

PUBLIC HEALTH

PREPAREDNESS UPDATE



November 2017

Volume 13, Issue 10

Zachary Thompson, Director

www.dallascounty.org/hhs

PAGE 2

Health fair organizers aim to prevent HIV and connect community resources

DCHHS discusses women in leadership

Hot topics in teen pregnancy

PAGE 3

Home ownership dreams made a reality

DCHHS hands over the keys of retirement to Estela Jacques

Supporting millions of women impacted by breast cancer

PAGE 4

Interested in volunteering with MRC?

State of Texas awards DCHHS preparedness leadership for Hurricane response

DCHHS' Hurricane Harvey response



Left to right: Senior Planner Richard Esparza, MRC Coordinator Larry Henderson, Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins, DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson and Public Health Preparedness Manager Renee Owusu-Ansah.

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) honorably announces the acceptance of the 2017 Texas Preparedness Leadership Award.

The award was granted Oct. 11 by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for DCHHS' 2017 Hurricane Harvey Response from Aug. 28 through Aug. 31, 2017.

Harvey became the first of three major hurricanes throughout the US (Hurricane Irma in Florida and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico) to cause catastrophic damages during the 2017 hurricane season.

Acting as a supporting organization, DCHHS' core capabilities of volunteer management, mass care, public health surveillance and epidemiological investigation were

initiated.

As DCHHS took to action, the Texas Gulf coast braced for the first major hurricane to make landfall in the United States since Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

"Thousands of families have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey; it is our obligation to be at the forefront of emergency response when called upon," said Tammara Scroggins, DCHHS asst. director public health communicable disease.

"It is with great honor to announce DCHHS is the recipient of the 2017 Texas Preparedness Leadership Award. We accept this award with high esteem remembering all agencies who were a part of the emergency response."

Hepatitis A hits the public health radar during flu season

The Dallas County Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) held its final quarterly meeting of 2017. Called to order by Commissioner John Wiley Price, the meeting began with DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson introducing Epidemiologist Sonya Hughes to provide West Nile, Zika and Flu updates throughout Dallas County.

Also on the agenda, Hepatitis A was introduced to the PHAC as a

potential emerging public health concern.

During the meeting, Senior Planner Richard Esparza shares lessons learned from California's current Hepatitis A outbreak.

Currently, there are no known outbreaks in Dallas County; however, DCHHS has issued recommendations for Hepatitis A prevention to Homeless Service providers throughout the county.



Left to right: Senior Planner Richard Esparza, Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins, DCHHS Medical Director/Health Authority Dr. Christopher Perkins, Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, Epidemiologist Sonya Hughes and DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson.

Health fair organizers aim to prevent HIV and connect community resources

DCHHS joined the Mexican Consulate hosting a number of events over the past few weeks. In observance of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) offered free HIV testing Oct. 16.

Later within the month, DCHHS participated in the 2017 Mexican Consulate Health Fair. During the fair, DCHHS administered the flu vaccine to participants and offered free STD testing at Mountain View Col-

lege. In addition, health educators provided public health preparedness and tuberculosis materials.

“Building a bridge between families and community and resources are essential to having a thriving community,” said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director.

“Partnering with these organizations help promote stronger connections by creating a welcoming setting that allows our services to be administered directly to residents.”



Hot topics in teen pregnancy

DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson participated in a discussion on teen pregnancy prevention throughout Dallas County.



DCHHS discusses women in leadership



During a commissioners court session, Asst. Director Public Health Tammara Scroggins met with students attending Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School (LULAC Chapter) who were guests of Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia.

During the visit, Asst. Director Scroggins discusses DCHHS programs and services highlighting public health essentials, education, preparedness and disease prevention encouraging young women to consider roles within

public health and leadership.

“I wanted these ladies to know that opportunities exist in whatever career path they choose,” said Tammara Scroggins, asst. director public health communicable disease.

“Identifying opportunities and setting goals are essential to success. With a vast variety of career paths and social dynamics today, understanding diverse work settings will aid them in being exemplary women in leadership.”

Home ownership dreams made a reality: Kenya Littlejohn lands her forever home

Meet Kenya Littlejohn and her two girls, seven-year-old Jordan and four-year-old Layla. Kenya recently landed a three bedroom Seagoville home this past month after much sacrifice and financial planning.

