

the healthadvisor

DOH Mission:

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

July/Aug. 2003

obesity prevention project organizers hope to stimulate endorphins for lifelong interest in physical activity

EDUCATORS AND RESEARCHERS FROM THE STATE'S OBESITY PREVENTION PROGRAM are about to take a new step toward monitoring physical activity among some Floridians.

Using results from a recent pilot study that indicated a higher risk factor for cardiovascular disease in a five-county area of North Florida, the Obesity Prevention Program is organizing an event encouraging some 8,000 students from seven middle schools in neighboring counties of Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Suwannee and Union to a friendly competition of movement.

Entitled "Step Up to the Challenge," program coordinators hope to combat the increasing burden of chronic disease including obesity and cardiovascular disease among Floridians by helping youngsters develop a desire to exercise.

Participants will use pedometers for participating individuals and fun incentives, program educators will assess the amount of activity students get on a daily basis during the three-month event, scheduled to kick off in early September.

Friendly competitions among grade levels within the schools and among rival schools and counties will be incorporated to increase interest and activity.

Steps will be logged on a weekly basis, while evaluations will be completed on a three-month basis to assess whether more physical activity is occurring. Some event details are still being planned, such as a possible finale field day at

each of the participating school campuses where grand totals can be tallied.

Another project goal is to create awareness of the amount of activity, or lack of activity, individuals are getting on a daily basis. The combined daily goal among all students is 10,000 steps per day for each day of the project. Ten thousand steps is the equivalent to about five miles of walking.

For results or more information about the five-county pilot study, or to become involved in the Florida Partnership for Promoting Physical Activity and Healthful Nutrition, please contact John Hatten or Cathy Brewton at 850/245-4330.

John Hatten, Obesity Prevention Program

Florida's Obesity Prevention Program, in collaboration with the University of South Florida, recently completed a five-county pilot study in Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Suwannee and Union counties. These neighboring North Florida counties were selected based on state survey information that indicated these counties had higher age-adjusted death rates for coronary heart disease than the state as a whole. A more extensive survey identified risk factors for cardiovascular disease and found that 66 percent of the adult population in the five county region was overweight. The pilot study focused attention on physical activity opportunities, school lunches, and sedentary lifestyle behaviors among seven middle schools in the five counties.

This population was targeted due to research indicating increased probability that overweight children lead to overweight adults if healthful eating habits and physical activity practices are not initiated early in life. Focus groups, surveys, and interviews were conducted among teachers, parents, principals, school superintendents, school food service staff, and students. Results were as expected. Physical education is not a requirement in the school while curriculum, and school lunches are meeting the nutritional standards and are considered nutritionally balanced, students are not making healthy food choices. Many, for example, opt for a pizza and French fry lunches every day.

pinellas CHD asks restaurateurs to alter kids menus

THE PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECENTLY INVITED AREA RESTAURANTS to join the state in its effort to reduce childhood obesity by requesting changes in high-fat, high-sugar children's menu choices.

Some items you might see offered more at restaurants here include grilled or broiled meat and fish, rice, salad, fruit and vegetables.

The action is part of Pinellas CHD's Healthy Behaviors Team, which so far reports an overall enthusiastic response from restaurateurs—including some that belong to state or nationwide chains.

Restaurant managers first receive a letter in the mail about the program and then a follow-up visit to discuss the opportunity and CHD assistance to redesign children's menus with at least 25 percent healthy choices.

The goal is to encourage healthier eating habits by offering youngsters, and their parents, opportunity to choose more nutritional food items while dining out and thereby changing "the norm" of what kids expect as food choices.

Pinellas CHD nutritionist Marla Russell offers her expertise to local chefs willing to become "healthy food heroes." Russell helps with meal ideas and calculates nutritional value. Durango Oak Fire Steakhouse is one such restaurant for example that has been working with Russell to redesign its children's menu for all Florida locations.

