

Florida Department of Health  
 John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H., Secretary

# the health advisor

**DOH Mission:**

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

May/June 2005

## Secretary of Health Announces Immunization Goal Achieved



Secretary Agwunobi addresses the summit.

FLORIDA'S SECRETARY OF HEALTH, JOHN O. AGWUNOBI, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H., POINTED WITH PRIDE TO FLORIDA'S ACHIEVING THE IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE LEVEL FOR TWO-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN OF 85.8 PERCENT AS HE ADDRESSED THE FLORIDA 2005 STATEWIDE IMMUNIZATION SUMMIT IN ORLANDO. IN 2002, THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM'S SURVEY INDICATED FLORIDA'S TWO-YEAR-OLD CHILD IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE WAS 77 PERCENT FOR 4:3:1:3 (FOUR DTAP, THREE HIB, ONE MMR AND THREE POLIO).

"I see an army of people reaching out to protect Florida's children through infant immunizations," Dr. Agwunobi said to nearly 300 health practitioners. "In immunization, you inject one and protect many—there's something binding about a community that reaches out with teamwork and initiative to make a difference, which is just what you have done," he said.

The immunization summit became a time to celebrate. Secretary Agwunobi, Deputy Secretary Bonnie Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A., and Disease Control Division Director, Landis Crockett, M.D., M.P.H., congratulated the attendees and the agencies they represented. Other presenters included William L. Atkinson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Epidemiologist with the CDC, Wil Blechman, M.D., of Kiwanis, and Mobeen Rathore, M.D., and David Wood, M.D., M.P.H., of the University of Florida's Division of General Pediatrics, Jacksonville.

The Department of Health's Early Childhood Immunization Initiative, in partnership with Kiwanis Florida, Rotary, and other community partners, provided more than 100 immunization presentations during the past year. Local coalitions, health departments and their partners created special trainings for health professionals, advocated for improved immunizations in day care centers, and conducted a variety of community health activities.

Participants shared strategies for energizing their local coalitions, described best practices in childhood immunizations, and received updates on vaccines. Secretary Agwunobi shared some of the accomplishments with summit attendees:

- **Duval County:** Created a childhood immunization summit targeting family practice providers;
- **Hillsborough County:** More than 1,000 children received immunizations, school supplies, and refreshments at the Back to School Coalition Fair;
- **Marion County:** The health department with Mid-Florida Legal Service, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Healthy Start, and the County Council provided immunizations, physicals, books, beverages, and crafts;
- **Orange County:** Local fire and sheriff's departments, Florida Hospital, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, Toys 'R Us, Albertsons, and churches sponsored a Booster Baby Birthday Bash to celebrate fully-immunized two-year-old children;
- **Pinellas County:** A Big Show for Little Ones, sponsored by Rotary Club, Publix, and the health department featured diaper derbies, fashion shows, and medical information.

With this goal achieved, Secretary Agwunobi emphasized that "now is the time to sharpen our sword" for a new, dramatic goal he will announce in July. The Florida Department of Health will reach forward to optimum immunization coverage through recognizing the power in partnerships, increasing parental and provider awareness, and identifying barriers to immunization.

"This is a winning team—I am proud to be a part of it," Secretary Agwunobi said. ■ **Joan Spainhower, Bureau of HIV/AIDS**

"I SEE AN ARMY OF PEOPLE REACHING OUT TO PROTECT FLORIDA'S CHILDREN THROUGH INFANT IMMUNIZATIONS," DR. AGWUNOBI SAID TO NEARLY 300 HEALTH PRACTITIONERS. "IN IMMUNIZATION, YOU INJECT ONE AND PROTECT MANY—THERE'S SOMETHING BINDING ABOUT A COMMUNITY THAT REACHES OUT WITH TEAMWORK AND INITIATIVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, WHICH IS JUST WHAT YOU HAVE DONE."

