



Tennessee Public Health Association Newsletter

HEALTHY PEOPLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

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President's Message

Bob Stolarick
TPHA President

Finally, 2008 is behind us. Like many, I was glad to see it go and be replaced by the promise of 2009. However, I tend to agree with Robert Downey, Jr. who said “Look, even **bad years** are pretty good **years** I think “. The Tennessee Public Health Association had a pretty good year in 2008. In spite of the challenges of 2008, TPHA: arranged for 265 CEUs for conference attendees in the most efficient approach anywhere, partnered to defend the Smokefree Tennessee – Tennessee Non-smokers Protection Act, advocated for menu labeling in Davidson County, passed and delivered to policy makers three resolutions concerning Healthy Food Choices in Groceries, Healthcare for Undocumented Immigrants, and Improved Prevention and Control of Multi-drug Resistant Organisms, recognized and awarded many public health professionals and TPHA members for outstanding contributions and service, produced the TPHA conference attended by more than 740, raised more than \$6,300 in the silent auction and awarded \$3,000 in scholarships. With partners like the Coordinated School Health Program, the Student Section and others, we currently have a record membership. Due to our generous partnerships, membership and service, we can be proud that TPHA is the most outstanding affiliate association in the Country.

All of the committee chairs and their members are hard at work going about the business of TPHA. TPHA’s greatest assets are our mission (see below) and the dedication and willingness of its members to serve. Dr. Brumley, the Program Committee and Vice Presidents are working hard to engage the best presenters possible for the Grand Division Meetings (details listed in the Newsletter) and the Conference plenary and concurrent sessions. This year’s Conference theme of “Achieving True Improvements in People’s Lives” and the conference track system promise to create fantastic learning opportunities and variety in session topics. Chris Freeman (President-elect) and the Arrangements committee, Jennifer Kozlica and the Continuing Education Committee, Ami Mitchell and the Exhibits / Corporate Sponsors Committee, Robert Goff and the Fun and Fitness Committee, and Frances Reece and the Membership Committee, are all working with the Program Committee to assure continued conference and TPHA excellence. Steve Hall and the Public Health Week Committee are working to make April 6-12 the best National Public Health Week ever. Glenn Czarnecki and the Public Policy Committee and Bart Perkey and the Legislative Committee have been working on issues since the close of the 2008 Conference. Please thank all the committee chairs and members when you see them.

Especially in challenging times, please thank our agency members, sponsors, and partners for their past and future support. It is with these partnerships that we have been able to accomplish much and serve the people of Tennessee and our membership. Please remember "We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails." – Unknown

Finally I would like to give everyone a word of encouragement:

Life is like a grindstone – whether it grinds you down or polished you up depends on what you are made of – Unknown , and

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Hang In There Baby and...
Renew your TPHA membership;
Attend the Grand Division Meetings and get CEUs;
Attend the Annual Conference September 2-4, 2009

TPHA Mission:

- To exercise leadership in health policy;
- To promote, protect, and improve the health of those living in, working in, and visiting Tennessee; and
- To foster professional development and a sense of unity among its members.

SCHEDULE OF GRAND DIVISION MEETINGS ANNOUNCED BY VICE PRESIDENTS

Middle Tennessee

Submitted by: Debbie Broadway, Vice President/Middle TN

The Middle Tennessee Public Health Regional meeting will be Friday, April 24, 2009 from 9:00 to 3:30 at the Williamson County Agriculture Center in Franklin, Tennessee. This year's theme is "***THIS*** Year 2009 - ***True Health Improvement Strategies in Year 2009.***" Registration fees for the meeting will be \$10. A box lunch as well as the morning and afternoon snacks will be provided to attendees.

The Middle Tennessee TPHA Planning committee has been busy working to provide a full day of interesting and informational presentations. The agenda includes:

Dr. Veronica Gunn, Chief Medical Officer for the Tennessee Department of Health, presenting an update on the Department's efforts to improve the health of Tennesseans. Dr. Gunn has advocated through her clinical practice, research and policy efforts for the utilization of effective, evidence-based strategies to improve health.

John Dunn DVM, PhD, Medical Epidemiologist with the Tennessee Department of Health, providing a presentation to include recent foodborne investigations in the Middle TN area. Dr. Dunn was awarded CDC's 2008 James H. Steele Veterinary Public Health Award. This award recognizes a current or recent Epidemic Intelligence Service officer for outstanding contributions in the investigation, control or prevention of zoonotic diseases or other animal-related human health problems.

