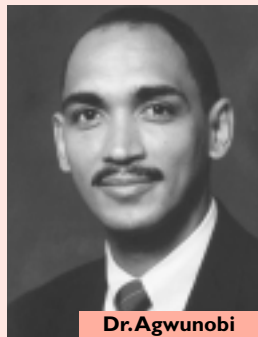


# the health advisor

## DOH Mission:

To promote & protect the health & safety of all people in Florida.

Mar./April 2004



Dr. Agwunobi

## health secretary agwunobi appointed to lead CDC advisory committee

HEALTH SECRETARY JOHN O. AGWUNOBI, M.D., M.B.A., RECENTLY WAS APPOINTED TO CHAIR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC). The 15-member committee advises the CDC director on policy issues and broad strategies for promoting health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury and disability.

"Dr. Agwunobi has shown time and time again his unique ability to provide sound public health advice and leadership during times of crisis," CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding said. "This leadership that he brings to this position will not only benefit CDC but will benefit public health across the United States and around the world."

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson appointed Agwunobi to serve as chair. Agwunobi was originally appointed to the Advisory Committee to the Director of the CDC in February 2003.

"This honor is not my own, but rather a recognition of Florida's public health team," Agwunobi said. "While Florida has won many battles in public health, I look forward to sharing my experiences, best practices and lessons learned with Dr. Gerberding." ■

## preparedness education & training building community partnerships one county at a time

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS (PHP) IS EXPANDING AND ENHANCING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S RESPONSE TO A VARIETY OF POSSIBLE PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS, and employees at county health departments are working to increase abilities to prepare for and respond to public health hazards in their communities by building partnerships with other agencies and first-responders.

As part of the department's CDC grant activities, the PHP Education and Training Workgroup meets quarterly to share local best practices, evaluate new training materials, discuss statewide issues, and provide input on CDC-funded education and training initiatives. The workgroup's January 2004 meeting included a site visit by CDC Project Officer Dorothea Love Hall from the Division of State and Local Readiness and several other representatives from the agency who traveled to Florida to get a first-hand look at the dynamics that have contributed to the success of the state's preparedness efforts over the past contract year.

Local participation and coordination are a hallmark of that success; and Jack Pittman (Leon CHD), Bonnie Brooks (Escambia CHD), Leah Engle (Alachua CHD) and Dan Simpson (Polk CHD) demonstrated their achievements by explaining best practices for working with hospitals and physicians. Hospitals and physicians are critical response partners in any public health

response, and the workshop activities in Tampa were geared to provide concrete tools for those throughout the department to integrate into their local education and training activities.

Polk CHD's Dan Simpson and Dan Runyan of Hillsborough CHD organized a panel of hospital representatives from the Tampa area. The panel discussed the issues facing hospitals in conducting JCAHO and ACHA-mandated disaster planning, training and support for equipment. And to complete the loop on strategies for working with local hospital partners, Jack Pittman led a breakout session that dealt with joint exercises with hospitals and others in the community for preparedness exercises. Leon County has already conducted a large hospital exercise titled "Caduceus Shield" that helped build local partnerships and identify opportunities for improving planning and training. see **building** p. 3

## florida ranks well in bioterrorism 'ready or not' report

FLORIDA RANKS AS A NATIONAL LEADER FOR READINESS in efforts to prepare and protect the public against a bioterrorism attack, according to a watchdog group dedicated to protecting the health of communities and making disease prevention a national priority.

In its December 2003 report, "Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health in the Age of Bioterrorism," the Trust for America's Health (TFAH) cited Florida as one of just four states that has met seven of 10 key indicators of emergency response readiness. These 10 key indicators and the TFAH report provide a snapshot of improvements made since 9/11 and a look at where the public health system is still vulnerable.

TFAH cited Florida for its bioterrorism response plans, emergency alert capability, and sufficient number of workers to distribute medical supplies in the event of a crisis. It also reported Florida and Illinois are the only states capable of receiving and distributing drugs and other emergency supplies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) in the event needed.

