

the health advisor

DOH Mission:

To promote & protect the health & safety of all Floridians.

Jan./Feb. 2003

cdc approves operation vaccinate florida, calls pre-event 'exemplary'

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) IN DECEMBER APPROVED FLORIDA'S STAGE I PRE-EVENT SMALLPOX VACCINATION PLAN (OPERATION VACCINATE FLORIDA) and described the plan that details the voluntary vaccination of hospital and county health department smallpox response teams as "exemplary."

"Stage I will ensure a core group of trained and protected health professionals," said Dr. Agwunobi. "The Operation Vaccinate Florida Planning Team, under the leadership of DOH's Dr. Bill Tynan, has made tremendous progress in the past several weeks planning our state's initiative to vaccinate public health and health care smallpox response teams."

Agwunobi has re-emphasized to the public that DOH has received no information that would lead him to believe that the threat of a smallpox attack has changed or that attacks were imminent; however, given the current status of the war against terrorism and other potential global events, he continues to believe it is prudent to aggressively prepare.

At the request of the CDC, DOH submitted two smallpox plans to the federal government in December: an implementation plan to make smallpox vaccine available to Florida's citizens prior to the identification of a first smallpox case (a pre-event smallpox vaccination plan); and a plan to respond to an actual smallpox case or outbreak (a post-event plan).

DOH officials at the state and local level have worked closely with federal, state and local agencies, public and private representatives, legislators and other elected officials in its pursuit of preparedness. The planning was based upon the framework for collaboration provided by Governor Bush through his Domestic Security Task Forces at the state and regional levels.

Operation Vaccinate Florida involves the voluntary immunization of Florida residents in three stages, with varying degrees of time between each stage:

1. The first stage, which is estimated to last 30 days, is expected to include the vaccination of hospital response teams and county health department personnel. DOH estimates that approximately 35,000 to 40,000 doses will be provided to protect these health care professionals and ensure a core group of trained and protected health professionals will be available to help conduct future phases of Operation Vaccinate Florida;

2. The second stage is expected to include the vaccination of first responders such as law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical crews, and other health care professionals. DOH estimates that during the second phase, approximately 300,000 to 400,000 doses will be provided to protect and prepare these individuals; and

3. Stage three will accommodate the general public, who wish to be vaccinated. This will likely not occur until 2004. As many as 4 to 10 million people, who do not have illnesses or conditions to prevent it, may volunteer to be vaccinated.

The post-event plan, outlining Florida's response to the identification of a smallpox case, would be conducted as an emergency, using all the resources included in the state's emergency operations, domestic security, and Department of Health structure. The response also would involve mobilization of many of the resources available in the non-state government domestic security community. The response would include both "ring vaccination" of all contacts of cases as well as statewide voluntary mass vaccination for citizens and visitors. The plan also includes DOH's existing national pharmaceutical stockpile distribution plan, as well as the state's "All Hazard" response plan used effectively in hurricane response, many of the components of its pandemic influenza plan, surveillance and isolation considerations, and a host of other important strategies.

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Secretary Agwunobi

florida's tobacco control program celebrates 5 years

FEBRUARY MARKS THE FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF FLORIDA'S INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO REDUCING TOBACCO USE AMONG RESIDENTS—a program that has given wide recognition to words such as 'truth,' SWAT and Big Tobacco, and has focused largely on the state's youth to become agents of social change.

First created as the Kid's Campaign Against Tobacco and soon after renamed the Tobacco Pilot Program, the two-year initiative became DOH's Division of Health Awareness and Tobacco (DHAT) in 1999.

It all began in February 1998, when the Florida Legislature appropriated funds for its pilot program from the state's 1997 landmark legal victory against the tobacco industry for taxpayer costs incurred in caring for sick smokers. The case resulted in an amended settlement of \$13 billion to be paid over 25 years.

Florida was the first in the country to implement a tobacco program of its kind—funded by a court settlement with the tobacco industry; focused on youth; and involving youth to the extent it does. It was the first to create a marketing tool based on facts that clearly aimed to sting. The award-winning 'truth' campaign has been celebrated for its hard-hitting television commercials and radio spots that have attracted various age groups and diverse audiences with revealing tobacco facts and industry tactics.