The following is a letter to Secretary Agwunobi and CMS Deputy Secretary Chiaro

HELLO SIRs:

I AM WRITING TO TELL YOU ABOUT A CAREER SERVICE EMPLOYEE IN OUR CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICE IN OCALA. HER NAME IS CARROL J. LINDSAY. SHE IS OUR RECEPTIONIST AND SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR. ON MAY 26TH ABOUT 2 PM, ONE OF OUR NURSES WAS EATING LUNCH AT HER DESK. SHE SUDDENLY STARTED CHOKING AND COULD NOT SWALLOW OR BREATHE. SHE GOT UP FROM HER DESK AND WENT OUTSIDE HER OFFICE WHICH IS IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF CARROL'S DESK. WHEN CARROL SAW HER EXHIBITING THE UNIVERSAL SIGN OF CHOKING SHE IMMEDIATELY PERFORMED THE HEIMLICH MANEUVER TWICE AND DISLODGED THE FOOD. THE NURSE WENT TO THE ER AND WAS FOUND TO HAVE NO ADVERSE EFFECTS FROM THE INCIDENT EXCEPT A SMALL LACERATION WHERE THE FOOD WAS LODGED.

CARROL HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED HER TRAINING AS AN LPN AND IS CERTIFIED BY THE RED CROSS IN CPR.

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO HER AS IS THE NURSE WHOSE LIFE SHE SAVED.

SHARON SURRENCY, RN  
 REGIONAL NURSING DIRECTOR

## Are You Ready for the 2005 Hurricane Season?

THE 2004 HURRICANE SEASON IS NOT ONE THAT WILL BE FORGOTTEN BY MOST FLORIDIANS ANYTIME SOON. EVERYONE IN THE STATE WAS TOUCHED IN SOME WAY BY THE WRATH OF LAST YEAR'S STORMS.

As a result, people are looking to be better prepared this season. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has forecast another above average hurricane season for 2005. We may see seven to nine hurricanes this season with three to five of them becoming major storms. Floridians learned the hard way last year that preparedness is vital. It's important that we prepare on a personal level and a professional level.



Special needs shelter prepares for Hurricane Frances during 2004.



Some 500 public health nurses shared in the duties of response and recovery during the four hurricanes that affected Florida in 2004.

### On the Home Front

Each family should have a plan in case a disaster strikes. Know the threats to your local community and prepare ahead of time. Have a plan for evacuation that includes deciding on a meeting place, establishing an out-of-area contact, locating shelters, and making arrangements for persons with special needs. Keep a half a tank of fuel in your vehicle at all times. If you do evacuate, follow recommended routes.

The Department of Health advises that families also build a disaster supply kit that is in reach and easy to carry. This kit should contain water, food, first aid supplies and medications, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies, and important family documents. Also consider that children and persons with special needs require other supplies like medicine, respirators, diapers, bottles, and even toys.

Finally, protect your home. Keep supplies on hand to board the windows. Move free standing objects in doors to see **ARE YOU READY** p. 3

# Thousands Learn “It’s Great to Wait”

THE DEPARTMENT’S ABSTINENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM HAD A VERY EXCITING APRIL AND MAY, HOLDING SIX EDUCATIONAL AND ENERGIZING “IT’S GREAT TO WAIT” REGIONAL RALLIES FOR YOUTH, AND PARENTS ACROSS THE STATE. “It’s Great to Wait” provided thousands of youth, parents, and other adults with the facts about why waiting to have sex until marriage is the smart, and more importantly, healthy decision to make.

The well-attended, culturally diverse rallies averaged over 500 participants each; with teens and adults agreeing that the day was not only beneficial—it was fun! Held in Orlando, St. Petersburg, Ft. Lauderdale, Gainesville, Tallahassee, and Pensacola, the rallies featured live entertainment, music, an “Abstinence Idol” youth talent contest, and compelling speakers from around the nation. Presenters included Chris Graebe, from MTV’s “Battle of the Sexes 2” and “Road Rules: South Pacific;” Luis Galdamez, a dynamic abstinence educator from Southern California; and Lakita Garth, a leading abstinence advocate, and former second runner-up to Miss Black America. They provided information and motivation on how to reject advances and stay abstinent in today’s sexually charged culture. The personal stories, song lyrics, information, and activities enlightened young people about the medical risks of sexually transmitted diseases, teen pregnancy, and promoted sexual abstinence until marriage as the “cool” choice.

