ALABAMA'S

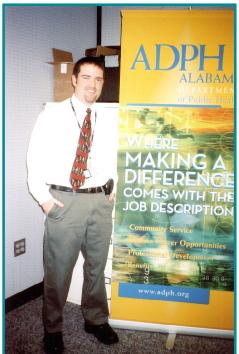
A PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

HEALTH

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 10 JUNE 2006

Department Web site, updated materials enhance employee recruitment

ith the wave of baby boomers who will be eligible for retirement within the next few years, employee succession planning is crucial to maintain and improve public health services. When Recruitment Coordinator Brent Hatcher arrived at the Office of Personnel and Staff Development last year, the department's Web site already featured an Employment "child" site. Since that time, the Health Marketing



Brent Hatcher is shown with an updated employee recruitment display.

Division has updated the site, new printed materials have been developed, and more appealing, lightweight displays have been purchased.

"We have an ongoing need to be proactive in recruitment in order to attract the best applicants we can for every classification," Hatcher said. "We want to recruit the potential employees we want, not just the

ones that find us."

While Hatcher is the department's recruitment coordinator, he is not responsible for conducting all employee recruitment activities. Rather, he works with employee partners in the department across the state to push public health in local venues such as nursing fairs and college career fairs. To assist these volunteer recruiters, he held a training session last year which "a nice cross section of classifications" attended to learn about employee recruitment. The partners, including Molly Pettyjohn, Tim Hatch and Kevin Hicks, fit employee recruitment into their work schedules. By spreading it out, recruitment activities do not become a burden for anyone.

The Web site at www.adph.org/employment/ facilitates the application process. A prospective employee can click on a classification title which provides a job announcement, view the salary range at a glance, fill out the state application and print it. Then the employee faxes, mails or hand delivers the application to the State Personnel Department. The site also describes the benefits of merit system employment and describes personnel policies. A Frequently Asked Question section is also included.

Web-accessed interest is increasing. In January 2005 the department's employment Web site counted a total of 197 hits for the month, and in April 2006 the monthly total had grown to more than 4,000 hits.

New printed materials prominently feature the department's web address on all brochures and posters. Hatcher said currently he receives seven or eight e-mails each day from persons interested in working in public

Recruitment......continued on page 3

Officials and employees celebrate Hale County groundbreaking

mployees of the Hale County Health Department joined with state, county and local officials May 24 to break ground for the new facility in Greensboro. Among the dignitaries making remarks were Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer; Judge Leland Avery, chairman of the Hale County Commission; and Mike Ellis of Tuscaloosa, project architect. Health department employees set up and provided refreshments.

Ashvin Parikh, assistant area administrator, welcomed guests and expressed gratitude to the Hale County Commission for providing the land for the new building. He said, "Without the joint efforts of both public officials and people like you present today, we could not have met the needs of the citizens of Hale County." He also thanked Dr. Williamson for his vision "and the Public Health Care Authority for providing us the funding source to building this new health department."

The new health department building should be ready for occupancy by September 2007.



Photo courtesy of Becky Wilson

The Hale County Health Department in Greensboro held a groundbreaking May 24 for its new facility. Shown, left to right, are State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson, Assistant Area Administrator Ashvin Parikh, Becky Wilson, Cathy Wright, Betsy Hopkins, Pam Milam, Cindy Crawford, Jane Neill, Belinda Smith, Brenda Rutherford and Melissa Gentry.

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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Informational materials in alternative formats will be made available upon request.

Prescription Drug Monitoring System gets off to a great start

he Pharmacy Division of the Bureau of Professional and Support Services has successfully launched Alabama's first Prescription Drug Monitoring System. This system is a database of controlled substance prescriptions which collects identifying information on Schedule II through V medications prescribed in Alabama. Controlled substances are prescription medications which can be addictive and are subject to abuse or misuse.

The Alabama Legislature passed legislation in 2004 to establish this database, and the Pharmacy Division of the Bureau of Professional and Support Services worked to develop, test and implement it effective April 1, 2006. Thirty-two other states have enacted similar legislation.