With overall goals to prevent the initiation of tobacco use, reduce tobacco use, and protect Floridians from exposure to secondhand (environmental) tobacco smoke, DHAT relies



First created as the Kid's Campaign Against Tobacco and soon after renamed the Tobacco Pilot Program, the two-year initiative became DOH's Division of Health Awareness and Tobacco (DHAT) in 1999.

on the following key components to bring it all together: youth development and community partnerships; education and training; marketing and communications; research and evaluation; and support for enforcement.

Tobacco-prevention education programs include those that have been created for public, private and home schools, after-school programs, community-based organizations and colleges and universities. The K-12 classroom programs emphasize four essential elements of tobacco prevention: short- and long-term health effects; social influences; de-normalization; and refusal skills.

DHAT's tobacco prevention coordinators and partnership members throughout the state work with students, communities and schools in all 67 counties to help plan and implement local efforts. SWAT—Students Working Against Tobacco—is a middle and high school advocacy organization that has been a major element of youth development from the onset. The program's effects

have been noticeable through evaluation of surveys and community support of social policy changes. (See related article page 3.)

The accomplishments over the past five years have been an effective starting point to reducing tobacco use among Floridians and visitors. Many agree there is still much to be done to continue the positive results toward creating awareness of risks associated with tobacco products, promoting positive attitudes toward healthy behaviors, and guiding Florida's youth to be industry savvy and effective messengers.

“Since 1998, youth across the state have felt a part of the vision for a healthier Florida. Teens stand united and say: ‘We know what you’ve done, we know what you’re doing, and that’s why we got involved. And we won’t stop until everyone else knows about it, too.’

“The Students Working Against Tobacco program means so much to the future of Florida. This program is the breeding ground for the future lawmakers, doctors, teachers, and agents of social change.”

Adrian Abner, 18, Calhoun County SWAT member for 5 years



“Everyone has a mission in life. My mission is to fight the tobacco industry through my involvement in SWAT. My reason? To fight the industry that has caused so much harm to my family and millions of others.

“I’ve seen what smoking can do. When I was in elementary school, I witnessed my father—now a non-smoker—being rushed to the hospital because he couldn’t breathe. He suffered two heart attacks and has emphysema because of his former addiction. My mother coughs violently every morning because of her addiction that she wishes she could break.”

Joe Scarfone, 17, SWAT member from Pasco County since 2000



“A program that wasn’t expected to last longer than two years is now the model for similar programs around the United States. SWAT is such a unique thing. We are a group of teenagers taking a stand.

“It takes such a great amount of courage to be able to stand up to adults, and even to your peers. But it takes a far greater amount to be able to stand up to your enemy, and SWAT members across the state do it on a daily basis. We are saving lives and that is what makes it worth it.”

Erin Sylvester, 14, a Bay County SWAT member for 3 years

“They sell an addictive product that kills, and it is not only the smoker that it kills. SWAT is so important in the State of Florida because we are turning around Big Tobacco’s marketing and showing the youth that they are being manipulated.

“In Polk County we have passed a local ordinance that moved all tobacco products behind the counter. This was a major accomplishment for SWAT. Our ordinance encompasses all municipalities.”

Ashley Burdsall, 18, a Polk County SWAT member for three years



“The tobacco industry markets toward college students, so much that nationally about 32 percent of college students smoke. College students need education about the manipulative tactics of the tobacco industry just as much as middle and high school students.

“Why should this product, which has been proven to kill almost half a million Americans each year, be allowed to continue its devastation on families and communities?”

Heather Young, 22, an original SWAT member and currently a University of Florida STRIKE member

armed with information, SWAT students speak their minds

There’s a generation of students in Florida that before they graduated from high school learned just how vital their knowledge and voices were in shaping behavior trends and attitudes that reached far beyond their peers. These students are graduating from college nowadays. And what’s more, the state is responsible for churning out thousands of persuasive middle and high school students just like them every year.

Good thing they’re all on our team. They’re the youth who belong to DOH’s Health Awareness and Tobacco program, Students Working Against Tobacco. Most know them as SWAT. And they’re currently 60,000-plus strong. Another 800 belong to STRIKE—the state’s college/university equivalent of the middle/high school program. STRIKE stands for Student Tobacco Reform Initiative, Knowledge for Eternity, and has the potential to reach more than 350,000 college students.

STRIKE was created in 1999 as the first SWAT graduates were heading toward college. Now these messengers are instrumental in the fight against the tobacco industry’s increased focus on the 18–24-year-old market.

