

the health advisor

DOH Mission:

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

October/November 2006

Office of Performance Improvement

Florida Department of Health Hosts Inaugural CURED Summit—a “Meeting of the Minds”

Over one-hundred research scientists, biomedical technology specialists, pharmaceutical manufacturers, business incubators, research sponsors, practitioners and other individuals attended the Florida Department of Health's FL CURED (Center for Universal Research to Eradicate Disease) Summit on August 1, 2006 at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens. Co-chaired by Dr. Larry Lemanski, Florida Atlantic University's (FAU) vice president for research, and Dr. Theodore Roumel, Senior Advisor, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), the event's focus was a “meeting of the minds” to engage in discussions on developing a statewide cure-oriented research agenda to combat some of the state's most debilitating and deadly diseases including cancer, heart disease, diabetes and neurological diseases. The event kicked off with opening remarks from Dr. M. Rony François, Secretary for the Florida Department of Health and Dr. Clyde B. McCoy, FL CURED advisory chair and professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Following the opening remarks, participants listened to expert panelists including the deputy director from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Aging, representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the president of Research America!

“Serving as co-chair of this very important summit was an honor and a privilege,” said Dr. Larry Lemanski. “Bringing together brilliant minds and combining our resources and knowledge will help to expedite the discovery and development of lifesaving cures.”

Florida Atlantic University President Frank T. Brogan and Florida State University President T.K. Wetherell provided a “dialogue” on research during lunch. Breakout sessions included brainstorming on aging and the neurosciences, health disparities, university-industry collaborations, and mobile populations and consequent disease patterns. FL CURED was established in 2004 within the Florida Department of Health when the Florida Legislature passed a bill signed by Governor Jeb Bush. To learn more about FL CURED, visit www.FLCURED.org. ■

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Denny's Kid's Safety Zone— An Award Winning Program



The Denny's Kid's Safety Zone is an excellent example of an innovative and unique injury prevention awareness campaign. Denny's, Inc. and the Office of Injury Prevention (OIP) partnered on a year-long children's safety awareness campaign. The restaurant environment offers time for a teachable moment for parents and caregivers to share safety messages with children while waiting for their food. The campaign was awarded the 2006 Community Partner of the Year Award from the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors

Association. The partnership also won an award from the National Restaurant Association. In addition, this initiative was presented at the 2006 Association of State and Territorial State Health Officials' Annual Meeting as a best practice. During the campaign, approximately one million dollars in value added media coverage was generated.

The campaign's goal is to reduce childhood injuries, the leading cause of death for Florida's children. From 2002–2004, Florida lost 1,074 children, ages 0–14, due to injuries. A new safety subject was introduced quarterly. The OIP worked with Denny's as the subject matter expert to develop the campaign materials. The safety subjects were Child Personal Safety, Child Passenger Safety, Drowning Prevention, and Hurricane Injury Prevention.

The OIP is the lead agency for Safe Kids Florida. The OIP and Safe Kids Florida partnered to reduce these grave statistics. Safe Kids worked with their local Denny's to provide kids' safety activities. Denny's incurred the cost for the 800,000 interactive safety activity books and growth charts that were distributed statewide in their 160 restaurants.

Each safety subject was introduced with a kick-off media event, held in Orlando, Miami, Tampa, and Port Charlotte. Twelve additional safety events, hosted by Safe Kids, were held at local Denny's restaurants.

For more information, please contact Jane Parker, Office of Injury Prevention, Division of Health Access and Tobacco at (850) 245-4444, x 2774. ■

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The U.S. Surgeon General's Report Focuses on the Effects of Secondhand Smoke

On June 27, U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona released a report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, which concludes that secondhand smoke is harmful to all people.

