

Stroke System Saves Lives and Prevents Disabilities

Southeast Alabama is a region with a high incidence of stroke, and during the first six months since a pilot stroke emergency care system has been activated, more patients have received rapid stroke treatment thanks to a voluntary system supported by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Stroke is the leading cause of serious long-term disability and the fourth leading cause of death in the United States. It is vital that patients who are having a stroke be quickly evaluated at a hospital, just like patients who are having a heart attack, to help ensure better patient outcomes regardless of their proximity to an urban stroke center.

The Southeast Regional Pilot Acute Stroke System (SRPASS) serves patients in 18 southeast Alabama counties. It relies heavily on the resources and participation of hospitals, emergency medical service personnel, and coordination by the Alabama Trauma Communications Center.

From the time of the first call, a patient's information is entered into the system and the receiving hospital is provided initial patient information from the field. The network uses an organized plan to route patients with signs of stroke to the closest hospital ready and available to care for them. The around-the-clock system is constantly monitored to correct, improve and validate the quality of care provided.

The most common type of stroke, ischemic stroke, can sometimes be treated and completely reversed by use of a cutting edge "clotbuster" drug called tPA (thrombolytic agent tissue plasminogen activator). Because treatment with tPA is urgent, patients with signs of stroke must be transported quickly to a hospital capable of performing a rapid exam to determine the type of stroke they are experiencing and then treated with tPA when appropriate.

"We have received overwhelming support from prehospital and hospital providers in a team effort," Dr. Sarah Nafziger, Assistant State EMS Medical Director, said. "Emergency physicians and neurologists are pleased with the SRPASS

system and most importantly the patients are having fantastic outcomes."

In the first six months, there were 1,260 patients entered in SRPASS and nearly 656 of those patients were ultimately admitted to those hospitals. Fifteen hospitals have already joined and three additional hospitals are expected to join the system soon, including L.V. Stabler Hospital in Greenville, Crenshaw County Hospital in Luverne, and Bullock County Hospital in Union Springs.

"There is nothing more tragic than seeing stroke patients who would have been eligible to receive tPA, but didn't receive treatment simply because they did not get to a hospital with the resources to treat them in time," Dr. Nafziger said. "This pilot system allows each stroke victim an opportunity for the best possible outcome."

As a result of its trauma and stroke system development, Alabama has become a model for other states in the region and nation.

