



Message from the Director

As we recognize National Public Health Week I would like each of you to realize how important your part is in making Brevard County a healthier place to live. You are to be congratulated for the great work that you do every single day. There isn't a Davis award for a friendly smile to a patient, or a call you make with important information or records, or referrals for needed services, or any of the extra things you do to help our patients, but you do them. You care. Thank you for all those things that don't get recognition. They are important.

For those areas that do get recognized, this has been a great beginning for 2006. I am proud to have our health department recognized for sustained exemplary performance. Over the last 5 years you have been responsible for winning 16 Davis Productivity Awards for our CHD. That in itself is great. This year we topped everything with 13 awards. Congratulations to you all. I especially want to recognize two of our staff that have been awarded a Sustained Exemplary Award. Carol Carney and Ella Wilson are deserving of this honor for all the years of exceptional work that they have done. Thank you.

I am hopeful that this year's hurricane season will be uneventful, but if not, I know that our training and experience will allow us to provide the necessary help and care for our community. Experience was the key to our recent handling of a measles and Rubella outbreak on board a cruise liner. With a high spirit of volunteerism we assembled 18 staff to immunize the entire crew of a cruise ship in only a few short hours. Our team did 230 shots per hour, and in just five hours, vaccinated 1151 individuals. It was a great job and made a significant impact on the health of many foreign born individuals that are now protected from this communicable disease.

Congratulations from myself and senior management for your continued efforts to be the best. I know you are.

STEP UP, FLORIDA 2006



On Tuesday, February 21, 2006 very special flags were flying all over Brevard County as over 57 public and private schools, took part in the Brevard leg of Step Up, Florida! 60 minutes the Florida Way, statewide physical fitness

relay. It all began as the early morning sun rose above the horizon and a crisp white with emerald blue Step Up, Florida! flag was unfurled and hoisted alongside *Old Glory* at the Brevard County School District headquarters building in Viera. The morning reveille touch off a host of physical activity events throughout the county involving more than 22,487 students, 1,086 teachers and school support staff and 12 BCHD cheer- "leaders".

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Step Up, Florida Celebration at Space Coast Stadium

Cruise Ship Immunization

February 2006

On February 20th 2006 the Brevard County Health Department (BCHD) received lab results for rubella from Cape Canaveral hospital. The patient was a crew member on the cruise ship that was to dock at Port Canaveral on February 25th. The BCHD Epidemiology office called the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Quarantine Service in Miami and was informed of another case of rash illness that CDC had received. An investigation was initiated for both cases.

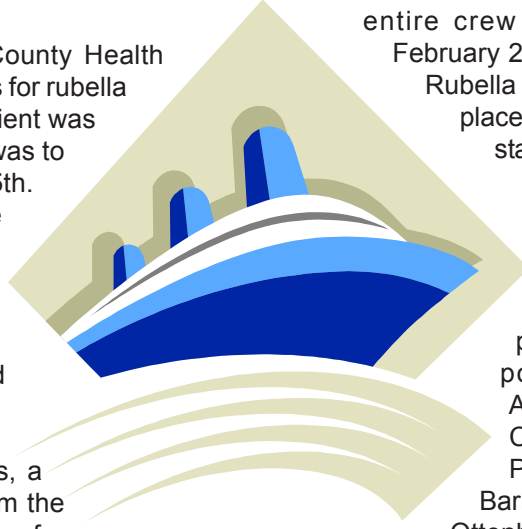
The cases involved two crew members, a 35 year old female youth counselor from the Philippines and a 23 year old male waiter from the Ukraine. The 35 year old female presented with symptoms on January 28th, was seen again on January 31st and isolated. She had been on board for 10 days and had worked a 7 day cruise to the Caribbean. Her symptoms were consistent with Rubella. The 23 year old male boarded the ship on February 4th. His symptoms were fever and rash but because of a continuing measles outbreak in the Ukraine, his country of origin, measles was suspected. Rubella IgM was negative in the 23 year old male but his serology was positive for measles. Both cases were isolated in their cabins on board the ship. Room mates and work mates were identified, isolated and investigated. The possibility still existed that other crew members may have been exposed to this highly infectious disease due to close living and working environments. The decision to immunize the crew on the ship was a collaborative decision with CDC and the cruise line. If the

first case came back positive for Rubella the entire crew would be vaccinated. On February 22nd the positive confirmation of Rubella came. Plans were now put into place to gather vaccine, supplies and staff to board the ship on Saturday February 25 and vaccinate 1180 crew members.

