

the Health Advisor

Florida Department of Health

Mission: Promote and protect the health and safety of all Floridians.

Sept./Oct. 1999

The Department of Health serves Floridians and visitors with integrity, teamwork, accountability, professionalism, quality, caring and community partnerships.

Debra Bodenstine appointed new executive director of the Florida Tobacco Pilot Program

"I've been following this campaign since it began and I think that we have an incredible base to draw from in taking it to the next level."

Debra Bodenstine, Executive Director, Florida Tobacco Pilot Program

Governor Jeb Bush and Secretary Brooks announced the appointment of Debra Bodenstine as the new executive director for the Florida Tobacco Pilot Program at a morning press conference August 18.

The announcement of Bodenstine came on the heels of a highly productive quarterly board meeting of Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) in Orlando, and is the final, critical component of the newly organized Florida Tobacco Pilot Program.

"Ms. Bodenstine's enthusiasm and extensive marketing experience are going to be an asset to the program as we transition into the second year of the widely recognized Florida Tobacco Pilot Program," Governor Bush said.

Bodenstine, 43, of Tallahassee, comes to the program with 19 years of marketing and educational experience. She was also a former bureau chief for the Bureau of Vendor Training with the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco. Bodenstine directed promotional programs to introduce and encourage participation in the Responsible Vendor Act. Prior to joining the Florida Tobacco Pilot Program, she worked in marketing and training for the Florida's News Channel, and as a training and sales representative for Responsible Vendors, Inc.

"I am delighted to have been chosen for this position at such a critical stage in the life of the Tobacco Pilot Program. I've been following this campaign since it began and I think that we have an incredible base to draw from in taking it to the next level," Bodenstine said. "We're already discussing new marketing strategies, which, combined with SWAT advocacy around the state and the work of the other program components, are sure to continue to positively impact smoking behavior among Florida teens over the upcoming year."

Bodenstine holds a degree in physical education from Florida State University, and a state of Florida teacher's certificate.

The upcoming year promises to be a busy one for the program. With the fiscal year 2000 budget now in place, the program and its youth leaders are moving forward with a series of new advocacy initiatives called "Big Tobacco."

The Big Tobacco initiative appeals directly to tobacco companies to stop marketing their products to teens and to publishers to stop accepting tobacco ads in magazines with significant youth readership.

Tobacco Pilot Program Announces FY 2000 Budget, Celebrates New Youth Advocacy Push

The long-awaited FY 2000 budget for the Florida Tobacco Pilot Program was recently announced at the

quarterly meeting of Florida's Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) Board of Directors. Program leaders joined the SWAT board in kicking off a weekend of intensive strategic planning sessions to guide Florida's anti-tobacco advocates into their second year

The program budget, handed down by the state legislature this summer, has been set at \$39.1 million—significantly lower than Governor Jeb Bush's original recommendation of \$61 million, and less than half the amount at which the program was originally funded.

"The 'truth' campaign and the work of SWAT have produced one of Florida's biggest success stories. We're going to work with the money we have and look to our greatest resource, young people, to devise new strategies for continuing the enormous strides that anti-tobacco advocacy and marketing have

already made in Florida," said Bush.

The \$39.1 million will be allocated to ensure that the most successful program components continue to receive solid levels of funding. The marketing component, responsible for the ground breaking "truth" advertising campaign, will receive \$16-18 million. The education component, which spearheads the implementation of tobacco prevention curricula in Florida schools, will be funded with \$6.25 million. Community partnerships and youth empowerment, responsible for SWAT and the county-based anti-tobacco partnerships, will receive \$7.35 million. The evaluation component, which provides program staff with valuable feedback on the impact of program activities, will receive \$2.35 million, and enforcement, which supports laws restricting youth access to tobacco, \$5 million.