Under this system, professional licensing boards can issue query reports to access a patient's prescription history to provide better patient care. This helps prevent practices such as "doctor shopping" in which persons receive pain medication prescriptions from several sources and then sell the drugs to others or abuse the medication themselves.

Three months into the new system, approximately 1.9 million electronic submissions and 16,000 paper submissions have been received into RxGuardian, the database name. An estimated 8 to 9 million controlled substances prescriptions are filled each year in the state.

The implementation of this system required the completion of numerous complicated steps since the program's inception. Public health staff who work in the program are Patti Stadlberger, program manager; Donna Jordan, research analyst; and Paula Hall, administrative support assistant.

The department has provided RxGuardian database training to licensing boards and has mailed more than 15,000 packages to licensees. Brochures and public service announcements also are being developed for public and professional awareness.

A future enhancement is expected to provide live access for physicians, veterinarians, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists and pharmacists. Other plans for the future will include trend reports and information sharing with other states.

More than 1,400 registered pharmacists and pharmacy assistants have attended local training in the following cities and towns: Auburn, Birmingham, Brewton, Dothan, Florence, Foley, Jasper, Huntsville, Mobile, Oxford, Selma and Thomasville. Training was provided to licensing boards for the following disciplines: Dental, Medical, Optometry, Pharmacy, Podiatry and Veterinary Medicine.

The controlled substances prescription database advisory committee consists of one representative designated by each of the following organizations:

Medical Association of the State of Alabama, Alabama Dental Association Alabama Pharmacy Association
Alabama Veterinary Medicine Association
State Health Officer or designee
Alabama Hospital Association
Executive Director of the Alabama State Board of
Pharmacy

Executive Director of the Board of Medical Examiners Alabama Optometric Association

Representative from each of the certifying boards established under the Alabama Uniform Controlled Substances Act

Alabama Independent Drug Store Association Alabama Podiatry Association

More information is available at www.adph.org/pharmacyunit.

Recruitment......continued from page 1

health. When events are planned, Hatcher mails materials to the recruiters in the public health areas.

Survey serves as recruitment tool

One way visitors to the department's site can get a taste of what public health is all about is by taking the survey found on the employment front page.

Hatcher said, "We looked at a number of similar online surveys big companies and corporations use. We find this is really more of a recruiting tool, and it is interactive in nature. Now an estimated 10 to 12 surveys are submitted each day from potential employees and even by current employees interested in advancement."

Chastsie Hooper of the Bureau of Professional and Support Services worked to help develop the survey using the Learning Content Management System. Beginning last summer, an employee focus group met three times to make suggestions on the most effective materials. A set of displays and table drapes was purchased for each public health area.

In public health, salary is not the leading motivator that brings an employee to the department, he said. Public service and the entire compensation package including health insurance coverage, dental coverage and a retirement pension are important components in recruitment.

Hatcher said, "Our attitude is we want to have ongoing recruitment, not recruitment as a necessity."

Alabama Public Health Association honors professionals with awards, scholarship

he Alabama Public Health Association recognized persons from across the state who demonstrated exceptional merit in the field of public health. The following individuals were presented awards on May 3, 2006, at the association's Annual Meeting and Health Education Conference at the Radisson Hotel in Birmingham.

Charlotte Plumb, environmental supervisor with the Baldwin County Health Department, was presented the



Charlotte Plumb and Ricky Elliott

Frederick S. Wolf Award, which goes to an individual active in public health at the local level for more than 10 years and who has demonstrated efficiency, dedication and professionalism in the delivery of public health service and has provided unselfish

community service in areas unrelated to public health.

Her nominator praised her for turning "her personal energy into developing and creating new programs aimed toward improving living conditions for one of the state's fastest growing counties."

Among her many accomplishments are helping develop local rules for the regulation of public swimming pools, which involved hours of preparation, negotiation and networking with community organizations. She also worked on developing a comprehensive mosquito control program with the Baldwin County Animal Shelter.