The Pinellas Healthy Kids Heroes program is a creation of Pinellas CHD, and health educators here hope to take the mission statewide and even nationwide. Current participating restaurants are listed under Pinellas Healthy Kids on the Health Behavior Team website at www.pinellaswellness.com. The site also offers other information about healthy lifestyle habits. The effort to recruit more restaurants is ongoing. For more information about the project and to become a participating restaurant, contact public information director Elaine Fulton-Jones at Pinellas CHD at 727/824-6908. **Elaine Fulton-Jones, Pinellas County Health Department**

PHP affects all aspects of public health

Even if you didn't know PHP stands for Public Health Preparedness, it's likely that some aspect of this office's mission has an impact in your day-to-day job. From preparing for hurricanes to weapons of mass destruction, PHP connects across all of the department's programs and county health departments. For example, if you are working in "Operation Vaccinate Florida" or covering for someone who is, then you are part of Public Health Preparedness. In order to better serve the preparedness needs of all people in Florida, the department also partners with other state and federal agencies and with county health departments (CHDs) and community response partners.

The Florida Department of Health has long been in the business of preparing for disasters of all sorts, and at a May 23, 2003, meeting at the Florida State Fire College, several people in public health were honored for their singular contributions to the state. Dr. Ellery Gray, chief of DOH Office of Emergency Operations, Pablo Gonzalez (Miami-Dade CHD) and Tom Belcuore (Alachua CHD) were recognized as early participants in the State Working Group (SWG). Gray has been designated as a "Chairman Emeritus" of the SWG for his leadership role, and Gonzalez was lauded for his outstanding work in writing Florida's Preparedness Plan.

The SWG was organized in 1999 to help prepare Florida for potential terrorism incidents. After September 11, 2001, the governor called upon the SWG to support the work of Florida's Regional Domestic Security Task Forces. In order to increase the resources available to the state, the department has entered into a formal relationship with the University Alliance for WMD Education (UAWMDE) and requested this talented group from Florida's medical schools, schools of public health and schools of pharmacy join the SWG.

The University Alliance works with each DOH representative in the Regional Domestic Security Task Forces (there are seven statewide) to ensure the delivery of appropriate education and training in the areas such as Emergency Response to Terror (an intensive 16-hour course for first responders at the University of Miami), Disaster

& Behavioral Mental Health, Crisis & Emergency Risk Communications, Hospital Training, Preparedness Satellite Broadcasts. Within the department, training liaisons from each region and from the major focus areas of the CDC grant (Emergency Operations, Epidemiology, Laboratories, Health Alert Network/IT, Communications and Preparedness Education & Training) work together as part of the Preparedness Education & Training Focus Group to ensure that the appropriate content is getting to intended audiences.

The mission of PHP is strongly rooted in core public health values and seeks to increase the capacity for all of us to prepare for and respond to hazards of all kinds.

Mark A. O'Neill, Office of Performance Improvement

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family preparedness guide scheduled for statewide summer distribution

THE FAMILY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE, A TOOL FOR FLORIDA CITIZENS THAT OUTLINES WAYS TO PREPARE AND PLAN FOR LARGE-SCALE DISASTER OR EMERGENCY, is scheduled for statewide distribution this month through county health departments and as newspaper inserts.

Four million copies of the guide are being printed. Information for it was compiled from various sources, including those at DOH and other state agencies, the CDC and the American Red Cross. Its publication is being funded by a CDC bioterrorism grant.

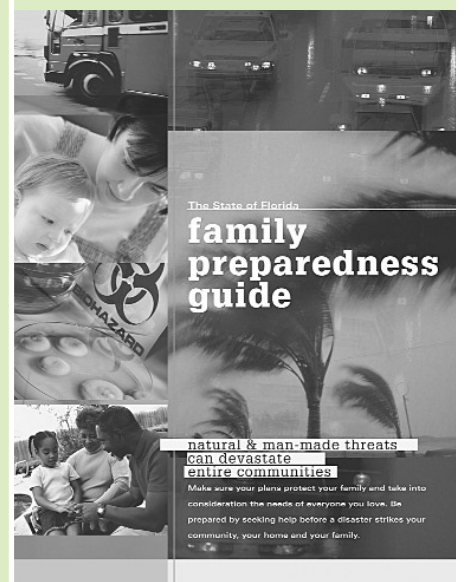
The Family Preparedness Guide outlines potential natural and man-made threats that could cause large-scale disasters and emergencies—from typical Florida weather that requires evacuation to more recent potential threats of bioterrorism and chemical attacks.

