As we progress in our planning of our 2010 conference, I come to you with a true plea from our organization. The planning committee is working hard to assure that we provide you with a quality meeting. Outstanding speakers from around the United States, who are timely in their presentations, who are capable of presenting in a way that is useful to us, and who are of the caliber that is necessary to obtain the “Continued Education Units” come with a cost.

I truly feel like a politician when I address you, always asking for your support and your commitment. But it is with this mind set, that you elected me as your president. It is my responsibility to assure that our membership is out there doing what we need you to do. As you are all aware, the financing of our conference is very costly, yet is accomplished through a combination of revenue streams including contract dollars, your membership dues, the agency/sponsor memberships, exhibitor’s fees, ads in the program and registration fees.

So what am I asking? Please renew your membership. Please recruit new members. Please seek new agency memberships. Obtain new exhibitors who will benefit from being at our annual meeting, especially this year, as we meet jointly with Southern Health. Seek out companies who would be willing to purchase ad space in the meeting program. But most importantly, start now with your commitment to attend this year’s meeting. Planning ahead will help us in working with our hotel. It will help us plan our meals. It will also help us set the rooms for the various workshops, based on estimated attendance. So much planning goes into this event, and I am so grateful for the various committees and their hard work to assure that their part is completed, and completed well. Get involved. We all have talent! So tap into a committee that interests you and to which you can contribute. Visit the organization’s website often. It has wonderful updates, opportunities, and valuable information to help you become more involved.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our annual meeting. It will be packed full of great speakers who will give us timely information that we can learn and put to use in our work as the public health workforce. Our Fun and Fitness Event will not only be exciting, but will help us continue building that competitive spirit that drives us all. So mark your calendar for September 15-17, 2010. You don’t want to miss it!
For those of us old enough to remember, September of each year was an exciting time. Why? The automobile industry in Detroit introduced their cars for the new model year. Each year styling changes were distinctive – different grills, new taillights, redesigned interiors, more options; all well planned to generate interest and desire.

So what does this have to do with TPHA? Our annual education conference is next September and plans are underway to make some ‘styling changes.’ Why? The program and arrangements committees want to offer TPHA members a redesigned conference with distinctive changes from previous years. Our goal is to have a conference program focusing on continuing education and networking opportunities that will have all attendees saying ‘time well spent.’

The basic structure of the conference will be similar to past years – an opening session luncheon, keynote speaker, awards luncheon and presentations, president’s reception, several plenary sessions, and numerous workshops. So what is planned that brings ‘styling changes’ to the 2010 conference that sets it apart from previous years?

Attendees will have choices of workshops to attend on all three days of the conference. Section meetings will be held on Wednesday afternoon instead of Thursday morning, and the annual business meeting will occur on Thursday afternoon instead of Friday morning. Thursday afternoon will also feature a plenary session as a replacement for workshops. Wednesday evening will be ‘own your own,’ a change that was welcomed by many last year. And Thursday evening after the president’s reception will have the annual battle among the regions to claim ownership of the coveted Fun & Fitness spirit stick!

This year’s conference will also be distinctive in that it is a joint meeting with the Southern Health Association. Once every eight years, TPHA serves as the host affiliate to public health leaders from across the Southeastern states. The quality and content of our annual conferences in Tennessee have been acknowledged by SHA state affiliate associations for many years.

The 2010 TPHA/SHA conference theme is ‘Great Challenges Bring Great Opportunities’ – an appropriate title for the times in which we live and work. The program committee is already hard at work selecting topics and contacting speakers to make this year a conference to remember. Circle September 15-17 on your calendars and start making plans to join me at Cool Springs in Franklin. See you there!

