

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS UPDATE


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DCHHS Opens Housing Choice Voucher Program



DCHHS opened its Housing Choice Voucher Program, formerly known as Section 8 waitlist. This program helps low income residents rent, decent, safe and sanitary housing. Additionally, it provides financial assistance, counseling, and housing inspection services. The last time the waitlist opened was in 2011. This year pre-applications were accepted electronically, from Thursday, March 7th at 12 pm to Friday, March 8th at 11:59 pm (CST). This prevented historically long lines and wait times for individuals and families who needed assistance. For those who did not have access to a computer, they were encouraged to use their local library, community center, college campus or anywhere computers with internet access were accessible. Individuals with disabilities that required assistance with the on-line pre-application were able to access computers at DCHHS. There were two teams of employees during the pre-application period. One team on the first floor, escorted participants up to the seventh floor to the kiosks that were set up for on-line pre-applications. The second team assisted applicants on the computers. “The new system is going very well”, said Thomas Lewis, Assistant Director of Housing “Everyone that has applied to the wait list has an opportunity to receive a voucher.” The final count of pre-applications was 13,119 making this year’s Housing Choice Voucher Program a huge success.



L-R: Dallas County Security-Percy Young; IT Senior System Analyst-Karl Warren, Asst. Director of Housing-Thomas Lewis, Housing Inspector-Michael Whitfield, Case Manager-Jennifer Lee, Case Manager Supervisor-Felicia McGee, Fiscal Monitor-Hortencia Dominguez, Portability Case Manager-Vanessa Jones and Housing Inspector-Brandon Smith



Case managers assist individuals with Choice Housing Voucher Program pre-application process

DCHHS Recognizes World Kidney Day

March is National Kidney Month. More than 5.1 million adults in the United States have kidney disease, according to the National Health Interview Survey, which is conducted by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Vital statistics from NCHS show that in 2017, kidney disease was the 9th leading cause of death in America. There are an estimated 280,000 Texans with kidney disease, and most don't know they have it. It is imperative that attention be brought to this often-overlooked, but increasingly common disease whose major risk factors are diabetes, high blood pressure, family history of kidney failure and over the age of 60. The National Kidney Foundation urges everyone to: get tested, reduce use of anti-inflammatory medications, cut processed food consumption, exercise regularly and drink plenty of water. "Kidney disease doesn't have a 'look'," said National Kidney Foundation Director of Development Tiffany Archibald. "As a former Division I and International professional basketball player, most wouldn't look at me and know that I contribute to the chronic kidney disease (CKD) statistics. CKD doesn't discriminate, it affects all ages, gender and races, even though African



L-R: Public Information Officer-Marisa Gonzales; Dr. Bruce Wall-Dallas Nephrology Associates, National Kidney Foundation-Amanda McConnell, DCHHS Director/Health Authority Dr. Philip Huang

Americans and Hispanics are impacted at higher rates." DCHHS partnered with the National Kidney Foundation to promote early detection of chronic kidney disease by offering free kidney health screenings on Thursday, March 14th where 120 screenings were conducted.



National Kidney Foundation team members with DCHHS Public Information Officer-Marisa Gonzales and Epidemiologist-David Jung

DCHHS Director attends Big Cities Health Coalition meeting in Washington, DC

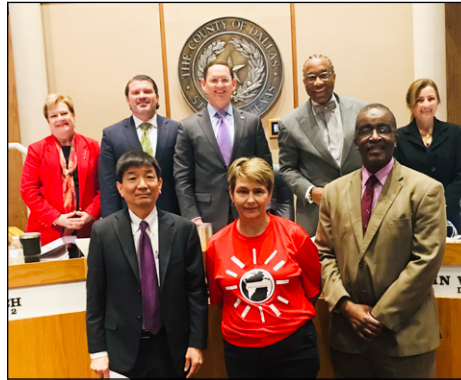


DCHHS Director/Health Authority, Dr. Philip Huang attended Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) meeting in Washington, D.C. The BCHC is a forum for the leaders of America's largest metropolitan health departments to exchange strategies and jointly address issues to promote and protect the health and safety of the 62 million people they serve. These public health officials directly affect the health and well-being of nearly one in five Americans. Public health officials made a "Hill visit" to visit with local and state congressional representatives.

DCHHS Director/Health Authority Dr. Philip Huang pictured with Stephen Williams, Director of the Houston Public Health Department outside of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's office.

Dallas County Recognizes 2019 World Tuberculosis Day

The Tuberculosis (TB) Division received a Resolution from the Dallas County Commissioners Court in recognition of World Tuberculosis Day. Each year, World TB Day is recognized on March 24. This annual event commemorated that date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacillus that causes tuberculosis. World TB Day is a time to recognize achievements in TB prevention and control, and renew the commitment to ending this devastating disease in the United States. In 2017 there were 1.3 million TB related deaths worldwide and one quarter of the world's



*L-R top row: Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel, Commissioner J.J. Koch, Judge Clay Jenkins, Commissioner John Wiley Price and Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia
L-R bottom row: DCHHS Director/Health Authority-Dr. Philip Huang, TB Elimination Program Manager-Laura Gomez and DCHHS Medical Director-Dr. Christopher Perkins*

population had TB infection. Additionally, 2017 was the highest number of TB cases occurred in African Americans, Asians and Hispanics between the ages of 19 and 44. An average of 15% of the TB cases in Dallas County over the past 5 years also had diabetes. The number of TB cases in Dallas County has decreased since 1993 by 36% and collaborative efforts in treating TB infection resulted in a 5% increase of clients completing treatment in Dallas County.

The TB staff provided information about TB, gave tours of the TB clinic and offered free TB testing in recognition of World TB Day.



TB Elimination Team brings awareness and education about TB to the community



DCHHS hosts Tuberculosis Disease and Prevention Webinar



As an extension of World TB Day, DCHHS hosted a webinar about Tuberculosis Disease and Prevention. The webinar was led by Dr. Garry Woo, Medical Director of TB Division. The webinar addressed general information about TB such as testing and treatment, TB surveillance and data, TB transmission and risk factors. “Up to 13 million people in the United States

have latent TB infection, and without treatment, are at risk for developing TB disease in the future”, said TB Program Manager Laura Gomez, “that is why it is important to create awareness and educate the community about TB.” For more information on where to get tested for TB please visit our website: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/tuberculosis-treatment.php>



L-R: TB Health Educator Tanishia McCarroll, Epidemiology Program Planner-Dr. Julie Martellini, Medical Director TB Division-Dr. Garry Woo and Public Information Officer-Marisa Gonzales

DCHHS hosts University of Iowa students

DCHHS hosts University of Iowa students during their spring break. These students are part of the Hawkeye Service Team which is a learning program with the university. This program is divided into 13 areas, one of which is public health. Their goal was to learn more about public health, specifically in Dallas. "We chose to tour Dallas County Health and Human Services because there is no better source of information than the ones working with public health on a daily basis", said University of Iowa student Ashley Sitzman. "We are so appreciative of the tour of DCHHS, it was incredibly informative and far exceeded anything we could have expected. It will definitely be the highlight of our trip" she continued to say.



University of Iowa students Hawkeye Service Team



Medical Director Dr. Christopher Perkins speaks to University of Iowa students about public health



DCHHS
Safe families, healthy lives
Dallas County Health and Human Services



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