



Tennessee Public Health Association Newsletter

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Message from The President

Karen Lynn
President, 2012-2013

Dear TPHA members,

At risk of sounding a little like the late Minnie Pearl, I have to say “I am so proud to be here!” By here I mean to be a member of an organization such as TPHA and, in addition, to be an employee of the Tennessee Department of Health. Let me explain.

First, if you were present at the 2012 TPHA Annual Conference, then you know what a great meeting it was. From a very timely theme, to lots of learning opportunities and continuing education hours presented by outstanding speakers, to wonderful food served up with opportunities for exercise and fun, it was one of our best conferences ever. One of my favorite parts of our annual conference is always the networking among friends and colleagues from across the state and this year was no exception. Membership in TPHA, along with working in TDH, has allowed me to get to know at least a few people from every region of the state, which, to me, is one of the best benefits of membership.

Second, thanks to a powerfully written nomination by our Immediate Past President, Dr. Marian Levy, TPHA received the “Affiliate of the Year Award” from APHA at the annual meeting in October. What an exciting thing to be recognized among all the states, known as “affiliates”, for the work that we are doing! The award was based on our partnerships with TDH and Lifepath, along with the Visionary Awards program which recognizes people who are doing projects that further the mission of public health in their home communities. I hope each of you get to see the award as we make it available this year at regional meetings and the annual conference. It belongs to all of us.

Third, as most of you know, Tennessee has been in the forefront of the multistate fungal meningitis outbreak.

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TPHA NAMED 2012 OUTSTANDING AFFILIATE BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION



The Tennessee Public Health Association, Tennessee’s affiliate to the American Public Health Association, has been named APHA’s 2012 Outstanding Affiliate of the Year. This recognition was awarded by APHA’s Council of Affiliates at the APHA Annual Conference last month on the basis of three exceptional contributions to public health in 2012.

The first involves TPHA’s partnership with the Tennessee Department of Health to identify and implement statewide strategic planning for public health priorities in Tennessee. At our regional meetings members worked with Deputy Commissioner of Health Bruce Behringer to identify key priority areas for public health in Tennessee. In this manner, we have not only supported Tennessee’s public health infrastructure, but also helped set the priorities for public health in our state.

Our second major strength was TPHA’s partnership in LIFEPATH, a consortium of universities and public health agencies in Tennessee that constitute a Public Health Training Center, one of only 32 nationwide. Through our partnership with LIFEPATH and Tennessee’s schools of public health, TPHA helps enhance the competence of Tennessee’s future public health workforce. Moreover, our involvement helps bridge the gap between academia and public health practice.

TPHA’s third outstanding contribution to public health was our innovative “*Visionary Award*,” in which

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It was astute public health clinicians in Tennessee who helped bring to light the cause of the problem and then led the response in case finding and reporting and a plan for notification of all who were potentially exposed in TN. While we wish that nothing like this had happened, it was also gratifying to see our State Health Operations Center (SHOC), Regional Health Operations Centers (RHOC), health alert network, patient tracking systems, and epidemiology and surveillance systems work like we had been practicing for so long. Perhaps most of all, credit should be given to the local health department staff who, while continuing normal health department services, were tracking down patients through phone calls and home visits and, sometimes, outstanding detective work to ensure that each and every person affected by this were notified, educated, and referred appropriately. In short, the state, regional and local health departments worked together and with partners, such as hospitals and the media, responded to a public health emergency, and while there will always be lessons learned from such an event, the job was well done and something of which we are proud.

We are also proud to have our Executive Director recognized by Commissioner Dreyzehner with the first "Commissioner's Outstanding Service to Public Health in Tennessee Award." Doris has been working in public health for over 40 years (she won't say exactly when she started her career). Dr. Dreyzehner thanked Doris for her dedication to public health and for her leadership during the past year in helping to coordinate the education of TPHA members on the Baldrige model.

