

Alabama's health

A publication of the Alabama Department of Public Health

ALL Kids Celebrates 10-year Milestone of Covering Alabama's Kids

More than 300 people attended a very special birthday celebration April 24 when the Children's Health Insurance Program celebrated its 10-year anniversary with style on the steps of the State Capitol. The event featured a full agenda which included addresses by Gayle Sandlin, who has directed the program since it began; Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer; a reading of an ALL Kids Day proclamation by senior advisor Twinkle Cavanaugh of Gov. Bob Riley's office; comments by Carol Hermann-Steckel, Medicaid commissioner;



Kathleen Ferrell presents a certificate to Gayle Sandlin, right, program director since its beginning.

and from Kathleen Ferrell, director of the State Children's Health Insurance Program of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The event concluded with a round of "Happy Birthday" in celebration of the 10 years and 350,000 birthdays that have been enjoyed to date by children enrolled in the program.

Dr. Williamson thanked present and former Alabama governors and legislators for "consistently and reliably" funding the program through the years. As a result, Alabama has enjoyed the third largest decline in percent of uninsured children in the nation. Seventy-five percent of uninsured children live in families below the federal poverty level. More than half of the uninsured children remain eligible for one of the child health programs.

Ms. Ferrell congratulated the program's success. She noted that now 90 percent of children have access to dental care,

an improvement over the 55 percent formerly with coverage. Leaders who were represented on the original work group also attended.

Students from Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church Kindergarten, Forest Avenue Academic Magnet School, Baldwin Middle Magnet School and Booker T. Washington Magnet High School added to the festivities by holding signs and banners marking the occasion. Vivian Mora, vice president of KPI Latino, provided a live remote broadcast of the event in Spanish for the Hispanic community. Portions of the news conference were uplinked for Alabama news media by the Video Communications Division.

Successes noted

More than 9 million American children are living without health insurance – more than the total number of first and second

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Public Health Social Workers, Supporters Recognized at Seminar

Four outstanding public health employees were selected as Public Health Social Workers of the Year for 2007. These individuals were recognized at the 15th Annual Public Health Social Work Seminar titled "There and Back Again: Dealing with Disasters," at the RSA Activity Center in Montgomery on March 7.

The 2007 winners were chosen from a pool of nominees in the categories of clinical, home care, community/outreach and social work manager.

Selected as the Public Health Social Worker of the Year for Clinic was **Kimberly Gordon**, L.B.S.W., social worker with the Family Planning and Patient 1st Program at the Butler County Health Department. Supporters stated that she "has the ability to relate to all citizens we serve," "gives the patients the respect they deserve and

desire" and "has an approachable personality which complements the compassion she has for her patients."

Social Work Manager of the Year honors went to **Stacy Methvin**, of the Elderly and Disabled Waiver/Maternity Program in Cullman County. Supporters praised this manager for caring about her clients as well as other care coordinators. Traits including compassion, dedication and leading by example were repeated in her letters of support.

having a smoke-free environment. She was praised for being "truly selfless" and displaying passion in all she does.



Joy Rhodes-Watkins, Community/Outreach Social Worker of the Year, is pictured with PHA 2 Social Work Director, Ross Hudson.



Social Work Manager of the Year Stacy Methvin is shown with Dolcie Hambrick and Ross Hudson.

Stacy Hill, L.B.S.W., of the Elderly/Disabled Waiver/Home Health Program in the Sumter County Health Department, was named Home Health Social Worker of the Year. She was praised for her positive attitude, "excellent rapport" with her patients and for leading community fundraising events.



Bettye Dawson, left, presents plaque to Kimberly Gordon.

Joy Rhodes-Watkins, L.B.S.W., public health social worker with the Tobacco Prevention and Control Division in Area 2, was named Community/Outreach Social Worker of the Year. Mrs. Rhodes-Watkins developed an excellent smoke free video and has presented this to elected officials and business owners throughout the area, educating them on the benefits of

Leslie W. Hay and **Darlene Smith**, both of Computer Systems Center, received recognition awards for their "tireless efforts" and outstanding work with the electronic case management system for the past five years. **Sally Palmer** was

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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
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- Noelle Ahmann** Graphic Designer

Area Administrator Martin Presented MASA Award

The Medical Association of the State of Alabama presented James R. Martin, Public Health Area 8 Area Administrator, with the William Henry Sanders Award for 2007 on April 13 in Birmingham. The award is presented to an outstanding person, lay or professional, engaged in full-time public health work who has served above and beyond the call of duty.