"Last year, a large portion of the program budget went toward building the program. The strategic planning, creative work, production of materials and intense media outreach were critical to creating

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Department bids farewell to "The Father of School Health"

On August 31, 1999, School Health's John Tolliver, affectionately known among colleagues as "The Father of School Health," ended an illustrious public health career

spanning 43 years. He began working for the Florida State Board of Health in 1956 in Jacksonville as an audiovisual technician and moved on to become the administrator of the Migrant Education Health Project from 1972 to 1979. He and his family moved to Tallahassee in 1979, when the Department of Health relocated headquarters from Jacksonville to Tallahassee. Deputy Secretary Wayne McDaniel, who interned under John in Jacksonville, remembers John as the one who taught him the way things are done in Public Health.

Early in his career, John knew that child health and school health were his favorite areas in public health. He remained steadfast and dedicated to the health of Florida's children throughout the years. John has been witness to the many changes that have impacted Florida's public health program. His tenure spans the years of minimal school health funding to the current level of funding — \$9.86 million for Basic School Health and \$11.6 million for Comprehensive School Health Projects, and \$11 million for Full Service Schools. His constant advocacy for equal access to quality school health services for all students has been key in this growth in



(L to R) Deputy Secretary Wayne McDaniel; John Tolliver; Deputy State Health Officer Rick Hunter; Deputy Secretary of CMS Eric Handler

School Health budgets. He has watch-dogged these funds to ensure that they bought school health services at the local level. John has been a true team player and champion of school health, always making himself accessible and useful to local programs and stakeholders, providing leadership through times of change. Headquarters and county staff could always depend on John for answers to their questions. He will be remembered for his wise solutions to the myriad of complex problems that characterize public health delivery in Florida's school system.

We wish John Tolliver a golden retirement and know he will continue to advocate for the health of Florida's children.

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WIC to implement new eligibility policies

The Florida Department of Health's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) has announced its plan to implement a new policy that will strengthen the process for certifying WIC clients to receive program benefits.

Beginning September 1, 1999, persons who apply for WIC benefits must provide proof of their identity, household income and where they live. All individuals applying for WIC must also be physically present at their certification visit, except in certain limited situations. These new requirements were developed in response to changes in federal policy from the United States Department of Agriculture.

"This new policy will provide additional safeguards to ensure that WIC program benefits are going to the individuals that the program is designed to help," said Secretary Brooks. "These changes will further strengthen and maintain public trust and confidence in the already highly regarded WIC program."

The Florida WIC program has always had specific requirements for eligibility. To be eligible, an individual must be a pregnant or breastfeeding woman; a woman who has recently been pregnant; or an infant or child under 5 years old. In addition, the individual must have a low or moderate income, live in Florida, and have a special need that can be helped by WIC foods and nutrition counseling. Previous to this new policy, eligibility for income and residency could be self-declared by the applicant.

The WIC program provides nutritious supplemental foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals for health care. Eligible women and children participating in the WIC program receive food checks for milk, cheese, eggs,

Approximately 340,000 clients are served by WIC each month throughout Florida.

cereals high in iron, peanut butter or dry beans, and fruit or vegetable juices high in vitamin C. Breastfeeding women may receive extra WIC foods, including carrots and canned tuna fish.

"The WIC program has helped reduce infant mortality and premature births among the population it serves, as well as reduce the percentage of babies born with low birthweights," said Brooks. Emphasis is placed on reaching and enrolling eligible women in their early months of pregnancy, so that WIC's benefits can begin as early as possible, he said. Outreach efforts are also targeted toward Florida's migrant population.

Approximately 340,000 clients are served by WIC each month throughout Florida. WIC services are available in each of Florida's 67 counties. Anyone interested in WIC services should call WIC's toll-free number at 1-800-342-3556 or their local county health department to see if they are eligible. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Now on the Web

The WIC program recently completed a web page that is posted on the DOH intranet website under the Division of Family Health Services. Right now the WIC web page only includes general information about the WIC program and a Power Point training presentation for WIC staff on the federally-mandated changes pertaining to eligibility and income documentation. More materials will be added to in the months ahead. For access:

- 4 From the DOH main page, select "Divisions"
- 4 Scroll to "Division of Family Health"
- 4 Click the FHS hot link button and link to WIC off the FHS main page (*the hot link button for WIC on the DIVISION page under FHS is not enabled now but will be in the near future*)

New chronic Hepatitis program

The new program provides education, counseling and referral for care.