An informative presentation on traumatic brain injuries by Beth Broering, MSN, RN, CEN, CCRN, Director of the Society of Trauma Nurses. Beth has more than 20 years experience in emergency and trauma care in academic Level 1 trauma centers.

Plans are still underway to end the meeting with an invigorating and uplifting session that is sure to send all in attendance back to their homes and work sites with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

Please mark your calendars to attend the Middle Tennessee TPHA meeting on Friday, April 24, 2009.

West Tennessee

Submitted by: Lanora Bryant, DDS, Vice President/West TN

The West Tennessee Regional Planning Committee has set a theme for this year's regional meeting of "A Change in Me for a Better Tennessee". The 2009 regional meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14th.

One presentation will address West Tennessee vulnerability in regards to an earthquake involving the New Madrid Seismic Zone. The speaker, Mr. Gary Patterson, is the Executive Director for the West Tennessee Seismic

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Safety Commission and he works at the University of Memphis Center for Earthquake Research and Information. Susan Brotherton from the Department of Education will be addressing health and fitness and Dr. Paul Helton will be bringing a motivational message. We have also invited Dr. Veronica Gunn to provide us an update on all the great things being accomplished by public health employees across the state.

The meeting will take place in the conference room of the Jackson-Madison County Regional Health Department in Jackson, Tennessee. **I invite all TPHA members to come and hear how increasing your knowledge, getting healthier, and changing your attitude can improve the lives of your family members, friends, co-workers and all Tennesseans.**

East Tennessee

Submitted by: Charles Turner, Vice President/East TN

The theme for the 2009, East Tennessee Grand Division TPHA Meeting is "Healthy East Tennesseans...Stages of Life." New this year to the regional meetings is the availability of Continuing Education Credits (CEUs). The East Grand Division plans to offer between three (3) and three and one half (3 1/2) hours of continuing education credit.

This years session topics include: "Living a Full Life" focusing on quality of life and the declining life expectancy of Appalachian women age 45- 64; "Adolescent Behavior: Impact on Health" focusing on youth violence and suicide prevention, and "Healthy Adults: Understanding Your Moral Decision Making Style", and closing with Joseph E. Johnson. The meeting will be held on Friday, May 15, 2009 at Pellissippi State Technical Community College. **Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend.**

Registration will be \$15.00 and will include CEU credits and a box lunch. Student registration will be available.

The East Grand Division Planning committee members are Tim Aldrich, Lynelle Callendar, Cathy Cowart, June Gorski, Eddie Graham, Gail Harmon, Jennifer Johnson, Paula Masters, Art Miller, Michael Thomas, Charles Turner, Bill Ulmer, and Erica Wilson.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Submitted by: Steve Hall, Committee Chair

This year, National Public Health Week, will be observed during the week of April 6-12, 2009. The theme is **"Building the Foundation for a Healthy America."**



National Public Health Week
April 6-12, 2009 • www.nphw.org

We have a wonderful opportunity to shine the spotlight on who we are and what we do as Public Health Professionals. Our Public Health Week Committee will be planning activities to focus on the positive aspect of public health and each of you has a role to play.

APHA has a special website which has a wealth of information, ideas and activities to help us make this year another successful Public Health Week celebration. Please take time to check out the website at:

<http://www.nphw.org/nphw09/default.htm>

If you have suggestions for activities or events for National Public Health Week, please contact Steve Hall at (931) 698-4482.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR AGENCIES

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Tennessee Hospital Association
Tennessee State Employees Association

APHA Holds Annual Meeting in San Diego

Submitted by: Bart Perkey, TPHA ARGC

More than 14,000 public health professionals gathered from around the world in sunny San Diego, California October 25 – 29 for the Annual Meeting. The American Public Health Association is the oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the world, representing more than 50,000 members. As an affiliate member, TPHA sends an official representative to the Governing Council that meets during the APHA annual meeting.

As Tennessee's Affiliate Representative to the Governing Council (ARGC), I again had the pleasure of attending. The Governing Council includes representatives from Affiliated Associations (primarily state public health associations), from Sections (e.g., Epidemiology), the officers of the Association, and members of the Executive Board. Altogether there are some 250 voting members.

The Governing Council elected new officers for the association and adopted "Social Justice: Public Health Imperative" as the theme for the 2010 meeting to be held in Denver Colorado. The 2009 meeting will be in Philadelphia, PA with the theme "Water and Public Health: the 21st Century Challenge."