Martin has served the department in the Central Alabama region for more than 12 years. He has worked closely with physicians in the Montgomery County Medical Society throughout his tenure. The printed program praised Martin for "participating in numerous health initiative projects through the years" and continuing to help upgrade services provided by the county health office "making efforts, even at a time with less staff, more efficient and

productive. His colleagues regard him as an exemplary public health worker."

Martin chairs the Montgomery Area Community Wellness Coalition. Originally from Memphis, Tenn., he received a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a master of science degree in public administration from Troy State University.

Martin retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1993 having earned numerous military decorations including the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross.

The Sanders Award was created in 1966 in memory of William Henry Sanders, M.D., who served as Alabama's state

health officer from 1896-1917. The Medical Society of Montgomery County was responsible for his nomination. The award was presented at the MASA Annual Session at the Wynfrey Hotel.



James R. Martin receives Sanders Award.

Social Work, cont'd from page 2....

recognized for all the "wonderful work she does on behalf of case management staff."

Public Health Social Workers expressed their gratitude to **Gayle Sandlin**. She was recognized for her many contribu-

tions to Public Health, the community, and the social work profession.

The goal of the seminar was to prepare public health social workers to identify and respond to the unique needs of special populations in the event of a disaster, including stressors that the elderly and children experience in disaster situations, effective interventions and the need for psychological self-aid and care among themselves as first responders.

Highlighting the events were presentations by Lt. Col. (Retired) Bob Anderson and Dr. Robin Gurwitsch. Anderson received numerous honors and awards as an Air Force social worker and has worked with countless victims of terrorism and natural disasters. Dr. Gurwitsch specializes in work



Special recognition was given to Sally Palmer of the Health Marketing Division from the Social Work Division.

with children, particularly those considered at risk. Since the tragic bombing in Oklahoma City in 1995 she has devoted much time to understanding the impact of trauma and disaster on children.

A five-member panel of individuals from outside the department selected the award recipients.



PHA 7 Administrator Jackie Holliday and Assistant Area Administrator Ashvin Parikh are shown with Home Health Social Worker of the Year Stacy Hill.



Life Care staff honored Cheryl Glover by sending her flowers.

Home Attendant Becomes Heroine

time. She heard a scream coming from the bathroom and she immediately went to see about the daughter of her client. The family had no telephone, so Ms. Glover called 911 on her cell phone and started CPR on the tiny infant who was not breathing until she performed CPR."

Ms. Glover continued CPR, stayed on the phone and received instructions until the paramedics arrived. Sadly, the baby died in the ambulance en route to the hospital. The second premature twin was born at the hospital later, was flown from Muscle Shoals to a Huntsville hospital and died a few days later.

Ms. Jeffreys said, "She did all she could possibly do. Cheryl takes extra good care

of her patients and is one of our most loyal and dedicated employees. She does extra duty not for the glory, but from her heart. We have several home attendants that are that way, because sometimes they are the only people who come into these people's homes. Some of our patients are even bed bound and depend on their visits to live."

Home attendants cook, clean, perform general housekeeping and personal care services on their home visits to elderly and disabled patients. The Alabama Department of Public Health requires bi-annual recertification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation for all employees who work in patients' homes. Ms. Jeffreys was one of her employee's CPR instructors.

Home attendant Cheryl Glover is a health department employee who goes beyond the call of duty to assist anyone in need. When she was working in a patient's home during the first week of January her caring extended to assist a client's daughter in the emergency delivery of premature twins.

Supervisor Myra Jeffreys of the Colbert County Health Department said, "The Lord had her in the right place at the right

Foundation Honors Cancer Survivors

The Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF) is honoring cancer survivors across the nation on May 16, 2007. The LAF defines a survivor as anyone who is battling cancer: the person with cancer, a spouse or partner, a child, a friend, a parent or a caregiver. Survivorship begins

at diagnosis, and continues through treatment and beyond. Anyone who has had a cancer diagnosis is a survivor.