To encourage open communication between parents and their children on the subjects of sex, abstinence, and relationships, noted speaker Marilyn Morris of Aim for Success, conducted an interactive session for parents, guardians, and group leaders during each rally. As the president and founder of one of America’s largest providers of abstinence programs, Morris enlightened the adults with facts on the health and psychological risks of teen sex, provided creative ideas to encourage sexual abstinence in their children, and suggested specific words and phrases to use when talking with teens on the topic.

The day prior to each of the rallies, the Abstinence Education Program hosted basic and advanced level Abstinence Educator Training Workshops to train adults, such as child advocates, teachers, health care professionals, counselors, youth leaders, and community center workers to teach abstinence education throughout the state. These sessions, held for the first time during the spring of 2004, have proven to be immensely popular.

The many inquiries from parents and teens of “Will you be back next year?” are testament to the interest and excitement generated by these community outreach activities.

The Abstinence Education Program is happy to report that another series of rallies is already being planned for next spring, including one in an additional region of the state. Through the youth rallies and the community-based programs it funds locally, the program is making great strides in helping to decrease teen sexual activity, and subsequently the incidence of teen births and sexually transmitted diseases throughout Florida. ■ **Vickie-Jean Mullins, Abstinence Education Specialist, Abstinence Education Program**

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Performances rock the crowd at the Great to Wait rally.



## Summer Safety

MAY IS NATIONAL SKIN CANCER PREVENTION MONTH AND THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTING A SUMMER HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM. The program focuses on educating area youth on the proper ways to protect themselves from sunburns and skin cancer, the most common form of cancer in the United States. Most of the sun damage to our skin happens before the age of 18, so talking to students at an early age is vital. It is estimated that over 10,000 people will die of skin cancer in 2005.

The health department conducted presentations to over 900 third graders at six elementary schools in the month of May. Students also learned about swimming safety and how to stay safe while being outdoors over their summer vacation. Students received educational reading materials to take home, and samples of sunscreen were distributed to selected schools.

Along with educating students, the health department is also targeting visitors to our local beach hotels. Twelve beach hotels located at St. Augustine Beach and Vilano Beach, are participating in the Summer Health and Safety Program. The health department has created colorful table-top tents that include sun protection and swimming safety tips. These informational tents will be displayed in all rooms at the twelve hotels. By offering this information to visitors to our beaches, we hope to increase public awareness of sun protection and swimming safety, and lower incidence of sunburns and water related injuries and/or deaths. ■

**Rafe Hewett, St. Johns County Health Department**



## SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

### Swimming Safety

1. **Never swim alone; swim in view of a lifeguard.**
2. **Know your swimming ability and stay close to shore.**
3. **Do not mix alcohol and swimming.**
4. **Never dive head-first into shallow waves/water.**
5. **Take breaks from swimming to avoid exhaustion.**
6. **Parents should closely supervise children in the water and areas with beach automobile traffic.**
7. **If caught in a rip current, swim parallel to shore until free; do not swim against the current’s pull.**
8. **Don’t rely on flotation devices if you aren’t a strong swimmer, they can be lost in waves/water.**
9. **Get out of water during lightning storms.**
10. **Pay attention to swimming condition flags: green—good; yellow—use caution; red—dangerous; purple—hazardous marine life**

### Sun Protection

1. **HIDE AND SEEK** UV rays are most harmful during midday. It’s best to plan indoor activity at that time, or seek shade under a tree or umbrella.
2. **COVER UP** A T-shirt, long shorts, and sunscreen are a good combination.
3. **GET A HAT** Hats that shade the face, scalp, ears and neck offer good protection.
4. **COOL SHADES** Wear sunglasses that block the sun’s ultra-violet rays.
5. **RUB ON SUNSCREEN** Use sunscreen with at least SPF 15 every time you go outside.
6. **PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN** Sunburn before the age of ten can double the probability of children developing malignant skin cancer sometime during their lifetime.