PINELLAS CHD The Pinellas County Health Department has initiated a Chronic Hepatitis Program supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Schering-Plough. This program targets individuals chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) to provide education, counseling and referral for care.

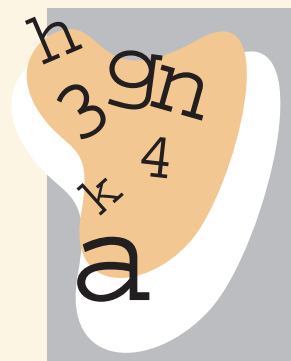
The program is designed to accomplish the following:

- (1) increase patient, physician and community awareness of Hepatitis B & C risk factors and associated medical complications;
- (2) identify and contact patients with Hepatitis B & C, and, where appropriate, their affiliated physicians to provide education;
- (3) increase awareness of individuals with Hepatitis B & C of care options; and
- (4) provide education and encour-

agement of patients and physicians to commence and assure that they maintain appropriate care for Hepatitis B & C.

The program does not provide for testing or treatment of individuals but assists the patient in obtaining referrals for these services. A trained staff is available to counsel and educate patients and healthcare professionals about all aspects of chronic hepatitis infections. A countywide patient and physician registry is being developed in order to determine the capacity of our healthcare infrastructure to confront this growing public health problem.

Please contact Julia Gill, Ph.D., M.P.H., at 727/824-6952 extension 2316 if you have any comment or would like additional information regarding the Chronic Hepatitis Program.



Community Partnerships Help Those In Need

PASCO CHD During a recent interview with a new 19-year-old prenatal WIC client and her family, they indicated that they were homeless and living out of their car. WIC staff immediately referred them to Healthy Start, where they received a food voucher, prenatal vitamins and counseling. Healthy Start in turn arranged

an appointment for further prenatal care and counseling at the Summit Health Clinic for pregnant women. Health Department staff proceeded to contact several other agencies to provide support for this family. The Dade City Police Department facilitated the use of Homeless Coalition funds to provide temporary housing, and the East Pasco Community Service Council provided cash assistance to maintain the family car. Health Department Epidemiology staff members donated a day's worth of meals to the family, made personal cash donations, and were able to find full-time employment for the children's father. Further, a referral from Healthy Start to the Pasco County Housing Authority resulted in the family securing a three-bedroom apartment. Healthy Families Pasco paid the apartment deposit, and Catholic Charities covered the electricity deposit.

Thanks to the caring attitude of Pasco County Health Department staff and the cooperation of many community agencies, this family looks forward to a new start on life.

Know the signs of inhalant abuse

Every year, young people in this country die from inhaling toxic chemicals to get high. Hundreds suffer severe consequences, including permanent brain damage, loss of muscle control, and destruction of the heart, blood, kidney, liver, and bone marrow. Today more than 1,400 different products are capable of being used by inhalant abusers. Among these are ordinary household products such as:

Glue. . .Paint. . .Hair spray
Room deodorizer. . .Correction fluid
Air conditioner coolant. . .Propane gas

The National Institute on Drug Abuse reported in 1996 that one in five American teenagers have used inhalants to get high; many children began abusing inhalants when they were as young as eight or nine.

The effects of inhalant abuse include severe headaches, vomiting, dizziness, fainting, nausea, accelerated heartbeat, hallucinating, permanent brain damage, and death. The associated symptoms include unusual breath odor, hand tremors, slurred speech, drunken appearance, sweating, and loss of appetite. Inhalant abusers may exhibit behaviors such as sitting with a pen or marker near nose, showing paint/stain marks on the face, fingers, or clothing, or hiding rags, clothes, or empty containers of the potentially abused products in closets and other places.