Secondhand smoke is similar to the mainstream smoke inhaled by the smoker. Both have the same complex mixture containing many chemicals (including formaldehyde, cyanide, carbon monoxide, ammonia, and nicotine), many of which are known carcinogens. Fortunately, exposure of adults is declining as smoking becomes increasingly restricted in workplaces and public places. Unfortunately, children continue to be exposed in their homes by the smoking of parents and other adults. This exposure leads to unnecessary cases of bronchitis, pneumonia and worsened asthma.

At a press conference to launch the report, Assistant Secretary for Health, Admiral John Agwunobi said that in recent years, the U.S. has made remarkable progress preventing youth from starting to smoke, helping adults to quit and protecting nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke. Yet, we still have a long way to go.

The main messages of the report states:

■ **Secondhand smoke exposure causes heart disease and lung cancer in adults and sudden infant death syndrome and respiratory problems in children.**

■ **There is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure.**

■ **Only, smoke-free environments effectively protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke exposure in indoor areas.**

■ **Finally, the report concludes that, while great strides have been made in recent years in reducing nonsmoking Americans' secondhand smoke exposure, millions of Americans continue to be exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes and workplaces.**

The Department of Health's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program continues to promote strategies to protect the health and safety of all people in Florida by providing information and education on secondhand smoke exposure, youth tobacco prevention, tobacco cessation quit-line (1-877-822-6669), the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act and surveillance. For additional information, visit the Department of Health's Web site at www.doh.state.fl.us/tobacco. A copy of the Surgeon General's report is available at www.surgeongeneral.gov. ■

Seminole County Health Department and Community Assistance celebrated the grand opening at their Casselberry location on Thursday, August 24th with a dedication ceremony that started at 10:00 A.M.

“Commissioner Dallari was our champion in securing funding through the Board of County Commissioners so that we could expand services,” said Michael Napier, Seminole County Health Department Administrator.

With the expansion, a treatment room was added to the two existing rooms of the Dental Program and all the equipment was updated to new state of the art equipment. The new dental facilities were designed to put clients more at ease.

The Healthy Start program now has a part-time office, serving those in the southern part of Seminole County. Healthy Start sees approximately twenty-five clients per month that would not have been able to receive services as they are not able to travel to the Sanford location. Thanks to the new space, a “Mom's Closet” was created. This closet is filled with clothes for Healthy Start clients and their families, something not available in the Sanford location.

The WIC program also renovated their waiting area making it more comfortable, with a separate entrance. The area was redesigned to provide a more professional and efficient layout which enhances the clients service experience. To handle the anticipated increase in client's, additional staff has been added through funding from the state WIC program.

The immunization program also features an expanded waiting area and two additional Nurses stations to help accommodate the needs of a growing community. These improvements make the facility more suitable to handle day-to-day operations as well as the high demand of flu season and the back to school immunizations events.

The expansion started in November of 2005 and was recently finished. Mr. Napier has been anxious to see this project completed, “We are very enthusiastic that we are able to serve the Seminole County Community, from helping pregnant women and new mothers, to people with a tooth ache, to those who are heading out of the country on vacation or work and need their travel vaccines. We also hope to serve the community during the upcoming flu shots campaign at this location, hopefully easing the travel burden for many senior citizens.” ■

Expanded Services to the Seminole County Community with a Dedication Ceremony on Thursday



The Diabetes Prevention and Control Program and Obesity Prevention Program Release Healthy Hispanic Foods Resource Kit

Hispanics comprise approximately 19 percent of Florida's population and have a higher risk for life-changing diseases such as diabetes, which affects 8.6 percent of this population. An estimated 64.8 percent of adult Hispanic Floridians are either overweight or obese. Diabetes and obesity can be prevented. The resource kit provides culturally appropriate nutrition materials for Hispanics who want to prevent future complications and who want options for making traditional foods in a healthier way.

Recipes were collected from members of the Hispanic community and are based on traditional dishes from Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. Each recipe was modified by nutritionists and then tested in focus-groups comprised of Hispanic families and friends to ensure they were as close as possible to the original recipe in terms of taste and texture.