Work for the association begins for the new year as soon as the annual conference ends. Committee chairs are already at work and meetings are planned. I am excited to be working with such dedicated people who care about public health in Tennessee. Please let us know if you would like to be part of committee. There are lots of jobs available. Take a look at the TPHA website to learn about the types of committees. I look forward to serving this year and hope that you will feel free to contact me anytime with your thoughts and ideas.

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we recognize unsung public health visionaries in each part of the state who impact their community's health. This demonstrates our partnership and support of community advocacy for public health.

Additional accomplishments that were highlighted in the nomination for this award include an increasing membership (now 1033 members!); our strategic planning to review policies, affiliations, and advocacy strategies; TPHA's receipt of CHES Provider status from the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing; and our filing of APHA's Affiliate MOU to extend student benefits across reciprocal states.

TPHA is very grateful to Dr. John Dreyzehner, Commissioner of Health for Tennessee, and Dr. Robert Pack, Associate Dean at East Tennessee State University, Principal Investigator for LIFEPATH Public Health Training Center, for their generosity in providing letters of support for the nomination.

Dr. Marian Levy submitted the nomination for this award in July during her tenure as President, and accepted the award on TPHA's behalf at the APHA annual meeting in October in San Francisco. This is a wonderful honor that reflects the dedication, commitment, and strength of TPHA members across our state. In particular, we recognize the leadership of President Karen Lynn and Executive Director Doris Spain. Congratulations to all!



From L to R: Dr. Barb Levin, Dr. Shipp, Dr. Marian Levy, Carol Nelson, and Dr. Josh Gettinger

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Individual Membership	
Active Members	866
Life Members	<u>167</u>
Total	1,033
Agency Membership	124

TPHA President, Dr. Marian Levy presents the Rotating Trophy for Region with Greatest Increase in Membership to Yvonne Madlock, Director, Shelby County Health Department



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU
TO OUR
SPONSORING AGENCY MEMBERS**

PLATINUM AGENCY MEMBERSHIP

LIFEPATH

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

SILVER AGENCY MEMBERSHIP

Amerigroup Community Care

BRONZE AGENCY MEMBERSHIP

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee
TennDent by Delta Dental

SUSTAINING AGENCY MEMBERSHIP

Sullivan County Regional Health Department
Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

As we go to press, TDH remains heavily involved with follow-up of Tennesseans who have been affected by the Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak. TPHA would like to extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Tennessee Department of Health and our membership who are dedicated to protecting the health of our citizens.

**TPHA Executive Director
Recipient of Commissioner's Award**



Dr. John Dreyzehner presents Doris Spain, Executive Director, TPHA with the first "Commissioner's Outstanding Service to Public Health in Tennessee Award."

The 2012 Fun and Fitness change of format was a success!

Submitted by: Cathy Cowart, 2011 Fun and Fitness Chair



There were many positive comments about incorporating activity throughout the conference – the suggestions for improvements were better timing and space availability. Members were pleased with the classes, walk and mini activity breaks. The spontaneous evening competition was fast paced and allowed for extra networking/dancing time once the competition ended. It was a very close race with the **Southeast Region** taking 1st Place - Yay! Yay! 2nd Place went to **Chattanooga-Hamilton County** – Yay! And 3rd Place went to **Central Office** – Yay! Bottom line is -we need to set an example and "Get Up and Move" every 2 hours of every day!

SECTION AWARD WINNERS



Kathy Shearon presents the Nursing Assistant Award to Sharon Honea.



The Award for Excellence in Nursing Administration/Supervision/Management is accepted by Jennifer Valentine on behalf of John Lott. Presenting the award is Kathy Shearon.



Suzee Sanders presents the Health Educator of the Year Award to Linsey Arfsten.



Jerry Franklin is presented a plaque by Mark Houser commemorating his induction into the Environmental Hall of Fame.



Lowe Wilkins presents the Environmental Section Lynn B. Hearn award to Eric Coffey.