Adopting policy statements is always the central and most time-consuming aspect of Governing Council sessions. The Council approved nine new policy statements: one on health disparities, two on environmental and occupational health, two on access to care, and four on public health science and infrastructure. The most controversial new policy had to do with "Patient's Rights to Self-Determination at the End of Life." The Disability Section opposed this policy due to fears that persons with disability could not protect themselves from efforts to end their life prematurely. APHA policy statements are accessible on the APHA website at: <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/>.

The theme for Public Health Week in 2009 was announced: "Building a Foundation for a Healthy America". This year the national observance is April 6 – 12. Additional information is available at their special website: <http://www.nphw.org/nphw09/default.htm>. The intent is to use this observance to emphasize the importance of public health in the upcoming health care reform debate. Public Health is the voice for prevention.

APHA remains financially sound with an annual budget of \$14 million and a capital reserve fund equal to about 70% of its annual expenses. TPHA is one of the largest and most financially stable state associations. One way for TPHA to continue to grow and thrive is to invite members of APHA in Tennessee to join and become active in our state association. We could use their expertise and energy in our own public health advocacy efforts.

FOCUS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Resolve to be Ready: A Message from the Emergency Preparedness Section

Submitted by: Karen Lynn, Section Chair

As the New Year begins, the Department of Homeland Security's *Ready* campaign is encouraging everyone to *Resolve to be Ready* in 2009. While nearly 50 percent of Americans make New Year's Eve resolutions, very few manage to keep them. However, this is one resolution that can be easy to keep with Ready's three simple steps:

Get an emergency supply kit.

Make a family emergency plan.

Be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur in your area and their appropriate responses.

Get an emergency supply kit and be sure to consider additional items to accommodate family member's special needs, such as prescription medications, glasses, infant formula and diapers, and pet food. Include copies of important family documents such as insurance policies and bank accounts in a waterproof, portable container. If you already have a family emergency kit, check for expired items and update emergency contact numbers.

The Ready Campaign encourages you to take a few extra minutes at the beginning of this New Year to plan in case of an emergency. Consider the following questions: Have you spoken to your children's schools about their shelter-in-place and/or evacuation plans? Do you know the evacuation plan at work? If your cell phone was inoperable how would you get in touch with your family? Do you have a family meeting place and an out-of-town contact? These are just a few of the questions you should consider as you are developing your family emergency plan.

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Find out what kinds of disasters, both natural and man-made, are most likely to occur in your area and how you will be notified. Does your community have Emergency Notification Systems (Reverse 911)? Are there sirens in your neighborhood and do you know when they will be used? Some communities have radio stations which will be broadcasting information. Do you have an emergency battery operated radio and know the station that will be broadcasting?

Emergencies will happen, as we learned last year in the tornado outbreak in February and as Tennessee responded to help the Hurricane Gustav evacuees. Taking action now can help us to minimize the impact they will have on our lives. For more information, such as emergency plan templates and supply kit lists, visit www.Ready.gov or www.listo.gov. TPHA members can be examples to our extended family, our patients, our communities, and our co-workers as we *Resolve to be Ready in 2009*. If you have an interest in preparing for emergencies, please join our new and growing Emergency Preparedness Section.

REGIONAL REPORTS

SOUTHEAST

Marion County Health Department Holds Open House at the New Facility

The Southeast Region was pleased to have Health Commissioner Susan Cooper, MSN, RN attend the open house for the new Marion County Health Department. State Representative Bill Harmon and Marion County Mayor Howell Moss were also present at the official opening of the new building. Planning for the new building began in 2005 and staff moved into the building in August of 2008. The Marion County Health Department building committee, comprised of County Commissioners, oversaw the work on the facility. Utilizing a building committee was a first for the Southeast Region and helped assure that Marion County citizens received quality for their money.

The old facility had 4,364 square feet and only three clinic rooms but the new one has 6,000 square feet and seven clinic rooms, providing ample space for providers and patients. A dental office will also be housed in the new building which will eliminate the need for the dental trailer in Marion County.

Staff members are excited about being able to serve the community in an attractive, spacious building. Charlene Nunley, Director of the Marion County Health Department, stated that "The new facility allows us to serve Marion County citizens more effectively as we strive to protect, promote, and improve the public's health."