## South African Health Professions CEO Visits Florida Department of Health

African Dignitary meets with Division of Medical Quality Assurance

THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE (MQA) WAS RECENTLY VISITED BY ADVOCATE BOYCE MKHIZE, CEO AND REGISTRAR FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA, TO DISCUSS HOW THE DIVISION LICENSES AND REGULATES THE STATE'S HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS.

He is responsible for granting and processing temporary medical licenses in South Africa. Mkhize also recently visited the medical licensing board of England.

"Advocate Mkhize's interest in the Division of Medical Quality Assurance speaks volumes of the Florida Department of Health (DOH)," said DOH Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H. "His visit is a testimony of DOH's endeavors towards leading the nation in providing quality health care services and promoting high medical standards."

In addition to the licensure and credentialing process of physicians, Mkhize was also particularly interested in the division's call center, which handles approximately 30,000 calls a month, and the importance of continuing medical education requirements for Florida's licensed medical professionals. MQA staff also shared with Mkhize how the division handles nearly 40,000 complaints and reports each year.

Mkhize was accompanied by Don Bovell, M.D., of Ocala, Fla., and Ann Burnett, his office manager. Bovell met Mkhize during a medical missionary trip to South Africa. He helped to direct Mkhize to MQA and DOH. ■

(From left to right) Don Bovell, M.D., Ann Burnett, assistant of Dr. Bovell, Mrs. and Mr. Advocate Boyce Mkhize, CEO and registrar for Health Professions Council of South Africa, at The Florida Department of Health's Division of Medical Quality Assurance.

### Are You Ready from cover

prevent the wind from carrying them away. Install straps or hurricane clips to protect the roof of your home. Be clear about your insurance protection well in advance of a storm.

Hurricane season can be a difficult and frightening time for those in the path of a storm. Stay informed as the situation develops by listening to the news. The best protection you can provide for yourself and your family is to be well prepared in the event of a hurricane.

### In the Work Place

In addition, remember your role as an employee and/or manager. Make sure all staff are familiar with your unit's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). If your current working facility becomes inoperable, answers to these questions must be yes: Do all staff know how to check in? Do all of the staff know where the alternative site of operations would be? Are your unit's call lists up to date and assignments made as to who would call whom? It is also a good idea to test for data back-up systems in advance. Do all staff know their role in an emergency situation and how to carry out their tasks? Lastly, be an advocate within your organization to regularly test your emergency plan. ■

Samantha Cooksey, Office of Emergency Operations

## New Health Department Building Dedicated

MORE THAN 100 COUNTY/STATE DIGNITARIES, HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES, AND MARTIN COUNTY RESIDENTS WERE ON HAND MAY 18TH FOR THE LONG-AWAITED DEDICATION OF THE SENATOR WILLIAM "DOC" MYERS HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING IN STUART. THE DEDICATION EVENT ALSO INCLUDED A HEALTH FAIR AND TOURS OF THE NEW FACILITY.

More than 100 county/state dignitaries, health department employees, and Martin County residents were on hand May 18th for the long-awaited dedication of the Senator William "Doc" Myers Health Department Building in Stuart. The dedication event also included a health fair and tours of the new facility.

Although he's been out of public life for years, evidence of his leadership on healthcare issues filled the new 41,000-square-foot health department building. Myers was on hand to cut the ribbon and mark the grand opening. A former Hobe Sound physician, he served as a Martin County commissioner in the '60s and '70s before being elected to the state House of Representatives and then the state Senate, where he served until 2000.

Myers, who was given several standing ovations during the ceremony, is credited with creating the legislation that split the Florida Department of Health from the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. "His handprint on this building, and on health and human services, has been invaluable to this community," said Senator Ken Pruitt, R-Port St. Lucie.