The resource kit includes materials in Spanish and English—a series of ten culturally appropriate recipes with portion size recommendations, a photograph of the food item and nutrition facts, and an accompanying informational booklet that explains the intent of the recipe cards, cooking and shopping tips, nutrition facts, visual clues for serving sizes, and magnets that promote health messages. Also included is a colorful "Take Charge of Your Diabetes: Control Your Portion Sizes" cutting board, a Spoodle® for demonstrating serving size, instructions sheet, postage-paid participant evaluation postcards, an instructor survey, and incentive items.

The Healthy Hispanic Foods Resource Kit targets Florida dieticians, health educators, nurses and other health professionals who routinely conduct nutrition education classes for Hispanics living with or at risk for diabetes. Shipping is the only cost for requesters. Recipe cards and informational booklets are downloadable. For more information, please visit the Diabetes Prevention & Control Program Web site at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/family/dcp/index.html> ■



Health Literacy in the Classroom

In support of Health Literacy Month in October, the Florida Department of Health's Read for Health initiative announced its first, "Health Literacy in the Classroom," volunteer reading project. Volunteers were asked to visit elementary school classrooms around the state and read, "Curious George Goes to the Hospital" to preschool, kindergarten or first grade students. The volunteer response was overwhelming. Over 1,200 books were donated to classrooms throughout the state reaching in excess of 30,000 children.

Recognizing that health has a strong foundation in literacy, the project was designed to build on the relationship between health and literacy and to engage children in health related reading activities. Reading aloud to children helps them develop and improve literacy skills—reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Children listen on a higher level than they read and listening to other readers stimulates growth and understanding of vocabulary and language patterns. Improving child literacy is a goal of the Read for Health initiative because the ability to read, write and understand letters and numbers is a basic component to maintaining good health and eliminating health disparities. On behalf of the Read for Health initiative, a very big thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers. For additional information on the Read for Health initiative visit our Web site at www.readforhealth.com ■

Program Evaluation Tools

Are we making a health impact? Examining ways to answer this question has been the focus of a three year operational research project, implemented by the Division of Disease Control, Bureau of TB and Refugee Health (BTBRH). The project, known as Task Order 10 (TO10), was funded by the CDC's Division's of TB Elimination (DTBE).

The main objective was to implement an innovative conceptual framework of surveillance, performance, and cost in select Florida counties (Alachua, Columbia, Duval, Hillsborough and Suwannee). Developed by the collaborative efforts of CDC and the World Health Association (WHO), the conceptual framework, with its three elements of action, surveillance and support, provides for a comprehensive overview of programmatic performance, the cost associated with that performance, and the interaction between the two.

Based on the project activities and research findings, the TO10 team developed a monitoring and evaluation tool called, the Florida Public Health Impact Tool (PHIT). The tool has three key components:

- 1. The first is a listing of output and outcome measures of TB program performance. These standard indicators allow program managers to select the indicators relevant to their program goals. Users can also develop their own indicators and add to the tool. All indicators are categorized into the twelve conceptual framework activities (detection; registration; reporting; confirmation; analysis; feedback; acute action; planned action; communication; supervision; resources and training).**
- 2. Next, a cost description provides a cost analysis associated with each program activity at a given performance level.**
- 3. Finally, a graph displays the Reporting-for-Performance Measurement (RPM), showing the interaction between performance and cost per specific program activity or outcome. The RPM is indicative of the cost efficiency in achieving a certain level of performance in comparison to prior years or across different programs.**

Although PHIT contains specific TB related measurements at the moment, it can be applied to other infectious diseases or DOH program areas. Health program managers can monitor progress toward goals, assess program efficiency, and measure health impacts. Performance can be compared from year-to-year to illustrate improvement, to determine needs for intervention, or to estimate the impact of shifting resources.

