

PUBLIC HEALTH

PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

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Ganesh Shivaramaiyer, Interim Director

www.dallascounty.org/hhs**PAGE 2**

Ryan White Planning Council discusses strategic planning

Southern Dallas receives free STD testing, free flu shots and community education

Ventanilla de Salud Consulate General of Mexico

PAGE 3

Find the hot spots in your yard: squash mosquito breeding

Engage at every age: Celebrating Older Americans Month

PAGE 4

DCHHS Welcomes Older Adult Services Program Manager Mark Edwards

Health Authority sits in on maternal mortality panel discussion

DCHHS connects Medicaid Waiver Program to TB and STD initiatives

During a recent Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) meeting, DCHHS shares ongoing initiatives with Dallas County's Medicaid Waiver Program. In 2011, the Medicaid 1115 Healthcare Transformation Waiver Program established two statewide funding pools: Uncompensated Care (UC) and Delivery System Reform Incentive Payments (DSRIP).

Texas Health and Human Services (TDSH) provides an overview of the program outlining that UC is designed to help offset the costs of uncompensated care provided by hospitals or other providers. DSRIP provides incentives to hospitals and other providers that develop programs or strategies to enhance access to health care, increase the quality of care, and enhance cost-effectiveness of care provided and the health of the patients and families served (TDSH).

The goal of DSRIP is to incentivize providers to transform their service delivery practices to improve quality, health status, patient experience, coordination, and cost-effectiveness. STD and TB profiles released from

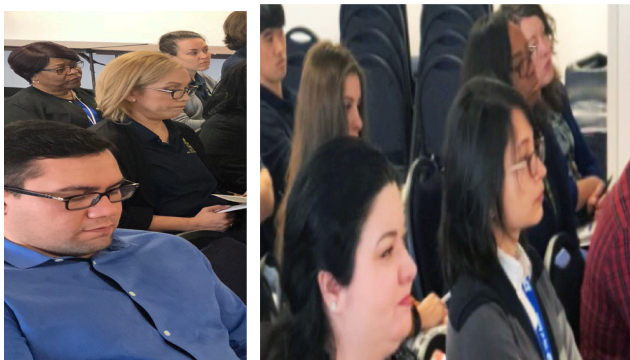
DCHHS and a 2017 Community Health Needs Assessment from Regional Health Partnership 9 (RHP9) indicate a great need for expanded prevention programs in Dallas County.

"The goal of Dallas County's DSRIP program is to reduce the rate of communicable disease such as STD, HIV and TB," says Woldu Ameneshoa, DCHHS Medicaid Waiver Program manager. "Our efforts are also focused on increasing utilization of preventative services in under served communities to make a greater impact on public health."

The supportive role of DCHHS' Medicaid Waiver Program is geared towards education and health promotion, reducing the course of TB treatment, increasing follow up after treatment for syphilis and several measures of expansion for DCHHS immunization, STD and TB clinics. Over the course of implementation of the program's sustainability and expansion plan, DCHHS intends to intensify collaboration with local public, private and non-profit organizations.



PHAC hears strategic initiatives from Medicare Waiver Program Manager Woldu Ameneshoa.



Audience of Dallas County staff and residents hear updates from PHAC

Ryan White Planning Council discusses strategic planning: 2018 Retreat



Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price and DCHHS Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaier speaking with the Ryan White Planning Council.

DCHHS kicked off the 2018 Ryan White Planning Council retreat with Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, Public Health Advisory Committee Chair John Wiley Price and DCHHS Interim Director being welcomed by RWPC Chair Lionel M Hilliard.

During the retreat, Grants Administration, Quality Administration and RWPC leadership were at the top of the agenda. RWPC committee drivers

discussed the Dallas Eligible Metropolitan Area Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan, Continuum of Care, Standards of Care, the 2016 Comprehensive Needs Assessment, and evaluation mechanisms.

Committee breakout sessions took place with review of allocations, planning and priorities, evaluation, consumer council and needs assessments.

Southern Dallas receives free STD testing, free flu shots and community education: District 3's Health Fair

Reducing the gap to accessible public health services continues to be DCHHS's mission towards informing, educating and empowering Dallas County residents.

April 14, Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) joined District 3 City Council member Casey Thomas' health fair at Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center. During the fair, visitors were welcomed with a number of free health services.

Educators Marisa Gonzales, Tanisha McCarroll and Golnaz Anbar

discussed West Nile virus protections and raised awareness surrounding Tuberculosis (TB) while DCHHS Immunizations and HIV/STD divisions offered free flu shots and provided free HIV/STD testing. "District 3's health fair provides an opportunity for health care professionals to bring health screenings to southern Dallas," said Ganesh Shivaramaier, DCHHS interim director. "DCHHS encourages residents to take advantage of free services made available."



Left to right: Phlebotomist Whitney Lloyd, Volunteer Erin Peterson, STD/HIV Manager Shirley Jefferson, Volunteer Tracey Jefferson and Disease Intervention Specialist II Sanina Turner.

Ventanilla de Salud Consulate General of Mexico

Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaier honorably accepts an invitation to speak at the Ventanilla de salud de Consulado de Dallas.

The week long conference brings together Directors from over 80 cities recognizing the important contributions of health workers in reaching under served members of the Latino/Hispanic community.