Governor Bush and Health Secretary Agwunobi recommend citizens read the guide and prepare accordingly by creating Family Plans for Disasters and Emergencies, and Disaster Supply Kits. Information for doing this is provided in the guide. Several online sources for information also are included, along with phone numbers of county

health departments and local emergency management offices.

"The information and suggestions in the Family Preparedness Guide may be vital in the event of an individual family crisis," said Dr. Agwunobi. "It provides a place for family information to be compiled and suggests copies be made for each family member."

"The state has been enhancing ways in which it prepares for disasters and emergencies," Agwunobi added. "This guide can help individuals and families in their efforts to feel prepared and be prepared."



state enters next phase of operation vaccination florida

THE DEPARTMENT ON MAY 1 BEGAN OPERATION VACCINATE FLORIDA (OVF) STAGE II, the next phase of the state's response to the President's request to prepare for the potential threat of a smallpox attack.

Through OVF Stage II, smallpox vaccination is being offered to first responders including law enforcement, fire fighters and emergency medical service personnel as indicated in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Declaration. Also, those individuals who are part of the state's health response teams who did not receive vaccinations during Stage I will be included in Stage II.

"Like many other hazards and threats we face, it is important that we use times of calm for preparing and training Florida's first line of defense, our first responders," said Health Secretary Agwunobi. "The recent past has taught us to err on the side of caution and to be prepared for even the unthinkable, such as someone reintroducing a disease that for the last 20 years has only existed in a few laboratories worldwide."

Under the leadership and coordination of David Miller in the department's Bureau of Immunization, the state's 67 county health departments are scheduling clinics to administer the vaccine. Stage II is expected to last six to nine months. As of June 28, a total of 3,905 individuals have received the vaccination as part of OVF.

Recent federal compensation legislation, approved by Congress and signed by President Bush, specifically addresses issues of compensation as well as supplementing the liability protection of the homeland security act of 2002 in the event of complications arising from receiving the vaccine. This legislation is the federal response to concerns raised by potential vaccinees during Stage I of OVF.

More information about OVF can be found on the department's website at www.doh.state.fl.us. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) has established a toll-free hotline for answering questions from the public: 1-888-246-2675. The CDC also has established a toll-free hotline to assist physicians having questions or seeing a suspected reaction from vaccinia: 1-877-554-4625.

OVF

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) AWARDED THE FLORIDA DIABETES PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM AN INCREASE IN FUNDING TO APPROXIMATELY \$650,000 FOR THE JULY 2003–MARCH 2004 GRANT YEAR. THIS INCREASE DESIGNATES THE PROGRAM AS “BASIC IMPLEMENTATION” AND ALLOWS IT TO EXPAND ITS EFFORTS TOWARD DIABETES PREVENTION AND CONTROL THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

Type 2 diabetes is a serious disease, but new research shows that adults at risk for type 2 diabetes can actually prevent or delay the onset through modest lifestyle changes.

Along with this increase in CDC funding, the program also receives state revenue. These funds are used for projects such as those included in Governor Bush’s “Closing the Gap” initiative. The Diabetes Prevention and Control Program will manage several of these community projects targeted at lowering the disproportionately high diabetes rates among Florida’s racially and ethnically diverse communities.

According to the 2002 County Level Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BFFSS), 8.2 percent of Floridians have diabetes. That translates to 1,369,894 people in the state living with the disease. Of these, 37.2 percent (509,600) are Black or Hispanic males and females. More than a quarter of all diabetes cases in Florida occur in people age 45 and older.