The student-based movement is just one aspect of Health Awareness and Tobacco. Every county in the state has a SWAT team and now 18 college and university campuses have STRIKE groups.

February marks the five-year anniversary of the development of the state’s program to prevent and reduce youth tobacco use, and all Floridians have something to celebrate.

Armed with information about nicotine and what many view as a ruthless industry, the initial group of 600 students was presented with an opportunity to gather and unite at a four-day Governor’s Teen Summit on Tobacco Education in March of 1998. The teens helped define the program based on a peer-to-peer approach, participated in every aspect of the pilot program, and created the brand ‘truth.’ They referred to themselves as “A Generation United Against Tobacco.”

Their voices since have been firm. Their messages effective. Studies show that since 1998, youth smoking in the state has dropped dramatically and smoking overall in Florida has shown a steady decline.

The 2002 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey confirmed the continued downward trend in cigarette and tobacco use among middle and high school students. More than 62,000 students from 363 middle and 250 high schools throughout the state participated in the survey administered during the spring of 2002.

When compared to the initial survey in 1998, results from the 2002 survey indicate youth smoking has declined 50 percent among middle school students and 35 percent among high school students overall—that translates to nearly 117,000 fewer Florida youth smokers.

“They have done more for tobacco awareness than years of simply telling people, ‘Don’t smoke because it’s bad for you,’” says state Health Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., noting that Florida and other states with tobacco control programs have experienced a much greater reduction in youth smoking than the national average over the same time period.

“Our young people have a platform to speak out and speak their minds. Their voices are being heard and understood,” says Agwunobi.

Florida was the first in the country to implement a tobacco program of its kind—funded by a court settlement with the tobacco industry, focused on youth, and involving youth to this extent.

It all began in February 1998, when the Florida Legislature appropriated funds for a pilot-tobacco control program from the state’s 1997 landmark legal victory against Big Tobacco for taxpayer costs incurred in caring for sick smokers. The case resulted in an amended settlement of \$13 billion to be paid over 25 years.

The late Gov. Lawton Chiles spearheaded the idea of a youth-involved program and what remains today in the SWAT movement stems largely from the original youth tobacco summit in 1998.

The Florida Tobacco Pilot Program was to accomplish its mission by implementing an innovative and effective marketing, education, prevention, and enforcement campaign that empowered youth to live tobacco free. The pilot program, originally under the Office of the Governor, became the Division of Health Awareness and Tobacco in January 1999. Governor Bush approved an appropriation of \$37.3 million for fiscal year 2001–2002.

The goals of the Health Awareness and Tobacco program: Prevent initiation of tobacco use, Reduce tobacco use, and Protect from exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke.

SWAT’s impact over the past half decade is the result of what anyone might expect when thousands of youth from grades 6 through 12 connect: They’re setting trends and deciding what’s cool for themselves and even for generations beyond their own. They’re having measurable effects on awareness of and attitudes toward tobacco products.

Florida’s SWAT teams have effectively influenced tobacco-use policies among city and county government, encouraged restaurants to become smoke-free establishments, and even have prompted change in school policy to prohibit tobacco use on school-owned properties by anyone, anytime. SWAT also has been at the forefront leading the way for 26 county governments and 28 cities in the state to adopt product placement ordinances requiring convenience and grocery stores to locate all tobacco products behind sales counters.

The SWAT generation is comprised of students who have learned to stand up against Big Tobacco and not fear voicing their opinions. Many saw family members suffer because of nicotine addictions and vowed to change the world for others by making them aware of the consequences.

“Youth are realizing that the tobacco industry targets them . . . and cares little about their health,” says five-year SWAT member and current statewide SWAT Chairman Adrian Abner of Calhoun County. “The Students Working Against Tobacco program means so much to the future of Florida. This program is the breeding ground for the future lawmakers, doctors, teachers, and agents of social change.”

JULI BERGSTROM-WASSON, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE



homeland security update: **DOH** prepares with pharmaceutical stockpile

THE NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL STOCKPILE (NPS) IS A NEW RESOURCE FOR THE WAR ON TERRORISM that is being made available by the CDC. The NPS consists of multiple containers of medicines, antidotes and medical supplies currently placed in undisclosed locations throughout the country. Should we ever need it, it can be flown within 12 hours to one of the state's major airports in a huge transport plane, or delivered to a designated site by a fleet of semi-trucks.