Chronic inhalant abusers may be anxious, easily excited, irritable, and restless. They also tend to experience trouble concentrating, short-term memory loss, and hearing problems.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, the best way to fight inhalant abuse is to educate your child about how harmful these products are. Explain how they can cause short and long-term problems, further drug use, and death. If it is suspected that a child is using inhalants, it is important to get help and necessary treatment immediately. Contact a local drug rehabilitation center or any of the following organizations: National Inhalant Prevention Coalition at 800/269-4237, National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Referral Service at 800/662-HELP, or National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at 800/729-6686.

The Florida Department of Health joins the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau in their campaign this year to reduce inhalant abuse. Anyone wanting further information on the campaign and ways to reduce inhalant abuse in their home or community can contact AAP for a copy of the 1999 Community Action Resource Kit at 800/433-9016 ext. 7134. The kit includes a video, that would be great for showing at home, church, or club meetings. The video includes information on identifying inhalant abuse, getting help and portrays the struggle of families suffering the devastating effects of this crisis.

— Felisha Dickey

web news

Web Manager of the Month
Jack Pittman

For web development and excellence above and beyond the call of duty! This award is presented in recognition of extraordinary commitment to growth and use of the Department of Health's internet and intranet. Accomplishments include developing over 70 web pages providing information on 10 public health program areas, developing web-based interactive manuals for use by county health department staff, providing emergency information and health warning bulletins for the public, and providing training support to bureau WebManagers and staff of the Division of Environmental Health.

intranet <http://dohiws.doh.state.fl.us>
internet <http://www.doh.state.fl.us>

Social workers play a vital role in promoting and protecting health

BROWARD CHD The involvement of social work in public health dates to the turn of the century and the establishment of settlement houses in urban centers. The settlement workers, appalled at the sanitary conditions of the typical tenement, pressured local governments into establishing minimal sanitary standards. Later, the interest and involvement of the social work profession had a significant influence on the passage of the Maternity and Infancy Act (Sheppard-Towner Act) of 1921. This was followed by activities leading to the inclusion of the Maternal and Child Health Program in the Social Security Act of 1935.

Social Workers in the public health system are part of a cooperative effort of professionals committed to carrying out the mission of the Department of Health. Social Workers assist individuals at negotiating a complex system so that they can access the health care services they need.

Social Workers in the public health setting make a valuable contribution to the team effort of achieving the mission of the health department by assessing social and emotional factors which may contribute to health problems and/or hinder individuals from following through with proper treatment and access to community resources. As a result of their interaction with Social Workers, psychological, social, economic, informational and other barriers to patient use of health services are identified and appropriate action is taken on the individual and family levels. Services are provided to individuals through clinic settings as well as visits to the patient's home or other facilities.

— Leigh Ann Johnson, MSW, and Jill Tourville, LCSW

Social Workers in the health care field strive to

Help clients more effectively utilize medical treatment and follow treatment recommendations so that they will have more positive health outcomes.

Encourage positive health behaviors

Identify barriers to client access to, and appropriate utilization of medical treatment.

Assist clients in overcoming these barriers to medical treatment access and utilization.

Be aware of common medical issues facing our clients.

Focus on the client's family, not just the client.

Understand the impact of culture and community on the client.

Empower clients to obtain needed resources for themselves, e.g. social support, material goods, financial support, etc. Encourage women to request help from the father of their children, their families, her own family, friends, and community groups.



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momentum, but immensely costly," explained Mae Waters, Chief of Youth and Local Programs. "We produced more than 30 new ads and achieved 92-percent awareness of the campaign among teens; brought the anti-tobacco message into the schools; established 67 active community partnerships; and developed a SWAT network of more than 9,000 advocates. 'Truth' has taken on a life of its own. And while we don't have the same dollars we had last year, we're committed to maintaining a highly effective program by drawing on these existing resources and on the energy of our young people," concluded Waters.

Thomas Barker, Escambia County At-Large Representative and Youth Marketing Liaison, agrees. "The budget has changed, but young people still lead this campaign. We want to explore

constructive solutions for the upcoming year and let everyone know that, though we are discouraged by the budget reductions we've seen in the program, we are not deterred," he said.