**SCHEDULE OF GRAND DIVISION MEETINGS**

- **Middle Tennessee Meeting**
  “Middle Tennessee Public Health: Meeting the Challenge”
  March 26, 2010
  Williamson County Agricultural Center
  Franklin, TN

- **East Tennessee Meeting**
  "East Tennessee Responds to the Challenge"
  April 16, 2010
  First Baptist Church
  Knoxville, TN

- **West Tennessee Meeting**
  "West Tennessee Accepts the Challenge"
  May 6, 2010
  Jackson/Madison County Health Department
  Jackson, TN
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS MAILED
Submitted by: Angela Frame, Membership Committee Chair

It's that time of year again! No, not flu season. It's time to renew your TPHA membership! Late fees for renewal begin March 15, so go ahead and renew today! TPHA provides many benefits to its members. Your support for our public health association makes it possible to keep up with the most up to date information in public health, network with public health employees across the state, provide scholarships to our members, and provide stellar conferences year after year.

This year's annual conference will be one you won't want to miss-and you will need to be a member to attend. You can renew your membership by returning the membership renewal form and your check by mail or you can renew your membership on line on the TPHA website.

So, what are you waiting for? Renew your membership today! And...spread the word about our association. We are always looking for new members to make our association stronger! Here's to another great year with TPHA!

NEWS FROM SOUTHERN HEALTH ASSOCIATION
Submitted by: Tammy Burke, SHA Representative

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) designated Region 7 of the S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC) as an Advanced Practice Center (APC) in October 2009.

While planning for a public health worst-case scenario, Region 7 of SCDHEC discovered that many institutions planned to call on the same limited community resources. This was especially apparent as it related to security and law enforcement. In order to address how to most effectively utilize a community's law enforcement resources, SCDHEC received funding to develop a toolkit and share it with health departments across the country.

According to John Simkovich, Region 7 SCDHEC Health director, “As we reviewed plans for potential emergencies, we identified two key areas that needed improvement: the need to develop operational site security and traffic management plans for local dispensing sites; and the need to develop operational site security plans for hospitals during a medical surge. Our goal is to develop a toolkit that addresses those needs and share the tools with other local public health departments to use and adapt.”

The Security and Traffic Management Toolkit being developed will contain a site security and traffic management template for points of dispensing, a hospital security plan template, a workshop template, a tabletop template and supporting materials.

The mission of the Advanced Practice Center (APC) program is to advance public health practice and improve local capacity to prepare and respond effectively to public health emergencies. APCs accomplish this primarily through developing tools and resources for other local public health agencies nationwide to use in their emergency preparedness planning efforts. The APC program is funded by NACCHO through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. APC health departments respond to emerging needs by engaging in a variety of activities that include producing cutting-edge tools and resources, technology, training, and the necessary technical guidance to assist public health professionals in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the consequences of disasters and other public health emergencies.

The Southern Health Association in conjunction with SCDHEC is planning a presentation on the work of the South Carolina Advanced Practice Center at the 2010 TPHA/SHA Joint Annual Meeting September 15 – 17 at the Cool Springs Marriott.
NEWS FROM
THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH’S
NUTRITION AND WELLNESS SECTION

Submitted by: Pamela R. Staples, M.S., Program Director,
Injury, Rape and Violence Prevention Program

The Tennessee Department of Health is pleased to announce that a Five-Year State Plan has been developed for the Rape and Violence Prevention Program and will be distributed throughout the State shortly. The State Plan utilizes a public health approach, and incorporates strategies and activities that prevent sexual violence from initially occurring and reduces first time perpetration and victimization by sexual violence. The State Plan is comprised of the following goals:

Goal 1: Increase participation of key stakeholders in the Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) planning process.

Goal 2: Enhance capacity-building strategies to strengthen communication, data collection and training.

Goal 3: Ensure any potential prevention provider possesses the knowledge needed to develop, implement and evaluate evidenced-based primary prevention programs.

Goal 4: Ensure the youth of Tennessee possess the attitudes, knowledge and behaviors that will not support or condone sexual violence.

Goal 5: Increase public awareness of the risks of sexual violence and that sexual violence is preventable.

Goal 6: Increase understanding of the importance of healthy relationships among the peers and parents of targeted youth for preventing sexual victimization in targeted regions of Tennessee.