With the help of the Dallas County Home Loan Counseling Center, Kenya prepared for homeownership by participating in HLCC's credit repair workshop, financial literacy seminar and the first time home buyers program. After working with HLCC she was soon at the closing table, purchasing her forever home.

"I began the process in January starting with the credit repair workshop. After the workshop, I called Angie, my assigned counselor. I

saw Angie every month beginning in February," said Kenya Littlejohn. "At first, I tried to delay the process; however she held me accountable for my goals and said no, you're coming in!"

Kenya's story is very unique and one that many can relate to. After experiencing a life changing event, Kenya discusses how she regained her independence and personal need to establish a stronger foundation for her two girls, Jordan and Layla.

"Once my daughter started school in August, I told myself, it's time to start the process."

Kenya takes us on a ride as she discusses her financial situation and credit before working with HLCC.

"I had never written out all of my

spending. I eventually began to track all my purchases. It's a good practice because although I know I have money...where is it going? Seeing it on paper helps. Angie and I did an expense report spreadsheet that was very detailed."

Now, 11 months later, with only two months of actually searching for a home, Kenya has found herself on the opposite side of the classroom ready to help her family and friends prepare to close on their first home.

"Throughout the process, I gained a personal relationship with Angie. What I learned is something that I can never lose. I'm not sure if I can teach the same classes; however, I can now say I am in a position to be able to counsel friends and fam-

ily who are interested in purchasing their first home. Right now, my sister and mother are going through the same process with HLCC. I hope to see them complete the process as well."

In addition to participating in all three classes the HLCC offers, Kenya was also awarded down payment assistance through the Upfront Cost Assistance Program (UPCAP).

To find out how you can become the next first-time home buyer through HLCC's programs, visit www.dallascounty.org/departments/hhs/homeloan.html for more information or call 214-819-6060.



Supporting millions of women impacted by breast cancer

DCHHS staff came together to raise awareness for breast cancer and wore pink to show their support.



DCHHS hands over the keys of retirement to Estela Jacquez

For 16 years, Home Loan Counseling Senior Secretary Estela Jacquez has helped hundreds of homeowners prepare to close the deal. Subject matter expert with credit repair, home loan counseling and the first time home buyers pro-

gram, Estela, has paid the ultimate down payment to securing deal. As she opens the doors to a journey in life, DCHHS hands over the keys of retirement and wishes Estela a warm fair well.



Interested in volunteering with MRC?

Annually, the Dallas County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) hosts an open house for volunteers and those seeking to become volunteers. Whether licensed medical professionals or non-medical, participants learned about the roles they can fill within the organization.

The annual open house provides an overview of MRC and what DCHHS has to offer volunteers. MRC volunteers are trained to supplement local medical response to public health emergencies by helping

to set up and operate temporary emergency clinics. These clinics are established as a location to dispense mass quantities of antibiotics, vaccinations, or other medications during a local public health emergency.

Volunteers are also trained to support emergency medical response to mass sheltering operations. From personal preparedness to psychological and first aid training, DCHHS MRC offers a wide variety of emergency training for medical personnel.



Left to right: Public Health Educator Marisa Gonzales, Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins, Public Health Educator Janecia Holley, Field Nurse Supervisor Tomika White, Epidemiologist Dr. Julie Martellini, Public Health Manager Renee Owusu-Ansah, STD/HIV Supervisor Felicia Barnett, MRC Coordinator Larry Henderson and Senior Planner Richard Esparza.



MRC open house participants.



MRC Coordinator Larry Henderson with MRC participant.



MRC open house participants.



Public Health Preparedness Division

2377 North Stemmons Freeway

Dallas, TX 75207

214-819-2000

www.dallascounty.org/hhs

Zachary Thompson, Director

Dr. Christopher Perkins, Medical Director/Health Authority

About This Newsletter

Public Health Preparedness Update is published monthly by Dallas County Health & Human Services. For information about this newsletter, contact DCHHS Public Information Officer Renae Crutchfield at 214-819-6329 or renae.crutchfield@dallascounty.org

Sign up for e-mail and text updates or follow us on social media @DCHHS