Governor Bush, supporting the work of Florida's young anti-tobacco advocates, said: "While the most costly work is behind us, the most formidable is perhaps still ahead. Our challenge this year will be to move the program forward under new direction, working with and on behalf of young people to turn a two-year pilot program into a self-sustaining movement with even broader public appeal and private sector support. We look forward to sharing in the energy of these creative young people as they determine what this will look like."

For more information on the program, visit www.state.fl.us/tobacco or www.wholetruth.com

MARTIN CHD The prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome was recently the highlight of a 50s dance with the theme, "Never, Never Shake, Just Rattle and Roll," held in Martin County.

Staff from the Martin CHD donned poodle skirts and bobby socks and danced to the tunes of "The Coasters." Martin CHD staff, Karen Heizler and Pam Herman played key roles in organizing the event, along with community Kiwanis Clubs, the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition and Martin Memorial Medical Center. To further support the effort, a sewing group organized by a Martin CHD's Charlotte Ruble, made the poodle skirts. Three hundred tickets were sold for the event, which also included a \$1,000 raffle and a classic car show.

The evening was a smashing success. Proceeds from the event were used to purchase baby rattles bearing the slogan "Never Never Shake a Baby." Additional monies will support the Healthy Start Community Education Committee for activities that will bring attention to Shaken Baby Syndrome, including a billboard, a mall kiosk, and other community education materials.

—Valerie Gryniuk

Dancin' the night away in Martin County



- **Bureau of Laboratories Gives Back to the Community** Yvonne Hale, an administrator with the Bureau of Laboratories in Jacksonville, initiated an Adopt a Road Program for laboratory employees. Once a month, employees gather on Saturday mornings and don their orange vests to pick up trash from the front of the Pearl Street building and all along both sides of the road from the laboratory to downtown Jacksonville by the CSX building.



Evaluation of five hazardous waste sites in Florida

One of the key duties of the Bureau of Environmental Toxicology is to assess the public health threat at Florida's hazardous waste sites.

The following article depicts those efforts. —Ed.

The evaluation of five hazardous waste sites scattered around the state found one not to be a public health threat, two to be potential public health threats, one to be an indeterminate public health threat, and one to be a past public health threat, but not currently.

Two of the five sites are located in Hillsborough County, while the others are in Duval, Broward, and Martin Counties. The evaluation was conducted by the Bureau of Environmental Toxicology under funding from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

One of the sites found to be a potential public health threat is Brown's Dump in Jacksonville. The site was once used as a dump for municipal solid waste and ash from a municipal incinerator. In the mid-1950s the Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School was built on part of the site. Sampling of the site found lead-contaminated soil, with some at high levels. The Brown's Dump draft Public Health Assessment (PHA) is now under public comment.

The report recommends that the City of Jacksonville ensure residents and school officials be kept aware of the

contamination and how to minimize exposures. Access to a highly contaminated area should be restricted and warning signs posted. Additional sampling of the residential area, a nearby creek and groundwater is also recommended to determine the extent of contamination, along with periodic sampling of the playground. If the land use changes, or if additional environmental sampling becomes available, DOH will reevaluate the potential public health threat. Julie Smith wrote the PHA.

A similar site in Fort Lauderdale, Wingate Road Municipal Landfill and Incinerator, was the focus of a health consultation concerning the safety of homegrown vegetables. Residents were concerned about how soil and irrigation well water contamination may affect vegetables grown there. In particular, the report looked at cadmium and dioxin. However, the analysis showed no public health threat, but recommended that all fruits and vegetables grown in the area be washed prior to eating and that root vegetables be peeled first. Andy Brastad wrote the PHA.

An indeterminate public health threat was found at the Jernigan/Lewis/Fertic Disposal site in Seffner. The site was evaluated as part of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) archive pilot program. The program determines whether low hazard ranking sites require further activity or involvement by the EPA. The health consultation concerned whether the health of people

working or trespassing on the site was threatened and if nearby residents were exposed to chemicals in the soil or groundwater.