When he was 25, Lance Armstrong was diagnosed with testicular cancer and completed treatment in 1996. Through his journey, he realized that people need tools and information about physical, emotional and practical topics. Through his foundation and Web site at www.livestrong.org the LAF is providing resources for cancer survivors.

The LAF strives to give people the tools they need to face the challenges and changes from cancer. One tool is the LiveSTRONG Survivorship Notebook, designed to serve many different purposes such as reading about the experiences of other survivors,

keeping a journal of one's feelings, writing questions for the physicians, documenting the courses of treatment and keeping a record over a period of many years.

The ADPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (ACCCP) received 900 Survivorship Notebooks from the LAF last year and offered the notebooks to ADPH cancer survivors in the RSA Tower. In honor of LiveSTRONG Day 2007, the LAF has provided the ACCCP with sufficient notebooks to give to any ADPH staff member throughout the state. If you are an ADPH employee and would like a notebook, please call Rosanna Smith at (334) 206-5537.

During National Public Health Week in April the ACCCP recommended that cancer

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Katherine Hert holds the LiveSTRONG notebook.

Environmentalists Earn Top Certification

Public Health Environmentalist Tim Hatch has become one of few in the state to hold a special title. Hatch has recently become a registered environmental health specialist, making him 1 of 19 in the state. Individuals holding the REHS credential show competency in environmental health issues, the ability to direct and train personnel to respond to routine or emergency environmental situations, and the skill to educate their communities on environmental health concerns. Hatch joins fellow Public Health employee Carl Thornton with this distinction.

Although the certification is not required by the state of Alabama, Hatch felt that it was an educational asset that he could use in his daily work.

"My goal is to lead by example. This year I am president of the Alabama Environmental Health Association and AEHA's mission this year is to provide continuing education for our members that enhance skills while promoting high standards, professionalism and cooperation among government, industry and academia in environmental health. With the national movement of possible future accreditation of local and state health departments, having an environmental staff with nationally recognized credentials is a step in the right direction and provides credibility," said Hatch.

The exam covers general environmental health, food protection, waste water, solid waste, hazardous waste, emergency preparedness/disaster response, potable

water, vector control, waterborne illness (swimming pool sanitation), federal and state regulations, poisonous and toxic substances, radiation and air quality. Requirements to take the exam include being a member of the National Environmental Health Association and having a bachelor's degree or higher in environmental health or a closely related field. Currently, the test is not given in the state, but Hatch hopes to offer the opportunity for others to take the REHS exam at the 2008 Alabama Environmental Health Association Conference.

To maintain his credentials Hatch will have to receive 24 continuing education units over the next two years. For more information on the National Environmental Health Association, please visit www.neha.org.

Collaborative Project Reaches Mothers of Young Children

The Comprehensive Cancer program is collaborating with social workers in two public health areas to bring skin cancer protection messages to the mothers of young children. Social workers are delivering incentive items to homes of families of Plan *first*, Patient 1st and other programs when they visit in areas 3 and 6.

"I attended a social work meeting, and we found that our collaboration is a perfect fit since we have the same target audience for our messages," said Kathryn Chapman, Dr.P.A., program director. "We wanted to reach parents of young children and purchased items that we thought would appeal to new mothers such as bibs. For the social workers, having something to give their family during a home visit was helpful. They were happy to mention the importance of sunscreen on our behalf."

Popular items provided to mothers include bibs, temporary tattoos, rulers with sunscreen messages, lip balm "leashables" to clip where handy such as on diaper bag straps, and children's activity books about sun safety for coloring and play.

"Sixty years from now we hope to see a lower incidence of skin cancer in Alabama by promoting safe sun practices to young mothers today," Ms. Chapman said. "We have found these items appeal to our target group."

Another interesting partnership is with the Alabama Public Library Service. The Alabama Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition holds its meetings at the APLS facility, and members learned about public education activities provided to children and families through librarians throughout

the state. Now the libraries are distributing activity books, the Environmental Protection Agency's Sunwise DVD, rulers, mousepads and other items on behalf of the program. All of the items have the common theme: Alabama...Put on your Sunscreen and Smile. Health Educator Charlene Grace designed the curriculum, activity books, and incentives for elementary and preschool classrooms. It was a ready fit for the libraries.