"Bridging the gap and opening the doors for access to public health services will continue to be our focus," said Ganesh Shivaramaier, DCHHS interim director. "Continuing to foster close relationships and building a safe and friendly environment is essential to our mission of disease prevention and intervention."



Left to right: UT Southwestern Medical Center Vice President of Community and Corporate Relations Ruben E. Esquivel, DCHHS Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaier, Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia, UT Southwestern Medical Center Executive Vice President of Institutional Advancement Marc A. Nivet, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs IME, Ambassador Juan Carlos Mendoza, Consul General of Mexico in Dallas Francisco de la Torre Galindo, Secretariat of Health of Mexico General Director of International Relations Hilda Dávila.

Find the hot spots in your yard: squash mosquito breeding

As temperatures rise in Dallas County, mosquito activity begins to increase with pesky mosquitos ready for their annual return. Dallas County Health and Human Services' (DCHHS) mosquito team is monitoring activity throughout Dallas County while the DCHHS laboratory continues to test mosquitoes for West Nile virus (WNV).

At the first sign of mosquitoes testing positive for WNV, DCHHS will conduct ground spraying to treat impacted areas. With the help of Dallas County municipalities, DCHHS is prepared to respond.

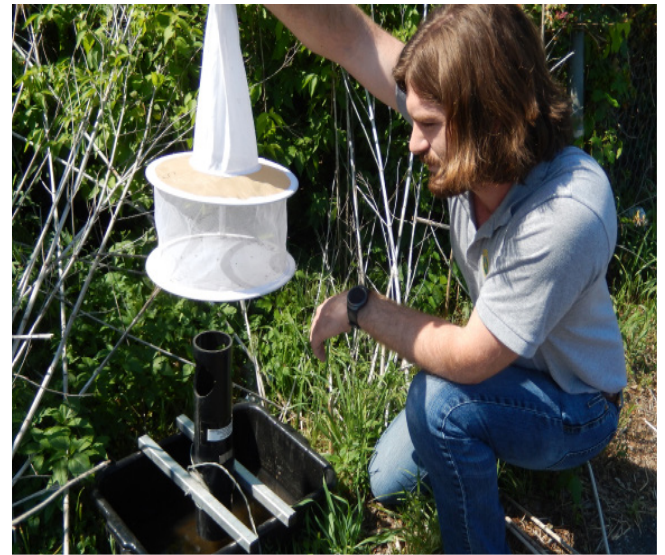
As with every season, warm weather calls for outdoor entertaining and DCHHS urges residents to do their part to prevent mosquito-borne illness.

With burgers sizzling on the grill and kids running wild in the backyard, mosquitoes may be the last thing on your mind. DCHHS recommends fighting the bite by wearing EPA approved insect repellent and mosquito-proofing your home now.

Remove standing water where mosquitoes could lay eggs - find the hot spots and squash mosquito breeding in your yard before it starts.

Treat your yard with water soluble insect repellent.

Inspect your windows and door screens for holes and patch them up.



DCHHS Entomologist Van Adams examines mosquito traps.

Engage at every age: Celebrating Older Americans Month

Every May offers the opportunity to hear from, support, and celebrate our nation's elders. This year's OAM theme, "Engage at Every Age" emphasizes the importance of being active and involved, no matter where or when you are in life.

You are never too old (or too young) to participate in activities that can enrich your physical, mental, and emotion well-being. It

is becoming more apparent that remaining socially engaged can improve the quality of life for older adults.

May 10, DCHHS continues to celebrate Older Americans Month by providing free flu shots and WNV prevention materials at the 24th Annual Older Americans Month Information and Health Fair at Centennial Hall in Fair Park.



Older Adult Services Program Manager Mark Edwards celebrating Older Americans Month with performers at the Dallas County Jefferson Senior Center.



Dancers perform at the Jefferson Senior Center.

DCHHS welcomes Older Adult Services Program Manager Mark Edwards

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) welcomes Mark Edwards as the new Program Manager of the Older Adult Services Program.

Mark has a strong executive leadership background and most recently was the Associate Director for the National Kidney Foundation. With passions for grant writing, working with schools and faith based organizations, Mr. Edwards continues his passion for people by taking

on his new role with Dallas County.

“People drive by purpose and lead by example,” said Mark Edwards. “My goal within this position is to expand upon current goals and enrichment activities to make the most prominent impact achievable.”

DCHHS invites residents to learn more about the Older Adult Services Program and ongoing initiatives by calling 214-819-1860 or visiting the DCHHS website.



Health Authority sits in on maternal mortality panel discussion

Afiya Center is a Dallas Based organization who focuses on the response of the increasing disparities of HIV and other incidences among Black women and girls.

Recently, the organization celebrated Black Maternal Health Week inviting DCHHS to sit in on a panel discussion regarding maternal mortality across the state of Texas.

Panelist included The Natural Way

Project Director Nikia Lawson, Crafts Wombman Certified Birth Worker Abena Adu, Afiya Center Executive Director Marsha Jones and UT Dallas Student Allyson Glover.

Joining the conversation, Dallas County Health Authority Dr. Christopher Perkins and Early Intervention Clinic (EIC) Supervisor Linda Norman R.N. discuss health disparities in maternity care.



DCHHS
Safe families, healthy lives.

Dallas County Health and Human Services



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