A supporter stated, "Charlotte's dedication to the

service of others has significantly impacted the lives of countless persons in a very positive manner."

The Guy M. Tate Award was presented to *Jamie Manning*, regional coordinator of the Children's Health Insurance Program in Public Health Area IX. This award is presented annually to a public health employee, group or agency with 10 years or less



Jamie Manning

service for contributions to public health beyond the job assignment, which promote and protect public health in Alabama.

A letter of nomination describes her as "having an enthusiasm for public health" and praises "her capacity to think beyond the confines of her daily tasks." Her work role as a field representative for ALL Kids allows her to show her genuine concern for children and their families. Described as "a breath of fresh air" and an "out-of-the-box thinker," she is respected and appreciated by all who know her.

Barbara Mack, coordinator of the State J-1 Physician Waiver Program, was selected as the recipient of the



Barbara Mack and Deborah Jones

Virginia Kendrick Award. This prestigious award goes to an individual who has provided notable service to the people of Alabama while serving in a supportive position in public health.

The recipient should exemplify such qualities as loyalty and dedication

to public health, friendly, unselfish cooperation with coworkers, enthusiasm and conscientiousness in job performance, and expertise in the practice of effective public relations.

One of her letters of support regarded her as an "excellent employee who understands the need for professional, organized responses to any issue and relates to all that she encounters with the greatest of ease and poise."

A nominator said, "Mrs. Mack is an exceptionally motivated, capable and conscientious person whose outstanding record of accomplishments has profoundly improved the quality of life for both her co-workers and the people of rural Alabama."

Debbie Thomasson, R.N., area nursing director for Public Health Areas VII and IX, was presented the D.G. Gill Award. This prestigious award is given to an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to public health in Alabama which is statewide in scope.

A supporter described her as "insightful, logical, intuitive, smart, witty, empathetic, sensitive and trustworthy" and commented she "does not skirt issues but

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faces them head on if necessary."



Debbie Thomasson and Jackie Holliday

A letter of nomination praised her "positive impact on public health in Alabama felt throughout her years of service," especially during her time of transition between state and area responsibilities,

Ruth Underwood,

area administrator for Public Health Area IX, was honored with the Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence. The Myers Award was established in 1986 to recognize an individual, group or organization that, through excellence in their work, has made a significant impact upon some aspect of public health in Alabama. The nominee should represent excellence in effort and significant achievement toward the promotion and protection of public health.

Her nominator said, "Ruth has been innovative in her approach to secure new sources of funding." Commenting on her leadership, he said, "When you have a leader of Ruth's caliber you find yourself giving 110 percent to

achieve shared goals, to catch the vision, to make a

difference. She leads in a positive, encouraging manner that enables and equips her employees to be public health catalysts."

The letter of nomination further stated, "Not once have I seen her lose her zeal for public health. As more and more is needed of her, she has more and more to give. The barrel never seems to run dry."



Ted Hanekamp and Ruth Underwood

It was also announced that *Mary Wesley* is the recipient of the Ira L. Myers Scholarship to the University of Alabama at Birmingham. A graduate of Mississippi State University, she is pursuing a master's degree in public health.

Linda Austin, R.N.



"Nursing has been a rewarding career and has fueled a passion in my life," said Linda Austin, director of the Arthritis Prevention Branch, who retired May 1 after a long and varied nursing career that began as a candy striper. Ms. Austin began her career in the department in 1994 in the Worksite Wellness program and became the state's first arthritis program director. In 2006 she was recognized as the outstanding program manager in the nation. As she believes there is no retirement from her calling as a nurse, she plans to be involved in parish nursing, teaching the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at a retirement center in Montgomery, as well as other pursuits.

ALABAMA'S HEALTH 5 June 2006

Public health social workers recognized

hree outstanding public health employees were selected as Public Health Social Workers of the Year for 2006. These individuals were recognized at the 15th Annual Public Health Social Work Seminar titled "Passion for Sharing," at the Radisson Hotel in Birmingham on May 3.