Charlene Grace is shown with sun safety incentive items.

All Kids, cont'd from page 1....

graders in U.S. public schools. However, in Alabama, the number of children with health care coverage has grown significantly in the past decade since the inception of ALL Kids, Alabama's State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

Congress enacted the State Children's Health Insurance Program 10 years ago to provide coverage for children living in families earning too much for Medicaid, but not earning enough to afford private insurance. Alabama was the first state in the nation to have an approved SCHIP plan.

ALL Kids has provided comprehensive healthcare coverage to nearly 186,000 children, making a profound contribution toward reducing the number of uninsured children in the state. While the national child uninsured rate is currently 11.5 percent; Alabama's rate has continually declined from 15 percent prior to ALL

Kids and is now 7.2 percent, well under the national average.

Knoxye Williams coordinated the celebratory event, held during Cover the Uninsured Week, which included the production of anniversary T-shirts, a giant birthday card, colorful banners, presentations of framed invitations, and gifts of thank you bags for teachers and students.

For more information about ALL Kids in English and Spanish, call ALL Kids, toll-free, 1-888-373-KIDS (5437). Information is also available from the ALL Kids Web site at www.adph.org/allkids.



Employees of the Children's Health Insurance Program hold the banner in celebration of 10 years.

Breastfeeding Facts

Did you know....

Breastfeeding helps provide life long health benefits?

Breast milk contains the ideal balance of nutrients and is easily digested?

Breast milk contains substances essential for brain development?

Mothers who breastfeed do not have to drink milk to make milk?

Jackson County Designates Honorary Home Attendant

The Jackson County LifeCare Office staff bestowed official honorary home attendant status on Hope Lindbom, one of their patients whom they have been seeing five days a week since 2002. Through the years a mutual affection has developed, and Ms. Lindbom often pretended to be a home health attendant.

Public Health Area 2 Administrator Judy Smith said, "She is so in love with our staff and wants to be 'one of them,' so for her birthday they made her an honorary home attendant."

Hope turned 22 on March 23, and in recognition she was presented an "official" health department badge and assorted supplies. Vicki Lankford of Jackson County LifeCare said the staff has since presented their patient with a clipboard with a coloring book inside. She loves wearing the "scrubs" the staff have given her as well.

Life Care staff have come to the Lindbom residence three days per week and home health staff two days per week for the past five years. She is the daughter of Gary and Nadine Lindbom of Scottsboro.



Shown are Vicki Lankford, Hope Lindbom and Rosita McCamey.

Five ADPH Home Health Providers Listed in Top Tier of U.S.

Five home health subunits operated through the department are listed among the top 25 percent of all home health agencies within the United States.

The 2006 HomeCare Elite™ is the inaugural compilation of the most successful home care providers in the United States. This review names the top 25 percent of agencies whose performance measures in quality, improvement and financial performance are the best in the nation. Data used for this study was based on publicly available information.

Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer, said, "When given a choice, most sick or disabled people prefer to be cared for in their own home. In-home care enriches the lives of our patients and their family members by helping them maintain the highest possible level of independent living. We are pleased that HomeCare Elite acknowledged us with this distinction."

Recognized on this list were the following:

Lamar County Home Care in Vernon
Marion County Home Care in Hamilton
Northwest Alabama Regional Home Care in Sheffield
Talladega County Home Care in Sylacauga
Winston County Home Care in Haleyville

The Alabama Department of Public Health has been providing home health care in Alabama since the inception of the department, and Medicare-certified home health care has been provided since 1966.

"From the beginning of the requirement of quality improvement in home health, the Alabama Department of Public Health home health program has been a forerunner in the industry," said Janice McIntosh, director of the health department's Division of Home Care. "Gayla Hollis, QI consultant, has led our subunits in the quest to be the best we can be in quality and performance."

Grover Wedgeworth, state director of Home Care, added, "We are very proud of our subunits that are in the top 25 percent in the U.S.A. This commendation represents many, many months of hard work to attain this standard."

The mission of the Bureau of Home and Community Services is to ensure the delivery of compassionate and effective health care services in the home and community while striving to be consistently responsive and innovative in meeting the changing health care needs of Alabama citizens.