Tennessee’s Sexual Violence Prevention Program exists to reduce the incidence of sexual violence by educating the public, providing training for law enforcement agencies and hospitals, and supporting direct services to victims and their support systems.

The Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Program in Tennessee supports education for middle and high school-aged youth, and for college-aged youth through the local health departments, and provides training and community education for professionals through rape crisis centers across the State. The Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is a non-profit organization composed of diverse community leaders and program members who share a common vision of ending violence in the lives of Tennesseans through public policy advocacy, education, and activities which increase the capacity of programs and communities to address violence. The Tennessee Department of Health contracts with the coalition to provide educational materials and information to the general public on the education and prevention of sexual assault. The Five-Year State Plan definitely draws a roadmap for reducing violence in the lives of Tennesseans.
THE EMPHASIS IS ON BREASTFEEDING
IN THE NEW WIC FOOD PACKAGE

Submitted by: Ann Hopton, MA, RD, LDN, Nutrition Services

A major goal of the Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) is to improve the nutritional status of infants. “The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly recommends breastfeeding as the preferred feeding for all infants, including preterm infants.”¹ A mother’s breast milk has the perfect combination of nutrients needed for her infant’s growth and development.² Therefore, Tennessee WIC mothers are encouraged to breastfeed their infants unless medically contraindicated. The New WIC Food Packages promote and support the establishment of successful long-term breastfeeding and strengthen WIC’s breastfeeding promotion efforts.

The new food packages provide incentives for initiation and continuation of breastfeeding. Breastfeeding mothers who do not accept formula from WIC receive more variety and larger quantities of foods than any other participant. Fully breastfeeding infants receive larger quantities and more types of infant food. Infant fruits and vegetables are introduced to all infants at 6 months of age. The fully breastfed infants receive infant fruits and vegetables and also infant meats.

The New WIC Food Packages distinguish between the fully breastfed, partially breastfed, and the fully formula fed infant. The differences in the nutritional needs of infants are based on age and feeding practice. WIC’s goal is to encourage mothers to breastfeed exclusively without supplementing with formula. If formula is issued, the goal is to provide as minimal amount of supplemental formula as is needed, while offering counseling and support to help new mothers establish their milk supply. Formula may only be issued after careful assessment of the mother and infant. In the birth month, on a case-by-case basis, only one can of powdered infant formula may be issued to breastfeeding infants. If the infant is issued any formula, the infant is considered partially breastfed. Compared to the previous food packages, even partially breastfed infants receive less formula so that mothers will feed more breast milk to their infants. Mothers who partially breastfeed receive a greater quantity and variety of foods in their food packages than mothers who fully formula feed.

Tennessee WIC is committed to assisting mothers in establishing and continuing to breastfeed in the critical weeks after birth and beyond. Federal WIC regulations contain provisions to encourage women to breastfeed and to provide appropriate support for breastfeeding. These provisions include breastfeeding education to pregnant women and for breastfeeding moms, peer counseling support, referrals to lactation experts, and breastfeeding aids such as breast pumps.

² http://www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks/Learning_Center/loving_support.html

TDOH - Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention (HDSP) Program

Submitted by: Debra Smith, Program Director

Heart disease is the leading cause of death among Tennesseans, just as it is with each of the other 49 states and the District of Columbia. Stroke is the third leading cause of death in Tennessee and is the leading cause of disability. Both heart disease and stroke have a significant impact in terms of health care costs, years of life lost, and lost income.

As a result of innovative and relentless efforts among the HDSP Program’s statewide partners, significant strides have been made in addressing heart disease and stroke in Tennessee. These include:
The Tennessee Stroke Registry Act of 2008, signed into law by Governor Phil Bredesen on May 20, 2008.

A [voluntary] Stroke Registry housed at East Tennessee State University
http://www.etsu.edu/cph/biostat_epidemiology/TNstroke.aspx

An increased number of hospitals in the state achieving Joint Commission Primary Stroke Center Certification (from 1 just a few years ago, to an impressive current total of 12).