The site was a sandpit and peat mining operation in the 1960s. In the mid-1970s 200 tones of salt (sodium chloride) were illegally dumped and it received battery casings from a lead battery recycling operation. Dumping operations were discontinued in 1984, although illegal dumping continued as late as 1992. The site also served as a construction debris landfill until recently.

Conclusions of the health consultation were that illnesses were not likely based on the currently available information, but significant data gaps existed for surface soil and groundwater. Additional information is needed to fully evaluate the public health threat from chemicals at this site.

The health consultation recommended that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) collect and analyzes surface soil (0 to 3 inches) and groundwater samples to more fully characterize the extent and nature of contamination. DOH will evaluate information to determine the public health threat and what actions, if any, are necessary to protect public health. Bruce Tuovila wrote the PHA.

A public comment draft of a PHA on the Solitron Microwave site in Port Salerno concludes that the former miniature electronic equipment manufacturer poses

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1999 Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign kick-off announced

September 28 marked the "Kick-off" of the Department of Health's 1999 Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign (FSEC). The FSEC Campaign is the only state sanctioned fund raising campaign on behalf of the United Way local, state, national and international charities. The state employee fund drive is held during the period of September 1 and December 1 of each year and gives employees the opportunity to donate to the charity of their choice through voluntary giving and by participating in special fund raising events.

Voluntary giving may either be through a one-time donation or through payroll deduction. Employees will be presented with a pledge form at the beginning of the campaign. Giving is completely voluntary, however, we ask that you take the time and review the FSEC brochure and materials, and consider donating to one or more of the charities of your choice. The organizations included in the FSEC campaign need our help to effectively meet the urgent needs confronting our community, state, and the people who live and work in Florida. The dollars you contribute will be quickly put to work to help those less fortunate in your community.



Featured headquarter's fund raising events currently being planned this year include: 1) a silent auction held on October 7th and 8th; 2) a golf tournament — date and location to be arranged; and 3) a department-wide cookbook composed of recipes contributed by employees from around the state. Many other fun events and fund raisers will be initiated through the FSEC coordinators in individual divisions, county health departments and CMS clinics during the course of the campaign. An FSEC Campaign web site has been available effective September 28 to keep staff informed of the statewide and other fund raising events and the progress toward the local and statewide campaign goals. If you have any questions regarding the FSEC Campaign or the United Way, please contact Janet Collins, Co-Statewide Coordinator, 850/414-7889 or SC 994-7889; Becky Kessler, Co-Statewide Coordinator, 850/488-6811 or SC 278-6811; or Pat Sage, Headquarters' Coordinator 850/488-6008 or SC 278-6008.

The 1997 and 1998 Department of Health FSEC Campaigns have been very successful because our employees are very generous and caring people. Thank you for making the Department of Health shine in 1999 and for giving to those less fortunate in your community!

Environmental Toxicology to offer asthma and allergen control training

The Florida Department of Health Environmental Toxicology's Radon and Indoor Air Program, The University of Tulsa, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency are offering a two day technical training titled "Indoor Air Quality: Asthma & Allergen Control."

Research shows that indoor air pollution levels can be as much as 10 times higher than outdoor levels. Pollen, bacteria, viruses,

molds, and chemical and biological contaminants are re-circulated through tightly sealed energy efficient buildings. The job of keeping these buildings safe is not an easy one, especially for people who suffer from asthma and allergies. The "Asthma & Allergen Control" class is designed for public health officials, medical professionals and anyone who may be responsible for home or office space where clean air is in doubt.

The first day of this class will focus on the relationship between asthma and indoor allergens. Public health issues, trends, susceptible populations and health effects will be discussed by top professionals in the Indoor Air community. There will be additional sections on understanding airflow in buildings and how to investigate problems. Day two will provide information on healthy versus sick buildings, cleaning effectiveness and cleaning for children's health. There will be training on moisture control, mold contamination, evaluation of mold-contaminated and water-damaged environments and remediation.

