outstanding contributions to protect public health in 2002. A panel discussion was added to conclude the opening ceremony. Local physicians, political leaders, hospital administrators and community activists were invited to speak on health care for the indigent. The audience participated in dialog with the panelists. Tuesday through Friday seminars featured leading authorities who provided updates on diabetes, tobacco prevention, smallpox, nutrition and physical fitness. Attendees were employees, community leaders and external representatives. Lunch was provided. Jefferson County Department of Health employees were invited to participate in a "hip hop" aerobics session led by a certified instructor. There was recognition of years of service, a special employee awards presentation, and a volunteer appreciation lunch for community leaders and agencies that made substantial contributions to public health in the previous year.

LAWRENCE

A weight club for employees began in February 2003. Participants weigh weekly. The employee pays one dollar for each pound gained. At the end of the month the employee who lost the most weight wins the money. So far a total of 18 pounds has been lost. Employees are urged to walk during lunch and on breaks.

LEE

Drs. Weese, Gropper, White and Crayton from the Department of Nutrition and Food Science at Auburn University are presently working to identify dietary and

lifestyle factors associated with the development of obesity in a group of elementary school children in Bullock, Macon and Wilcox counties. The prevalence of overweight (BMI greater than or equal to 95th percentile) and at risk for overweight (BMI 85 - 95th percentile) in this group of children is higher than the national average. Following identification of factors related to the children's increased body mass, intervention programs will be developed.

MACON

The Macon County Health Department held its first health fair on April 11 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. The following participated in this fair: ALL Kids, Macon County Extension Office, VOICES for Alabama's Children, Sickle Cell Association, Tuskegee Fire Department, Central Alabama Comprehensive Health,



Celebrating their first health fair are Macon County staff members Beatrice Thomas, chairperson; Wanda Wilson, co-chairperson; Floy Crowley, Sanquetta Foster, Delcenia Gray, Dolly Cardwell, Cynthia Winsley, Zelda Kitt, Vanessa Scott, Glenn Walker, Gus Ware, Gwendolyn Cox, Jennifer Kellon, Ethel Talley and Delores Calhoun.

STD Division, Family Planning, WIC, Environmental Health and the Immunization Clinic. Seven businesses, two churches and several individuals contributed to the fair's success.

MONROE

As part of the National Public Health Week observance April 7 through 11, 2003, the Monroe County Health Department set up information booths throughout the clinic for clients to browse as they came through the facility. The information booths contained the Guide to Services, health related pamphlets, health department service related pamphlets, immunization information, WIC

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Alabama's Click It or Ticket Campaign Begins

In these times of uncertainty, people become more concerned about safety matters. Yet many people still don't take one of the simplest, most effective steps to stay safe: Buckling up.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, fully 60 percent of the passenger vehicle occupants killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2001 were not wearing safety belts.

Teenagers and young adults are especially vulnerable. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people age 15 to 24 in the United States, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. And NHTSA reports that 63 percent of 16- to 20-year-old passenger vehicle occupants killed or seriously injured in crashes in 2001 were not wearing a safety belt. In Alabama 57 percent of vehicle occupants age 16- to 20- years-old, killed or seriously injured in crashes in 2001 were not wearing a seat belt.

Sometimes the fear of getting a traffic ticket is the only reason that someone will wear a safety belt. That's why state and local law enforcement officers in Alabama are joining the national 2003 Click It or Ticket Campaign that runs from May 19-June 1 and will aggressively ticket unbelted drivers and passengers.

Wear your safety belt every trip, every time. Or risk getting a ticket - especially May 19-June 1.

What Is Click It or Ticket?

It is a high-publicity law enforcement effort that gives people more of a reason to buckle up - the increased threat of a traffic ticket. Most people buckle up for safety. But for some people, it is the threat of the ticket that spurs them to put on a safety belt. In Click It or Ticket programs, law enforcement agencies are being asked to mobilize to focus on safety belt violations and publicize the stepped-

up effort through news media and advertising. It is the two-pronged approach that makes these campaigns powerful: Not only are tickets issued to unbelted motorists, but the surrounding publicity ensures that people know they are more likely to get a ticket.

What Role does ADPH play in the Campaign?

The Alabama Department of Public Health will conduct the observational surveys which measure the use of seat belts during the campaign. During the campaign, surveyors will be standing along state highways counting the number of drivers and passengers who are buckling up. Last year, the seat belt rate increased from 70 percent to 79 percent after law enforcement and educational efforts related to Click It or Ticket took place. ADPH also conducts various educational efforts throughout the year to educate Alabamians about the importance of seat belt and child restraint use.