A telestroke pilot project with Vanderbilt University Hospital as the hub and Hardin Medical Center as the spoke hospital.

Our program’s Web site contains relevant and useful information for the general public, as well as for clinical and non-clinical health professionals. http://health.state.tn.us/heartdisease/index.htm

In addition, we sponsor 3 annual training conferences that provide Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits. This year’s conferences are:

Critical Illness Systems of Care: Stroke, Cardiac Reperfusion, and Resuscitation [3/19]
Using Evidence-based Care Across the Continuum of Stroke Care [4/2]
Clinical Update: Current Best Practices with Acute Cardiac Care [5/1]

This fiscal year, our program received additional funding to implement a hypertension control and sodium reduction project in 1 hospital and 7 community health centers. High blood pressure is not just a risk factor for heart disease and stroke, it is also a disease. This project is focused in the West region of the state. The aim of the project is to promote blood pressure control and sodium reduction among diabetic patients through policy and system changes.

Again, our partners are proving to be a valuable resource in assisting the HDSP program. We are working collaboratively with the Tennessee Hospital Association and the Tennessee Primary Care Association to implement this project.

There is still much work to be done in reducing the burden of heart disease and stroke in Tennessee, and you are invited to partner with us! Please contact Chris Freeman, Health Promotions Director at Chris.Freeman@tn.gov or Debra Smith, HDSP Program Director at Debra.Smith@tn.gov to discuss partnership opportunities.

REGIONAL REPORTS

WEST TENNESSEE REGION

West Tennessee continues to offer innovative approaches to education across the region. In Hardin County U. T. Extension staff and the public health educator have formed a new partnership with the Hunter Hill Apartment Complex to encourage healthy choices for children and adults. “Parties” are held every other month in the Apartment Complex Community Room with a holiday theme. At the October program, “Goblin Up Good Health”, residents had the opportunity to taste healthy, yet creepy, Halloween snacks including eyeballs, intestines, scary hands and orange brew. Children decorated pumpkins and parents received a lesson on how they are grown and the healthy benefits of pumpkins. Other activities included bobbing for apples, making scary hands out of gloves and popcorn and a costume contest.

At the December program, “Flying in for Good Health”, residents had a visit from Santa Claus who gave everyone Health Rocks! Back-packs were provided that were stuffed with goodies including a GetFitTN Frisbee. Other activities included pictures with Santa and healthy holiday food tasting with recipes. Educational
materials covering a variety of topics from Hardin County Health Department and U. T. Extension were given to all parents. Attendance averages approximately 50 children and adults per session. The next event will be in February with a healthy Valentine theme.

West Tennessee Region recently went PINK in several counties with some successful programs. In Lauderdale County, the 2nd Annual "THINK PINK" event was held at the Tennessee Technology Center in Ripley. This event was sponsored by Commission on Aging, Bank of Ripley, Lauderdale County Community Living, Community Health Council, American Cancer Society, Lauderdale County Health Department, and other community leaders. This partnership was formed to provide support for cancer education and awareness as well as encourage woman over the age of 40 to schedule a yearly mammogram. There were several services offered to the 150 participants including screenings, education and healthy food demonstrations. The Mobile Mammography unit from Baptist Hospital was on hand for free breast cancer screening and provided 27 mammograms to participants during this event. A guest speaker, Linda Weeks inspired participants with a personal testimony of how to overcome hardships in your life, including breast cancer.

Utilizing an innovative and untried approach to dispensing flu vaccine in Tennessee, Gibson County residents were afforded the opportunity to receive the H1N1 Influenza vaccine at a “Drive-thru H1N1 Vaccine Point of Dispensing”. The Drive-thru POD was set up and operated at the main station of the Milan Fire Department on the morning of December 5, 2009. Partners for the event included: the Milan Police Department, the Gibson County Health Department, the Gibson County Emergency Management Agency, the Milan Fire Department, the Gibson County EMS, and the West Tennessee Regional Health Office.