Lowe Wilkins presents the Environmental Section Merit Award to Carter Garner.

2012 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Submitted by: Ami Mitchell, Chair, 2011 Awards Committee

The Tennessee Public Health Association was privileged to bestow well-deserved honors on several public health professionals and partners during the 2012 conference. The following award winners were nominated by their peers, co-workers and supervisors. Nominations were reviewed by the Award Committee and were announced at the awards luncheon on September 13, 2012. Congratulations to all the winners. Thank you for your continued support!

R. H. HUTCHESON, SR. MD AWARD



The R.H. Hutcheson Award is considered the highest honor that TPHA bestows. This award is to go to a person with a minimum of 20 years of service to public health and who has demonstrated active commitment to TPHA. The 2012 R.H. Hutcheson Award was presented to Jackie Neas, RN. Jackie Neas graduated nursing school in 1973 and began her public health career in 1981. When she joined the staff at the Greene County Health Department she found her real passion. She was promoted to Assistant Nursing Supervisor in 1984 and then became Nursing Supervisor in 1986, a position she still holds today. Jackie is a member of the Greene County Board of Health and the Health Council and works through many community partnerships and coalitions to improve access to care for the indigent population. Jackie was nominated by her co-workers and the leadership of the Northeast Region. Her nomination

supported that she is truly a trusted advocate of the underserved and that she has dedicated her career to serve in any capacity she could.

ALEX B. SHIPLEY, MD AWARD

Tim Carson, County Director for the Washington County Health Department was presented with the Alex B. Shipley Award. Tim has 35 years of public health service and 26 years of TPHA membership! He began his career with the Tennessee Department of Health in 1977 as a Regional WIC Director. In 1985 he became a district director. He now serves as County Director for Washington County, a health department with 65 employees, generating over 3,000 encounters per month. This award goes to a TPHA member who has made outstanding contributions in the field of public health over a period of several years. Tim's nomination clearly stated that he has been a lifelong advocate for quality health care. His accomplishments include securing the land where the Washington County Health Dept. now stands and being the first in the state to add a WIC Nutrition Center to a local health department clinic.



PUBLIC HEALTH WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Public Health Worker of the Year went to Brenda Eggert, Administrative Program Director for The Tennessee CEDEP Program. The Public Health Worker of the Year is to go to a person in the field who has provided outstanding service over the last 3 years. Brenda started her career in state government over 31 years ago. She has been with the Tennessee Department of Health for the last 18 years. She started as an ASA2 and she has worked her way up through the system in a variety of administrative positions. She currently supervises a large staff that respect, admire, and are absolutely devoted to her. Brenda was nominated by Dr. Tim Jones and other CEDEP Program Staff. Brenda was recognized as the "behind the scenes" person who always insures the success of the program leadership.



PUBLIC HEALTH GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD



The Information Technology Team from the South Central Region was the recipient of the Public Health Work Group of the Year Award. Team members are LeeAnne Kelley, Matt Herring and Mindy Beckman. This award is for a group or until that has made outstanding contributions to public health. This team has not only set exemplary standards for themselves with the routine maintenance and installation of IT equipment and software updates for all of their own rural region, but has continually developed new processes and programs that have been adopted statewide that have improved efficiency in health department management. This team was nominated by staff in their own region and that nomination was supported by many across the state.

PARTNERS AND LEADERSHIP (PAL) INDIVIDUAL AWARD

The Partners and Leadership Award, (P.A.L.), recognizes a non-public health professional or group who has made a significant contribution to public health that would set an example for others. This year the P.A.L. Award was given to James and Mildred Mooreland founders of East Chattanooga, Inc. Mr. and Mrs. Mooreland have spent their retirement years setting up community coalitions to transform East Chattanooga into a healthier and safer place. With what was described as “out of the ordinary” concern for their neighborhood they have spent countless hours partnering with health care, law-enforcement and community volunteers. They have made the Chattanooga-Hamilton County area and all TPHA members proud to call them a partner.