While Florida ranked above most states, the entire country still has much room for improvement and enhancement, according to the report.

DOH continues to play a major role in the state's overall emergency disaster preparedness efforts with both state and private agencies. Read about the department's training and education efforts in this issue's article, "Building Community Partnerships One County at a Time."

The TFAH report and executive summary are available on the DOH Intranet and online at [www.healthyamericans.org](http://www.healthyamericans.org). ■

## what should 'health' look like in 5 years?

secretary poses questions about future to roundtable

PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE GATHERED IN TALLAHASSEE FOR A TWO-DAY BRAINSTORMING SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES.

A dozen DOH employees representing county health departments, Children's Medical Services, human resources, nursing, disease prevention and environmental health, assembled for the Secretary's Roundtable in February.

Health Secretary Agwunobi called for the Roundtable so those in the field, deputy secretaries and other department leaders could begin a process to help define the guidelines that will frame Florida's public health in the future. The diverse group also came up with suggestions for short-term improvements for the department.

The many facets of public health were discussed during the roundtable. The two-day meetings simply started the process for rethinking, prioritizing, and steering public health.

Some of the questions posed included: What should 'Health' look like in Florida in five years? What should the Florida Department of Health look like in five years?

The dozens of answers from the Roundtable will be reviewed by this group and further defined to develop an overall framework.

Dr. Agwunobi posed another critical challenge to the group by asking them to consider the elements necessary to create a rock solid foundation in public health that will allow the department to continue to be publicly recognized and valued for its services. A long-lasting public health system, based upon individual and organizational excellence, will assure stakeholders of the department's commitments and vision.

Dr. Agwunobi recommended participants go back to their respective units and offices and have similar roundtable discussions with staff and have them consider how their contributions impact health and think about what public health will look like in the future.

Look for more about the Roundtable group and its later meetings in future "Health Advisors." ■

... Sumter CHD is hoping to improve food-buying habits that can influence weight and cholesterol levels as well as promote heart health.

### March is National Social Work Month and an ideal time to highlight the power of social work.

Social workers are dedicated to ensuring that people of all ages, creeds, sexual orientations and nationalities have access to adequate resources and services. Social workers strengthen communities, expand options for those who are disadvantaged and oppressed, and advocate for changes that improve lives.

Social work is an extremely vital profession that has been around for more than 100 years, yet it is still not well understood. For example, not everyone who provides social services is a social worker. Social workers are highly trained professionals with a bachelor's, master's or doctoral social work degree with a minimum number of hours in supervised field. Social workers have real knowledge and understanding of the history, values, family structures and personal expressions of diverse clients. They see the whole

Social workers today comprise a critical component of health care delivery. Their understanding of human behavior is assisting with the development of effective strategies to combat such public health issues as family violence, suicide and obesity.

person, as part of a family, as an employee of a company, as a community member. They bring special skills to the treatment of root causes that negatively affect people. Their education and training prepare them to work with those who are most in need—those with drug addiction, family violence, joblessness, homelessness, mental illness, prejudice and many other conditions affecting people with no voice and few options. The ability of social workers to provide compassionate intervention can make the difference between someone “making it” and someone “falling through the cracks.”

You will find social workers in every facet of community life—in schools, health centers, mental health clinics, senior centers, family crisis centers and many public and private agencies—dedicated to helping families, individuals and communities in need. They strengthen communities, expand options for those who are disadvantaged and oppressed and advocate for changes that improve the lives of everyone.

Social workers today comprise a critical component of health care delivery. Their understanding of human behavior is assisting with the development of effective strategies to combat such public health issues as family violence, suicide and obesity. Professional social workers are the nation's largest providers of mental health services. According to government sources, 60 percent of mental health treatment is delivered by social workers. Trained social workers provide more than 40 percent of disaster-related mental health services for the American Red Cross.