Adults at risk for developing the disease have several common behavioral habits, including:

Obesity—22.3 percent (3,725,444)

No Leisure Time Activity in the Past Month—26.4 percent (4,410,391)

No Regular Moderate Physical Activity—55.1 percent (9,205,020)

Overweight—35.1 percent (5,863,815)

Upcoming projects using the increased funds include a comprehensive assessment of the diabetes health care system in Florida, and a media prevention campaign entitled “Small Steps . . . Big Rewards.”

Small Steps . . . Big Rewards is a national effort that DOH will be participating in by encouraging people to walk for 30 minutes a day, at least five days a week, as part of the campaign to help reduce the risk of diabetes.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson is leading the national campaign by encouraging Americans to find out if they are at risk for diabetes and by taking small steps to delay or prevent the disease and its many complications.

Tisha Crews Keller, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program

diabetes prevention & control receives increase in CDC funding



small steps . . . big rewards

DOH participates in world breastfeeding week

THE DEPARTMENT CONGRATULATES AND APPLAUDS ALL PAST AND PRESENT BREASTFEEDING WOMEN, and proudly participates in the 2003 World Breastfeeding Week, August 1–7. This year’s theme, as announced by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), is “Breastfeeding in a Globalized World for Peace and Justice.”

Anwar Fazal, co-founder of WABA and the International Baby-Food Action Network (IBFAN), and the 1982 recipient of the Right Livelihood Award, states: “Breastfeeding is about peace and justice. It is the natural, universal and peaceful way of nurturing our children. In a world often wracked by injustice, violence and war, breastfeeding can be a sentinel of peace—inner peace, peace with other people and peace with the environment.”

Human milk is a unique and renewable resource. The positive effects of breastfeeding provide critical health benefits to mothers and breastfed babies. Current research shows that exclusive breastfeeding delays the return of fertility in women; and breastfed infants experience fewer cases of infectious and noninfectious diseases and childhood cancers. New studies also show that childhood obesity is linked to formula feeding. For women, breastfeeding reduces their risk of breast and ovarian cancer, as well as osteoporosis. Health benefits are in a dose-response relationship. That is, the likelihood of getting health benefits is greatly increased with exclusive and extended breastfeeding.

County health departments and WIC programs throughout the state have celebrated World Breastfeeding Week with enthusiasm, and have accomplished a variety of innovative activities such as conducting breastfed baby photo contests, creating attractive breastfeeding information bulletin boards and posters, and sponsoring “Recognition Days” for breastfeeding mothers and their babies. **Marsha Pearlman, WIC and Nutrition Services**



polk CHD receives grant for environmental health study

THE POLK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECENTLY RECEIVED A \$20,000 GRANT TO STUDY THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH in an area north of U.S. Highway 92 between Auburndale and Lakeland known as the Combee Settlement area.

The grant is part of a joint project between the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health. The project, known as PACE-EH, or Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health, helps local health and government officials plan a community-based environmental assessment.

Following assessment, PACE-EH helps communities take action for clean up of areas that could affect the health of residents.

Polk CHD will serve as facilitator and provide technical assistance for the community-driven project. Local health, city and county officials already have begun working toward health improvements of the area.

“This is a systematic way a community can go from recognizing problems to solving problems,” Polk CHD Director Dr. Daniel Haight told *The News Chief* in a recent article. “Such problems could be code enforcement issues, pests and vermin issues and possibly poor lighting or lack of safe parks.”

Polk County was one of eight demonstration sites from across the country selected for PACE-EH. Haight says the local project will serve as a model for other communities facing environmental health issues.

For more information about the project, call the Environmental Health Division of the Polk County Health Department at 863/519-8330.

hillsborough CHD develops disease tracking & reporting system available to all state CHDs

THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS DEVELOPED ITS SYNDROMIC TRACKING AND REPORTING SYSTEM, OR STARS, through a CDC grant obtained through the department’s Bureau of Epidemiology.

