DCHHS Meets with Key Leadership for the Fast Track County Initiative to End the HIV Epidemic

DCHHS brought together key leadership to discuss the Dallas Fast Track County initiative to end the HIV epidemic. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together key leaders in Dallas County, provide a background on Fast Track Cities/Counties efforts, review HIV data in Dallas County and get consensus and support for our community to be a Fast Track County. The Fast-Track Cities initiative is a global partnership between cities and municipalities around the world and four core partners – the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat), and the City of Paris. Launched on World AIDS Day 2014, the initiative today includes more than 250 cities and municipalities that are committed to attain the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets by 2030:

- 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status;
- 90% of persons living with HIV will be on sustained anti-retroviral treatment (ART);
- 90% of all HIV-diagnosed people receiving sustained ART will achieve viral suppression;
- 50% reduction in the number on new HIV infections;
- Zero stigma

As the initiative’s primary technical partner, IAPAC supports Fast-Track Cities with: technical assistance to local health departments on data generation, monitoring, and reporting; implementation planning among key local stakeholders; capacity-building support for clinical and service providers, community-based organizations, and affected communities; eliminating HIV-related stigma in healthcare settings; and assessing quality of life among communities of people living with HIV. DCHHS along with Judge Clay Jenkins and Mayor of Dallas Eric Johnson will sign the Paris Declaration in August.

“Dallas County has the right people, the experience and the passion to accomplish these goals if we work together as a community”, said DCHHS Director, Dr. Philip Huang. “This Fast Track County effort will also help us to operationalize the state Achieving Together plan.” Achieving Together is a community plan to end the HIV epidemic in Texas. Texas will become a state where HIV is rare, and every person will have access to high-quality prevention, care, and treatment regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and socio-economic status.
DCHHS provides health updates at Commissioner Daniel’s Town Hall meetings

DCHHS provided public health updates at Commissioner Daniel’s town hall meetings. Residents could attend one of the four scheduled town hall meetings where Commissioner Daniel shared the latest information about Dallas County government. Residents were able to learn, talk and ask questions about Dallas County and District 1. Special guests included: elected officials, Health and Human Services Dr. Philip Huang, District Attorney John Creuzot, Tax Assessor John Ames, and Parkland Hospital representative Dr. Ismael Porsa. DCHHS Director Dr. Philip Huang provided health updates on measles, STI/HIV and West Nile virus. Participants received mosquito repellent and additional public health information.

Reliant “Beat the Heat” Centers Open for 10th Year in Time for Summer Heat

For the 10th consecutive year, Reliant’s Beat the Heat Centers will provide a safe and comfortable place for Dallas-area residents to stay cool during the day and reduce the need for home electricity use during the hottest days of the summer. This year, Reliant will donate 90 Artic Air portable fans to community center visitors to keep cool in their homes. DCHHS Director, Dr. Philip Huang joined Reliant’s press conference at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. “This effort really does save lives each year. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 1999-2009 an average of 658 people in the U.S. died each year from heat related illnesses. In Dallas County last year 9 people died of heat related illness, all of which could have been prevented.”

Beat the Heat Cooling center locations:
- West Dallas Multipurpose Center, 2828 Fish Trap Rd.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 2922 Martin Luther King Blvd.

For more information about Dallas County Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) and Emergency AC Program call 214.819.1848 or Weatherization Assistance Program 214.819.1909. https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/heat-safety.php
DCHHS Older Adult Services Program hosts Senior Site Council Symposium

DCHHS Older Adult Services Program (OASP) hosted the Senior Site Council Symposium. With over one hundred seniors in attendance, Commissioner John Wiley Price shared his words of inspiration. “There is a Japanese saying that goes, we judge a society by how we treat our youth in the sunrise of their lives and how we treat our seniors in the sunset of their lives”, he said. “You are in the sunset of your life and are able to enjoy the benefits that you helped to create. Thank you and may God continue to bless you.”

The symposium had special guest speakers and breakout sessions discussing estate planning, finances, elderly assistance, mental health, Medicaid and more. “We are able to help you with the resources you may need” said Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia. “You have a partner with Health and Human Services.” She presented a resolution to the seniors for Older Americans Month which takes place every year in May.

DCHHS hosts Health and Wellness Fair

DCHHS hosted their annual health and wellness fair this spring. Over 30 health and wellness vendors and free health screenings such as vision, hearing, biometric screenings, and dental. The central purpose of the DCHHS annual health fair is to help individuals be healthier by seeking to engage in conversation about common health issues or concerns. This also provides opportunities for participants to learn how to help themselves and their families to become or stay healthy and perhaps inspire healthy lifestyle changes like smoking cessation and exercise.
Dallas County Employees of the Month

Dallas County Commissioners Court recognized two dedicated DCHHS employees for the months of May and June. Richard Esparza, Senior Planner-Public Health Preparedness and Edna Turner, Financial Administration. These employees were recognized for their dedication and hard work. Mrs. Edna Turner was also recognized for her years of service and retirement.