The 2006 winners were chosen from a pool of 15 nominees in the categories of social work management, clinical social work and home care social work.

The Public Health Social Worker of the Year for Clinic is *LaTria King*, L.B.S.W., public health social worker with



Kyle Reynold photo

LaTria King, L.B.S.W., and Dollie

Hambrick

Hambrick
children she serves."

Another praised her "genuine concern and interest in educating, supporting and empowering families and teens in Lawrence County." An example of giving "100 percent" is a time when a child needed eyeglasses and she took the

time to help her locate the glasses expeditiously so that her school work would not lapse.

Social Work Manager of the Year honors went to *Turenza Smith*, Children's Health Insurance Program Enrollment Unit Director. A letter of support stated, "Ms. Smith serves as an advocate for enrollees on a daily basis, often linking parents with needed community resources, or



exhibits an

enthusiasm as an

advocate for the

young women and

Turenza Smith

expediting applications for sick children so they can access health care." Another said, "She is a motivator and consistently encourages continued training for supervisors and staff in order to

improve services to the public."

Teresa Pope,
L.B.S.W., public health social worker with the Elderly/Disabled
Waiver Program in Public Health Area 7, was named Public Health Social Worker of the Year for Home Health. A letter of



Teresa Pope, L.B.S.W., and Mary Holmes

nomination stated, "Teresa is very professional and demonstrates good social work skills in a nonjudgmental manner" and without complaining. Another nominator commented on her participation in several organizations which requires much time. Another summarized, "She truly lives the life of a social worker in both her professional and personal roles."

The guest speaker at the award presentation was Gayle Sandlin, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., who spoke on the topic "Compassion In Leadership." Dollie Hambrick, director of the Social Work Unit, Bureau of Professional and Support Services, coordinated the presentation of the awards. Selections were made by a three-member panel of judges, two of whom are employed outside the department.



Students illustrate the importance of buckling up; contest winners announced

he Alabama Department of Public Health's Injury Education Division announces the winners in its Buckle-Up, Alabama! Traffic Safety Poster Contest for 2006, an event designed to promote consistent seat belt usage among elementary school children. Students from throughout Alabama in grades kindergarten through sixth were invited to create original artwork that emphasized the importance of buckling-up.

The Buckle-Up contest consists of two levels. Participating schools hosted a contest to select first place winners for each grade level. These winning entries were then sent to the health department to be judged by employees of the Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease.

First and second place winners at the state level were awarded U.S. Savings Bonds, with first place winners receiving a \$100 bond and second place winners receiving a \$50 bond. These winners, as well as those receiving honorable mention, were awarded certificates of recognition. Additionally, the winning entries are featured in a coloring book that will be used throughout Alabama to educate young children about the importance of buckling-up each and every time that they ride in a vehicle.

The 2006 Buckle-Up, Alabama! contest winners are as follows:

Kindergarten: 1st Dasia Primus

Garywood Christian School

Hueytown, Ala.

2nd Lundy Davis

Monroe Academy Monroeville, Ala.

Honorable Mention: Anna Davis

East Memorial Christian

Academy Prattville, Ala.

Haleigh Burgess

Vernon Elementary School

Vernon, Ala.

Nick Robinson

Walter M. Kennedy Elementary

School Pell City, Ala.

1st Grade: 1st Erica Smith

Harlan Elementary School

Florence, Ala.

2nd Cole Brown

Trinity Presbyterian School

Montgomery, Ala.

Honorable Mention: Austin Foster

Glenwood School Phenix City, Ala.

Sabrina White

Odenville Elementary School

Odenville, Ala.

Winter Thorington

Trinity Presbyterian School

Montgomery, Ala.

2nd Grade: 1st Kennedy Synclair Smith

Andalusia Elementary School

Andalusia, Ala.

2nd Jack H. Patton

Guntersville Elementary School

Guntersville, Ala.

Honorable Mention: Allison Joyner

Monroe Academy Monroeville, Ala.