During National Social Work Month, the Florida Department of Health acknowledges and recognizes the dedication and skills of Florida's public health social workers and thanks them for their significant contributions to improving the lives of all of Florida's citizens. ■ Susan J. Potts, Division of Family Health Services

### sumter CHD educates ‘safari’ shoppers

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE AND SUMTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIETICIANS KNOW ALL TOO WELL HOW PACKAGING AND WORDING CAN LURE GROCERY SHOPPERS TO BUY ON IMPULSE OR MISS IMPORTANT NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION.

In fact, many shoppers overlook the importance of how knowledgeable, well-planned grocery shopping is to promoting healthy eating. But through the creative efforts of dietician Sandra Elder-Moore, Sumter CHD is hoping to improve food-buying habits that can influence weight and cholesterol levels as well as promote heart health.

With its new hands-on program called “A Shopping Safari,” and in collaboration with a local grocer, Elder-Moore will escort small groups of shoppers through the Bushnell Winn-Dixie grocery store once a month. The excursion actually begins with educating participants about the importance of preparing a list and ways to improve grocery lists. The intent of the program, which is based on a search and discovery theme, is to improve the dietary and nutritional knowledge of shoppers and provide healthy shopping techniques and a thorough understanding of food labels.

Reading and understanding Nutrition Facts labels—including fat content, and carbohydrate, cholesterol, fiber, sugar, sodium, protein or nutrient levels—helps make shoppers smarter and more confident about what they are eating and feeding their families.

If this outreach effort proves to be successful, it will be expanded to another Winn-Dixie store location and possibly offered more often. ■ Bob Nagel, Sumter County Health Department

### sarasota celebrates opening of health & human services center

SARASOTA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL OFFICIALS UNVEILED THE NEW SARASOTA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CENTER, a collaborative effort that combines the CHD clinic services and programs with other county public services.

“The new facility is the reflection of a unique county/state partnership that provided \$8.2 million for the expansion and renovation of the 25,00 square-foot facility formerly occupied exclusively by the Sarasota County Health Department,” said Sarasota CHD administrator and Sarasota County Health and Human Services Executive Director Bill Little. “The exceptional collaboration with the county has made this organization a ‘best practices’ model for other county health departments in Florida,” he added.

The new facility is now home to Healthy Start, administrative services, epidemiology, disease control and clinical services, such as adult and primary care, women's health, dental, patient pharmacy and laboratory. The additional 43,000 square feet to the existing building has allowed for the co-location of services from other facilities to increase operational efficiencies while providing convenience to customers. These services include children's immunizations, health planning and promotion, WIC and Nutrition, and vital records and the county's Human Services Unit—veterans' services, human services and criminal justice policy coordination, and grants management. Sarasota County Health and Human Services will keep existing sites open in the county to include a children's health center in Sarasota, a full service health center in Venice, the School Health team at the school district headquarters, Environmental Health Services and Mosquito Management Services.

Sarasota County Public Works provided oversight of the construction project. DOH architects David Nelson and Ron Walsh worked with the Woodroffe Corporate Architects on the facility's design. Peter R. Brown Construction, Inc., was responsible for construction. ■ Dianne M. Shipley, Sarasota County Health Department

### collier CHD creates innovative approach to vaccinations

EARLY IN THE 2003 FLU AND PNEUMONIA SEASON WHEN VACCINE SUPPLY WAS SUFFICIENT AND INFLUENZA WAS NOT YET MAKING NEWS HEADLINES, Collier County Health Department in Immokalee came up with an innovative approach to vaccinate the public in this rural farming community.

It was during the first week of November when the idea for a “Drive-Through Flu Clinic” was implemented. Spearheaded by Immokalee's Division Director Nancy Frees, the drive-through proved to be a great success that didn't even require drivers or passengers to leave their vehicles. Some clients came by the van-loads, others rode in by cycle, and still others chose the walk-through line.