Smoke alarm initiative reduces fire runs by 25 percent



Thomas Luke, city administrator, and Fire Chief Terry Peeler worked together to make the ASAI project a success.

Residents of Livingston are hearing fewer fire sirens these days as a result of the city's implementation of the Alabama Smoke Alarm Initiative. As part of the initiative the Livingston Fire Department visited over 1,000 homes, installing 200 alarms in the community, causing a reduction in fire runs from 100 in 2001 to 75 in 2002.

"The success of this initiative is the result of preparation, action and follow-up," said Thomas Luke, Livingston city administrator. "The attitude and rapport of the citizens was great about allowing our firemen into their homes, even helping to move furniture for installation of the alarms. And the fire department was great about keeping the mayor and the city council informed of their activities."

The Livingston Fire Department, which consists of four full-time fire fighters and 24 volunteers, started the smoke alarm campaign as part of the Alabama Smoke Alarm Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to increase fire education and to decrease fire incidences in Alabama, which is ranked among the top 10 states nationwide for fire-related deaths and injuries. The initiative collaborates with community fire departments and volunteers to install alarms, check existing alarms for safety and promote fire safety education.

Livingston Fire Chief Terry Peeler said the fire department focused not only on installation of fire alarms, but on education in the community, including local schools. "In the schools we tried to bring popular toys that the children would like and take home, like fire hats, megaphones and coloring books. It was also a way to reach parents who would ask their kids about the items and learn about the Alabama Smoke Alarm program," said

Chief Peeler.

The program was such a success in Livingston that people outside of the service community were asking to have smoke alarms installed. Retired Fire Chief John Snider was among the many residents who had a smoke alarm installed in his home. "I had a smoke alarm but the battery was dead and the volunteers came out and put a new smoke alarm in my home with the 10 year battery. The fire department has done a great job of raising awareness and education in the community. The more smoke alarms that are in homes, the better," said Snider.

"The volunteers put a smoke alarm in my mother's home. She is 83 and hard of hearing. She only had a smoke alarm in the kitchen, which is at the other end of the house where she can't really hear it. The volunteers installed an alarm near her bedroom where she can hear it better. Everyone should have more than one smoke alarm," said Mary Alice Snider.

Most homes have smoke alarms in the kitchen where it is most often tampered with. "Many people remove the batteries from the alarm in the kitchen to stop it from sounding off when they are cooking and sometimes never replace them," said Amanda Calhoun project manager of the Alabama Smoke Alarm Initiative.

The initiative is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and administered by the Alabama Department of Public Health, in conjunction with the Center for Community Health Resource Development at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the State Fire Marshal's Office.

"It was amazing to see some of the most expensive homes without a single smoke alarm. And because of the work of the fire department we have had 100 percent positive feedback from our citizens," said Luke.

By TAKENYA STOKES

Injury News

Published By

The Alabama Department of Public Health
Injury Prevention Division
Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease
Carol F. Mysinger, M.Ed., M.P.A.....Director

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Safety Division, Alabama Department of Economic
and Community Affairs

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information, assistance program information including Medicaid, Plan *first*, ALL Kids and the Pfizer Share Card.

MONTGOMERY

The Montgomery County Health Department recognized National Public Health Week with free lead screening-parent education, which targeted the 1-6 year old. The screening was held on April 10, 2003, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the atrium of the health department. This was a collaborative effort between the clinic staff and Angela Jenkins, lead coordinator. This was publicized with flyers throughout the health department, local businesses and daycare centers, radio/ television PSA's, ADPH photographer and local TV coverage on the day of the screenings. It was successful in that a lot of parents received information and seven children were screened. One of the children with a high lead level from a previous screening was recognized, and a needed follow-up sample was collected.

PERRY

The theme for Public Health Day, April 9, was overweight and obesity. Perry County Health Department conducted pressure checks, checks for body fat content, hemoglobin checks, immunizations, blood sugar checks, cholesterol checks and others.

RUSSELL

Sarah McCurry, nutritionist, Wanda Culpepper, clinic nurse; and Christopher Gresham, environmentalist; set up a display table at Chattahoochee Valley Community College in Phenix City. Their table displayed nutrition and health information,



brochures explaining the different services offered and provided

copies of the State of Alabama Employment Guide Book for merit system jobs along with the Web site address and state applications. Photographs were made.

SUMTER

The Sumter County Health Department conducted blood pressure checks, checks for body fat content, hemoglobin checks, tuberculosis skin tests, cholesterol checks, blood sugar checks.