The BCHD immunization team arrived early Saturday to pick up supplies and go to the port. The team included Dr. Aggarwal, Robin Benton, Christy Carberry, Liz Carroll, John Davis, Phoebe Griffin, Pam Hamilton, Barry Inman, Nancy Mitchell, Karen Ottenhoff, Regina Pappagallo, Bruce Pierce, Alan Righenzi, Patty Seibert, Ellen Sigler, Karen Street, Tonya Torbert and Tom O'Bryant. Two staff who weren't there Saturday morning, but without whom the job could not have been done were Sharon Simek from purchasing and Jewell Borden from Stores. These two moved mountains to get the vaccine to Brevard and have it and the necessary supplies ready for Saturday.

The immunization of cruise ship personnel is not new to the Brevard County Health Department. In August 6, 2002 while still at sea, a cruise liner notified the port that it had two crew members with Rubella-like symptoms. Dr. Heshmati determined that the ship was not a danger to the port and could dock. The next day Barry Inman (BCHD) and Tony Drew (CDC) met the ship and took samples. Rubella was confirmed quickly and on August 8th a team from the Brevard County Health Department and CDC boarded the cruise liner

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Robin Benton, Pam Hamilton, Ellen Sigler and John Davis

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Phoebe Griffin registering the crew

NOT FOR SALE

Big Tobacco's Sweet Tooth for Addiction

Twista Lime, Mocha Taboo, Berry Blend, Watermelon, Margarita Mixer. You may think you are on the candy aisle; however, these are examples of some of the tobacco industry's newest products aimed to lure young users into becoming regular customers. One of the tobacco industry's boldest tactics is the creation of candy and alcohol flavored cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. RJ Reynolds has a new line of Camel cigarettes with names like Twista Lime and seasonal varieties like Mardi Gras Berry Blend and Warm Winter Wonderland. Kool cigarettes now come in a new Fusion version with flavors like Caribbean Chill and Mintrigue. Some even reflect alcoholic flavors like Margarita Mixer and Bahama Beach Breezer. U.S. Smokeless Tobacco has been selling brands of Skoal in flavors ranging from Very Berry to Peach and Watermelon just to name a few.

These new flavors are emerging at a time when the tobacco industry is under tighter advertising restrictions and limited in their ability to directly market to kids. It is a strategy by the tobacco industry to circumvent Florida's settlement agreement by introducing brands most likely to appeal to youth.

Candy flavored tobacco products mask the initial harsh reactions experienced by users. Advertising used to market these products and product packaging downplays their potential for addiction and misleads the user into thinking they are experimenting with a less harmful product. Limited seasonal availability of some brands indicates the industry's attempt to hook new users with "starter" cigarettes rather than build brand loyalty.

In response, SWAT launched a new initiative at their 9th annual Teen Tobacco Summit on February 23-25th in Tampa, FL. **NOT FOR SALE** is a statewide campaign that aims to ban the sale of all candy flavored tobacco products by May 2007. SWAT youth will be educating and engaging their peers, community members and decision makers on the true intentions of the tobacco industry to add candy flavors to their products. SWAT youth wants the industry and the state to know that the youth of Florida are **NOT FOR SALE!** - Laura Corbin Regional Tobacco Prevention Coordinator



APRIL STD Awareness Month

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) plague our society and are second only to the common cold in the number of cases occurring annually. Look at the statistics:

- Each year, 1 in 4 sexually active teens gets an STD.
- 1 in 2 sexually active persons will contract an STD by age 25.
- Half of all STD and HIV infections are among people 25 and under.