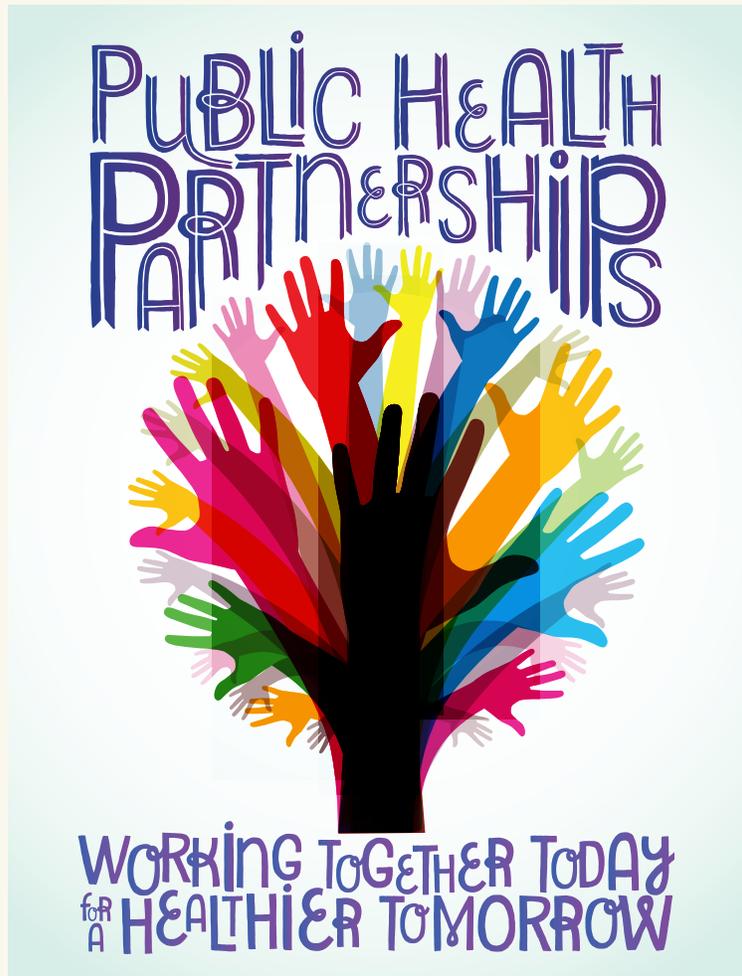


A news conference by satellite promoted the successes in treating stroke patients through the system. Shown left to right, are Joe Acker, Birmingham Regional Emergency Medical Services System director; Dr. Sarah Nafziger, Stroke EMS Medical Director; Dr. Donald Williamson, State Health Officer; Dr. John Campbell, Stroke Regional Director; Dr. Stephen Suggs, Stroke System Champion; Denise Louthian, Executive Director, Southeast Alabama EMS; and Choona Lang, State Trauma/Stroke Program Administrator, Office of EMS.

Honors Bestowed on Public Health Employees and Organizations

Departmental employees and others committed to public health were honored April 9 as the Alabama Public Health Association, the Alabama Environmental Health Association and the Southern Health Association held a joint conference in Birmingham.

The Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence in Public Health was established in 1987 to honor Dr. Myers for his accomplishments by recognizing an individual, group or organization that, through excellence in work, has made a significant impact on some aspect of public health in Alabama.



This year's recipient, the **Alabama Obesity Task Force**, works to address overweight and obesity issues through advocacy, policies, environmental changes, and programs that support healthy lifestyle changes. Knowing childhood obesity rates and regions of the state with the highest rates enables appropriate health steps to be taken. To address the barriers, **Sherry Goode** of the Oral Health Branch and other dental partners collected heights and weights of more than 20,000 kindergarten and third graders in conjunction with dental screenings, and **Linda Knol, Ph.D., R.D., L.D.**, of the University of Alabama analyzed the data to provide the first trend data for childhood obesity in Alabama. They accepted the award on behalf of the task force.



Linda Knol, Sherry Goode and Ross Hudson



Melissa Galvin and Ross Hudson

The D.G. Gill Award is intended to honor an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to public health in Alabama. This year's winner of the Gill award, **Melissa Galvin, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, has been involved in various research projects in the

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Alabama Department of Public Health

Mission

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

Value Statement

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

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

Alabama's Health

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- Donald E. Williamson, M.D.**..... State Health Officer
- Jim McVay, Dr. P.A.**..... Director, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease
- Arrol Sheehan, M.A.**..... Editor
- Takenya S. Taylor, J.D.**..... Contributing Editor
- Noelle Ahmann** Graphic Designer

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areas of community demonstration, health promotion and disease prevention. She has worked closely with staff at the department and UAB to ensure that students receive applicable, current experiences in the academic setting to prepare them to be more equipped and prepared employees in the public health field upon graduation. She helped to increase internship opportunities for students.

The Frederick S. Wolf Award recognizes an individual who has been active in public health at the local level and who has demonstrated efficiency, dedication and professionalism in delivery of public health services, and who has provided unselfish community services in areas unrelated to public health. This year's award winner, **Dianne Lollar, M.P.H., R.D., L.D.**, has been with the WIC program for more than 35 years and serves as the nutrition director for Public Health Area 1. Ms. Lollar served on the board of the National WIC Association (NWA) representing local agency directors in the southeast from 2006-2008. Currently she serves as NWA Local Agency Legislative/Policy Committee Chair. Actively involved in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, she will serve as chair of the Hunger and Environmental Nutrition dietetic practice group beginning June 1.



Wanda Cotter and Dianne Lollar



Ross Hudson and Sandra Wood

of her work, Ms. Wood went beyond work expectations to promote a healthy lifestyle, while practicing what she preached. She encouraged others to be more active and included nutrition and physical activity in many work activities. She supported all efforts to develop a healthy staff for the department. Her staff meetings commonly included healthy fruit snacks and walking meetings.

The Virginia Kendrick Award recognizes individuals who have provided notable service to the people of Alabama while serving in a supporting role in the field of public health. This year's recipient is **Sandra Wood, SPHR**, who retired Feb. 1 after 38 years in state government, 23 of them as director of the department's Office of Human Resources.