DOH Office of Emergency Operations has developed and is refining the State NPS Preparedness Plan in conjunction with our responding partners within the department and from other state agencies and local governments. Our major external partner, the Division of Emergency Management, will provide support at logistical staging areas and coordinate assistance from other agencies as provided by the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. These plans recently received a favorable review by the CDC. As well, Florida received national media attention in November for its preparedness efforts:

“The federal government has truckloads of medicine and vaccines ready to deploy should bioterrorism strike, but only one state is fully prepared to receive and distribute those treatments,” according to the November Associated Press article out of Washington, D.C., that noted Florida as that state.

In addition to the planning, there are tabletop “discussion” exercises. In October, an exercise at Orlando focused on how the state would request, receive, breakdown and distribute the NPS and how local governments would set up Points of Distribution (POD) to dispense the pharmaceuticals. Preparations are being made for another major exercise in early February, when a training mock-up of the NPS will be delivered to Tallahassee, allowing for an opportunity for hands-on experience.

Floridians will continue to hear more of the NPS. And DOH will continue the planning, training and exercise efforts as outlined in the state's grant agreement with the CDC to ensure that we are prepared to receive, manage and utilize the NPS.

DOH OFFICE OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

january marks 2nd national mentoring month!

With the New Year comes the second National Mentoring Month in January when efforts to increase awareness of opportunities to mentor and the importance of mentoring will be evident. This year's theme is “Who Mentored You? Thank them . . . and pass it on. Mentor a Child.”

Hollywood stars, political leaders, athletes and journalists may appear in the national public service campaign to recruit volunteer mentors for young people who are at risk of not achieving their full potential.

National Mentoring Month is a collaborative, public-private initiative sponsored by nonprofit organizations, media companies and government agencies. In January 2002, the Harvard Mentoring Project of the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership spearheaded the first-ever National Mentoring Month with the strong support of President Bush, Congress, and governors and mayors across the country.

In Florida, mentoring has been a large focus of Governor Bush since 1999 when he kicked off his Mentoring Initiative and signed a Promise Partnership with Gen. Colin Powell to pledge Florida's support of America's Promise for Youth, becoming the first governor in the United States to make this kind of commitment to youth.

The Governor's Mentoring Initiative is dedicated to improving the quality of life and the quality of education for all children in Florida. The Governor's goal for DOH is to have at least 10 percent of all employees mentor or volunteer.

Current information about mentoring is available on the DOH website at http://dohiws/Divisions/Executive_Staff/Mentoring/mentor_home.htm. Also, watch for announcements about the department's updated mentoring policy and new forms. Sign up today to make a difference in the life of a child by mentoring or volunteering. One person can make a difference. Please be that person.



marathon CMS spearheads efforts to increase fetal alcohol syndrome awareness

What is the most common cause of mental retardation and neurological impairment in the United States? What is more common than Down Syndrome, Spina Bifida, Cystic Fibrosis, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome combined? Yet, there are no celebrities who raise money to help those afflicted, no well-known charity that receives millions of dollars to fight this problem.

The answer is Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and its related syndromes, Alcohol Related Birth Defects (ARBD) and Alcohol Related Neurodevelopment Disorder (ARND). These are referred to as the silent syndromes because they are so often misdiagnosed. FAS affects 1 in every 1,000 live births. The related syndromes are 3 to 10 times as common.

In an effort to raise awareness of the risks of alcohol consumption by pregnant women, Marathon Children's Medical Services staff is spearheading a countywide effort to place posters in the women's restrooms of local bars and restaurants where alcohol is sold. They hang the informational posters after receiving permission from proprietors, and so far 125 establishments have agreed to participate.

Children affected by FAS suffer a range of developmental damage, some of which does not manifest until the child begins school. They can have characteristic facial-cranial malformations that are often minor enough to be unnoticed at birth. These malformations become less pronounced as the child ages. They suffer a range of congenital malformations. Children with FAS, ARBN, and ARND have irreversible brain damage that causes cognitive and behavioral problems, including low impulse control, difficulty with abstract thought such as time and money, and an inability to interpret social cues. An estimated 85 percent are unable to live independently as adults. Three quarters serve time in prison, and 90 percent develop mental illnesses that require medication.

More information can be found at www.nofas.org/main/index, the National Organization for Prevention and Support for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Neurologists and pediatricians are most likely to be able to determine whether a child has been affected by prenatal alcohol exposure.