TPHA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Glenn has served on numerous committees over the years, including Fun and Fitness, Program, and Nominations. He



has served on the Board as President-Elect and President and hosted a very successful annual meeting. He is an advocate for TPHA in his region. Glenn developed slides to tell new employees about TPHA during orientation and shared his template for this with the other Regional Directors. He is supportive of others in his region becoming active members as is evidenced by those who have become active on the Board and with committees. He is an active member of his regional Fun and Fitness team, participating in trying to make his region shine. In short, Glenn is an advocate for TPHA and active in accomplishing our mission. His actions over the years make him deserving of this award.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Glenn Czarnecki, Chair, 2011

Glenn Czarnecki, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, announced the following election results at the closing session held on Friday, September 14, 2012.

President - Elect	Paula Masters
Vice President - East	Mike Stoots
Vice President - Middle	Hugh Atkins
Vice President - West	Diane Emison
Board Representatives - West	Tracy Byrd
	Kristie Threet



Shown left to right: President Karen Lynn, Immediate Past President, Dr. Marian Levy and Vice President/West Tennessee, Diane Emison.



Incoming President Karen Lynn presents the President's Plaque to Dr. Marian Levy, Immediate Past President, with thanks from the Association for her leadership during the 2011-2012 year.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AWARDS

40 YEARS SERVICE

TPHA President, Dr. Marian Levy presents 40 year service award plaques to Paulette Cowan, Mid Cumberland Region (left) and Margaret Majors, Central Office (right). Also receiving a 40 year plaque was Rebecca Johnson who was unable to attend.



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AWARDS (continued)



30 YEARS SERVICE

Dr. David Brumley receives both his 30 year service award and Life Membership in TPHA from President Marian Levy.



Rick Long receives his 30 year service award from President Marian Levy and Deputy Commissioner Bruce Behringer.

Geanie Cooper is presented her 30 year service award from TPHA President, Dr. Marian Levy.



Also recognized for 30 years service were Gail Harmon, Peggy Welch, and Rebecca Wright.

20 YEARS SERVICE



Kevin Morris received his 20 year service award

Also recognized for 20 years service was Jacque Cundall.



Jim Hayes is presented his 20 year service award from Marian Levy, TPHA President.

TPHA's 2012 Membership Survey

Submitted by: Dr. Marian Levy, Immediate Past President and Chair, Public Policy Committee

As part of our organization's strategic planning efforts, the TPHA Board surveyed our members in October 2012 to see how we can continue to improve and better meet your needs. The web-based survey was completed by nearly 200 members (n=196). Nearly half (46%) of the respondents were from East Tennessee region; one-third (34%) were from Middle Tennessee; and the remaining 10% were from West Tennessee. The average length of membership in TPHA was 10 years, and nearly one-third (29%) were nursing professionals.

The general feeling was that TPHA has clear organizational priorities, acts on the priorities, identifies and reacts to emerging issues, is fiscally responsible, and gives members a chance to participate. Of all the services we provide, regional meetings were rated highest.

The top two products or services our members expect from TPHA are continuing education (30%) and high quality conferences (23%).

TPHA's top strengths included training and conferences (29%); organization (23%); and networking (20%). Other strengths included our leadership (11%); diverse, engaged membership (8%); and our Executive Director Doris Spain (7%).

Areas for improvement were noted as follows: communicating effectively with the general public and other organizations regarding Public Health issues; announcing job opportunities; and orienting new members. Specifically, members wanted increased communication with members; increased opportunities for participation and leadership; and expanded advocacy efforts.

In response to this feedback, we plan to use more social media and technology to communicate with members, announce job opportunities, and advocate for public health concerns. Also, we will encourage our vice-presidents to actively engage more members in planning regional meetings to support new leadership opportunities.

The TPHA Board would like to thank all 196 individuals who took the time to complete the membership survey. And congratulations to Erin Read, a Health Educator from Knox County, the lucky winner of the prize drawing for a free TPHA membership!