For additional information, contact Sevim Ahmedov (850) 245-4312 or Jim Cobb (850) 245-4301. ■



Dr. Deanna Wathington, Chosen to Lead Office of Minority Health

Florida Department of Health (DOH) Secretary of Health M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D., announces the selection of Deanna Wathington, M.D., M.P.H., FAAFP, as the new director of the Office of Minority Health, effective September 11, 2006.

"The Department of Health is privileged to have Dr. Wathington as the first Minority Health Director for the state of Florida," said Dr. François. "Her extensive medical background, her experience in community health, and her dedication to the improvement of minority health make her the perfect candidate for this position."

Dr. Wathington, who is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine, is the former Associate Dean for Academic Enrichment at the University of South Florida's (USF) College of Medicine. She also was an Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Medical Education and a Consulting Faculty of Women's Studies at USF before accepting the position of DOH Minority Health Director.

"I am honored to serve in this capacity with an agency that has such a positive commitment to ensuring minority health," said Dr. Wathington. "This is an incredible opportunity to address health disparities here in Florida and improve the health of our citizens and our communities."

She earned her doctorate of medicine from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in 1994. Dr. Wathington received her master's degree in public health from Temple University in 1990. She completed her residency in family medicine at the Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg, Fla. The New Jersey native earned her Bachelor of Science in Zoology and Physiology from Rutgers University.

Throughout her 19 year academic and clinical medical career, Dr. Wathington has maintained her dedication to the community, earned numerous awards and committed to several professional organizations, including the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Public Health Association and Women in Academic Medicine and Research. ■

DOH Training Policy (DOHP-180-1-06) and the Educational Leave with Pay Policy, Protocols, and Procedures (DOHP-60-10-06) Have Been Updated

The DOH Training Policy establishes uniform, non-programmatic, training requirements for Department of Health (DOH) employees. This policy adheres to federal, state, and agency requirements, where applicable, and applies to all employees. Training requirements may differ depending on the respective job or contract responsibilities and requirements for each employee. A definition of an individual development plan has been added. Also referenced is a requirement for all employees to complete a competency-based orientation to Public Health Preparedness, ICS-100 and IS-700 within the timeframe identified in the policy. Cultural diversity training must be completed within 60 days of hire. The Department of Health training matrix and contact list has been updated in the appendix.

The Educational Leave with Pay Policy establishes a uniform and equitable approval process for requesting educational leave with pay (ELWP), including responsibilities for all personnel in the approval process. This policy applies only to educational leave with pay. This policy does not apply to the Title IV-E Educational Leave with Pay Program. Clarification of the definition of delegated and designated authority has been added. The required grade point average (GPA) has been revised to 3.0. Also, the local budget office should identify any fiscal impact on the requesting office. Various forms in the appendix have been updated or added.

For questions regarding these policies, contact the Office of Performance Improvement at (850) 245-4007 or SunCom 205-4007. ■



School Board Recognition

The Orange County Health Department (OCHD) was recognized on August 29, 2006 for outstanding participation in the Mentoring Program for Orange County Public Schools. The School Board applauded the health department for mentoring the students at Ivey Lane Elementary School which had been rated an "F" for the previous two years. This past year, Ivey Lane was rated a "strong" C.

Principal Dr. Ruth Baskerville credited Dr. Kevin Sherin, OCHD Director, and his staff for the commitment and support to the students, teachers, and parents of this school which is located in the Ivey Lane area of Orlando.

School Board member, Kat Gordon, spoke of the assistance the health department provided from gathering donations of clothes, furniture, toys, and gift items to be included in the famous FCAT Mall, to the weekly time spent with each student who was fortunate enough to have a mentor assigned to them. Students who studied for the FCAT were given "points" towards shopping at the Mall. This project was successful as students were gaining extra credit for studying and preparing for the tests.

There are four hundred students in the school and the health department had over fifty employees volunteer to be mentors at Ivey Lane. Each mentor agreed that it was one of the most rewarding experiences of the year for them.