With outdoor temperatures just above 20 degrees, 52 health department staff, firemen, police officers, and volunteers worked from 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to provide residents with an alternative to visiting their physician’s office or the county health department to receive the H1N1 vaccine. Without ever leaving the warmth of their vehicle, residents were able to complete their registration, patient verification, and receive their vaccination from staff manning stations along a predetermined route to and around the fire station. Once the necessary paperwork was complete and verified, residents were allowed to drive their vehicles into the fire department truck bays where teams of nurses administered the vaccine. Patients exited out the back of truck bays and were directed to an adjacent parking lot where health and EMS staff monitored patients for adverse reactions.

In all, 115 vaccinations were administered between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12 p.m. The majority of recipients were Gibson County residents; however, some visitors to the area took advantage of the POD operation as well. Vaccinations were given to Michigan, Illinois, and Texas residents who mentioned that they just followed the signs to the POD or that they learned of the event from the local media.

Overall, the event was considered a great success. It also provided local Public Health staff and Emergency Response personnel a chance to train and provide service to their community. During the POD debriefing, workers from all agencies noted that residents had nothing but positive things to say about the organization, the efficiency and the experience.
During the month of October, many events were held to promote “Kick Butts Day”. In Carroll County, a radio “Scream Out” promotion was held with each school having a designated time to call in and scream out “Don’t use tobacco”. In Gibson County, the Grim Reaper visited schools handing out smoke-free pledge cards while BuzzBee (the anti-drug mascot) taught students refusal skills. In Tipton County, white flags were displayed on school grounds to represent lives lost due to tobacco use. Hospitals in both Henderson and Decatur counties passed policies to designate their campuses as being smoke-free. Many educational programs or series were implemented in each county, including “Tar Wars”, “Smoke-Out Your Knowledge” and “I Can’t Breathe” with over 6,000 students participating.

**SOUTHEAST REGION**

**School-Located Vaccinations Make a Difference**

In an effort to make H1N1 vaccine more available to the target populations, the Southeast Region conducted a school-located vaccination campaign. School systems in nine of the ten counties partnered with local health departments and the Southeast Regional Office to provide this convenient option to students and school personnel. (One county school system felt their students had been adequately served by extended hours at the local health department and therefore opted out of school-located initiative.) For planning purposes, the assumption was that no more than 30% (13,806) of enrollment might elect to receive vaccine at school. Staff entered the process thinking that 15% might be more realistic.

A total of sixteen school systems partnered with the Southeast Region in this campaign. The regional office made forms available to each school system. Schools insured consent forms and Vaccine Information Sheets were sent home with all students. Parents were asked to return signed consent forms to their child’s school within three days and were very compliant. Schools quickly reported the number of returned consent forms to their local health department.

Based on the number of consent forms returned, regional office personnel developed the schedule for the week. The respective school systems confirmed dates and health department personnel were assigned. At final tally consent forms were returned for 21% (9,578) of the student populations!

The school-located vaccinations began on Monday, December 7, and ended on Tuesday, December 15. In eight business days, vaccinations were given in 89 schools. Over the course of those eight days 10,084 students received the H1N1 vaccine which represented 22% of the students enrolled! Many staff and faculty also took advantage of the opportunity to be vaccinated.

Plans are now in place for personnel to return and administer second doses to appropriate age groups.

Public health personnel involved in this campaign were excited about “taking clinic out of the clinic” to more conveniently meet the needs of people in the region. Regional administrators on several occasions praised the hard work and dedication evidenced by such an accomplishment. “The entire effort demonstrated what incredible things can be accomplished when we come together as a team with a unified purpose. All staff and programs involved with this effort are to be commended.” –Glenn Czarnecki, Regional Director.