STARS was developed to allow Hillsborough CHD to continue its ongoing countywide Syndromic Surveillance system initiated in November 2001, the first of its kind in the United States. The system had previously been used on a short-term basis for the Super Bowl in Tampa in January 2001, and for other major national gatherings. Through the development of STARS, Hillsborough CHD will save \$60,000 annually in recurring database costs.

How it works: Nine county hospitals continually gather data from emergency room patients and enter it into the health department’s secure database. Twice daily, the computer analyzes this data using a CDC-developed statistical analysis algorithm, scanning for unusual numbers or types of illness.

The scan includes uncommon diseases, such as botulism and others considered plausible by terrorists, and naturally occurring diseases like influenza and severe acute respiratory syndrome. If the computer flags something unusual, health department officials examine the demographics and distribution of cases. Hospital infection control practitioners are contacted to obtain additional information when needed. Follow-ups have been conducted on a number of suspicious flags, and all to date have been considered normal occurrences.

STARS Version 1.0 is a web-based application accessible from any computer with the Internet Explorer web browser and Internet access. The secure server housing the data is owned and maintained by the Hillsborough County Health Department rather than by a private contractor, as was the case previously. The system is available without cost for use by county health departments in Florida. Pinellas CHD will be utilizing the system, saving \$72,000 per year in database expenses.

For more information about utilizing STARS, please contact Eliot Gregos at 813/307-8015 ext. 5941.

Eliot Gregos, Hillsborough County Health Department

STARS was developed to allow Hillsborough CHD to continue its ongoing countywide Syndromic Surveillance system initiated in November 2001, the first of its kind in the United States.

2003 Quality Management Showcase slated for Sept. 17, 18

"PICTURE OUR TOMORROW WITH FOCUS ON QUALITY TODAY" WILL FOCUS ON KEY PLANNING STRATEGIES NOW FOR A STRONG AND VIBRANT DEPARTMENT IN THE FUTURE. The 2003 Quality Management Showcase, organized by the Office of Performance Improvement, is scheduled for September 17 and 18 at the Doubletree Westshore Hotel in Tampa. The annual event spotlights best practice models and celebrates success.

Several speakers with extensive experience in quality practices and a variety of presentation formats have been scheduled.

The showcase begins with Health Secretary Agwunobi. He is scheduled to share his vision of the department's quality mission, and outline timely updates on progress with today's quality strategies and opportunities for tomorrow's successes.

NASA representative Tim Barth, who will share insights into "Communicating with Employees During a Time of Crisis," is the September 17 scheduled guest speaker. Barth is the NASA Spaceport Technology Development Manager at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. He has led many successful teams and projects focused on improving quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the Center's space launch operations.

Showcase provides an entertaining approach to new information on quality initiatives. This year, three skits are scheduled to provide information in a lively format. The Hillsborough County Health Department will recreate the inventory control process of converting to a "turn key" bar code system. Miami-Dade CHD's "We are All EARS" is a Florida Sterling Council award winner and tackled the challenge of improving compliance with Employee Activity Record (EAR) reporting. The Miami North regional clinic staff for Children's Medical Services will present key strategies of its Quality Management Demonstration Project "Family Action Network" for improving client awareness of available services.

Participants will be able to attend breakout presentations during the afternoon that include:

Business Results/Information and Analysis. "What Gets Measured Gets Done." Dr. Judith Hartner and Steve Mitnick of the Lee County Health Department have led the development of a public health Balanced Score Card for long-range planning and achieving goals. As a 2002-03 Quality Management Demonstration Project, the presentation will outline the strategic implementation and current results of the project. Doug Steele of Florida Gulf Coast University served as a consultant for this project and will present fundamental information on developing a balanced score card.

Human Resource Focus. "Giving the Psychological Paycheck." Teri Robertson, Director of Management and Organizational Development at SeaWorld in Orlando, will discuss motivating employees and recognizing a job well done. Topics for discussion include creating a motivational climate internally when the external climate is uncertain, attaining and maintaining trust, and sustaining a unified team.