The Bureau of Home and Community Services provides quality and compassionate home health care to patients with Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance and those with no payment source.

Services available through home health include skilled nursing, home health aide services, medical social services, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. More information is available by visiting www.adph.org/homehealth/.

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*.

Viki Brant

Children's Health Insurance Program
*from Sandra Blakely
Eclectic, Ala.*

Reginald Strickland

Center for Health Statistics
*from the Hon. Charles Newton
Greenville, Ala.*

Georgia Reynolds

Center for Health Statistics
*from Louis F. McAboy
Novi, Mich.*

Geneva Thomas

Center for Health Statistics
*from Martha Gauntt Brannon
Talladega, Ala.*

Retirees

*The following employees
retired effective May 1:*

Marilyn Dean

Dale County Health Department

Elizabeth McInnis

Russell County Health Department

Cleve Money

Professional and Support Services

Gayle Sandlin

Children's Health Insurance Program

Thomas Snowden

Elmore County Health Department

EPA Recognizes Alabama for New Environmental Guidelines

Movement across the country is slowly recognizing onsite wastewater treatment systems as a viable and, often cost effective option to domestic wastewater treatment. The idea of onsite systems as a “temporary solution” until the central sewer is available is changing. It is becoming the system of choice. Nationally, about 18 million homes or 25 percent of the total homes are on onsite septic systems. In Alabama that number is closer to 50 percent. There is not enough money to sewer all these and often that is not the best choice anyway. Onsite wastewater is here to stay and is becoming big business. There are now in existence large management entities that are planning to manage large centralized onsite systems that treat and dispose of wastewater from whole subdivisions, and communities. This is a fairly new concept in the onsite industry termed “Onsite Management Entities.”

The Environmental Protection Agency traditionally has not regulated the onsite industry. In the past 10 years it has become aware of the importance of the onsite solution. As stated earlier, in previous years onsite systems were seen as a temporary solution to the “sewage problem” until the permanent sewer was installed. It has become apparent as more sewage is disposed of in rivers and streams, as

the large pipe infrastructure ages, and the demand for clean water grows, that rather than being a temporary solution it may be “the solution” to future “sewage asset opportunity.”

In recognition of this growing trend, and in an effort to raise the level of performance of onsite/decentralized wastewater systems through improved management programs, the EPA published the “EPA Guidelines for Management of Onsite/Decentralized Wastewater Systems.” Onsite/decentralized wastewater treatment systems include individual onsite or cluster wastewater systems, generally from individual dwellings, or groups of dwellings and establishments, which are located relatively close together. The guidelines contain a set of management levels, based on a comprehensive approach that relies on coordinating the responsibilities and actions among the state or local regulatory agency, the management entity and the system owner(s). A program’s designation increases progressively from Management Level 1 through Management Level 5, reflecting the increased level of management activities needed to achieve water quality and public health goals.

The state of Alabama has adopted the EPA Voluntary Guidelines through new departmental onsite regulations, the

recently adopted Management Entity (Management Level 5) Legislation, the new professional licenses requirements of those in this field, and the efforts of Alabama Department of Environmental Management in permitting and basin planning.

EPA recently recognized Alabama with an award and letter that named the state as one of eight in the nation that has adopted the voluntary guidelines. The letter in part thanked Alabama “for its dedication and commitment to protecting human health and the environment through the adoption of EPA’s Voluntary National Guidelines for Management of Onsite Wastewater Systems.”

By Jimmy Coles, Director of Community Environmental Protection



Coles is shown.

Facility, cont'd from page 4....

survivors request a LAF Survivorship Notebook to record their course of care so that, in the case of an emergency, information could be easily transported to a shelter or another residence. As a fortunate result of the information about the notebooks, Elaine Shaneyfelt from the Morgan County Home Health Office representing Area 2

Social Workers contacted the ACCCP and requested 100 of the free notebooks to give to their clients. If you are a county health department employee and you would like a shipment of notebooks for your clients please call Katherine Dixon Hert at (334) 206-5316 or e-mail her at katherinehert@adph.state.al.us.

The ADPH Warehouse currently has 300 notebooks remaining and is able to ship the notebooks directly in bulk to county health departments, hospitals or clinics where health providers have a ready clientele to receive them. The LAF has an ample supply of notebooks and can ship as many as Alabama needs.