Supporters said that in all

The Guy M. Tate Award is presented annually to a public health employee, group or agency with 10 years or less tenure in public health for outstanding current or recent service or contribution to public health. The service should be beyond the job assignment and be one which promotes and protects public health. This year's recipient is the Scale Back Alabama program.

Scale Back Alabama is more than a weight loss competition, it is a lifestyle program designed to encourage Alabamians to get healthy and have fun while doing it. Since the first contest in 2006, Alabamians have lost more than 1 million pounds. Scale Back Alabama is a great example of an effective private-public partnership hosted by Alabama's hospitals and the department with generous support from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama. Accepting the award was **Rosemary Blackmon**, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Alabama Hospital Association.



Wanda Cotter and Rosemary Blackmon

The recipient of the Anne M. Smith Excellence in Public Health Nursing Award must exemplify the mission of public health nursing in Alabama which is "to assure conditions in which individuals, families and communities can be healthy utilizing the unique expertise of public health nurses to assess, plan and implement programs which promote health and prevent disease." The employee must have served at the county, area or state level for at least five years and be involved in the community beyond expectations of employment. **Margaret Anne "Annie" Vosel, B.S.N., R.N.**, State Title X Family Planning director and director of the Women's and Children's Health Division of the Bureau of Family Health Services, was presented the award. She is responsible for many training sessions and is nationally respected as an outstanding trainer on pertinent materials and policies to ensure quality programs for the health, safety, and well-being of pregnant women, infants, children, adolescents, and their families.



Ross Hudson and Annie Vosel

Inducted into the Class of 2014 of the ALPHA Hall of Fame were retired departmental employees **David Pettway** and **John Wible**.

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Representatives Coordinate to Expand Outreach/Education for Vulnerable, At Risk and Special Population Groups



On April 22, statewide Medical Reserve Corps Unit Coordinators along with representatives from Hands on River Region and the Independent Living Centers joined together to discuss emergency preparedness activities in their local communities. The MRC units coordinate and implement initiatives that support community preparedness, volunteer recruitment services, health care system preparedness and medical surge activities

within their respective areas. Alabama Medical Reserve Units include Autauga/Prattville MRC, Calhoun/Cleburne MRC, Black Belt MRC, Selma/Dallas County MRC, Baldwin County MRC, North Alabama MRC. and Mobile County MRC. Along with Hands on River Region and the Independent Living Centers, they work to expand outreach and education activities with vulnerable, at risk and special population groups throughout Alabama.

Honors, continued from page 3

Warren McDougle, Jr., Chair of the Southern Health Association awards committee, also announced that **Jennifer Pratt Sumner**, acting director of the Digital Media Branch, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease, was selected to receive the Charles G. Jordan Award. This award is given to someone engaged in the pursuit of activities contributing directly to the health and well-being of the people within the southern region of the U.S., have demonstrated a potential for achievement in the field of public health above and beyond the usual requirements, and have been employed in a public health capacity for not more than 10 years.

The Alabama Environmental Health Association honored **Sarah Douglas** of the Montgomery County Health Department with the 2014 Ansel C. Mullins Award. This



Sarah Douglas and Steven McDaniel

award is presented to an individual who has distinguished himself or herself in the field of environmental health by demonstrating these qualities: an attitude of public service, initiative in meeting local public needs, conscientious completion of daily

duties, self-motivation, and cooperation with agencies, business and citizens.

Barry Ambrose of the Pickens County Health Department was honored as 2014 Environmentalist of the Year. This award is presented for outstanding contributions to fellow environmentalists/employers, for integrity and devotion to the citizens of the state and nation, and involvement with civic/community/church activities.



Barry Ambrose

Alabama Public Health Association Scholarship Recipients Announced

ALPHA Educational Scholarships: **Mallory Cases**, Doctoral student, Health Education and Health Promotion, UAB School of Public Health

Lonnie Pressley, Master's degree in Public Health student, Health Care Organization and Policy, UAB School of Public Health

Ruth Harrell Nursing Scholarship: **Jacqueline Harris**, Master's degree in Nursing student, Auburn University

Ira L. Myers Scholarship: **Anna Elizabeth Bianchi**, Master's degree in Public Health student, Maternal and Child Health Program, UAB School of Public Health

Public Health Observes Diabetes Alert Day

Public health employees were encouraged to observe American Diabetes Alert Day, and the RSA Tower, the tallest building in Montgomery, was illuminated with blue lights. The lights represented the blue border on the “blue circle” pin which is the global symbol for diabetes as passed by the United Nations Resolution 61/225 on World Diabetes Day on Dec. 20, 2006. This action was in response to the diabetes pandemic that is set to overwhelm health care resources everywhere.