Leadership. "Coaching for Success." Lucy Gee, bureau chief of Health Care Practitioner Regulation for Medical Quality Assurance, will discuss essential coaching needed after completing a 360 assessment. Coaching is a key ingredient in developing any performance improvement plan.

Customer and Market Focus. "The Fish Philosophy"—a tool to help you create the work environment where everyone chooses to bring energy, passion and a positive attitude each day. Howard Rasmussen, Training Director of the Florida Center for Public Management at Florida State University, will lead participants through the key ingredients of customer service during this high-energy workshop.

The Showcase will conclude with an inspirational message by two-time Olympic Gold Medallist Dr. Dorothy "Dot" Richardson: "Achieving Gold Through Teamwork." She will share her first-hand experiences in achieving goals as an athlete, attaining gold at both the Olympics and Pan American games in softball, and becoming an orthopedic surgeon. She currently is the Vice Chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

Registration is currently underway for the 2003 Quality Management Showcase. Online registration is available July 7 by visiting the Office of Performance Improvement Intranet site. For more information, contact Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey or Jeanne Lane at 850/245-407 or SunCom 205-4007.

Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey, Office of Performance Improvement

blackmore appointed acting public health veterinarian Dr. Carina Blackmore recently was appointed to serve as acting state public health veterinarian. Blackmore earned her veterinary degree in Sweden and her Ph.D. in Arbovirus Epidemiology from Notre Dame. She has been with the Department of Health for five years and most recently served as a regional epidemiologist with the Bureau of Epidemiology where she worked with a variety of communicable diseases of public health importance including influenza, West Nile Virus and rabies.

employees receive massage therapy In celebration of Nurses Week 2003, the Florida Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association's (AMTA) Massage Emergency Response Team (MERT) provided massages to department nurses and other employees on May 9. AMTA volunteers Jerry Konrad, Lisa Kast, Eric Pletcher and Troy Spencer were enthusiastic about sharing their services and educating people about the benefits of massage to about 70 DOH employees who each received 15 minutes of massage therapy.

MERT consists of volunteer massage therapists trained for deployment to disaster sites to perform massage therapy on rescue and recovery workers. These volunteers wear bright orange shirts for easy recognition. Most recently, MERT went to New York City to provide stress relief for emergency workers after September 11. They also were on scene at the Pentagon and the plane crash site in Pennsylvania. Jerry Konrad, a former NYPD officer and MERT volunteer, said the experience hit close to home. He said that "after a while on scene the rescue workers would yell, 'Hey, orange shirt!' when they needed a therapist. It was good to be able to help them."

The Massage Emergency Response Team is a fairly new innovation and has several uses in addition to alleviating the stress people experience during or after traumatic events. Massage therapy is used for relaxing, improving circulation, relieving muscle tension, and caring for mental and emotional well-being—especially in infants and the aging.

Massage also helps promote healthy skin, improves immune system functioning, and improving energy flow. AMTA provided literature on massage therapy in addition to their services. A few goals of AMTA include establishing massage therapy as integral to the maintenance of good health, increasing public awareness of the massage therapy profession, and becoming an influential member of the health care community. Additional information about joining AMTA or becoming a massage therapist in Florida can be found online at www.amta-fl.org.

Christie Luce, Office of Public Health Nursing

department promotes employee wellness activities Physical Activity: We all need it; we feel better when we do it. But most of us struggle to find time for it. This is why so many programs and organizations advocate for incorporation of physical activity into our daily routines and many provide employee wellness programs at the worksite. Employee wellness programs encourage employees to lead more healthful lives through the identification of risky behaviors they may be engaging in, and activities that increase awareness of the need for behavior change to reach a higher state of wellness.

Comprehensive programs also provide opportunities to learn about and engage in healthful behaviors, and work to create and improve policies and the working environment.