Plans for the building have been in the works for eight years, but the actual move came as somewhat of a surprise. The move had been scheduled for mid-September, but when Hurricane Frances damaged the old building, administrators scrambled to move two weeks early, just in time for Hurricane Jeanne.

The state provided the bulk of funding for the project, while Martin County bought the land and provided funding to include the environmental health wing. "We're excited about our public health building, but we're even more excited about building public health in our community," said Health Department Administrator Ray Collins. ■



Senator William "Doc" Myers greets health department staff.

## Project Public Health READY A Systematic Approach to Disaster Preparedness

IN THE WAKE OF THE NATURAL DISASTERS OF 2004, AND FACED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF THESE AND OTHER TYPES OF FUTURE DISASTERS, MANY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS (CHD) ARE WONDERING: Are our employees and community partners familiar with our emergency operation plans? Are our plans current? Are our employees as well trained as they should be? Will we perform even better the next time disaster strikes?

A systematic approach to disaster preparedness ensures that these and many other issues are dealt with before disaster strikes, enabling human and other resources to be deployed with optimal efficiency. Enter the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) Project Public Health READY (PPHR). PPHR prepares staff of local public health agencies to respond and protect the public's health through a competency-based training and recognition program. PPHR requires each participating site to

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achieve criteria in three key areas: Emergency Preparedness Planning, Workforce Competency Development, and Exercise Simulation. Since the introduction of the project, a total of seven Florida CHDs have worked hard to make sure they are "READY".

PPHR was launched in 2003 with 13 sites across the nation, one of which was in Seminole county. As a Round One participant, Seminole CHD submitted the required criteria documentation and received "Certified READY" status in 2004. The Office of

Performance Improvement (HPI) assisted Seminole CHD with READY training. HPI, in collaboration with the Division of Emergency Medical Operations, has selected PPHR as a primary strategy by which Florida CHDs will systematically plan, assess, train, and exercise, thereby applying a quality improvement cycle to disaster preparedness activities.

PPHR has been implemented in six additional Florida counties in fiscal year 2004/2005, including Alachua, Okeechobee, Orange, Palm Beach, Sarasota, and Volusia, all of whom have submitted the required criteria documentation. Okeechobee, Orange and Palm Beach CHDs are also official NACCHO READY sites. Over the next five years, the goal is to implement PPHR in all 67 counties, with the recognition that counties are at varying degrees of readiness to fully launch this project. The six 2004/2005 Round Two project coordinators have been working with HPI staff to develop tools and resources that will assist Round Three sites in successfully implementing PPHR. Approximately 12 to 15 sites are expected to be selected for participation in Round Three. For more information on PPHR, please contact Shannon Hughes at 850-245-4007. Additional information is available at the HPI page on the DOH Intranet or the NACCHO PPHR website: <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/pphr.cfm> ■ Shannon Hughes, Office of Performance Improvement

## Board of Chiropractic Medicine Executive Director Named to Board of Directors of Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards

FLORIDA BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOE BAKER, JR., HAS BEEN ELECTED TO A TWO-YEAR TERM AS THE EXECUTIVE FELLOW DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERATION OF CHIROPRACTIC LICENSING BOARDS (FCLB). As a member of the board of directors, Baker will help oversee FCLB's role as a clearinghouse and forum for maintaining high, uniform standards in areas related to chiropractic licensure, regulation, discipline, and education.

"I commend Joe's selection for this important leadership role," Florida Department of Health Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H., said. "We are fortunate to have individuals like him representing the voice of Florida in our nation's health care regulation system."

During the FCLB's 79th Annual Educational Conference, Baker was also elected vice-president of the Association of Chiropractic Board Administrators (ACBA). He had previously served as treasurer of the ACBA, which is a forum for regulatory managers to discuss and share best practices.

For more information about FCLB, visit [www.fclb.org](http://www.fclb.org).