Diabetes Alert Day is a one-day, “wake-up call” asking the American public to take the Diabetes Risk Tests for developing Type 2 diabetes. The tests are

- CDC Prediabetes Screening Test
- American Diabetes Association’s (ADA) “Are You At Risk For Type 2 diabetes? Diabetes Risk Test”
- CDC’s “Take the Family Health History Quiz.”

Diabetes is a serious disease that strikes nearly 26 million children and adults in the United States, and a quarter of them--7 million--do not even know they have it. An additional 79 million, or one in three American adults, have prediabetes, which puts them at high risk for developing Type 2 diabetes.

Unfortunately, diagnosis often comes 7 to 10 years after the onset of the disease, after disabling and even deadly complications have had time to develop. Therefore, early diagnosis is critical to successful treatment and delaying or preventing some of its complications such as heart disease, blindness, kidney disease, stroke, amputation and death. In Alabama, 452,000 citizens have diabetes and another 269,000 have prediabetes. Prediabetes is a condition in which blood sugar is high but not high enough to be called diabetes.



Everyone should be aware of the risk factors for Type 2 diabetes. People who are overweight, underactive (living a sedentary lifestyle), and over the age of 45 should consider themselves at risk for the disease. African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and people who have a family history of diabetes are at increased risk for Type 2 diabetes.

1950s Diner Booth Greets Seniors on Older Americans Day

Public Health Area 10 Home Health was well represented on Older Americans Day in Dothan May 7. More than 2,500 seniors from southeast Alabama converged on the National Peanut Festival Fairground for an event filled with games, prizes, food and entertainment. The Houston County Health Department participated in the annual event hosted by South Alabama Regional Council on Aging (SARCOA) serving the seniors of Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston counties.

Stacy Roberts, Public Health Area 10 home care services outreach coordinator, represented the agency with a creative vendor booth again in 2014. The theme for this year was “American Road Trip.” Ms. Roberts went with the retro theme and created an old fashioned Route 66 diner booth complete with chrome stools and a table, a faux jukebox, table condiments and a diner backdrop. New materials were created to help guide seniors “back on the road” to recovery through home health.

Karl Bryant of the Communications and Marketing Division assisted by creating a large postcard, materials and banner for the booth.



An apron-wearing Stacy Roberts invites seniors to learn more about the “menu” offered by home health. This is the sixth year she has participated in Older Americans Day activities.

Sherry Goode Receives Prestigious National Award

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors presented Sherry Williams Goode, RDH, of the Oral Health Branch in the Bureau of Family Health Services with its Distinguished Service Award in Fort Worth, Texas, in April.

“It has always been my passion to serve those less fortunate, and public health has definitely been a perfect career choice for me personally,” Ms. Goode said. Multiple partnerships and collaborations are the common thread in her highly successful public health career that began in 1974 as a public health dental hygienist. After several years of absence to raise three small children, her years of service now total 33. “I give most of the credit for my public health passion to Dr. Naseeb Shory, the first dental director that I served under. He was such a dedicated leader and mentor. He inspired all of our staff to work hard and to always strive for new strategies that would prevent dental disease.”

The ASTDD awards program summary described Ms. Goode as “an exceptional person” and a dedicated public health employee. She has served as dental hygiene staff supervisor, director of the Prevention and Education Division, assistant dental director, and interim director (2001-2001 and 2007-2011).

Ms. Goode helped plan, develop and implement Alabama’s first statewide school-based dental sealant program and fluoride mouthrinse program. Both programs were very active during the 1980s and 1990s and reached thousands of elementary school children annually. While staff reductions and funding issues eventually impacted the dental programs’ ability to sustain the programs, plans are in place to reinstate the dental sealant program in 2014 with assistance from the UAB School of Dentistry and other key stakeholders.

Among her many accomplishments are developing oral health educational materials for use at various levels—preschool, elementary school and nursing home. She has developed relationships with school nurses around the state and worked with them to find volunteer dentists to accept children in need. She has also worked closely with the safety net dental clinics around the state to establish a referral network for children and adults in need of access to dental care.