MID CUMBERLAND

Mid-Cumberland Stresses a Lifestyle of Balance

To the casual observer *Lifestyle Balance* seems to be like any other weight loss program, but to those involved, they find it is a way of life - a very good way of life. It has already brought great rewards to those that have participated. The Diabetes Prevention Program from the CDC provided the basics of this community outreach program that Laura Harris, RD, CDE coordinates in Stewart, Montgomery, Rutherford and Williamson counties.

Participants are encouraged to identify their bad habits and replace them with healthy habits...for life. Mr. Stapp attained a 52 lb weight loss over 32 weeks. "It's really not hard when you set your mind to it," he said. "It's one hour, one time per week. You watch your diet and exercise." He has been the driving force for others in the group to stay with the program.

Sheila Tipton matched Mr. Stapp's weight loss of 52 lbs. Her before and after picture show both the emotional and physical changes that have taken place in her life. One of the group members even said that "it was like Michelangelo chiseling away the extra marble to reveal the inner beauty of each of us." The group motivates each other and the weekly weigh-ins help keep them working toward their lifestyle goals. Changing the mind-set that food and activity play in our overall health is discussed by the group weekly. The sessions include nutrition and exercise messages as well as stress reduction, time management and grocery shopping tips. This program translates the messages of healthy eating and increased activity into a balanced healthy life.

Another program that emphasizes lifestyle changes is the *Refrigerator Makeover Program*. Susan in Montgomery saw an ad in the local newspaper to which she had to respond. A free "Refrigerator Makeover" would

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be rewarded to the family who submitted the best reason why they needed a consultation with a registered dietitian and free groceries from Kroger. Her 14 year old daughter, Stephanie, had been told a few months back that she was insulin resistant and was at-risk for Type 2 diabetes AND that she needed to lose weight. All her doctor said was to avoid all sugars, period! Stephanie did indeed have poor eating habits and needed to make a lot of changes. The Leaf Chronicle and Health Department staff selected this family from 15 applicants. Health Educators, Patti Hill and Hollie Wheatley along with Beth Allen, RD, Health Promotion Director for Mid-Cumberland, spent time with the family at their home cleaning out many of the items in the refrigerator that were out of date and unhealthy. Kroger provided a gift card to stock the refrigerator with healthy food selections. Health Department staff along with the mother/daughter team walked the grocery isles reading food labels and answering questions. Two hours later Susan and Stephanie emerged with newly acquired knowledge and shopping skills.

Stephanie has lost over 50 pounds to date and hasn't needed to go on insulin. *Curves* (located at Highway 41A) has given both Susan and Stephanie a six month free membership to workout together. Staff has stressed the importance of getting physical activity as well as eating healthier to be their best. Because it is a balance of both, staff will continue to encourage Stephanie and her Mom on their journey to better health.

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE

In an effort to ensure no minority population goes uneducated about prevention of disease, the health educators at the Washington County Health Department partnered with Mountain States Health Alliance to provide a breast cancer awareness night for the female inmates in the Johnson City jail. On November 16, 2008, a total of 92 inmates voluntarily attended an education workshop that highlighted the importance of self-breast exam as the first step in breast cancer detection. Through a Susan Komen Foundation grant, Mountain States Health Alliance is currently providing education to the inmates. During the course of the workshop, inmates enjoyed refreshments and a video that shared inspirational stories of breast cancer survivors along with facts regarding risk factors for breast cancer. Inmates practiced proper self exam techniques on breast cancer detection models. The health educators also distributed information on the Tennessee Breast and Cervical Program. According to an evaluation survey conducted by the Mountain States Health Alliance staff at the conclusion of the program, inmates enjoyed learning about the importance of self exams for breast cancer detection. Many stated they plan to share the information learned with other female relatives. This particular program is a continuation of a series of classes conducted by the Washington County Health Department health educators at the jail each month. Topics for classes vary according to current interests of the inmates, but health promotion and disease prevention are always priority for the discussions.

The health educator at the Hawkins County Health Department continues to work with identified at-risk adolescents at the Rogersville Middle School. She has recruited the chair of the health council's Adolescent Subcommittee to assist, working with the males to provide guidance and the male perspective on relationships. A wide variety of topics/discussions take place ranging from risky behavior, personal safety, "safe havens", and prevention programs to promote healthy lifestyles.

WEST TENNESSEE

In November 2008, the Weakley County Diabetes Coalition hosted the 2nd Annual Diabetes Expo to raise awareness of diabetes prevention and control. There were approximately 100 participants. The Expo offered free blood glucose screening, blood pressure checks, vision screening, strength and flexibility testing and educational presentations.