JOANNE MANSELL, RN, CMS MARATHON

people in public health

"The Department of Health is extremely fortunate to have the finest public health servants in the nation." Secretary Agwunobi

DOH receives record number of 2002 davis awards

DOH received a record number of Davis Productivity Awards for 2002. Under the leadership of Dr. Agwunobi, a record 167 applications were submitted from the department and 82 received Davis Awards.

"I am tremendously proud of all department winners," said Dr. Agwunobi. "The record number of applications shows the strong commitment to continuous quality improvement."

The Davis Awards program since 1989 has publicly recognized and rewarded more than 5,000 state employees and work units with cash, commemorative plaques and certificates. It is a privately funded program made possible by the vision and generosity of the late J.E. Davis and the late A.D. Davis, brothers and co-founders of Winn-Dixie Stores Inc. and co-founders of Florida TaxWatch, the nonprofit group dedicated to helping improve government efficiency.

Up to \$100,000 is provided by the Davis family each year for cash awards, commemorative plaques and certificates. The program is a major government improvement initiative sponsored by Florida TaxWatch; The Florida Council of 100, a group of business leaders who serve economic advisors to the governor; and the State of Florida.

Outstanding Work Unit Award (\$2,500)

The largest Davis Productivity Award presented for department endeavors. The Anthrax Team and the West Nile Virus Team, Bureau of Epidemiology and the Bureau of Laboratories Developed a rapid response to the first case of intentional anthrax disease in the United States (Palm Beach County). Determined the source and mode of transmission within three to seven days after the first case was confirmed. The West Nile Virus team responded rapidly and effectively, resulting in prevention of many cases of severe disease, disability and death.

"I am very proud of the staff members for their excellent responses to two unprecedented public health events," said State Epidemiologist Dr. Steven Wiersma. "The introduction of West Nile virus into Florida and the first-ever intentional use of anthrax as a bioweapon in U.S. history severely challenged us as a nation, and our staff played a professional and key role in both events."

Notable Work Unit/Partnership Achievement (\$600)

Electronic Lab Reporting Team, Bureau of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Division of Information Technology (Central Office) Implemented electronic lab reporting that permitted staff to receive mission critical test results automatically loaded to surveillance systems within 24-48 hours of completion, resulting in the elimination six positions statewide. Savings yielded an estimated \$840,000 in personnel and postage.

Financial and Information Reporting System Team, Volusia County Health Department, Daytona Beach Developed an intranet application that provides easily accessible reports, graphs, organization charts, data retrieval and query capabilities of financial and personnel data. This system is now used in 59 county health departments to save approximately \$1.3 million. The system is adaptable to other state agencies, as well.

Osceola County Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Clerical Staff, Osceola County Health Department, Kissimmee In 2001-2002, the WIC staff here increased its caseload 931 clients in nine months, and ranked #1 statewide for nearly 100 percent of the eligible population being served compared to a statewide average of 60 percent. Cost avoidance in staff, funding and equipment is a recurring \$50,000.

Notable Individual Awards (\$300)

Lisa Corey, Flagler County Health Department, Palm Coast Ms. Corey obtained funding through the Avon Cares program which provides no-cost medical help to low-income women in need of selected diagnostic, educational, and/or treatment services. Her efforts provided services to 48 clients.

Lannie Richardson, Central Office Mr. Richardson worked more than 200 uncompensated hours to develop a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) application that automates a daily task formerly requiring several state agencies to manually enter and transfer information on tape cartridges to the Florida Accounting Information Resource (FLAIR) system. Mr. Richardson's application provides safeguards that do not exist on tape cartridges and it prevents payments from being submitted a second time due to file format errors. Savings: \$17,152.

Adrienne Emanuel, Palm Beach County Health Department, Delray Beach Ms. Emanuel developed a paperless method for employees to easily receive their earnings information via the Florida DOH Intranet while

protecting Social Security numbers—a valid concern of employees. Her system saves the Palm Beach County Health Department nearly \$2,000.

Marlon Blair, Central Office Mr. Blair realigned telephone accounts to make them more manageable for the Finance and Accounting section and deleted 1,500 unneeded telephone lines formerly used by department staff. The Department of Management Services reported that DOH had the cleanest phone line accounts of any state agency due to Mr. Blair's accuracy. Annual savings: \$269,027.