TALLADEGA

The Talladega County Health Department in Sylacauga promoted National Public Health Week with fliers which were distributed to local newspapers and the TV station. Refreshments provided to the 30-40 participants included vegetable and fruit trays donated by a local store, a heart healthy dip made by a staff member, lowfat crackers, diet drinks and water. A resource table promoting services provided by the health department was set up. Information was provided from the American Heart Association, a physician-supervised weight loss center, the Diabetes Association, and local gyms. Participants signed in, were weighed, measured, their BMIs were calculated and they were counseled. They registered for door prizes obtained by public health staff including: several gifts of gym memberships, a basket containing pampering items such as candles, and a visit to a massage therapist. The American Heart Association donated tee shirts to the staff and to each person who received counseling from the nurse, and each was given a goodie bag containing measuring spoons, pens, pencils, a frisbee, tee-shirt, calendar,



educational material, drink mugs and 5 A Day bags. Children were provided crayons and coloring pages.

TALLAPOOSA

Tallapoosa County, Dadeville and Alexander City clinics celebrated Public Health Week by having "Appreciation Days" for clients. A Public Health Week display was set up in the lobby of clinics and offered literature pertaining to services, nutrition and exercise. Snacks were served and coloring sheets and crayons were given to the children. Both clients and employees responded favorably to the activities.

Service.....continued from page 3

unknown
cousin of Racine Waddell
Tim Parsons, National Guard (MP) -awaiting departure
brother in law of Rachael Hunkapiller
Ronnie Joiner, National Guard (Water) - awaiting
departure
cousin of Rachel Hunkapiller

Patrick Madrid, Army, Third Infantry, Iraq
Cousin of Jenny Adams

Jaime Tielbar, Army, Western Kuwait
cousin of Christi Norton

Adam King, Navy, Persian Gulf
nephew of Tonya Hudson

NaShonda Carter, Army, Kuwait
daughter of Marion Crumb

Area 9

Bryan Byrd, Senior Airman, U.S. Air Force
son of Helen Byrd, Clinic Nursing Supervisor, Escambia
County

Tom Mullins, Army, Iraq
son of Agatha Mullins, clinic nurse, Baldwin County

Clinical Laboratories

TSGT David Jackson, 232nd CBCS Air National Guard

Unit.
husband of Jodi Jackson, Quality Assurance Division
Family Health Services

Ed Stout, Helicopter Air Assault Unit, Army National
Guard,
husband of Laurie Stout, nurse consultant

*Mac Spurlin, 1670th Transportation Company, Army
National Guard, state Fluoridation coordinator

Immunization Division

SGT Chris Cummings, Army 101st, Kentucky
Son of Lucille Cummings

MSGT Morris Knight, Sr., Army, Fort Campbell, Ky.
Son-in-law of Lucille Cummings

Students take part in Escambia County health fair

The Escambia County Health Department recently held a health fair at Jefferson Davis Community College in Brewton. The event was sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa. Blood pressures were checked, height and weight measured, and these areas were highlighted: nutrition, environmental issues, ALL Kids, dental and STD/HIV. Over 100 college students and faculty visited the health fair. ADPH employees participating were as follows: Ricky Elliott, Jamie Manning, Tina Findley, Phyllis Redmon, Angie Rolin-Taylor, Kendall Bradley, Charles Mitchell and Victor Creagh (not pictured).



Setting your “Out of Office” Preferences

Many of you are taking advantage of the “Out of Office” feature found in Lotus Notes. In order to minimize the automatic response to broadcast e-mails, the *Computer Systems Center* would like for you to add certain exceptions to your “Out of Office” responses.

After opening your mailbox, go to **Tools - Out of Office**.

Your “Out of Office” dialog box will pop up.

1. Click on the “Exceptions” tab.

2. Under “Do not automatically reply to mail from these people or groups:” please add “ADPH - STATEWIDE BROADCAST,” “ADPH - RSA TOWER,” and “RSA TOWER.”
3. Under “Do not automatically reply to mail which is addressed to these groups:” please add “ADPH - STATEWIDE BROADCAST,” “ADPH - RSA TOWER,” and “RSA TOWER.”

You will find these in the ADPH address book. This prevents the “out of office” message from going to everyone who sends an e-mail to one of these groups.

Women’s Health Steering Committee meets

The Steering Committee of the Office of Women’s Health held its quarterly meeting and started the year with a prioritizing session March 14, led by Dr. Pete Ginter from the School of Public Health, University of Alabama at Birmingham. Overweight and obesity in women were identified as the leading focus of concern for 2003. The committee will direct attention to heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and nutrition while addressing the overweight and obesity issue.

During the meeting Belinda Miller, director of the Women’s Center at Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan, was installed as steering committee chairperson for 2003. Ms. Miller brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the position and states she feels “honored to serve in this capacity.”