Ms. Goode worked with the UAB School of Dentistry, Sarrell Dental, private dentists, county health department dental staff and others to provide several statewide oral health needs assessments. She coordinated the 2006 and 2011

needs assessment for dental teams to screen over 20,000 kindergartners and third graders. The teams collected height and weight data and shared the data with the Alabama Obesity Task Force.

Promoting and sustaining community water fluoridation is another goal Ms. Goode has pursued along with the Alabama Dental Association, the UAB School of Dentistry and other key partners.

“Many of us traveled to towns and communities and worked diligently with water boards, city councils, and other community leaders to convince policy makers that fluoridation was not only a very cost-effective public health measure, but also extremely beneficial for all members of their community,” she stated. In collaboration with partners, fluoride varnish applications were provided to Head Start and Early Head Start children statewide. As the current Alabama dental hygienist liaison with the National Head Start Dental Home Initiative, she partners with the dental residents to provide education, screenings and fluoride varnish applications for children at high risk for developing dental decay.

The awards program description commented on her diverse life committed to her family, including her husband of nearly 42 years, Rod, three children and two grandchildren, and her important work to benefit Alabama.

The awards nomination was made by former dental directors Dr. A. Conan Davis and Dr. Stuart Lockwood and current director Dr. Robert L. Meador Jr.



Pictured with Sherry Goode are Dr. Conan Davis, left, and Dr. Robert Meador, right.

SADD Day

Members of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) chapters met May 1 at Auburn Montgomery for “SADD Day” activities. SADD involves young people who deliver education and prevention messages to their peers through school and community activities and campaigns. The Injury Prevention Branch was one of the sponsors.



Fitness Kudos

Congratulations to Cathy Caldwell, director of the Bureau of Children’s Health Insurance, for being named featured athlete of the month of May for the Crossfit gym she and her family attend in Prattville. While she said she least likes pull-ups, she enjoys anything involving running and most of all, the people she encounters at the gym.

Did You Know That You Can Continue Breastfeeding After You Return to Work?

The Bureau of Family Health Services has two rooms available to help mothers continue breastfeeding after they return to work. Mother’s Rooms are located on the 12th and 13th floors of the RSA Tower. The rooms are private and include a hospital-grade electric breast pump.

The first few days returning to work can be challenging for most mothers. Starting with a short week can help many mothers transition smoothly back to work. If possible, arrange for your first day back at work to start at the end of the week rather than Monday.

If you would like more information on breastfeeding or Mother’s Rooms, please contact Michell Grainger at (334)206-2921 or Michell.Grainger@adph.state.al.us

Students Come Together to Raise Awareness of Diabetes

Resurrection Catholic School in Montgomery partnered with Alabama Diabetes Program to launch a Diabetes Ambassador Program in advance of Diabetes Alert Day. Seven students were appointed to help in the fight against the diabetes epidemic in the state.

LaMont Pack, P.A., M.P.A., of the Diabetes program, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease, made a presentation to the school students on the importance of drinking water, creating a fitness journal “Walk Alabama” 20-week log, and using pedometers with ease. Coach TaMarcus Miler conducted a “Let’s Move” fitness break after the presentation and implemented the school’s walking program.

The first diabetes ambassador duties will be educating fellow students, staff, teachers and parents about pre-diabetes and Type 2 diabetes prevention awareness. All students were shown graphs representing the increase in diabetes and mean body weight in recent years.

The new ambassadors were pinned with a blue circle, which is the international symbol for diabetes. Serving as Resurrection Catholic School Ambassadors are Jimmiah Fenderson, Zoey Griffin, Zy’Keria King, Edward Johnson, David Zimmerman, Alxyandria Lewis and Kendarius Robinson.



Retirees

The following departmental employees have retired recently.