In a survey of U.S. physicians, less than one-third routinely screened patients for STDs. Most people think they would know if they had an STD - but in fact many

of these infections are silent. Several of the most common STDs have no signs or symptoms in the majority of people infected. Or they have mild signs that can be easily overlooked. **The only way to know for sure is to GET TESTED!**

April has been designated as STD Awareness Month and our STD program is gearing up to provide some testing and awareness. They will be supporting the goal of STD Awareness Month by getting out into the community and offering testing. Carolyn Boone the Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) in the central area and Vernon King the program director will be offering testing for STD's at a community convenience store in Merritt island during April. The DIS in Titusville, Tiffany Johnson will also be working on STD awareness with information and

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STEP UP, FLORIDA 2006



BCHD's Step Up coordinators, Loretta Goggin and Jim Richardson decided to take a completely different approach in planning this year's event. In the past two years of the event, Brevard had approximately 200

participants, involving only a handful of community partner groups. Loretta and Jim's goal for Step Up Florida in Brevard County this year was to raise awareness of the health benefits of physical activity and to encourage our schools to include physical activity as part of the school day on a regular basis, even during FCAT.

Once the plan was revealed to DOH's Bureau of Chronic Disease Health Promotions & Education bureau chiefs and program managers, all eyes and ears were on Brevard as the school registration forms started rolling in. We were glad when the first 12 forms arrived, delighted when there were 25, ecstatic by 40 then nearly overwhelmed when the number climbed to 57 school partners. As a result of the tremendous response, Brevard CHD was honored to be the only county in the state to have a representative from the Florida Department of Education visit Brevard schools and play an "active" role during our Step Up activities.

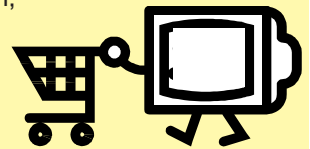
At the end of the day, a Finale Celebration took place at the Space Coast Stadium, compliments of the Washington Nationals Spring Training Camp partner, Andy Dunn, Director of Player Development. At 4:00 PM, representatives from many participating schools gathered to be recognized for their activity and the number of students involved at their school. Dr. Heshmati, Ms Betty Dunn from the Brevard school district and Ms. Lillian Finn, Physical Education program coordinator, Florida Department of Education, applauded the schools for their tremendous participation. More importantly, she applauded the 45 schools that have committed to holding a monthly or weekly Step Up, Florida! fitness event at their school to sustain a higher level of fitness



Step Up, Florida at the Space Coast Stadium

"JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE"

As spring approaches, most of us have put Flu season behind us and are looking forward to a great summer. Flu will come again next fall and we will gear up like we do every year to give the flu shots. To be ready with vaccine someone has to stay alert and ready to order. In anticipation, Sharon Simek, now head of our purchasing department was assigned to order the vaccine. The company supplying the vaccine decided to open the ordering on a certain day at 12 noon. They would take orders until their supply ran out. Lunch was out of the question. Armed with a small sandwich and a frosty provided by Kim Durham, Sharon went both on-line and on the phone to place the order. By 5 pm that evening Sharon had not been able to get through either by phone or on-line. The vaccine was quickly being sold out. Later that evening, at about 9:30, Sharon went on line again but the story was still the same. She quit before 11:00 PM but not before setting the alarm for 5:30 AM. Sharon was going to make another try early in the morning. She cranked up her computer at 6:30 AM and was successful. She was able to order about three fourths of the vaccine we needed. At 7:30 that morning, she ordered the remainder of the vaccine from a different company. Thanks to Sharon's persistence and early morning ordering we now ready for the flu season this fall.



during the school year. Ms. Finn explained how Brevard is playing a vital role in demonstrating the link between physical activity during the school day and academic success. She commended the school administrator for recognizing that physical activity was an added benefit to the students during FCAT.

The day came to a close as the sun began to cast golden rays across the western sky providing a beautiful backdrop for the silhouette for the bronze statue of "Casey", the baseball legend of legends.

Special thanks to the BCHD cheer "leaders", Laura Corbin, Alan Righenzi, Dr. Moini, Pat Lawton, Susan Macuska, George Jackow, Robert Callahan?, Anthony Makielski ?, Karen Street, Tonya Torbert?, and Jim Richardson for helping make the event a complete success and creating Brevard's 2006 Step Up, Florida, a legend of its own.

Cruise Ship Immunization



and administered 950 shots in 5 hours. This time, the “experienced” BCHD immunization team completed 1151 doses in 5 hours. Because of the previous experience the immunization team bettered their rate of immunization by 40 doses per hour. This means that they were immunizing at a rate of 230 doses per hour. The job that our staff did was phenomenal and our staff is to be commended.