Mayor Buddy Dyer and representatives from Governor Jeb Bush's office also honored the mentors of the Orange County Health Department in early May with the Jefferson Awards. The mayor thanked the entire staff of the health department for the extra effort generously given to touch the lives of these young children. ■



Environmental Health Receives \$757,402 Grant to Investigate Environmental Hazards and Health Risks

In a financial show of support, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded a five-year cooperative agreement of \$757,402 to the Division of Environmental Health, Office of Environmental Public Health and Medicine.

The award provides funding for the Division's Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Program to administer a state-level, web-based, health tracking system. A precursor to a national tracking network, the system will analyze data from state and federal surveillance systems to better link environmental hazards with chronic diseases and adverse health risks.

Over the long-term, these efforts will help expand the ability of federal, state, and local agencies to develop effective interventions that can be used to guide public health policy and practices.

"This award represents a monumental step in our efforts to leverage technological advances and data-gathering methods to address public health issues," said Deputy State Health Officer Bonita Sorenson, M.D., M.B.A. "Florida is an enthusiastic partner in the national movement to prevent and control diseases that can be linked to hazards in our environment."

Florida is one of 16 other funded states working with state and federal agencies as well as universities to develop a National Network Implementation Plan. This plan will guide ongoing efforts to build the National EPHT Network—a nationwide health tracking system. Once the National EPHT Network is complete, health care providers and the public can access information that can be used to strengthen both public health and preventive services for Floridians. For more information visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/tracking>. ■

Four from ACHD Present at APHA in Boston

Alachua County Health Department (ACHD) is pleased to announce that four staff presented at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Exposition, "Public Health and Human Rights." (Boston, MA, November 4–6, 2006).



Linn

Myers

Dennis

Mosher

Mary Jean Linn reported on FL Hep-CARE. This pilot project provides treatment for uninsured clients with viral hepatitis C. A collaboration between the University of Florida College of Medicine, DOH, ACHD, and private industry, this ambitious undertaking has shown positive results in the form of individuals adhering and responding to treatment.

Anthony Dennis presented "Fecal Coliform Loading of Hogtown, Tumlin', and Sweetwater Creeks in Gainesville, Florida." This study, designed by Dennis and Paul Myers, characterizes the role that onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) play in the fecal coliform loading of certain creek systems. The study is part of a joint effort with other local stakeholders to identify the sources of this pollution and to develop plans to correct the issues surrounding it.

Anthony Dennis also presented "Protection Enhancements and Economies of Scale Realized by Regionalization of a Well Surveillance Program." This study, designed by Dennis and Paul Myers, explains the benefits of centralization of well surveillance in the proximity of underground petroleum storage tanks within a consortium of rural counties. ACHD surveys ten counties in this capacity, completing the most surveys in the state this year.

Dina Mosher discussed the positive results of the "Impact of Cafeteria Meal Options on Middle School Students' Lunch Choices." This study, designed by Mosher and Erin DeFries, examines the impact that both passive and active nutrition education can have on improving middle school students' food choices. The three-month study revealed an already nutrition-savvy student body with an insufficient supply of healthier food items in the lunch room. Somewhat unexpectedly, it was determined that if a greater quantity was offered, more would be purchased. ■

Bureau of Radiation Control Staff Coast through Course to Upgrade Emergency Response Skills

With emerging emphasis on terrorist threats involving radioactive materials, it is essential that laboratory personnel keep their specialized skills current. That is why twelve staff from the Bureau of Radiation Control and the Bureau of Laboratories recently attended the four-day training course, Fundamentals of Nuclear Forensic Science.

The interactive course, which was presented by the Radiochemistry Society, featured comprehensive training in radiological sampling preparation and analysis techniques as part of an emergency response plan.

Participants were treated to lively, hands-on instruction which was conducted on-site at the Health Physics Laboratory in Orlando to enhance the learning experience.