## New Administrator Named at Santa Rosa CHD

KATHLEEN DEVOREJONES WAS NAMED HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN APRIL. DEVOREJONES BRINGS TO HER NEW POST THE EXPERIENCE OF MORE THAN TWO DECADES OF SERVICE IN PUBLIC HEALTH, INCLUDING HER MOST RECENT POSITION OF HEALTH DIRECTOR FOR THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN TROY, NORTH CAROLINA.

Also, as a nurse she has managed several health programs including areas of jail health, TB, communicable disease and forensic psychiatry.

DeVorejones received her nursing diploma from Mercy Hospital School on Nursing in Urbana, Illinois in 1970. She went on to receive her Bachelors Degree in Psychology from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri in 1976, and her Masters in Health Policy and Administration from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health in Chapel Hill in 1988. She also participated in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Presidential Management Intern Program, Class of 1990.

## HIV/AIDS Bureau Chief Receives Red Ribbon Lifetime Achievement Award

DOH BUREAU OF HIV/AIDS CHIEF TOM LIBERTI RECEIVED THE AIDS PROJECT FLORIDA "RED RIBBON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" FOR HIS COMMITMENT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY IN BATTLING THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC.

"Tom's passion and dedication, blended with a deep knowledge and understanding of Florida's public health needs, has led to the creation and implementation of many successful programs in combating HIV/AIDS," said DOH Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H. "We thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this prestigious and well-deserved award."

Liberti was presented with the award at the 10th Annual Red Ribbon Awards Charity Ball in Ft. Lauderdale by AIDS Project Florida, an AIDS service organization established in 1984. The award acknowledges his efforts and accomplishments in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Liberti has served the state of Florida in public health since 1974. As Chief of the Bureau of HIV/AIDS in the DOH Division of Disease Control, he works closely with public health officials and community representatives to design and implement programs for HIV/AIDS surveillance, education, prevention, early intervention, counseling, testing care and treatment. He also administers the overall functions of the Hepatitis Program within the Bureau of HIV/AIDS.

## St. Lucie CHD gets New Health Officer

LARRY LEE HAS BEEN SELECTED THE NEW HEALTH OFFICER OF THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT. HIS EXPERIENCE INCLUDES 11 YEARS IN PUBLIC HEALTH, INCLUDING SIX YEARS AS DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR ST. LUCIE CHD.

Lee's background also includes nearly two decades in city management and community development.

Lee received his Bachelors Degree in Political Science from Moorhead State University in 1969, and his Masters in History from the University of Minnesota in 1974. He is also currently working on a nursing degree at Indian River Community College. Lee's management background includes working for two years as a city planner, 11 years as

the Community Development Director for the City of Wahpeton, North Dakota, and Manager of Industrial Development for the Minneapolis Community Development Agency.

Lee entered the public health realm in 1993 as the Personnel Manger for the St. Lucie County Public Health Unit. In 1995, he became the Health & Human Services Board Liaison for the Department of HRS, serving as Executive Assistant to the District Administrator. He became Deputy Administrator for the St. Lucie CHD in 1996.

## Environmental Health Directors Selected for CDC Leadership Institute

NASSAU COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR WADE SPARKMAN, OKALOOSA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR DOUG SIMS AND POLK COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR TIM MAYER WERE RECENTLY SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE.

The three traveled to Louisville, KY, to participate in the leadership program discussion, scholar selection process, and community emergency response training. They are three of just 15 environmental health leaders selected nationwide.

Their responsibilities will be to work with the Institute in the development of leadership skills needed to solve current and emerging environmental public health issues. Their participation will help shape public health response now and in the future.

## Miami Lab Director Selected for Homeland Security Post

SEGARAN S. PILLAI, THE DEPARTMENT'S MIAMI BRANCH LABORATORY DIRECTOR WAS RECENTLY SELECTED TO BE A SENIOR ADVISOR WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY UNDER THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

Segaran S. Pillai, the department's Miami Branch Laboratory Director was recently selected to be a Senior Advisor with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under the Executive Office of the President.