Health InSite, the department's Employee Wellness Program at the central offices in Tallahassee, has expanded to become more comprehensive with ongoing efforts to bring changes in policy, environment and behavior. Efforts focus on four main areas: exercise/fitness, nutrition, weight control, and organizational stress management.

These areas of interest were identified from an online employee needs assessment survey of more than 600 Tallahassee-based employees in 2002.

Resources for the Health InSite program include the Healthy People 2010 goals related to the worksite, and the Preventive Health Taskforce Recommendations. The latter of these two lists five major recommendations for increasing physical activity. One recommendation calls for "point-of-decision" prompts to increase stair usage. Artwork that helps encourage healthy behavior hangs in each of the four DOH office buildings at the Capital Circle Office Complex in the stairways, near vending machines and between elevators.

This artwork also has been provided to other agencies upon request, including the state departments of Education; Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; Children and Families; Freshwater Commission; the Agency for Workforce Innovation; and Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

Health Secretary Agwunobi and Health InSite staff encourage employees to take walks during breaks, take stairs, and park cars further from their office buildings when and if possible as ways to increase daily physical activity.

County Health Departments and other agencies may contact Employee Wellness Program Coordinator Shannon Hughes at 850/245-4330 or contact the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention for more information and to request stairway artwork by visiting www.state.fl.us/family/physical/index.html.

Shannon Hughes, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention

the advisor

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Please send stories & information for the Sept./Oct. issue by e-mail to Juli Bergstrom-Wasson in the Office of Performance Improvement by Aug. 1, 2003. The Health Advisor is available on the DOH intranet & internet websites. Phone: 850/245-4444, ext. 4013 Fax: 850/922-0462 e-mail: Juli.Bergstrom-Wasson@doh.state.fl.us Suncom: 205-4007 Suncom Fax: 292-0462

projects shared at WIC meeting The Florida WIC Program held its statewide meeting "Oceans of Opportunities in 2003" on May 12-13 in Kissimmee. The agenda included: "Asthma Nutrition: What the WIC Nutritionist Needs to Know;" the "March of Dimes Florida Prematurity Campaign;" "Miami-Dade WIC Sterling Activities;" and updates from the department's Bureau of Chronic Disease and Prevention.

The meeting also featured Share-and-Compare sessions by local WIC staff, highlighting the following WIC projects: Indian River's coordination activities with the Immunization Program; Orange County's presentation of the Nutrition Information Center (NIC) modules—interactive, computerized nutrition training modules for clients; Osceola County's coordinated "Mooove To Lowfat and Fat Free" nutrition campaign; Martin County's update on the implementation of the lowfat milk food package; Miami-Dade's presentation on breastfeeding promotion activities; and St. Lucie's system for Express PEPW (presumptive eligibility for pregnant women) to encourage early prenatal entry into WIC.

Certificates of Appreciation that documented the year's outstanding work among local WIC agencies were presented, and the Florida WIC Association (FWA) presented an award to state WIC staff members in recognition for their hard work and dedication.

Cheryl Miller, WIC & Nutrition Service

results are in from the 2003 employee satisfaction sample survey Results from the 2003 Employee Satisfaction Survey Sample indicate improvement in all areas. The 2003 Survey was sent electronically to randomly selected employees (about 10 percent of the department). A record 72 percent of staff completed and returned the survey. This year's survey included an "over sampling" of our public health nurses to increase understanding of their opinions, including work conditions.

Stellar statistics include 94 percent of the sampled employees understand how they personally contribute to the mission and goals of the department.

This sample year provides another important point in trend data on the opinions of our internal customers. Data reports can be found at the Office of Performance Improvement (HPI) Intranet homepage.

All Department of Health employees will have an opportunity to share their opinions in January of 2004 during the Employee Satisfaction Survey.

For additional information about the 2003 Employee Satisfaction Survey, or other activities related to organizational or individual performance improvement, contact Jeanne Lane or Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey at SunCom 205-4007 or 850/245-4007.

Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey, Office of Performance Improvement