"I was thoroughly pleased with the instructor's level of knowledge and flexibility during the training," said Mike Phillips, an environmental health consultant within the Bureau of Radiation Control. "The materials were also very well organized and comprehensive."

To minimize public health hazards, the Bureau of Radiation Control is responsible for collecting and analyzing water, soil, air, and vegetation around the three nuclear power reactor sites in Florida. They also collect radiological samples during routine inspection and investigation activities as well as potential terrorism incidents.

The Radiochemistry Society is a scientific and professional organization whose members specialize in both applied and fundamental radiochemistry, nuclear sciences, and environmental concerns.

The Office of Performance Improvement sponsored the \$23,940 training with preparedness funds provided from the Center for Disease Control's cooperative agreement. ■

conferences

The Fifth Annual Quality Management Showcase is scheduled for Nov. 30–Dec. 1 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando

This year's theme—Riding the Wave to Excellence—will create an opportunity to highlight original, fresh approaches the department can use while riding the waves of business. The forum will feature the latest information on quality strategies. The agenda includes more expert presentations; including roundtable discussions and exhibits on department best practice models. Additional offerings include breakout sessions on quality approaches relating to improved work process and resources and continuing education credits for nurses.

Plenary speakers for this year include:

Pete Newell is the Senior Vice President for Finance, at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton. The hospital recently received the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. Mr. Newell will present his insight on balancing quality outcomes and financial results while maintaining a business structure that supports the organization's drive to performance excellence.

Lon Kieffer will encourage participants to "Get out of Bed and Go to Work." Kieffer highlights the everyday realities of our work-a-day world and offers light-hearted encouragement to individually pursue great things. Kieffer has over 20 years experience in health care consulting.

Simon T. Bailey will inspire participants to "Kick-It-Up-A-Notch" on "A Journey of Quality Brilliance." Bailey is the Chief Catalyst of Brilliance, at the Imagination Institute, Inc. His teaches others how to engage energy in what matters the most, discover how to inspire people to change the world in addition to protecting profit margins, and determine how quality will leave an imprint on the organization instead of just making an impression.

For more information, contact Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey or Debbie Taylor at (850) 245-4007 or SunCom (850) 205-4007. ■

Join your colleagues for the First Annual Clinical and Preventive Practice Management Summit at the Wyndham Riverwalk, Jacksonville Hotel in Jacksonville, on January 23–25, 2007

TARGET AUDIENCE Representatives from local county health departments, Children's Medical Services clinics, medical directors, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Medicaid, Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), academia, dental health and rural health networks.

TOP 5 REASONS TO ATTEND

1. Compelling sessions on health disparities, fiscal sustainability, health literacy, disease management, health care access, practice management efficiencies and more.
2. Learn how to drive improvements in quality of care and customer service.
3. Collaborate and learn from experts and leaders in innovation, preventive practice, community partnering, chronic disease management, rural health care, and cost effective business management.
4. Learn how to apply clinical practice guidelines, tools and techniques in the delivery of public health preventive services.
5. Expand cultural diversity knowledge and practices.

TOPICS Interactive panels and facilitated breakout sessions to include a wide spectrum of content areas such as: evidenced based clinical practices, health literacy, business practice management, implementing cost effective care, sustaining improvements in care delivery, clinical decision support tools, individual and community interventions that work, clinic efficiencies, health care access, community linkages, chronic care management, behavioral health, assessing risk, communicable disease control, emergency preparedness, women's health, health risk behaviors, obesity, tobacco, communicable diseases, information technology applications and systems, oral health, telemedicine and more. ■

PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

Claude M. Dharamraj, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P., became the new director of the Pinellas County Health Department July 1, 2006. She replaced John Heilman, M.D., M.P.H., who retired in June after 18 years of service.

Dr. Dharamraj's career has been in service to Pinellas County. She began at the Pinellas County Health Department in 1984, serving as a pediatric and primary care physician. Her career grew over the years, and she became the agency's assistant director in 1990.