All in all, clients were impressed by the speed and convenience of this service and their feedback indicated they would make a return visit if and when available. The drive-through, funded by the “Closing The Gap” grant, was easy to coordinate, safe and fun. It was located in an area directly behind the Immokalee facility, where a horseshoe-shaped driveway made for easy set up. Tent-covered check-in and check-out stations were located at each end with a sheltered area in between for the vaccination station.

The Immokalee team plans to use the drive-through Clinic as a regular part of their flu and pneumonia vaccine awareness and utilization effort. ■ Lana Woods, Collier County Health Department

### lee CHD is on the move

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS PROMOTING HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES WITH AN INITIATIVE TO MOTIVATE THE COMMUNITY TO GET ACTIVE. The effort began in June of 2003 with a group of concerned professionals interested in addressing the country-wide obesity epidemic. The group is called LeePan for Lee County Physical Activity and Nutrition Coalition.

LeePAN's mission is to positively impact health in Lee County by encouraging individuals, businesses and organizations to promote active living and healthy eating through education, policy, and environmental change.

One of LeePAN's strategies for promoting active living is the program “America on the Move” in Lee County (AOTM in Lee County). AOTM in Lee County is based on the theory that we can stop gaining weight by adding 2,000 steps (about 15–20 minutes of walking) to our daily routines. Two Department of Health grants and resources from partner agencies were awarded to help fund the effort. More than 900 people in the community have received pedometers. These participants are encouraged to increase their daily step count using the pedometers and track their increase in steps.

LeePAN sponsored a kick-off event in September to introduce the coalition and pedometer strategy to the community. Information on health, physical activity, pedometers and pedometer training, were provided. More than 430 people attended and feedback was positive.

“I appreciated receiving the pedometer and the motivation it gave me to get started walking,” one participant commented.

“The program is a good one and should be offered again to others,” another said.

For more information about LeePAN, please contact Karen Kalisz, R.D., L.D., Lee CHD Health Promotion and Wellness coordinator, (239) 332-9595. ■ Karen Kalisz, Lee County Health Department

**building** from cover

Bonnie Brooks and Leah Engle are actively involved in PHP outreach to local physicians in their counties. Brooks uses a locally modified "Zebra Pack" to inform her clinicians of the challenges presented by bioterrorism. Engle surveyed the clinicians in Alachua County to determine their needs and designed a number of products to meet those needs. Her bioterrorism "Cheat Sheet" already has been shared around the state as a best practice. Questions about Public Health Preparedness Education & Training may be directed by e-mail to Mark\_O'Neill@doh.state.fl.us or by phone, at SunCom 205-4444, ext. 2165 or (850) 245-4444, ext. 2165. The next quarterly PHP Education & Training Workshop is scheduled for April 14-15 in Tampa. For more information, visit the PHP Education & Training Intranet website at [http://dohiws/Divisions/Perf\\_Improvement/Preparedness/PHET.htm](http://dohiws/Divisions/Perf_Improvement/Preparedness/PHET.htm). ■ **Mark A. O'Neill, Office of Performance Improvement**

**DOH joins EPA in urging public to test homes for radon**

IN JANUARY DURING NATIONAL RADON AWARENESS MONTH THE DEPARTMENT JOINED THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) IN EDUCATING FLORIDIANS about the dangers of exposure to elevated levels of indoor radon. Both agencies encourage everyone to identify and fix radon problems in their homes and build new homes with radon-resistant features.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, according to Health Secretary Agwunobi. And he emphasized the importance of testing for radon and knowing there are steps people can take to protect themselves and their families from long-term exposure to it.



Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless, radioactive gas that is produced in soils. Outdoor levels are quite low and produce little risk, but when radon is trapped inside of buildings, the higher concentrations create a potential health hazard.