West Tennessee Region would like to welcome Danna Taylor as the new public health County Director for Crockett, Lauderdale and Tipton counties. Danna has been with public health for 17 years serving as a CSS care coordinator, API coordinator, health educator and community health council coordinator I and II. She has also been an active member of TPHA for several years. Congratulations, Danna.

In November of 2008, our West Tennessee Public Health HUGS staff was presented the HUGS trophy for the highest number of home visits completed by a region from August to October of 2008. They continue to work on the HUGS mission to improve pregnancy outcomes, maternal and child health, and maintain or improve family strengths.

Also, West Tennessee Region is excited to announce that we have combined CSS Care Coordinators and HUGS Home Visitors to form the West Tennessee Home Visiting Staff. Social Workers in each county will now function as case managers in both programs. Our goal is to significantly increase HUGS caseloads and provide more efficient service to CSS patients. We are also pleased to announce that with no additional funding, HUGS will now be available

in nine rural WT counties that did not offer this program. Cross training of staff will begin soon with plans to be fully operational by March 1, 2009.

In December 2008, 22 active Health Council members in Gibson County signed to support the "Screen Out" campaign. This campaign focuses on eliminating smoking scenes from youth-rated films. The campaign's goals consist of writing 800 letters to decision makers, gathering 750,000 petition signatures from concerned community members, and collecting 1,500 endorsements from parents, political, health and school-based organizations.

The McNairy County Health Educator and the District Attorney's office partnered to offer "What's the Rush: Don't Be A Teen Parent" education program. This program complemented current teen pregnancy activities being offered. McNairy County has a high teen pregnancy rate of 14.7 % per 100,000, which is above the state rate of 13.7%, according to recent data through the Dept. of Health.

Trenton Health Department decided to join forces with American Cancer Society to help their community fight cancer, which has personally affected many staff members. On their own time, the staff decided to "step up, and step out" to serve their community and help bring awareness to cancer prevention, treatment and prevalence. One of the more noticeable campaigns is "Paint the Town Pink on Fridays" where staff and other community organizations are encouraged to wear pink shirts.

SOUTH CENTRAL

Partners In Preparedness

At the request of the local Fire and Emergency Management, the Emergency Preparedness Team of the South Central Region Department of Health developed a training program for First Responders in Maury County. The training was approved for continuing education credit by the State of Tennessee Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission and the Commission on Fire Fighting. The state Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator also approved the training for his personnel.

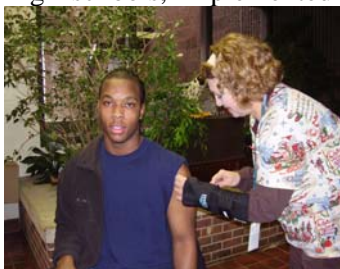
The First Responder Training brought together several disciplines that will be involved in the event of a natural or manmade emergency response in conjunction with public health personnel. This interagency collaboration is an example of regional efforts to involve local partners and was the most positive result of this training.

Several presentations were provided on such topics as: Bioterrorism Attacks and Public Health Response, Points of Dispensing Clinics, Anthrax and Suspicious Package Sampling, Chemical Emergencies, Pandemic Influenza, Functional Needs Populations, and Mental Health Response in Disasters. In addition, interactive scenarios were conducted on use of the CHEMPACK, Identifying Functional Needs Patients in a Pandemic Outbreak, and Mental Health Response to Disasters, utilizing Incident Command System (ICS). Training sessions were four hours each and included a pre and post survey, with each participant receiving a certificate of completion. Participants included city and county fire, police, sheriff's department, EMS and emergency management from Maury County as well as EMS, Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and rural fire responders from Giles, Lawrence and Lewis counties.

Initial trainings were provided for 109 participants with evaluation results indicating that 98% felt that the training was helpful and beneficial to their role in the event of an actual emergency. Additional training sessions have been conducted in Giles County and are scheduled in other areas throughout the coming year. Continuing education credit will also be offered for future training sessions.

It's That Time of Year!

With everyone gearing up for the flu season, the Lincoln County Health Department in partnership with area high schools, implemented a pilot program to provide influenza (flu) vaccinations for local youth.