March

Sheila Allen

Walker County Health Department

William P. (Pres) Allinder

Environmental Services

Randall Black

Colbert County Health Department

Katina Findley

Escambia County Health Department

Charlena Freeman

Family Health Services

Carol Gray

Administration

Romanda Hilston

Autauga County Health Department

Nanette Julian

Walker County Health Department

James Kelley

Blount County Health Department

Veronica Moore-Whitfield

Health Statistics

Diana Naramore

Walker County Health Department

Robert Rowe

Finance

Denise Samuel

Public Health Area IV

Dr. Debra Williams

Madison County Health Department

April

Robin Barksdale

Etowah County Health Department

Deborah Bell

Public Health Area IX

Victor Creagh

Public Health Area IX

Sue Dobbs

Chilton County Health Department

Sheryl Elmore

Human Resources

Steven Johnson

Bibb County Health Department

Gloria Lewis

Tuscaloosa County Health Department

Grace Lowe

Health Care Standards

Dianne Simms

Family Health Services

F. Winkler Sims

Division of Immunization

Jane Ellen Taylor

Logistics

May

Sharon Battle

Barbour County Health Department

Sherry Bryant

Finance

Shirley King

Winston County Health Department

Brenda Mooney

Family Health Services

Peggy Pepper

Limestone County Health Department

Shirley Singleton

Washington County Health Department

Olivia Smith

Family Health Services

Yolanda Weber

Etowah County Health Department

Commendations

If you would like to praise employees for their accomplishments, send letters of commendation to the State Health Officer or the employee's supervisor and a copy by e-mail to Arrol.Sheehan@adph.state.al.us for inclusion in this list. Four items are needed: the employee's name, work unit, name of the person making the commendation, and his or her city and state.

Donna Braswell

Loren Powers

Donald Lambert

Baldwin County Health Department

from Grace and Marshall Musser
Daphne, Ala.

Teela Carmack

Bureau of Children's Health Insurance

Roger A. Ritvo

Montgomery, Ala.

Jackie Esty

Center for Health Statistics
from Robert Austin

Oneonta, Ala.

Tiffany Ridings

Hueytown, Ala.

Tim Hatch

Center for Emergency Preparedness

from Haley Wells
Birmingham, Ala.

Cynthia Hayes

Bureau of Children's Health Insurance

from Alice M. Hogan, PMP
Atlanta, Ga.

Nicole Henderson

Center for Health Statistics
from Gail Acker Woods

Plant City, Fla.

Teresa Kilburn

Center for Health Statistics
from Jill Byrd

Montgomery, Ala.

Sandra Levert

Center for Health Statistics
from Georgette Cunningham

Birmingham, Ala.

Jimmy Parker

Lawrenceville, Ga.

Kathie Peters

Center for Health Statistics
from Carl Dalton NeSmith, Jr.
Oneonta, Ala.

Terra Tuck-Foster

Center for Health Statistics
from Sheila Dobbins Ivey

Sarasota, Fla.

Alabama Continues to Address Issues Relating to Improving Infant Mortality: CoIIN Overview

The Alabama Department of Public Health and its multitude of partners have been working over the past 18 months on all five strategies of the Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN) to Reduce Infant Mortality. Alabama is one of 13 states that the National Governors Association selected to participate in a learning network on improving birth outcomes in the U.S. The network's goal is to assist states in developing, aligning and implementing their key policies related to the improvement of birth outcomes, as measured by the incidence of preterm birth and infant mortality.

Nationally known speakers and state leaders gathered at a conference on Jan. 10, 2014, in Montgomery to introduce "State of Champions – Alabama's Campaign for Healthy Babies." More than 140 participants were present from

hospitals and agencies across the state. Topics included the following:

- Safe Sleep Environments
- Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives
- Perinatal Regionalization
- Smoking Cessation in Women of Child-bearing Age

Since the conference, teams have met to further the efforts discussed. The Safe Sleep team is working to develop consistent messaging that will be available statewide. The Safe Sleep team, in collaboration with the Alabama Hospital Association and the Alabama Chapter of the Alabama Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), is working to develop safe sleep policies and to establish safe sleep physician champions in all delivering hospitals.

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Living Well Alabama Helps People with Chronic Health Conditions and Caregivers