Dr. Pillai was chosen for this prestigious position following his outstanding scientific endeavor and laboratory response to the intentional release of anthrax in Palm Beach County in October 2001. Under Dr. Pillai's leadership and direction,

## Kim Barnhill Nominated for Outstanding Florida Public Health Woman of the Year 2005

MADISON AND JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR, KIM BARNHILL, WAS NOMINATED FOR OUTSTANDING FLORIDA PUBLIC HEALTH WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2005. Barnhill has served as Administrator since 2002. Since becoming administrator she has implemented a dental program, exercise program, and volunteered in the recovery efforts for all four hurricanes of 2004. Her leadership has strengthened clinical health services and improved health in the community.

## Davis Productivity Award Winners

THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WISHES TO EXTEND OUR HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR DAVIS PRODUCTIVITY AWARD WINNERS. THIS HONOR RECOGNIZES YOUR INNOVATION, YOUR CREATIVITY, AND YOUR COMMITMENT TOWARD INCREASING WORK PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTIVITY IN THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES.

This year we submitted 65 nominations; and 65 nominations received recognition. We had 18 cash winners, totaling \$5,250.00.

It is reassuring to know that your accomplishments have achieved the recognition they deserve. We are truly proud of you all for this amazing accomplishment.

Congratulations again! Keep up the good work!

For a complete list of winners, and for additional Davis Productivity Award information, please visit the Office of Performance Improvement's intranet site at [http://dohiws/Divisions/Perf\\_Improvement/WFD/Davis/2005awardwinners.htm](http://dohiws/Divisions/Perf_Improvement/WFD/Davis/2005awardwinners.htm).

## Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine Chairman Elected to Nominating Committee of Federation of State Medical Boards

FLORIDA BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE CHAIRMAN JIM AND John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H., said. "It recognizes his continuous work to uphold the integrity of his profession and the division of Medical Quality Assurance's efforts to ensure the appropriate regulation of Florida's osteopathic medical professionals."

Andriole was elected during the 93rd Annual FSMB Meeting in Dallas, Texas. As a member of this committee, he will be responsible for recommending candidates for FSMB

## the advisor

Florida Department of Health  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C-24  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1711

Please send stories & information for the July/August issue by e-mail to Angela Lynn in the Office of Performance Improvement. The Health Advisor is available on the DOH Intranet & Internet websites.  
Phone: (850) 245-4444, ext. 2122 Fax: (850) 922-0462 e-mail: [Angela\\_Lynn@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Angela_Lynn@doh.state.fl.us)  
Suncom: 205-4007 Suncom Fax: 292-0462

the Florida State Public Health Laboratory, using state of the art instrumentation already in place validated by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, received thousands of samples for testing from Florida, Washington, D.C., and foreign countries.

During a ceremony in his honor, an appreciation plaque was presented to Pillai by FBI Assistant Supervisor Agent in Charge Earl Biggett. Also, Captain Ron Sperry of the Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Pillai, and the Broward County Health Department sent a Certificate of Appreciation, and Miami-Dade CHD Administrator Lillian Rivera presented him with a Proclamation from Miami-Dade County, given by the Florida Senate House.

## Palm Beach County Health Department Receives Award

THE PALM BEACH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED ONE OF THE EIGHT 2004 NATIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE FROM THE PRODUCE FOR BETTER HEALTH FOUNDATION. This award recognizes promotion of the 5 A Day program which encourages all Americans to consume at least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables daily for better health. The award was received for Employee and Community Education Efforts. Judith Cooper, Registered Dietitian, went to San Francisco in March to accept the award on behalf of the health department.

office. Prior to this selection, Andriole served on the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine for five years in various capacities and participated on the FSMB rules committee.

He currently is CEO and president of Disability Consultants USA, Inc., and a volunteer family physician for several County Health Departments in the Big Bend area of Florida.

For more information about FSMB, visit [www.fsmb.org](http://www.fsmb.org).