Testing homes for radon is simple and relatively inexpensive. Radon test kits are available at several retail outlets and through DOH-certified radon businesses. Homeowners may also consider hiring a DOH-certified radon measurement business to test their homes. If elevated levels are discovered, the issue can be mitigated for a cost similar to that of many other home repairs.

Florida's new building code includes radon construction techniques in the appendices. For more information on radon, its health effects and how to test for and decrease elevated levels of radon, call the Florida Department of Health's Radon Hotline, toll free, at 1-800-543-8279. Additional information is available at the department's radon website at [www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/facility/radon/index.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/facility/radon/index.html). ■

**DOH continues to educate the public about shaken baby syndrome**

SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME (SBS) IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF DEATH BY PHYSICAL ABUSE TO CHILDREN IN FLORIDA. It's a 100 percent preventable form of child abuse. SBS occurs when a frustrated caregiver loses control and shakes a young child, causing permanent brain damage or death. The outcomes for survivors typically include cerebral palsy, blindness, deafness, seizures, and learning/behavioral difficulties.

In recognition of the severity of SBS, the Florida Legislature unanimously passed Senate Bill 1766 called the Kimberlin West Act of 2002, which requires hospitals, birthing facilities, or home birth providers that have maternity and newborn services to provide written information with an explanation concerning the dangers of shaking babies and young children to new parents before they take their newborn home.

In April 2001, Congress passed Senate Resolution 55 that designates the third week in April as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week." In support of this resolution, DOH's Infant, Maternal and Reproductive Health unit provides materials and information to county health departments and Healthy Start Coalitions to increase awareness about the importance of this public health issue.

For more information on Shaken Baby Syndrome, contact: Felisha Dickey, Infant, Maternal and Reproductive Health, Division of Family Health Services at [Felisha\\_Dickey@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Felisha_Dickey@doh.state.fl.us).

■ **Felisha Dickey, Division of Family Health Services**

**satisfaction survey helps department promote positive changes internally**

Listening to employees and gaining a better understanding of what they think about their jobs, employers, supervisors and company or agency efforts can make for a better working environment and more productive and satisfied team of employees.

The Department of Health takes seriously employee input and opportunities for internal improvement because, after all, a more efficient operation and more content employees makes for greater opportunity to build healthier communities.

All 16,000-plus DOH employees will have the opportunity to anonymously provide their input about their jobs and the department during the 2004 Employee Satisfaction Survey (EES) scheduled from March 1-26. This is the third all-employee survey (career service, OPS, contracted head-quarter staff and select exempt). Results in the past have given all areas of the department opportunity to make improvements, such as increase communications efforts and provide opportunities for professional growth.

The 2004 survey provides the third set of data and trend from 1999 to 2002 and 2004. The purpose of the survey is to provide information to managers so they can design interventions to improve employee satisfaction at their county health department, clinic, division, bureau, office, or unit.

Survey results should be available to employees by the end of May 2004. Access to the data results will be available on the Office of Performance Improvement Intranet site. All directors and administrators also will receive the data reports to share with staff. Opportunities for improvements may result from the data reports.

So what exactly happens with the ESS data? After the first survey in 1999, local work units developed teams to address their specific opportunities for improvement. These teams have resulted in positive, long-lasting results. Some overall strategies that have been implemented for making improvements include:

**Statewide employee recognition ceremonies**  
**Customer satisfaction feedback**

**Periodic, local office employee satisfaction surveys**

**Monthly training sessions for new employees**

**HIV/AIDS created Quality Management Institute**

In past survey findings, communication was identified as an area for improvement for the department. In response, many initiatives have been implemented from DOH head-quarter offices in Tallahassee since 2002. These include:

**The Health Advisor available online**

**Enhanced website design for easier navigation**

**Increased communication via email from the DOH Postmaster about program initiatives**

**Increased communication highlighting department initiatives**

**Increased communication from leadership regarding leadership initiatives**

Department staff statewide indicated they want to develop professionally and advance within the agency. With that in mind, the following training opportunities for learning are now available to make it easier than ever for employees to gain knowledge and advance their careers:

**Leadership Development Competency Software Training**

**Basic Supervisory Training for staff**

**Distance Learning Programs, including Masters in Public Health via satellite from USF**

**Online Journals**

**Quality Tips monthly professional development information sheet**

**Notable Colleagues, journal articles authored by our staff**

**CHD Leadership Enrichment Program**

**More opportunities for nurses to obtain Continuing Education Units**

**Certified Public Manager's Program (in pilot phase)**

**Facilitative Leadership Training**

To assist local teams in implementing improvement projects and plans, the following resources were implemented:

**Quality Management Demonstration Projects**

**Quality Management Showcase**

Other infrastructure initiatives have been adopted for the continuous improvement of the department's processes. These include:

**A revised Quality Improvement Process that includes the review of ESS activities based on survey results**

**Adopting the Sterling Criteria for Organizational Performance Excellence**

What has your work unit done to apply ESS findings for improving employee satisfaction and overall process improvement? We want to know! Contact Nancy Linehan or Jeanne Lane by calling the Office of Performance Improvement at (850) 245-4007 or SunCom 205-4007. Your strategies will be added to the HPI Intranet site so that your efforts can be shared with your DOH colleagues.

■ **Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey, Office of Performance Improvement**

# people in public health

**national public health week 2004 is april 5-11**

“eliminating health  
disparities; communities  
moving from statistics to  
solutions”

## santa rosa CHD nurse is 2004 School Nurse of the Year

Santa Rosa County Health Department's Leslie Adams, R.N., B.S.N., is the Florida Association of School Nurses' 2004 School Nurse of the Year. She was honored at the association's conference in Orlando in January.



Adams

Adams, a 21-year nursing veteran was recognized for her professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm that is evident in all that she does as health educator and school nurse at Holley-Navarre intermediate and middle schools. Adams takes an active role in helping educate students about healthy lifestyles and good choices, covering a wide spectrum of health issues including AIDS and HIV transmission, socially transmitted diseases and germs, and the importance of hand washing. She also teaches first-aid and lifesaving skills, coordinates the "Too Smart to Start" Peer Education Program at Holley Navarre Middle School and volunteers as coordinator for a local chapter of Students Working Against Tobacco. ■

## collier CHD community health nurse cited for clinical excellence

The Florida Nursing Association (FNA) recognized Collier County Health Department Senior Community Health Nurse Valerie Ryan for her clinical excellence. She will be honored during the association's annual conference in March. Ryan was nominated locally and was a recipient of the Collier County FNA Clinical Excellence awards in 2003. Ryan began her work as a nurse after graduating in 1964 from Syracuse University in New York. Among her experience and list of accomplishments is her work for Women's Health during her tenure at the Women's Health Clinic at the State University of New York in Genesco, Family Planning clinical care at the Livingston County Health Department in New York, and School Health, Healthy Start and coordination of KidCare implementation at the Collier CHD. Ryan has been active in community groups that relate to her areas of expertise, including the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition and March of Dimes. She has been an active member of FNA and continually advocates for her patients and her profession.

■ **Stephanie Vick, Collier County Health Department**

## palm beach CHD director becomes 'local legend'

Palm Beach County Health Department Director Jean M. Malecki, M.D., was recognized recently as a woman physician who has demonstrated commitment, originality, innovation and creativity in the field of medicine, and she was honored with Changing the Face of Medicine and named a Local Legend by the National Library of Medicine, American Medical Women's Association and Florida Congressman Robert Wexler.

Malecki, Palm Beach CHD Director since 1991 and a native of Palm Beach County, was honored at the American Medical Women's Association Annual Meeting in San Diego in February along with other Local Legends from around the country.

MacNeill/Lehrer Productions, producers of the News Hour with Jim Lehrer, will be producing a DVD on the legends. The National Library of Medicine will be adding Malecki to its Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians exhibit at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland.