We value your feedback and suggestions for continued growth and relevance. Your voices were heard!

REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Dr. Lorraine Macdonald, Chair, 2011

The following resolutions were adopted by the TPHA membership at the annual business meeting on September 12.

Resolution to Promote Safe Sleeping in the State of Tennessee

MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS:

Cathy Joyce Maxwell, Public Health Office Supervisor, Giles County Health Department, retired April 30, 2009, died October, 2011.

Becky Raines Greene, Director of Nursing, Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County Health Department, died January 31, 2012.

RETIREMENTS RESOLUTIONS:

Teresa Roberts, Administrative Services Asst. 4, Northeast Region, retired June 18, 2012 with 34 years service.

Sandy Collins, Regional Hospital Coordinator, South Central Region, retired May 29, 2012 with 10 years service.

Richard Henighan, Nurse Clinician, Sevier County Health Dept., retired March 18, 2012 with 29 years service.

Rena Mills, Director of Nursing, East TN Regional Health Office, retired February, 2012 with 51 years service.

Peggy Welch, PHN, Van Buren County Health Department, retired August, 2012 with 34 years service.

Danny Hall, MD, Cumberland County Health Department, retired June, 2012 with 10 years service.

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Charlene Jessee, Director of Nursing, Northeast Region, retired May 25, 2012 with 31 years service.

Carolyn Achata, PHN, Southeast Region, retired August 31, 2012 with 33 years service.

Judy Lea, Director of Nursing, Wilson County Health Department, retired January, 2012 with 24 years service.

Diana Gayle Cross, CDC Director, Southeast Region, retired May, 2012 with 20 years service.

Camille Crenshaw, Dental Hygienist, Upper Cumberland Region, retired May, 2012 with 36 years service.

Beverly June Young, WIC Vendor Coordinator, Southeast Region, retired March, 2012 with 19 years service.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Shelby County Health Department Holds Door to Door Dispensing Exercise

On Tuesday, October 30th, the Shelby County Health Department's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEPP) held the first door to door dispensing exercise in Tennessee. In less than an hour, over 1250 households received "medication" at their doorstep. This exercise was initiated in order to test the feasibility of this type of dispensing in a bioterrorism event or other public health emergency.

More than 60 volunteers and public health employees walked from door to door delivering empty, sealed medication bottles to each house in the Stonebridge area of the Lakeland community. Although local Point of Dispensing (POD) sites are still the primary source of distribution, the success of this exercise now allows for the incorporation of door to door delivery as a compliment to standard 48-hour POD plans.

"The main goal of this exercise was to see if we could serve 1,000 people per hour," commented Matt McDaniel, Cities Readiness Initiative Coordinator for PHEPP, "and we actually were able to dispense to 2760 in an hour, so this test was a great success!"

"This exercise was meant to test the viability of door to door distribution. Overall, we have received positive feedback from both the public and staff," said Kasia Smith-Alexander, Emergency Response Coordinator for PHEPP. "Exercises help us better prepare for potential emergencies. Testing different methods helps us create plans to handle any situation."

Mr. McDaniel reports that the next plan is to see how this mode of dispensing can be adapted for other areas of Shelby County.

In addition to the Shelby County Health Department, the following organizations also participated:

- City of Lakeland
- Shelby County Sheriff's Office & Fire Department
- SCHD MRC
- West TN Region PHEPP & MRC
- Covington High School HOSA
- Southwest TN Community College Pharmacy Tech Program
- STCC Homeland Security Grant Program
- Mississippi Department of Health Districts 1 & 2 PHEPP
- Arkansas Department of Health Northeast Region PHEPP
- University of Memphis School of Public Health
- University of TN Health Science Center
- TEMA West

If you would like more information on this exercise, or any other PHEPP activities, please contact us at (901) 222-8204.