Over these last two events involving the handling of cases of communicable disease on board a cruise ship, it is clear that the health department in partnership with CDC is more than equipped to handle the need for mass vaccination. The results of this event and the one in 2002



Liz Carroll with Danitza Tomianovic from the CDC

clearly illustrates that when time is essential, the local CHD has the experience and man power to mount a quick and effective response.

Surveillance is continuing, lead by the cruise ship medical team. To date there have been a total of seven cases, one measles, one rubella, two physician diagnosed varicella and three rash illnesses, nonspecific viral illnesses or reaction to the vaccine.

We appreciate the co-operation of cruise lines to help us in this effort, especially the medical team and the guidance from CDC, as always. The job was well done with excellent planning, a positive attitudes, team work and the spirit of volunteerism to the extent that two of our team members coming from out of town and made every effort to be there on time. We are very proud of our staff.



Bruce Pierce, Tony Drew (CDC), Jennifer Brooks (CDC) and Dr. Aggarwal

“JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE”

With Christmas tree lights up and everyone in a festive mood, a disaster is the last thing on anyone's mind; But, disaster it was when around 11 AM in mid December the server, the main part of our computer network “crashed”. Everything shut down. This was a trial by fire for Kim Durham who recently took over as director of our Information Technology program. Through the afternoon, the IT team worked with DELL's technical people to trouble shoot the problem. When a critical problem arises in the network the Regional IT Disaster Prepare-dness



Coordinator is also called in. Kevin Seymour is that person who covers several counties in East Central Florida for FDOH. Late in the evening Kim decided to get the older backup servers from the Titusville office. She and Kevin arrived at the Titusville office about 10:30. Kim punched in the security code but things didn't work out quite right. As Kevin and Kim began to detach the server and move it out to Kevin's pick up truck, they hear a loud voice and yelling from the hallway. Kim went out to see and was met with two police officers, a German Shepherd and a gun that looked very much like an M-16. Surprised and shocked Kim's hands went up as she explained who she was. The police were very stern and suspicious. Kevin's pickup was pulled up to the door with the tail gate down. After checking IDs they lead them outside where Pat Dyer and Jim Murphy vouched for them. The police were now more agreeable and understanding.

After their shocking experienced, Kim and Kevin returned to Merritt Island and continued the trouble shooting with the rest of the IT team. Sometime in the AM they found the problem. As promised, Dell had the replacement parts to them by 1:00 AM. The fix was completed sometime in the morning as the sun was coming up in the east. Burt came in at 6:00 AM and once the system was functional and trustworthy, the IT team all went home and “crashed”

Stories like these happen often throughout our offices and programs. It is good to hear our mission, “To Promote, Protect, Maintain, and Improve the health and safety of all the citizens and visitors of Brevard County” spoken in human stories. If you would like to see this column in future issues of the PULSE, share your stories. Sharon Simek and Kim Durham, thanks for sharing” just another *extrordinary* day at the office”.

Hurricane Strike Team Formed in Environmental Health

Hurricane season is quickly approaching us again. This year, the Division of Environmental Health is working with all regions of the state in developing regional Environmental Health Strike Teams. The EH Preparedness Section is currently supplying several workshops and exercises to assist each region with their team formations.



On March 28th, 2006, Region 5 members from Brevard, Indian River, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia Counties met in Viera at the Government Center to discuss the process of our own strike team formation. During our meeting, we discussed rostering and training members, necessary field equipment needs for our Go Kits, and field operations. We also discussed asset typing and credentialing of all volunteers. Region 5 has a total of 43 members volunteering to be a part of our EH strike team. Brevard County has 13 volunteers including Jeanene Bengoa, Melissa Brock, Robert Callahan, Sean Flynn, Cheryl Frazier, David Gray, Christine Laga, Anthony Makielski, Diane Pospishil, Jeremy Rogus, Chris Tremblay, Jill Vogel, and Mary Young.