Dr. Dharamraj received her CPEM at College Scientifique Universitaire, Tours, France, and her M.D. from Faculte de Medecine in Lille, France. Dr. Dharamraj, a board certified pediatrician, completed her residency at New York Medical College's Metropolitan Hospital Center, and fellowships at North Shore University Hospital in New York, William Beaumont Hospital in Michigan and Shands Hospital at the University of Florida. She received her MPH from the University of South Florida in 2000.

Dr. Dharamraj is a driving force for Pinellas County in convincing community leaders of the importance of private-public partnerships necessary to improve healthcare. Numerous innovative and collaborative grant initiatives administered by Pinellas County Health Department are under Dr. Dharamraj's direction.

She has been on the board of the National Healthy Start Association, Project Director of the St. Pete Federal Healthy Start Project, Closing the Gap, Healthy Start Coalition, and Committee for Safe Start Pinellas, Violence Prevention and The Florida Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality. She has worked with the U.S. Department of Justice/Clearwater Police Department's Weed and Seed Project. Dr. Dharamraj was the recipient of the Outstanding Woman of the Year award presented by the University of South Florida's College of Public Health.

CMS REGIONAL MEDICAL DIRECTOR RECEIVES ABRAHAM JACOBI AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS AND THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Florida Department of Health (DOH) Children's Medical Services (CMS) Network Medical Director for the Tampa Bay Region, Dr. John Curran, has been presented with the 2006 Abraham Jacobi Memorial Award. This award is given jointly by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American Medical Association (AMA). The Abraham Jacobi Memorial Award, named after the founder of pediatrics, was jointly established by the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1963. The award recognizes a pediatrician who has made "long-term noble contributions to pediatrics nationally."

Dr. Curran has been the medical director for the CMS Tampa Bay Region for 18 years. In this capacity, he oversees area offices serving over 8,000 children from Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Counties.

Dr. Curran's commitment to pediatric medicine is indisputable. His career highlights include his role as a charter member of the University of South Florida College of Medicine faculty, the founding neonatologist at Tampa General Hospital, Chief of Pediatrics at Tampa General Hospital, and roles as vice-dean, associate dean, and professor of pediatrics. He has been involved in numerous statewide and national medical organizations, including past president of the Florida chapter of the AAP and a member of the Medical School Section of the AMA. He is widely recognized as a physician who builds bridges between organized medicine, the community, medical organizations (including the AAP), and academic medicine.

This award was presented at the President's Dinner during the Academy of Pediatrics' National Conference and Exhibition on Sunday, October 8th in Atlanta.

GOVERNOR RECOGNIZES HEALTH DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER

Governor Jeb Bush awarded Else Hoffmann with the Points of Light Award for her voluntary service to the Marion County Health Department.

"I am proud to recognize Else's more than 24 years of service to the Marion County Health Department," said Governor Bush. "With her help, we continue to provide convenient and reliable healthcare service to Floridians."

Hoffmann volunteers more than 12 hours per week at the health department's maternity and family planning clinic. Her work includes locating patient charts, filing laboratory results, and assisting with patient billing information.

"Else's efforts have helped the health department efficiently serve our clients," said Dr. Nathan Grossman, director of the Marion County Health Department. "Her dedication has been a great service to the citizens of Marion County."

The Governor's Points of Light Award recognizes a Florida resident or organization that has demonstrated

exemplary service to the community. A panel of judges comprised of leaders in the areas of volunteerism and service evaluate nominees and make their recommendations to Governor Bush. The award is sponsored by Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises and is awarded weekly.

For more information on the Points of Light program, or to nominate a person, go to www.VolunteerFloridaFoundation.org.

CMS DIVISION DIRECTOR ELECTED FOR THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Florida Department of Health (DOH) Children's Medical Services (CMS) Division Director Michael L. Haney Ph.D., NCC, CCISM, LMHC, has been elected Section Counselor for the Mental Health Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA).