**NORTHEAST TENNESSEE REGION**

The Washington County Health Department health educators recently partnered with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to hold a Mercury Thermometer Exchange for residents in the Northeast Region. Citizens brought their old mercury thermometers to the health department to exchange them for new, mercury-free thermometers provided by Environment and Conservation free of charge. Seventy-five thermometers were exchanged during the swap event.

In addition to the thermometer swap, representatives from the Policy Issues Subcommittee of the Washington County Health Council were on hand to provide the public with information about the dangers of radon gas as part of an ongoing Radon Action
Awareness Campaign. Residents were encouraged to sign up for a free radon test kit that will be mailed directly to their homes. They will then test their homes for the radon gas and mail the kits to Nashville for evaluation by Environment and Conservation. Residents should learn the results of their home test kit in a few short weeks. A total of 67 residents signed up for a free radon home test kit the day of the event.

To learn more about the dangers of mercury and radon on the home environment, visit http://www.tn.gov/environment/. A free radon home test kit can also be obtained by calling 1-800-232-1139.

EAST TENNESSEE REGION

On December 18, 2009 a group of students from Roane County High School brought some Christmas cheer to families in their Roane County. The students collected donations & purchased gifts for families participating in the HUGS & CHAD program at the Roane County Health Department. The party began with a reading of ”’Twas the Night Before Christmas”. Then everyone joined in to sing ”Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” as Santa arrived on his big red fire truck. As the kids took turns sitting on Santa's lap his elves brought in bags of toys for each child. Santa provided a bag full of clothes and toys to each child. The families then opened all of the gifts. Snacks were provided. The party brought the joy of Christmas to these families.

After more than 35 years service with the Department of Health, the East Tennessee Region said good-bye to Carole Martin on Wednesday, December 30th. Carole served many different roles and worked with many programs during her career in Public Health. Among these are the Home Visiting Program, Family Planning, WIC, and the Breast & Cervical Program. Carole briefly left the East Tennessee Region to work with Governor Alexander, but returned to the ETR after a long four months.

Carole has been a member of TPHA for over 25 years and served as East Tennessee Vice President, TPHA President, as well as chair for various committees. Congratulations to Carole for her years of service to the Tennessee Department of Health and for her service to the Tennessee Public Health Association.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

PROMOTING THE MESSAGE OF GOOD HEALTH

TennderCare outreach activities have contributed to a health screening ratio increase from 90.81% in 2007 to 94.05% in 2009 in the South Central Region. The TennderCare Outreach staff has provided an aggressive and effective outreach service to the Tenn Care population. A total of seven part-time staff provides outreach services within a 12-county rural area in the South Central Region.

Through community developed partnerships, TennderCare Representatives participate in a wide range of community events and activities to spread the TennderCare message. Faith-based organizations have been instrumental in assisting to provide outreach to the adolescent age group, an identified hard-to-reach population. Through school-based partnerships, staff has been involved in events such as:

- Back-to-school health fairs
- Annual Harvest Festivals
- Parent-Teacher conferences
- Family Resource Center activities

The physician referral program is another aspect of TennderCare outreach. It has been beneficial in minimizing the number of delinquent adolescent and young adult patients. Through home visiting, face-to-face counsel is provided to ensure patient follow up for needed services.

During the week of October 5-11, 2009, TennderCare staff promoted the importance of well-child exams through their involvement in local observances and events. Informational brochures were distributed in the community to provide awareness of program services.
MEDICATION CLEAN SWEEP

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), prescription drug abuse is on the rise, particularly in the teenage population. At least 47% of those who abuse drugs report getting them from a friend or relative (NSDUH, 2006). Prescription medicine is often easily accessible and can be found in the medicine cabinets of virtually any home.

In an effort to combat the problem of prescription drug abuse in the entire community, the Coffee County Health Council partnered with several local agencies to provide, “Medication Clean Sweep”, a prescription drug collection event. The event was designed to encourage local citizens to properly dispose of prescription drugs to decrease accessibility to those who abuse them and also lessen the harmful effects to the water supply when drugs are flushed down the toilet. Convenient locations were set up throughout the county where drugs could be dropped off and properly disposed. Participants could simply drive up, answer a few anonymous survey questions and leave the drugs.