By Kathryn Chapman, Dr.P.A.

County, Area, and State Health Offices Join Partners in Urging Preparedness During National Public Health Week 2007

Widespread news media coverage was enjoyed as Alabama observed National Public Health Week, April 2-8. As part of the weeklong observance, themed "Preparedness and Public Health Threats: Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation's Vulnerable Populations," communities across the state explored ways to connect vulnerable populations with resources to help them prepare for health emergencies.

Especially targeted were mothers with children in the household, schools serving children in kindergarten through 12th grade, and people with chronic illnesses such as diabetes and asthma

Activities included the following:

- On April 2, partners including the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Alabama Partnership for Children, Alabama Chapter--American Academy of Pediatrics, Alabama Department of Human Resources, KPI Latino, and many work units within the health department including the bureaus of Emergency Preparedness, Family Health Services, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease, and the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, focused on preparedness activities for mothers with children at home.



The Center for Emergency Preparedness demonstrated its medical station on the State Capitol grounds.

- Pediatric offices, childcare centers, and offices of the Departments of Human Resources and Public Health displayed posters, distributed educational materials and held workshops. Preparedness materials were included in parenting kits distributed by hospitals to new families at birth through the Alabama Partnership for Children. Pediatricians appeared on television talk shows and pediatric offices distributed copies of booklets titled "Are You Ready?" and "How You Can Prepare for a Flu Pandemic" for their patients. Faith-based organizations were sent fliers for inclusion in church bulletins.

- The State Department of Education joined with the department to conduct a satellite conference/webcast on pandemic influenza April 2. The Video Communications Division hosted the satellite. The State Board of Education passed a resolution in support of National Public Health Week. An article was included in the April issue of Alabama Education News.

- The Video Communications Division also recorded and duplicated public service announcements cautioning the public to prepare for emergencies.

- Alabama Department of Public Health chronic disease programs presented diabetes pamphlets to health centers in Alabama communities. The Diabetes Branch and the Cooperative Extension System sponsored the Sixth Annual Alabama Diabetes and Obesity Conference April 4-5 at Auburn Montgomery.

- The Center for Emergency Preparedness deployed its medical station on the grounds

of the Capitol to familiarize elected officials, legislators and the public about the many medical possibilities that will be available in the event of an emergency. Approximately 300 people toured the display, including elementary and high school students, state employees, Auburn Montgomery faculty, legislators and the press.

- The department's Comprehensive Cancer Program encouraged persons with cancer or who have had cancer to order a copy of the Lance Armstrong "LiveSTRONG" notebook to record their course of care. This convenient notebook includes a place for survivors to keep track of their medications and treatments received. In case they have to leave their home in an emergency, they can transport a record of their entire cancer history.

- Gov. Bob Riley officially proclaimed Alabama Public Health Association/National Public Health Week in Alabama. Other public education efforts included television talk show appearances, the distribution of public service announcements, web site postings, and encouragement of faith-based organizations to emphasize preparedness through church bulletins. A statewide emergency preparedness billboard campaign was extended during the first week of April.

COUNTIES AND AREAS

BLOUNT COUNTY - The Blount County Health Department set up booths in the clinic lobby with information on all services. A coloring contest for children

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was held with the winner being chosen at the end of the week. There was a small surprise for winner with local newspaper involved.

CALHOUN COUNTY - On April 3, the Public Health Area 6 Emergency Preparedness Team sponsored an exhibit on Homeland Security Preparedness Awareness Day. This exhibit featured a continuous loop video, and staff shared informational and educational items.

DALLAS - An apple was presented to each participant in the screening at the Dallas County Health Department's health fair April 3. Screenings offered included cholesterol, blood sugar, blood pressure, hemoglobin, bone density and HIV. Many exhibits were also set up. The event was co-sponsored by Vaughan Community Health Services.

DEKALB COUNTY - The DeKalb County Health Department collected canned goods for donation to a mission food bank.

ETOWAH COUNTY - On April 2 the Area 5 Emergency Preparedness nurses and presented emergency preparedness topics related to school age youth to approximately 125 students in the Health Allied Classes at Gadsden City High School. The mayor of Gadsden proclaimed the week, the Etowah County Health Department had a booth with brochures and other information regarding public health services, and free immunizations were administered April 2-4.