Winners......continued on page 8

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Winners		•••••			continued from page 7	
		Ashleigh Payne Priceville Elementary School Decatur, Ala.	6th Grade:	1st	Edward Lewis Aultman Greensboro West Elementary School Greensboro, Ala.	
3rd Grade:	1st 2nd	Carrington Cole Trinity Presbyterian School Montgomery, Ala. Lydia Carol Davis	21		Evan Gunter Westbrook Christian School Rainbow City, Ala.	
2nd		G.W. Long Elementary School Skipperville, Ala.	Honorable Mention:		Bethany Slingluff Calcadeaver Elementary School Mount Vernon, Ala.	
Honorable Mention:		Alex Wheeler Vernon Elementary School Vernon, Ala.			John Blakely Lucas Horseshoe Bend School	
		Brooklyn Ferguson Meek Elementary School Arley, Ala.			New Site, Ala. Jamie Sikes Southern Choctaw Elementary	
4th Grade:	1st	Amanda Skipper Andalusia Elementary School Andalusia, Ala.	The Duelde Het A		School Gilbertown, Ala.	
	2nd	Brady Fuller Horseshoe Bend School New Site, Ala.	The Buckle-Up! Alabama poster contest is made possible by a grant from the Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. Awards given with this contest are			
Honorable Mention:		Shanda Wright Brilliant Elementary School	made available by businesses and organizations committed to the safety of Alabama's children. These include the Alabama Head Injury Foundation, ALFA Insurance, the			

Alabama Department of Transportation, and the Alabama SAFE KIDS Coalition.

For more information about seat belt safety, please contact Nancy Wright, Injury Prevention Division, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease, (334) 206-5314 or 1-800-252-1818, e-mail nwright@adph.state.al.us.

5th Grade: Maria Renteria 1st

Geraldine School Geraldine, Ala.

Brilliant, Ala.

Cleveland, Ala.

Jacob Losey

Florence, Ala.

Stephanie Nicole Witt

Cleveland Elementary School

Harlan Elementary School

2nd Molly Catherine Brown

Trinity Presbyterian School

Montgomery, Ala.

Honorable Mention: Heather Andrews

> Geraldine School Geraldine, Ala.

Leslie Walter

Ridgecrest Elementary School

Huntsville, Ala.

Injury News

Published By

The Alabama Department of Public Health Injury Prevention Division Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease

Carol F. Mysinger, M.Ed., M.P.A.....Director

Funded by a grant from the Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

How to have a safe picnic season: food safety for the summer

ummertime is here and one of this season's favorite pastimes for many is having picnics. Whether it's at a local park, during a camping trip or simply in your own backyard, making sure that your picnic food is safe can prevent an enjoyable time from becoming a miserable one.

Failing to properly store and prepare food can lead to food poisoning and other food-borne illnesses causing nausea, vomiting, fever, abdominal pain, diarrhea and headache. Take the following steps to help make sure your family has a safe and enjoyable picnic experience.

Packing it up

If you are packing perishable items such as meat, eggs, or dairy products such as yogurt, or salad dressings, make sure to place these items in the bottom of a cooler with plenty of ice or frozen gel packs. Remember to wash all fruits and vegetables. Afterwards, place fruits and vegetables separately in sealed bags or containers to avoid drippings and contamination from raw meats.

Handwashing

A contaminated hand can easily contaminate food. Remember to always wash your hands thoroughly before handling any food. Proper handwashing includes washing your hands with hot, soapy water, rinsing and drying with a clean towel. When picnicking outdoors try to find locations with handwashing facilities, or carry disposable antiseptic towelettes for cleaning your hands if these facilities are not available.

Handwashing is especially important if you are handling raw meat such as chicken when grilling. It's also important if you have to handle garbage that may accumulate during the picnic.

Marinating meat

One of the ways of preparing favorful meat is to marinate it with different types of seasoned sauces. But, care should be taken when performing this task.