Grand Opening for New Meigs South Elementary Walking Track Southeast Region

Meigs South Elementary School celebrated the grand opening of their new walking track Monday, September 24th. The track was constructed with funds provided as part of a diabetes prevention and control grant from the Appalachian Diabetes Control and Translation Project.

The Meigs County Health Council identified diabetes prevention as a need in the community and applied for the ADCTP grant. The track will provide a safe walking area for Meigs Elementary students and other residents in southern Meigs County so they will not have to drive all the way to Decatur for a walking track.

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Parents will be encouraged to walk the track while attending student athletic practices or events, and members of the community will be welcome to use the facility for physical activity after school and on weekends. A gate was added to the school fence so that people can park at the Head Start building next door and enter the school grounds after hours and on weekends to use the track.

A recent Community Health Assessment process showed that in Meigs County, 34.6 percent of adults are physically inactive and 34.2 percent are obese. The Health Council hopes to make safe, accessible exercise areas available to the entire county in hopes of improving these numbers.

Pilot School Located Vaccination Program, Northeast Region

Submitted by: Beth Rader, Community Services Director

The Northeast Tennessee Region was asked to pilot a school-based influenza immunization program for the fall of 2012 in an effort to decrease the impact of seasonal flu in our communities and to decrease school absenteeism. Three counties, Greene, Johnson and Unicoi, were selected to participate. These counties included four school systems. The county director and/or nursing supervisor met with each school director to ascertain interest in the pilot program.

Program information and consent forms were sent home with each child at the beginning of the school year to be returned as soon as possible. Student forms returned were much higher than expected. Johnson and Unicoi County's take rate percentages were 25%.

On September 24th and 25th Johnson County flu vaccinations were completed. A total of 548 children were vaccinated with 381 receiving FluMist® and 176 receiving injections. Staff returned on October 29th to administer the second dose to approximately 90 children.

Unicoi and Greene Counties have also completed administering the first rounds of vaccine, but analysis has not been finalized. Unicoi County expected to vaccinate a total of 674 students, with 444 getting FluMist® and 230 injections. Greene County expected to vaccinate 1806 students in the Greene County and Greeneville City school systems, with 1265 receiving FluMist® and 541 injections.

Influenza vaccine was offered to all staff members at each school as well. TennCare and private insurance was billed for students and staff participating in the pilot project.

West TN

Submitted by: Elna Blankenship, Community Services Director

The McNairy County Health Council partners, led by Public Health Educator, Beth Hamilton sponsored the 1st annual Family Fitness Day on Saturday, September 22, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Selmer City Park. The event promoted physical activity, nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices to address obesity, the health council's number one priority. The 5-2-1-0 Initiative to take down childhood obesity was the theme of the day: 5 servings of fruits and vegetables daily, only 2 hours of screen time, 1 hour of physical activity and 0 sugary sweetened beverages.

Approximately 500 children and adults of all ages attended the free event to participate in a wide variety of health related activities. The McNairy County Mayor welcomed the large crowd and Health Department County Director, Chris Morris explained the council's efforts to address childhood obesity and promote healthy choices. Mortality rates for heart disease and stroke among McNairy County residents are among the highest in West TN. Over one third of adults in McNairy County are obese and inactive.

The day began with a two-mile fun run/walk followed by water, Gatorade and fruit. Activities continued throughout the morning with 15 vendors providing educational health exhibits. The National Guard provided pedal cars, the fire department provided party jumpers and instructors gave interactive demonstrations of zumba, yoga and aerobic exercises. Participants could purchase 5-2-1-0 t-shirts and sugar-free snow cones. Local newspapers, Facebook pages and the radio station were generous with their ads, PSAs and publicity. Everyone received goody bags containing pedometers, pens, water bottles, stress balls and other incentives to promote healthy choices. (See picture)