HALE COUNTY - The Hale County Health Department hosted a health fair on April 5 in Greensboro. Screening for cholesterol, blood sugar, hemoglobin, blood pressure, bone density and HIV was offered. Emergency preparedness

and pandemic influenza materials were available. Refreshments were provided. The event was co-sponsored by Whatley Health Services.

HOUSTON COUNTY - A breakfast honoring city and county officials, State Sen. Harri Anne Smith, State Representatives Locy Baker, Benjamin Lewis and Warren Beck was held at the Houston County Health Department on April 5. An overview of public health services and an update on public health emergency preparedness and disaster response was presented at the breakfast. After the breakfast, officials viewed Public Health Area 10's disaster response equipment which was on display for public viewing. Also, the health department, in partnership with the local pandemic influenza committee, distributed 25,000 copies of the "How You Can Prepare for a Flu Pandemic" booklet to households in Houston and surrounding counties.

JEFFERSON COUNTY - Lunch and Learn sessions were presented at the seven health centers Monday - Wednesday (April 2-4) of Public Health Week. The theme for each day was one strategic issue from "Our Community Roadmap to Health." Speakers for these sessions were JCDH employees. Employees and the general public were invited to attend.

Employees were recognized by their peers for the outstanding work that they do. They were nominated for the following awards: leadership, customer service and creativity. One employee was chosen as "Employee of the Year" from the top 10 "Extra Mile" winners of 2006. Employees were also recognized for their dedicated years of service by receiving pins for their respective years of service to the department.

Commemoration of the department's 90th anniversary was marked by the unveiling of "A New Day in Public Health" There was a grand reception and ceremony to celebrate two significant milestones: the accomplishments of work in public health since 1917 and the steps that are being taken in a roadmap to health that responds to the concerns and needs of the citizens of Jefferson County.

Dr. Don Williamson, State Health Officer; and Dr. Michael Fleenor, Jefferson County Health Officer; delivered state and county health addresses. Congressman Artur Davis was the keynote speaker. Also, during ceremony, external agencies/individuals that have partnered with JCDH and made a positive impact on public health were honored. A proclamation and resolution was declared by the County Commission and Mayor's Office in honor of National Public Health Week. The department unveiled its new Web site and logo during the ceremony. More than 800 partnering agencies, community leaders, and organizations were invited to this event. On April 6 the department's flag with its new logo was unveiled.

Another special focus of the Jefferson County Department of Health's celebration featured heavy media coverage and the delivery of translated materials to designated sites such as stores, churches and community organizations. A Spanish language station, Radio Centro Birmingham 1320 AM, aired a public service announcement. The Magic Balloon Kids Show, also sponsored by the ALL Kids Program, had a special segment covering the information from the preparedness manual that weekend.

MARENGO COUNTY - The Marengo County Health Department celebrated Public Health Day on April 13 by hosting a

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health fair in Linden. Services included free cholesterol, blood sugar, hemoglobin and blood pressure screenings. Height, weight and BMI were also offered. Information and materials on Emergency Preparedness and other health department programs were given out. Booths from various community resources were present. Refreshments were provided. First Bank of Linden cosponsored the event.

MOBILE COUNTY - The Mobile County Health Department provides services at nine locations throughout Mobile County. "Take the First Step" information covering all topics was on hand every day at each clinic. Prior to the start of National Public Health Week, information about its theme and topics was sent to all departmental employees. On April 2, Mobile Mayor Sam Jones presented a proclamation to Dr. Bert Eichold, MCHD public health officer, proclaiming April 2-8 to be National Public Health Week in Mobile. A news release was sent to the local news media advising them of this photo opportunity.

A "Take the First Step" banner was posted at the main entrance to MCHD's main clinic. "Take the First Step" posters were available in English and Spanish at all locations. ADPH "Are You Ready" emergency preparedness booklets, "Preparing for Medical Needs in a Disaster" brochures, and "Prepare for a Flu Pandemic" booklets were available at all locations.

All materials created by MCHD referred to its Web site as a source for valuable emergency preparedness planning

information, and a news release was sent to the local news media describing the county's participation in National Public Health Week.

