

PUBLIC HEALTH

PREPAREDNESS UPDATE


August 2017

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Zachary Thompson, Director

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DCHHS works on the front lines with homeless

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) Tuberculosis Prevention, Housing Agency and Welfare divisions provided support services by assisting in relocating the homeless encampment at Second and Third Avenue this past month.

Through this initiative, DCHHS provided TB testing and assisted in relocating clients from under the bridge near interstate 30 to local shelters throughout the metroplex.

During planning initiatives, DCHHS found that many homeless individuals in these areas are refusing to accept being relocated to shelters in fear of losing their personal freedoms.

“Due to the various homeless encampments and the transit movement of the homeless, DCHHS will continue to look for chronically homeless who

will not sleep in a homeless shelter,” said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director.

“Working with the chronically homeless has many challenges, however, DCHHS will continue to intervene by identifying homeless encampments in Dallas County and providing TB testing in addition to other public health services.”

DCHHS assisted the City of Dallas, City Square, VA, and other agencies in moving the homeless from the encampments.

By working with various organizations, the services provided by DCHHS at the homeless encampments are a testament of DCHHS’ commitment to protecting the health of all citizens through promotions of a healthy community and environment.



DCHHS Relocating homeless at Second and Third Avenue in Dallas



Clients at homeless encampment openly share their story with DCHHS

Assessment of Fair Housing

DCHHS participated in a series of public meetings to assess fair housing in Dallas County. The public Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) meetings were set as a cornerstone to discuss the historical perspective of fair housing and undertake

activities to correct any identified impediments in current housing standards. Director Zachary Thompson joined the conversation along with the cities of Dallas, Garland, Irving and other surrounding Dallas County cities to help iden-

tify existing issues within fair housing; fair housing planning requirements and guidelines.

The initiative was lead by North Texas Regional Housing Assessment whose assessment consist of not only comprehensive analysis of

housing, but employment, transportation and accessibility challenges as well. For more information on future meetings, visit the below link.

www.northtexasrha.com



2017 Assessment of Fair Housing meeting at Pleasant Oaks Recreation Center



2017 Assessment of Fair Housing meeting at Kidd Springs Recreation Center

Healthcare rallies and health fairs



Director Zachary Thompson attended the “50 Hoops National Prostate Cancer Basketball Tournament and Health Fair” at the Lancaster Senior Center



Director Zachary Thompson was a speaker at the Rally for Healthcare at Klyde Warren Park.

West Nile, Zika & emergency preparedness education continues

Public health educator Marisa Gonzales continues to discuss Zika virus, West Nile virus (WNV) and emergency preparedness throughout Dallas County. DCHHS announced seven human cases of WNV and one WNV death so far this year.



Special immunization clinics held before back-to-school rush hits



Left to right: Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) Coordinators Larry McDonald and Delores Lacy.



New light church rally

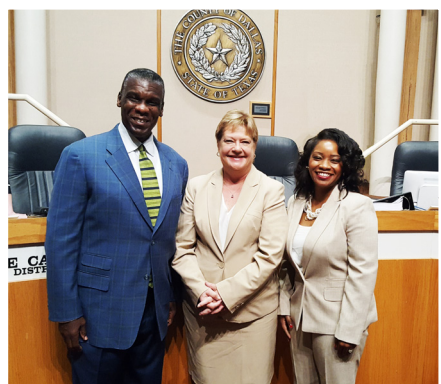
To emphasize the importance of vaccinations and preparing for the school year early, DCHHS partnered with New Light Church and a host of participating vendors to of-

fer free immunizations, free school supplies, free haircuts and giveaways to help parents check off their back-to-school to do list.

Mayor's back-to-school fair

Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins lead the DCHHS immunizations team in providing free vaccines to more than 90 students for this upcoming school year at Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings Annual Back-to-School Fair.

County Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel presents National Immunization Resolution



Left to right: DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson, County Commissioner Theresa Daniel and Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins.

Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel presented the National Immunization Resolution to DCHHS for the organizations immunization efforts and in recognition of National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM).

NIAM is an annual observance to promote the benefits of immunizations and to highlight the importance of vaccination.

"DCHHS continues to raise awareness about the im-

portance of vaccines, and urge parents and guardians to review immunization records and act now," said Tammara Scroggins, DCHHS asst. director public health communicable disease.

To help curb the back-to-school rush, DCHHS continues a series of free back-to-school events throughout the month of August.

The next event is scheduled for Aug. 12 at the main DCHHS clinic located at 2377 N. Stemmons

Fwy., in Dallas from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

This event marks the busiest time of year for DCHHS immunizations staff.

DCHHS has also partnered with Forest Lane Academy located at 9663 Forest Lane in Dallas to participate in a Health Fair set for Aug. 17. DCHHS immunization staff will be at the fair from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. administering back-to-school vaccines.

Avoid long lines now by attending one of DCHHS' remaining events

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Retirement Announcements



Ruby McGilbra served 30 years and now steps into retirement

Retirement for Ruby McGilbra, STD Clinic process support supervisor, marks the end of working for DCHHS and the re-birth of a new beginning. After 30 years and 2 months, Ruby retires from DCHHS leaving countless impressions on the lives of her peers and Dallas County residents. It is with great honor that DCHHS can wish Ruby all the joy and happiness that retirement can bring.



Mary Ferrier begins a new chapter in retirement

Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) Mary Ferrier sails into a new chapter of retirement. Mary is retiring from the Tuberculosis Prevention division with more than 12 years of dedicated service. As Mary says her final farewells, DCHHS celebrates her notable and gracious influence throughout the organization. With immense pleasure, DCHHS gives Mary best wishes on her next adventure.



DCHHS
Safe families, healthy lives.

Dallas County Health and Human Services



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