Because of expected attendance demands, there will be two separate regional trainings:

8 September 30 through October 1st, 1999 at the Oceanfront Auditorium in Miami Beach

8 November 18-19, 1999 at the Sheraton Safari Hotel Orlando, Florida

A significantly reduced registration fee has been negotiated for Department of Health staff. For more information, please contact Michael Gilley at SC 278-1525 or 850/488-1525; or Norman_Gilley@doh.state.fl.us

To register for this conference, contact: Indoor Air Program; The University of Tulsa; 600 South College Ave.; Tulsa, OK 74104; 918/631-5208; 918/631 3289 Fax; jane-langston@utulsa.edu

Cooper tapped as 1999 Man of the Year in Public Health

LEON CHD The Florida Public Health Association presented its 1999 Meritorious Service Award to Arthur P. Cooper, M.P.H., Administrator of the Leon County Health Department.

This 40th year of annual recognition for an individual considered to have made an outstanding contribution to the Health and well-being of Florida's citizens was presented at the Association's Annual Education Conference on August 12, 1999.

Cooper has been the Administrator of the Leon County Health Department since February 1985. This followed 15 years of public health experience in programs such as immunizations, vision screening, school health, maternal health and child health.

A graduate of the prestigious National Public Health Leadership Institute of the University of California in 1995, he has served as an Officer in the Florida Association of County Health Officials. Cooper is a past president of the Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition and a past presi-

dent of the Florida Public Health Association. He is currently Florida's representative to the American Public Health Association, Board of Governors; a member of the Advisory Board to the Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, Master's of Public Health program; and an original Advisory Board Member to the University of South Florida Public Health Leadership Institute.

"The things I am most proud of," Cooper said, "are the successes we have had here in Leon County in reducing our infant deaths, reducing our teen-age pregnancies, increasing access to health care through community partnerships and our collaboration between public health and preventive medicine."

Cooper's receipt of this award, which is equivalent to being named the Public Health Man of the Year in Florida, reflects on the dedication and commitment of all those working at the Leon CHD.

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a potential public health threat if people are exposed in the future to on-site contaminated groundwater. The PHA recommends that the Martin County Health Department identifies and samples private wells northeast of the site and inform residents in the area of the potential health threat resulting from VOC-contaminated groundwater migrating from the site to private or municipal wells. The report also recommends that no new wells be drilled in the area, that security be maintained around the site to reduce the risk of physical hazards and that hazardous waste signs be posted. Julie Smith wrote the PHA.

A PHA for Normandy Park Apartments, the site of a battery recycling operation and lead smelter from 1953 to 1963, found a past public health threat, but no current one. The site was found in twenty years after the apartments were built when a resident complained about children playing with battery chips found in the soil. High lead concentrations were found in the soil. A draft PHA distributed in 1996 found the site to be a public health hazard in the past due to the lead-contaminated soil and an indeterminate one in the present. Since additional information was received since 1996, the 1999

PHA has determined no apparent public health threat because the soils with the highest lead contamination have been capped with concrete, asphalt, or wooden decking. Indoor dust sampling indicated no problem with the indoor dust. In the future, if the deeper lead-contaminated soils are disturbed, workers and residents could be exposed. The PHA advises residents to minimize lead exposures to themselves and their children. EPA is developing a feasibility study for permanent remediation. DOH recommends that cleanup workers prevent access to the soil and implement dust control and air monitoring measures.

The PHA also recommends a continual public education program for residents, including that they be encouraged not to dig deeper than six inches in the soil, not to grow fruit or vegetables, and to consult their pediatricians for blood lead testing of children aged 12 to 24 months. The report also recommends that soil samples be collected in a vacant lot west of the site and analyzed for lead, and that allegations of widespread contamination related to the site be investigated. Andy Brastad and Carolyn Voyles wrote the PHA.

— Lu Grimm, Environmental Health

the advisor

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Robert G. Brooks, MD, Secretary

Please send stories, preferably on disk or by e-mail, to William Parizek by the first of each month.

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