PERRY COUNTY - Free services were offered to the Perry County citizens from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Some services provided blood pressure checks, bone density checks, blood sugar checks, HIV testing, hemoglobin checks, cholesterol checks and AIDS awareness and many other services. The day was co-sponsored by Samford University who supplied nurse practitioners, pharmacy students and pharmacists.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY - The St. Clair County Commission proclaimed Public Health Week. A diaper drive was held for public health department clients in need. Children's artwork was displayed throughout office during the week.

SHELBY - Booths in the lobby described all services and offered copies of the WIC food pyramid.

SUMTER - The Sumter County Health Department hosted a health fair April 2 at the health department in Livingston. Screenings for cholesterol, blood sugar, hemoglobin, blood pressure, bone density and HIV were available. Emergency preparedness and pandemic influenza materials will be available. Refreshments were provided. York Drug Store was the event's co-sponsor.

TALLADEGA COUNTY - Both the Sylacauga and Talladega clinics held programs. In Sylacauga, speakers discussed topics such



as breast and cervical cancer, HIV/AIDS and emergency preparedness. Tables were also set up with information and representatives to answer questions concerning all programs and services offered. Robbie Stubbs spoke on preparedness for pandemic influenza by keeping plenty of water and nonperishable foods in the home, ibuprofen and cold packs. Following several speakers' presentations, the floor was opened for a question-and-answer segment on topics such as secondhand smoke and smoking cessation.

PUBLIC HEALTH AREA 1 - In Northwest Alabama, Area 1 Health Officer Dr. Karen Landers held an area-wide staff meeting on April 6, which included a presentation on pandemic influenza. Employees placed "Are You Ready?" and "How You Can Prepare for a Flu Pandemic" booklets in pediatrician offices and schools.

PUBLIC HEALTH AREA 3 - Public Health Area 3 conducted activities including appreciation events for county and city elected officials, pandemic influenza planning events, and participation in an agricultural tabletop exercise.

Correction

The article about the March STD Training Conference on page 2 of the April issue incorrectly identified Disease Intervention Specialist Charlie Tolbert as Charlie Tolliver. Tolbert was one of three presenters who conducted a workshop on safety in the field and clinic.



Calendar of Events


May 6-12
**National
Nurses
Week**

 May 9
Satellite Conf & Web Cast
**STIs/HIV and
Alabama Law,
1-3 p.m.**
For more information contact
Ellen Snipes, (334) 206-5688.


 May 16
Satellite Conf & Web Cast
**Practical Tips on
Management of Patients
with Dementia in the Home,
Satellite and Live Webcast
Conference, 2-4 p.m.**
For more information contact Video Communications
& Distance Learning Division, (334) 206-5618.


May 16
**Public Health
Professional
Leadership Day,
Riverview Plaza
Hotel, Mobile**

May 17-18
**Alabama Public Health
Association 51st Annual
Health Education Conference/
Alabama Environmental
Health Association
Conference, Riverview Plaza
Hotel, Mobile**

 June 6
Satellite Conf & Web Cast
**Prevention, Assessment and
Treatment in Childhood Obesity:
Recommendations from the
AMA Expert Task Force Satellite
Conference, 12 noon-4 p.m.**
For additional information contact Charlene
Rhoades and Bonnie Spears at (205) 939-9254.
Register at <http://adolescent.chsys.org>

 June 20
Satellite Conf & Web Cast
**Taking a Sexual History,
2-4 p.m., Title X Family
Planning Training.**
For more information contact
Annie Voxel, (334) 206-2959.

 June 25
Satellite Conf & Web Cast
**Pandemic
Influenza
for First
Responders,
Time: TBA,**
For more information contact
Alice Floyd (334) 206-3898.

 July 18
Satellite Conf & Web Cast
**Home Health Aides and
Attendants, 2-4 p.m.**
For more information contact
Debbie Buchanan, (334) 206-5711.

 July 24
Satellite Conf & Web Cast
**Adolescent
Risk Behaviors,
1-3 p.m.**
For more information contact
Sandy Powell, (334) 206-5050.

 August 2
Satellite Conf & Web Cast
**ADPH
Statewide
Staff Meeting,
3-4 p.m.**
For more information contact Video Communications
& Distance Learning Division, (334) 206-5618.