Students in two schools were administered the vaccination on December 9th, which was recognized nationally by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as "Children's Vaccination Day." According to Lincoln County High School principal, Jim Stewart, the county has continued to notice a tremendous rate of absenteeism due largely in part to the flu. With the most recent recommendation by CDC to continue annually vaccinating



children ages 5-18, the health department was instrumental in providing public health services for this population.

In addition to Lincoln County High School, Ninth Grade Academy also participated in the program. Carmen Smith, Coordinated School Health Director and member of the Lincoln County Health Council, ensured that parents

received a permission slip and current vaccine information. Privacy notices were also made available to all parents. School personnel are interested in making this service available during the next school year in an effort to keep teens healthy and improve student performance. Lincoln County Health Department Director, Debbie Broadway will spearhead efforts to expand this partnership to possibly provide an “after school” clinic for younger students during the 2009-2010 school year.

SHELBY COUNTY

Lessons Learned from a Bioterrorism Response Drill

On December 2, 2008, the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department initiated its first internal working drill under the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) program to test mass distribution of antibiotics to the citizens of Shelby and surrounding counties in Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi. As with any drill, this exercise was designed to identify areas that need improvement. While some vulnerabilities and deficiencies were observed, the overall objectives of the drill were achieved and plans are now underway to incorporate the lessons learned in future drills and exercises.

The Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) program is a part of the Centers for Disease Control Strategic National Stockpile program. The overarching aim of the CRI program is to deliver antibiotic medications to a community stricken by a terrorist attack using a biological agent such as anthrax. The CRI program requires medications to be dispensed to every man, woman and child within the greater Memphis jurisdiction within 48 hours of request by the Tennessee Department of Health or the Governor of Tennessee. There are two CRI cities in Tennessee: Nashville and Memphis. The Memphis CRI jurisdiction includes 8 counties across three states; Shelby, Tipton, and Fayette Counties in Tennessee; Crittenden County in Arkansas; and Tate, Tunica, DeSoto, and Marshall Counties in Mississippi. The Memphis CRI jurisdiction services approximately 1.4 million people.

Planning and coordination efforts for the Memphis CRI jurisdiction began in January 2007 when the area was designated as a CRI jurisdiction by the Centers for Disease Control. Public health, emergency management, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and healthcare personnel began meeting to draw up a plan to collaborate and cooperate if and when the need arises. Now that the Memphis CRI jurisdiction is moving into its second year of existence, the working group is transitioning to exercising and drilling the plans and procedures it created and developed in 2007.

The purpose of any drill or exercise is to identify processes that can be refined to improve performance. The December 2, 2008 drill at Hickory Hill Community Center was the Health Department’s first opportunity to set up and operate a CRI point of dispensing, and despite a few shortcomings, the drill was a success. Health Department staff and volunteers from the Public Health Reserve Corps registered and dispensed “medication” to hundreds of



“patients.” An effective badging procedure was executed to properly identify and accredit public health and volunteer clinic workers at the dispensing center. The Memphis CRI group also demonstrated its ability to use a computer-based inventory and patient tracking system that allowed for up-to-the-minute inventory control and patient accountability in addition to using the traditional “paper-based” process of registering, evaluating, and dispensing medication to the patient. The drill allowed the Health Department to assess its ability to rapidly transport clinic supplies, equipment, and medications to the dispensing site. Future exercises will incorporate healthcare facilities, emergency medical services, and law enforcement into the dispensing operation. Continued drills and exercises with the participation of

a proactive community and partnering agencies will serve to maximize the rapid and effective delivery of medication if or when the real event occurs.

A bioterrorist attack on the Memphis area may seem an unlikely event. But the people of Memphis and its surrounding counties should know that the Health Department and other government agencies have plans in place to protect the population in the event of such an attack. Those plans are constantly being tested, updated and improved. Drills and exercises are a part of the ongoing process of improving our community’s ability to respond in an emergency.

DATES TO REMEMBER

**Middle Tennessee TPHA Meeting
April 24, 2009
Williamson County Agricultural Center
Franklin, TN**

**West Tennessee TPHA Meeting
May 14, 2009
Jackson/Madison County Health Dept.
Jackson, TN**

**East Tennessee TPHA Meeting
May 15, 2009
Pellissippi State Technical Community College
Knoxville, TN**

**TPHA Annual Educational Conference
September 2-4, 2009
Marriott Hotel and Convention Center
Franklin, TN**

**APHA Annual Meeting
November 7-11, 2009
Philadelphia, PA**

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Articles for the next Newsletter due by
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