Each strike team must have a subject area knowledge of boil water notices, mosquito control, lift station and wastewater interagency coordination, sanitary nuisance assessments,

radiation permittees, environmental epidemiology, GIS mapping, beach water monitoring, emergency food service surveillance, mobile home park assessments, ALF and nursing home assessments, shelter food and EH emergency assessment, vector control assessments, vermin control and debris removal assessments, onsite sewage issues and portalets, toxicology and chemical exposure issues, mission submissions for EH issues tracking coordination, public water systems, private residential water tests for private wells, EH Director augmentation, EOC staffing augmentation, and public swimming pools.

Our goal is to develop a Type III team which usually includes 8-12 people. With 43 volunteers and their wide range of knowledge and experience, a great EH Strike Team will be formed! When complete, our Region 5 EH Strike Team, along with all other regional strike teams, will be able to provide invaluable services to Florida's communities with faster response, determination, and heart to promote and protect the health of our citizens and visitors in their time of need.

Submitted by Melissa Brock, R.E.H.P., Environmental Manager


APRIL *STD Awareness Month*

incentives from the state office.-

Two exciting things have been happening within the STD program are Fast Tracking in Melbourne and the inclusion of urine testing in the STD screening tests. In Melbourne the DIS is John Possis. John is a Licenced Practical Nurse. Because John is certified as an LPN, he can dispense medication. All contacts to a diagnosed STD case that comes out of our maternity, family planning or any of our programs is referred to John. Some clients come from private providers. Once the person is diagnosed with STD symptoms, John is able to dispense medication at that time. This is a real time saver for the patients because they don't have a long wait and can be "out the door" in a very short time.

The other area is basic STD screening. We are offering our clients an STD screening test for Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and HIV with urine testing as an alternative to the Genprob (cotton swab). This is more agreeable to males. The test is only \$25, less painful and the clients can be in and out of the clinic quickly. It also appears that it is getting good "word of mouth" advertizing on the street. The clients like the low "upfront" cost and the ability to get the screening done quickly. The goal of the STD screening is screen more and attract more males to the screening. Preliminary results are favorable and this has already seen more revenue collected.

National
Infant
Immunization
Week



April
22-29

Titusville



Maternity Clients Enjoy "No-Money-Yard-Sale"

Staff of the Titusville clinic facility recently organized a "no money yard sale" for the benefit of their maternity clients. Diane Jenkins, RN, Penny Dockery, RN, Rhonda Shrewsbury, HST, and Charlie Mae Bell, HST, collected donations from their friends and purchased items from thrift stores and yard sales.

Clients were delighted to browse and "shop" for clothing and toys for their children. In addition to items for children, there were also nice clothes for the new moms after they deliver. Clients thought it was such a good idea that some have now brought in items that they thought others might be able to use for future "yard sales." The young ladies were so appreciative that staff are encouraged to continue this unique project.



Congratulations to all the Davis Productivity Winners



The PULSE

The PULSE is coming out on a regular basis. Please use the PULSE to communicate the great things that are happening at your office or with your program. If you have a story idea or see a "Kodak Moment" either submit it, or let me know and I will help you. The next issue of the PULSE will be coming out mid November. Submit articles for the PULSE by the first of November. Call or e-mail Jim in Health Education at 634-6368 The "stuff" in the PULSE is great when it comes from you!

National Laboratory Week
April 3rd - 8th

Rockledge



Philip Brannen
"Employee of the Month" for March



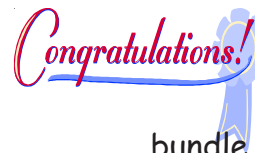
To Collete Hendron on the birth of your beautiful baby Girl Jade Marie

Construction again was heard through the Rockledge Clinic as the Laboratory was enlarged and made much more versatile. **Great Job!!**



Congratulations to Robin Benton on the birth of your second granddaughter Evelyn Louise.

Melbourne



To Jennifer Phillips on the birth of your beautiful baby Girl, Whitney Elise on March 26th. She is a 7 lb. bundle of joy!!

Congratulations !!! to Audrey Flowers who was a good guesser and won the Baby Pool.

Melbourne is doing the "domineo move" again. In order to increase exam rooms, they have cleaned out and made some moves. The



cashiers are coming up to the main waiting room and two more exam rooms will be created along with a pediatric sick waiting room where the cashiers used to be, **Great Job !!**