Shown are, first row seated: Rep. Betty Carol Graham and Dr. Donald E. Williamson. Committee members are as follows: first row standing: Tabitha Johnson, Ellouise M. Cotton, Dianne Lollar, second row: left to right; Jodi Beauregard, Melissa Bishop-Murphy, Emily Hammack, Belinda Miller, Jessica Hardy, Marty Turnage, Harrietta Eaton, Martha Lavender, Kimberly Braxton-Lloyd, back row: Susan Gantt, Ashley Hodges-Segars, Pattisue Carranza, JoAnn Broadus, Becky Deviller, Michael O’Malley. Not shown are Cynthia Smith Cater, Groesbeck Parham, Kristin E. Johnson and Lea Wolsoncroft. For more information, a schedule of upcoming events and frequently asked questions check the Office of Women’s Health Web site at www.adph.org/owh.

Commendations

Health department employees who are listed here have received letters of commendation recently. To recognize other employees, please send letters through your supervisors or the state health officer to *Alabama's Health*.

Brenda Brugh

Phyllis Cleveland

Becky Garner

Terry Law

Center for Health Statistics

From Margy M. Trotter
Atlanta, Ga.

Shirley Coleman

Dorothy Harshbarger

Carlisha Lane

Wendy Washington

Center for Health Statistics

From Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Cox
Albuquerque, N.M.

Becky German

Center for Health Statistics

From Vicki Burt
Montgomery, Ala.

Elva Goldman

Rick Harris

Eddie May

Health Provider Standards

From Frank D. Holden
Montgomery, Ala.

Rick Harris

Health Provider Standards

From O.A., Pesnell, Jr.
Mobile, Ala.

Carolyn Harvey

Health Provider Standards

From Lorraine Naves
Address unlisted

Evelyn Jackson

Wendy Washington

Center for Health Statistics

From Carole Shaw Collier
Russellville, Ala.

Theresa Mulkey

Center for Health Statistics

From Deborah Hilley
Address unlisted
Roberta M. Perot
Irvington, Ala.

Kathie Peters

Center for Health Statistics

From Jennifer Sass
Dothan, Ala.

Joann B. Robinson

Center for Health Statistics

From Esther Andersen
Orange Park, Fla.

Rhonda Stephens

Albert Woolbright

Center for Health Statistics

From Phyllis Gilchrist
Melvin Maraman
Montgomery, Ala.

Al Stone

Center for Health Statistics

From Laura Gale
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Reginald Strickland

Center for Health Statistics

From Jennifer Taylor
New Philadelphia, Ohio

**Video Communications Division
Health Promotion and Chronic
Disease**

From the Honorable Bob Riley
Governor
Montgomery, Ala.

Charles Woernle, M.D.

Assistant State Health Officer
Disease Control and Prevention

From Dr. Barry A. Cox
Jacksonville, Ala.

Retirees

The following employees retired effective May 1.

Forrest Jones - Family Health Services

Barbara St. John - Lee County Health Department



May is Better Hearing and Speech Month, Bike Safety Month, National High Blood Pressure Month, National Sight Saving Month, National Trauma Awareness Month, Older Americans Month and Stroke Awareness Month.

Calendar of Events



May 14

Terminal Care for the Cancer Patient, Home Health Aide and Home Attendant Continuing Education, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Janice McIntosh, (334) 347-2664, extension 400.



May 21

The Psychology of Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication, 12:30 -2 p.m. ASTDPPHE Session from the 21st National Conference on Education and Health Promotion, San Diego, Calif. For more information contact Video Communication Division, (334) 206-5618.



May 22

SESSION 1 - Strategies for a Tumultuous Public Health Future,
SESSION 2 - The Politics of Food Choice, 12:30 -2 p.m. ASTDPPHE Session from the 21st National Conference on Education and Health Promotion, San Diego, Calif. For more information contact Video Communication Division, (334) 206-5618.



June 4

Serving HIV Infected Clients in Women's Health, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Annie Vosel (334), 206-2959.



June 6

Enhancing Stroke Treatment Systems, 1-3 p.m. For more information contact Janice Cook, (334) 206-5610.



June 11

Documentation Standards and Legal Issues in Women's Health, Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Annie Vosel, (334) 206-2959.



June 18

HIV Risk Assessment for Family Planning, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Annie Vosel, (334) 206-2959.



June 23

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Current and Future Challenges for Health Care Providers, Physicians, Nurses and other clinic medical staff, 12 noon - 1:30 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications Division, (334) 206-5618.



July 9

OSHA Infection Control Update, Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Debbie Thomasson, (334) 206-5648.