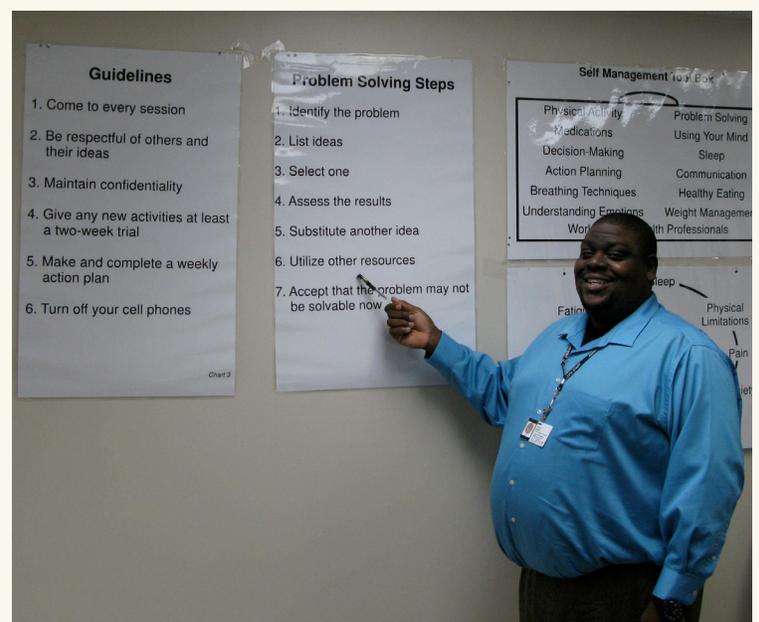
The Departments of Senior Services and Public Health have a strong collaboration via funding from the Agency of Community Living (formerly the Agency on Aging) to improve the health status of Alabamians. Together, the departments are conducting Stanford University's Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP).

CDSMP was originally brought to the state of Alabama through the Cardiovascular unit of the department. In Alabama, CDSMP is promoted as Living Well Alabama. This self-management workshop is designed to help participants to better cope with their chronic condition. Living Well Alabama's teaches the skills needed to better manage one's chronic condition and live life to the fullest.

The workshop targets individuals who are at risk for chronic conditions; have just been diagnosed with a chronic condition; or have had a chronic condition(s) for years. The Living Well Alabama workshops are conducted over six weeks with each session being approximately two hours. Anyone living with a chronic health conditions, caring for a family member or friend with a chronic health condition is encouraged to participate.

Since September 2012, Living Well Alabama has been taught as a collaborative effort between Public Health and the Department of Senior Services in 26 counties at 69 different locations. The locations include churches, prisons, mental health facilities, drug rehabilitation facilities, senior centers, libraries, assisted living communities, medical clinics, community centers, hospitals and nursing homes.

Multiple partnerships include Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System, The Dannon Project, MedNet West, Montgomery Area Community Wellness Coalition, and many Area on Aging offices throughout the state. Nearly 2,000 Alabamians have attended the Living Alabama workshops since their introduction to the state. The Departments of Public Health and Senior Services will continue to work with community partners in an effort to expand the program to all 67 counties. For additional information, visit <http://www.adph.org/livingwellalabama/>



Program Manager/Master Trainer Jabari Sullen instructs people with chronic health conditions, their family members and friends.



Alabama Child Health Improvement Alliance

State Child Health Improvement Partnership Established, Receives Acceptance as Member of National Network

With a goal of aligning Alabama child health quality improvement initiatives under one sustainable umbrella, 10 Alabama organizations have collaborated to establish a formal state child health improvement partnership (IP), the Alabama Child Health Improvement Alliance (ACHIA), which was accepted last month as a member of the National Improvement Partnership Network.

“In order to improve health outcomes for Alabama children, there is a need for a public-private child health improvement partnership that builds on existing efforts to provide quality child health care and brings in key partners such as universities, health care providers, health systems, government agencies, children’s advocacy groups, and health plans,” said Wes Stubblefield, M.D., F.A.A.P., Quality Improvement Chair for the Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics (ALAAP).

In addition to an existing developmental screening project, ACHIA’s first initiative is the launch of a child obesity quality improvement collaborative this summer for primary care practices.

ACHIA was formed in late 2013 when ALAAP brought together key partners from Children’s of Alabama, University of South Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Alabama Medicaid Agency, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and others.

Since January, the UAB Department of Pediatrics, Division of General Pediatrics, has served as ACHIA’s administrative home.

“Our mission is to coordinate data-driven quality measurement and improvement across the state and support evidence-guided quality activities in clinical practices,” said Cason Benton, M.D, FAAP, associate professor of pediatrics, who directs ACHIA. “We are very excited about the future.”

Improvement partnerships are a growing phenomenon across the country with public health, Medicaid, professional organizations, and academic centers serving as core partners in the 20 state IPs established over the past 13 years to assist primary care providers and their practices in improving care delivery in a changing health care environment.

CoIIN, continued from page 9

As of April 1, 2014, long-acting reversible contraceptives have been made available immediately post-partum for Medicaid-eligible women. Discussions continue to take place with providers and hospitals about the efficacy and availability of these devices.