In his nomination letter, Congressman Wexler wrote: "Dr. Malecki was the first doctor in this country to deal with

a biological attack when the first patient was diagnosed with anthrax during October 2001. I cannot say enough about Dr. Malecki's outstanding dedication as a public health official. She epitomizes the meaning of public health and public service. I commend her commitment and service to the residents of Palm Beach County." ■

## DOH state environmental epidemiologist appointed to national advisory committee

Executive Medical Director for Division of Environmental Health and State Environmental Epidemiologist David Johnson, M.D., M.S., recently accepted a 4-year appointment from Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson to serve on the national Advisory Committee on Special Studies Relating to the Possible Long-Term Health Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides and Contaminants (Agent Orange).

The committee was established in 1981 as the independent monitoring committee of the Epidemiologic Studies of Ranch Hands Personnel (Ranch Hands Study) by the U.S. Air Force. The Advisory Committee will advise the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Health concerning its oversight of the conduct of the Ranch Hands Study by the Air Force, and other studies the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary for Health believe involvement by the committee is desirable. ■

## department shares birth defects prevention month award

The Department of Health shared the spotlight with the Florida Chapter of the March of Dimes and the University of South Florida Birth Defects Center as winners of the Birth Defects Prevention Month Award. The collaborative partners were honored by the National Birth Defects Prevention Network for their innovative approach to promoting awareness about birth defects during January, National Birth Defects Prevention Month. The three entities teamed up to adapt and distribute health promotion materials to all 67 county health departments, Children's Medical Services clinics, the March of Dimes division offices, and Healthy Start Coalitions.

■ **Elisia Norton, Division of Environmental Health**

## escambia CHD director becomes president of local medical society

John J. Lanza, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P., was sworn in as the 119th president of the Escambia County Medical Society in January. During the one-year appointment, Lanza, a board-certified pediatrician, will lead the Escambia County Medical Society in tackling issues ranging from the proposed Florida Medical Association constitutional amendment limiting contingency fees, to increasing the membership of physicians in organized medicine, to improving the access to medical care for all of our citizens. ■ **from the Escambia County Medical Society**

## the advisor

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Please send stories & information for the May/June issue by e-mail to Juli Bergstrom-Wasson in the Office of Performance Improvement by April 1, 2004.

The Health Advisor is available on the DOH Intranet & Internet websites.  
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Suncom: 205-4007 Suncom Fax: 292-0462

## correia receives national birth defects prevention network award

Jane Correia, coordinator of the Florida Birth Defects Registry and environmental specialist in the Division of Environmental Health, received the prestigious President's Award from the National Birth Defects Prevention Network during its 7th annual meeting in Salt Lake City recently.

The President's Award honors an outstanding member of the Network who has made significant contributions important to its goals and mission. Correia was recognized for her service as secretary/treasurer during 2002/2003. To learn more about the Network, visit its website at [www.nbdpn.org](http://www.nbdpn.org).

■ **Elisia Norton, Division of Environmental Health**



L to R National Birth Defects Prevention Network President, Dr. Lowell Sever, and Jane Correia

## desoto CHD nursing veteran receives PhD in health care administration

Kudos to 20-year nursing veteran Terry Ogilby who recently completed her PhD in Health Care Administration from Capella University. Ogilby began her public health career as a community health nurse at Lee County Health Department where she worked for more than 16 years in various programs.

Ogilby, who received her Masters in Nursing from USF several years ago, has served as nursing director at DeSoto CHD since 1997 and oversees nursing programs such as Maternity, Family Planning, Primary Care, Immunizations, Epidemiology, and outside programs including, School Health, Foster Care Program, and the DeSoto County Jail Services.

"I believe that public health is the only way to make a real difference in peoples lives," says Ogilby. "We have the capability, but just need the support and resources to get the job done." ■