"I congratulate Dr. Haney on being elected by his peers to serve the Mental Health Section of APHA," said Deputy Secretary of Health for CMS, Joseph J. Chiaro, M.D. "His distinguished career has certainly prepared him for this role and I am confident he will represent our state and DOH well."

Dr. Haney joined the Florida Department of Health in 1998 and currently serves as the CMS Prevention and Intervention Division Director. As division director, he supervises a variety of programs geared toward aiding Florida's children, including child protection teams and sexual abuse treatment programs, Telehealth and telemedicine, poison control centers, and other child abuse and neglect prevention initiatives.

"I am honored and will do my best to serve and represent my colleagues in this vital section of APHA," Dr. Haney said of this election.

Dr. Haney's professional career includes over 20 years of serving children who have been abused or neglected and those with mental health issues. He has been published in several journals, including "The Journal of Public Health Management and Practice," and is a member of numerous professional organizations, such as the Florida Mental Health Counselor's Association, International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators. Earlier this year, he was named vice president of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.

People in Public Health

FLORIDA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION HAS A NEW PRESIDENT

The Florida Public Health Association (FPHA) announced Friday August 4th, 2006, at their annual meeting that Mr. Mike Napier, administrator of the Seminole County Health Department, has been elected president for 2007-08.

The Florida Public Health Association (FPHA) celebrated their 75th anniversary this year and has made major contributions to Florida's public health and its work force. Its members work to bring critical health issues before the state legislature, and local health departments constantly exchanging information on preparedness, prevention, and program successes. Patricia Mail, president of the American Public Health Association (APHA) states, "FPHA has grown and become stronger with its management and leadership, and Mike Napier's election as president-elect will continue this tradition of strong and committed leadership."

Mr. Napier serves on numerous local and state boards, coalitions and affiliations. "It is through partnerships and relationships we define our community. . . it is a measure of our commitment to the public," Napier stated.

FPHA was founded in 1931 as an affiliate of the American Public Health Association and of the Southern Health Association. It is a not-for-profit and a statewide professional organization extensively serving public health practitioners and academics in a variety of settings. There are over 1,000 members in the various sectors, state health departments, universities, state departments of environmental protection, and state departments of agriculture.

the advisor

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NEW GADSDEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR

Florida Deputy State Health Officer Bonita Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A., has announced the selection of Sylvia Forehand Byrd, B.S.N., M.P.H., as the new administrator for the Gadsden County Health Department.

"I am happy to announce the selection of Sylvia Byrd as the new administrator for Gadsden County," said Dr. Sorensen. "I am certain that her expertise and well-rounded background will be an asset to the Gadsden County Health Department and I am looking forward to working closely with her and her staff."

Raised in Gadsden County, Byrd previously worked as a nurse and nurse practitioner at the Gadsden County Health Department. She received a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Minnesota School of Nursing and a master's degree in public health, with a focus on maternal and child health, from the University of South Florida. Byrd also received certification as a nurse practitioner in obstetrics and gynecology from the Emory University School of Medicine. She is credited with spearheading the school-based clinic as well as the Citizens for Healthy Babies in Gadsden County. Byrd has facilitated work around school health nurse guidelines that have received national recognition.

HANNAH APPOINTED TO SERVE ON THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION OF MEDICAL INVESTIGATORS

Thomas K. Hannah, Chief of Investigative Services of the Division of Medical Quantity Assurance has been appointed to serve on the planning committee for National Certification of Medical Investigators. This first time initiative is sponsored through the Federation of State Medical Boards and Administrators in Medicine, (AIM). The first training for certification is planned for the summer of 2007 in Orlando, Florida. Nationally known experts are being invited to serve as faculty for the training and applications for attendance are being distributed on a national level. Hannah presently serves as a Nationally Certified Instructor and has taught investigators throughout the United States and Canada. Further information on this certification course will be posted on the AIM Web site.