Henderson County is *Walking the Talk!!* On September 26, 2012, **Pattie Kiddy**, County Director, **Lisa Park**, Public Health Educator, **David Hazlewood**, Nutrition Educator, **Jeanne Jowers**, RN, **Gina Wood**, Nurse Supervisor, **Kim Todd**, CSS/HUGS, and **Sheila Benson**, RN joined the community in promoting physical fitness and educating the public on the importance of exercise. As a result of the National Health and Fitness event, several of the participants have formed a group that will continue exercising after work at 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Organized by Henderson County Health Department, Coordinated School Health and UT Extension Services, women of all ages were encouraged to participate in a local fitness walk around the Caywood School football track in observance of National Women's Health and Fitness Day. The goal for this event was to encourage women to take control of their health and to make time for regular physical activity. Sixty individuals participated and also completed a health assessment survey to assist in the assessment of the needs of the community.

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Primary Prevention Initiative (PPI), South Central Region Alpha & Beta Tests

Submitted by: Janet McAlister, Assistant Regional Director

The Bedford County Health Department formed the first PPI Team in Tennessee. Consisting of County Director Angie Faulkner; Jill Murdock, RN; PHOS Valerie Clanton; Mary Prince, RN; Misti Gardner, RN and Health Educator Emily Darnell, the team was charged with launching the initiative on August 1. Community members in Bedford County were introduced to the team on July 23 during a meeting of the Health Council. Guests included both the City and County mayors; local Fire Chief/County Councilman and the Health Council and Facilitator. Representatives from several partner agencies and TDH staff members from the Central and Regional Offices also participated. Dr. Dreyzehner joined the meeting via video conference and explained the benefits of investing TDH employee time and expertise in community-based primary prevention efforts. Prince and Melissa Blair presented local health statistics and information on the benefits of prevention. The Bedford County PPI has been addressing prevention of tobacco use, and has decided to work with the community to increase smoke-free zones in businesses, parks and other city and county properties. Members of the PPI Team are dedicating about five percent of their work time to these efforts.



Beta Tests kicked off in five additional counties of the South Central Region on October 1, 2012. Those counties focusing on obesity prevention are Coffee, Giles, Hickman and Maury. Members of the Lawrence County team will work toward increasing immunization rates. Each team is composed of a variety of disciplines as well as interested community partners.

Amazing Family Fun Night! Coffee County, South Central Region

“Amazing Family Fun Night” was organized through a partnership with the Coffee County Health Department, Coffee County Health Council and the Coffee County and Manchester City Coordinated School Health. The goal of this event is to offer families increased opportunities to become physically active together. It also offers parents a chance to meet with community agencies and learn about local resources in Coffee County. This organized effort has been made possible through the Eat Well/Play More Tennessee grant funding.

The Manchester Recreation Center opens its facility from 7:00pm-9:00pm on Family Fun Night to all families. The only requirement is for a parent to attend with their child or children. All participants gather in the gym at 7:00 pm for information/demonstrations on physical activity, nutrition, or safety. The education component varies each month. A registered dietician offers interactive cooking demonstration and the health educator offers tobacco prevention education as well as a physical activity component. The Recreation Staff offer an additional program on water safety.

After the education component, families can swim, walk the track, get health screenings (height, weight, blood pressure, BMI) as well as play games in the gym, led by certified fitness instructors. Games played in the gym can also be played at home with little or no equipment, such as “win it in a minute,” jump rope and four square. In November, the youth fitness room was opened. This room offers age appropriate fitness equipment, a playground and a climbing wall for ages 3-9. Healthy snacks are also provided at each Family Fun Night. The snacks are prepared and served by volunteers from the high school culinary arts class.

Attendance began slowly with 50 participants, but grew to 250 by the end of the previous year. Over 1,000 have attended this year. Support through community partnerships has contributed to the huge success of the event.

PLEASE VISIT THE TPHA WEBSITE: WWW.TNPUBLICHEALTH.ORG TO VIEW THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) COLOR VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER**
- 2) POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS FROM THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
- 3) LISTING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND SECTION CHAIRS**