The Coffee County Health Council partnered with the Coffee County Anti-Drug Coalition, Marcrom’s Pharmacy, Coffee County Sheriff’s Department, and Tullahoma Drug to provide the event in Tullahoma and Manchester. Medication Clean Sweep was held in Manchester on September 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Manchester Senior Center and on September 26 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Tullahoma Senior Center. Community participation was widespread in both areas with a collection of approximately 91 controlled substances and 59,500 pills. Additional information about prescription drug abuse can be found at www.prescription-drug-abuse.org.

UPPER CUMBERLAND REGION

On January 15, 2010, Judy Barclay retired after twenty-two (22) years of service to the Upper Cumberland Region. She began her career as a Public Health Nurse at the county level. In 1993, Judy became the Children’s Special Services (CSS) Director at the Upper Cumberland Regional Health Office. She quickly became the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Director. After serving in this capacity for several years, Judy held the Epidemiologist position with Emergency Preparedness. Two years later, she again accepted the role as MCH Director, where she remained until her retirement. Judy was instrumental in maintaining the Vanderbilt Genetics Outreach Clinic, in addition to many other achievements and contributions benefiting the region. The Upper Cumberland Region would like to express appreciation for her dedicated service to the department and the community.

MID CUMBERLAND REGION

LIFELINES PROGRAM IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Tennessee Department of Health Emergency Preparedness Program, in partnership with the Montgomery County Health Council, is offering assistance with emergency planning. Montgomery County is currently piloting the Lifelines program that may benefit individuals considered “at risk” of severe outcomes in an emergency. You may be at risk if:

- You have difficulty maintaining independence, communicating with others or have transportation concerns
- You live at home but need constant supervision or medical care
- You would need assistance during and after a tornado, ice storm, prolonged power outage or other emergency or disaster

During an emergency or disaster, one major concern is identifying and locating individuals who will need extra assistance. The Lifelines program assists in this effort by pre-registering these individuals through a self-identification application method detailing the person’s medical history, physical location, and any other pertinent information needed to appropriately care for each person in an emergency situation. Each participant is added into an emergency response
registry and is equipped with their own plastic storage tube (with cap and lanyard) to file away important medical and personal affects (medication, information on contact person, hearing aids, batteries, etc.) necessary to assist them in a crisis.

The Lifelines program asks persons interested to complete an “at risk” registry application. Some individuals may need assistance from a trusted friend, neighbor or caregiver to complete the application. Enrollment in the registry does not guarantee immediate or special treatment during an emergency or disaster. However, the participant’s information is updated to a registry to which emergency responders document the physical location of these persons with increased need and the specific location of the storage tube. This could be immediately updated when emergency responders arrive on the scene to further assist the participant.

Everyone is encouraged to have a personal disaster plan in place. Having more than one plan in place may help to ensure a positive outcome during a disaster or emergency. The time to plan for an emergency is before disaster strikes. For information on obtaining the Lifelines kit, please contact either Susan Cornell at 615-650-7041 or Brenda Harper at 931-648-7214.

"At Risk" Registry Application Forms are available at: http://www.montgomerycountytn.org/county/mayor/forms/lifelines.pdf
DATES TO REMEMBER

Tennessee Public Health Association/Southern Health Association Joint Meeting
“Great Challenges Bring Great Opportunities”
September 15-17, 2010
Cool Springs Marriott Hotel and Convention Center
Franklin, TN

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting
Theme: “Social Justice: Public Health Imperative”
November 6-10, 2010
Denver, Colorado

Middle Tennessee Meeting
“Middle Tennessee Public Health: Meeting the Challenge”
March 26, 2010
Williamson County Agricultural Center
Franklin, TN

East Tennessee Meeting
"East Tennessee Responds to the Challenge"
April 16, 2010
First Baptist Church
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Jackson/Madison County Health Department