When marinating raw meat, keep it refrigerated in a cooler filled with ice. This helps prevent the growth of bacteria. Boil used marinade before applying it to cooked food. Never reuse marinade that was previously used on raw meat to flavor cooked meat.

Grilling

Grilling is a part of many picnics, but it is important to

make sure that all grilled foods are cooked thoroughly before eating. Proper temperatures vary depending on the type of foods you are cooking. Food thermometers which are reasonably inexpensive are a great investment. The following is a list of proper temperatures for meats.

Ground beef	160 degrees F
Ground poultry	165 degrees F
Poultry parts	170 degrees F
Beef/Lamb steaks, roasts or chops	145 degrees F
All pork parts	160 degrees F

All ground meat products and poultry should be fully cooked. Make sure to check the middle of the meat to ensure that it is cooked all the way through before consuming.

Before grilling, do not thaw meats outside in the summertime heat. Instead, thaw meats in a cooler that contains plenty of ice. Once thawed, cook meat immediately. Once grilling is done, make sure not to place meat back on plates that previously held raw meat.

For more information on food safety, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Preventionís Web site at www.cdc.gov.

By TAKENYA TAYLOR



This ad invites smokers to call the Tobacco Quitline. Counseling services are arranged to best suit the callers' schedule.

Commendations

To recognize other employees, please send letters through your supervisors or the state health officer to *Alabama's Health*.

Carolyn Burcham
Pamela David
Tracy Pitman
Martha Pszyk
Health Provider Standards

from Felita Smith Madison, Ala.

Nicole Henderson
Center for Health Statistics

from Sherman Williams Los Angeles, Calif.

Mable Jordan
Kathie Peters,
Karen Rasberry
Center for Health Statistics

from Esther Brooks Columbia, Ala.

Veronica Moore-Whitfield Center for Health Statistics

from Tina Jensen Atlanta, Ga. **Doris Nix**

Sumter County Health Department

from Ellen Galloway Powell Butler, Ala.

Kim Smith

Center for Health Statistics

from Mrs. K. Jackson Joliet, Ill.

Reginald Strickland

Center for Health Statistics

from Charles Hatcher Beverly Klingensmith Eight Mile, Ala.

LaShunda Tellis

Center for Health Statistics

from Dorothy Porter Catron, Mo.

Charlese Wright
Center for Health Statistics

from Watkins Johnson Montgomery, Ala.

Keith Wright
Health Marketing

from Steven McDaniel Montgomery, Ala.

Tom Phillips



Photo courtesy of Earl Langley

Tom Phillips retired May 1 after 31 years of public health service. His last of many leadership roles was as head of the STEPS Program in the Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease. His previous positions included area administrator, duties in Facilities Management, Tuberculosis Control, Environmental Protection Agency tobacco abuse program, hypertension program and cancer registry.





July 6 *Webcast*

ADPH Statewide Staff Meeting, 3-4 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.

July 7
Net Conference

Current Issues in Immunization Live Net Conference, 11 a.m. A live net conference requires both computer and a telephone line. The computer must be connected to the internet in order to view visual aids and a phone line is used to call the audio bridge. For more information and course registration visit www.cdc.gov/nip/ed/ciinc/hpw.htm.



July 10
Webcast

Low Cost and Free Health Insurance for Alabama's Children, 10-11:30 a.m. For more information contact Fern Shinbaum, (334) 206-2977.



July 11Webcast

Keeping America Healthy: The Federal Perspective, 1-2 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.



July 13
Webcast

From Silos to Systems: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Public Health Assurance in the Post-Katrina Era, 12-1:30 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.



July 18
Webcast

A Competent Workforce: Today's Trends Impacting Tomorrow's Health, 1-2:30 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.



July 25
Webcast

Legislative Directions to Enhance the Public's Health, 1-2:30 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.



July 26Webcast

Home Health Aides/Attendants, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Brenda Elliott, (334) 206-2664, extension 402.



August 1
Webcast

The Role of Health Promoters in Emergency Response, 1-2 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.