San Jin, Miami and Marathon Childrens Medial Services, Miami Mr. Jin developed a care coordination guidelines relational database system for the Miami and Marathon Children's Medical Services offices that enables nurses to complete lengthy forms in a timely manner and easily extract data for reports. Recurring savings: \$175,000.

Max Hinkle, Melody Ellison and Lori Woods, Sarasota County Health Department, Sarasota Developed and maintained a special program that provides expensive specialty medications to needy low-income clients. This team obtained participation agreements from more than 30 manufacturers. Then processing requests and tracking prescriptions daily, Mr. Hinkle, Ms. Ellison and Ms. Woods provide needed medications at no cost to clients or to their agencies. This initiative saved a net \$325,000.

Steven Furnace, Department of Health, Orlando Developed training for firefighters and paramedics to improve response time to transportation accidents involving radioactive material, thereby increasing the probability of saving lives. As the sole trainer, presentation of his program required Mr. Furnace to schedule many evening sessions at fire stations statewide. Federal agencies are now requesting his class. With minimal revisions, this training can be used for Homeland Defense situations involving radioactive material. Estimated added value: \$220,000.

**BONNIE GAUGHAN-BAILEY,
OFFICE OF PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT**

"Employees are the most valuable department resource. They know better than anyone where processes can be made more efficient."

**Shannon Lease, Director,
Office of Performance
Improvement**

employees randomly selected to take sample satisfaction survey

An estimated 2,000 DOH employees will be randomly selected to participate in the employee satisfaction survey sample scheduled for Jan. 27 to Feb. 7, 2003. Employees selected for the survey will provide a snapshot on the progress toward improved employee satisfaction.

"Employees are the most valuable department resource," says Shannon Lease, Director of the Office of Performance Improvement. "They know better than anyone where processes can be made more efficient."

Participants will be able to take the survey electronically and at their worksite where they have Internet access after initial notification by Bill Blackwood of DWB and Associates.

Those selected are encouraged to complete the survey, as a large response rate provides greater reliability and a low response rate does not yield enough information to be useful. Completed surveys will go directly to DWB and Associates, which will provide a comprehensive report. Because this is a sample, work unit reports cannot be developed.

For more information on the Employee Satisfaction Survey process or if you have suggestions, contact Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey of the Office of Performance Improvement at 245-4007 or SunCom 205-4007. Please contact Bill Blackwood at VBlackwud@aol.com regarding survey specifications.

the advisor

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Please send stories and information for the Mar./Apr. issue by e-mail to Juli Bergstrom-Wasson by Feb. 1, 2003. The Health Advisor is available on the DOH intranet and internet websites.

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health secretary cited as public health hero

Dr. Agwunobi recently received a Public Health Heroes citation from the American Public Health Association (APHA). Dr. Agwunobi was among a distinguished group of honorees recognized by the APHA for exemplifying heroic efforts in responding to the Sept. 11, 2001, and anthrax attacks, where public health workers were among the nation's front line of defense.

"Dr. Agwunobi's leadership last fall made all of us in public health proud," said Dr. Richard Levinson, associate executive director, APHA. "He and the other public health heroes honored were confronted with unknown and immediate risks. Their rapid response and steady leadership helped identify and contain these threats to protect the health of the American people."

Other award recipients included Dr. David Satcher, former U.S. surgeon general; Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, former director of the CDC; Antonia Novello, commissioner of the New York State Health Department; and D.A. Henderson, bioterrorism advisor to the White House.

connor appointed to advisory council

Governor Bush recently appointed Miami Dade County Health Department's Olga Connor to the Office of Long-Term Care Policy Advisory Council. Connor serves as director of Miami-Dade CHD's Office of Public Health Information, Legislative, and Community Affairs.

As a council member, she will work under the direction of Dr. Agwunobi to provide assistance and direction for the Office of Long-Term Care. Duties of the advisory council include ensuring all state agencies are properly implementing the office's policy recommendations.

ullah receives leadership award

Evelyn Ullah, director of the Miami-Dade County Health Department's Office of HIV/AIDS and 25-year veteran of public health, recently received the Community Leadership Award from the South Florida AIDS Network for her efforts to help prevent the spread of the HIV and AIDS viruses. The award was presented by Miami-Dade County Mayor Alex Penelas at the South Florida AIDS Network Third Annual World AIDS Day Luncheon. Ullah has worked tirelessly promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.