The Perinatal Regionalization team conducted a survey to determine current levels of neonatal care. Level 1 and Level 2 facilities are working to identify and review records on very low birth-weight infants that were delivered during calendar years 2011-2013 in their facilities.

The Smoking Cessation team in Alabama had a 2 percent decrease in the number of women smoking during pregnancy and an overall 6 percent decrease for Regions IV and VI since the inception of CoIIN. Alabama is targeting education on the nine counties in Alabama, with a greater than 20 percent population of women who admitted to smoking during pregnancy, based on Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) data. Approximately 10,000 “How Smoking Affects Your Pregnancy” posters have been and continue to be distributed to providers, clinics and community organizations.

For more information, please contact Amy R. Stratton, CoIIN Director, Bureau of Family Health Services, (334) 206-6403.

Madison County Takes an Integrated Approach to Controlling Mosquitoes

Environmentalist and Vector Control Supervisor Cheryl Clay of the Madison County Health Department, Vector Control Division, undertakes the important mission of educating citizens about how they can protect themselves from mosquito-borne illnesses in the areas of Huntsville that are located within the county.

Responsibilities include the following:

- Responding to complaints
- Surveying mosquito breeding sites
- Assessing the adult mosquito population
- Overseeing the citywide fogging operation
- Public education

“Vector Control takes an integrated pest management approach for controlling mosquitoes in our area, where we try to focus on breeding sites in order to minimize pesticide use,” Ms. Clay said. Many breeding areas are in the yards of residents, such as in bird baths, corrugated pipes, clogged gutters, flower pot dishes, and in kids’ toys and pools. Basically, mosquitoes can breed in anything that can hold a teaspoon of stagnant water for more than a few days.

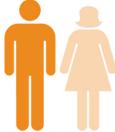


To assess the adult mosquito population, a landing rate count is tallied by standing in a swamp and counting the number of mosquitoes that land in one minute.

“We strive to educate the public on removing stagnant water to eliminate these problem areas,” she said. Additionally, the division routinely surveys swamps for breeding and treat them as needed. That is because mosquito control is much more effective if breeding areas can be removed or treated before the adult mosquitoes emerge.

Inactivity related to chronic disease in adults with disabilities



1 in 2 

Nearly half of adults with disabilities get no aerobic physical activity.

50% 

And they are 50 percent more likely to report at least one chronic disease than active adults with disabilities.

Adults with disabilities ages 18-64

Chronic diseases include cancer, diabetes, stroke, and heart disease.

SOURCE: CDC Vital Signs. May, 2014. www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns
CDC National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 2009-2012.



In Memoriam

Murlene Sides, former director of the Division of Long Term Care and director of Public Health Nursing from 1984-1987, passed away May 8. Mrs. Sides was also president of the Alabama State Nurses Association and the first recipient of the Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence which recognizes an individual, group or organization that, through excellence in their work, has made a significant impact on public health in Alabama. Colleagues noted that Mrs. Sides was a major force in developing and implementing standards of care for Alabama’s public health nurses.

Ruth Underwood passed away on May 20. Mrs. Underwood served the department for 26 years as a nutritionist and administrator of Public Health Areas 7 and 9. Noting her life of dedicated service, Mrs. Underwood was a recipient of the Guy M. Tate Award, the D.G. Gill Award, and the Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence presented by the Alabama Public Health Association.

Calendar of Events



June 18

The Human Side of Disasters:
The People Behind the Faces,
9-10 a.m.

For more information contact
Elana Parker Merriweather,
(334) 206-7980.



June 25

Best Babies Zone: A Place-Based
Approach to Transforming
Communities and Improving
Birth Outcomes Across the Life
Course, noon-1:30 p.m.

For more information contact
Video Communications
(334) 206-5618.



July 10

ADPH Statewide Staff Meeting,
3-4 p.m.

For more information contact
Video Communications,
(334) 206-5618.



July 16

Caring for Difficult Patients in
Home Care, Paraprofessional
Program, 2-4 p.m.

For more information
contact Becky Leavins,
(334) 206-3867.



July 23

It’s All About Documentation,
Home Health Professional
Program, 2-4 p.m.

For more information contact
Shirley Offutt, (334) 206-2481.



July 29

Disasters and Children - EMS
Disaster Grand Rounds.

For more information contact
Katherine Hert, (334) 206-5383