

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS **UPDATE**


January 2019

 Volume 15, Issue 1
 Ganesh Shivaramaiyer, Interim Director

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DCHHS Participates in the 28th Annual Kwanzaa Fest

The 28th annual KwanzaaFest was held on December 8-9 at the Automobile Building in Fair Park. Activities included 5K walk/run, exhibitors and vendors offering holiday gifts, consultations and services, Kids Fest, live entertainment and free health screenings. “We have everything you could ever want here at Kwanzaa Fest”, said Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price. “We welcome you to this enjoyable family event that embodies all of the principles of Kwanzaa. Come out and be a part of this community...your community”, he continued to say. DCHHS offered free STD/HIV screenings and flu shots. Information about TB, Home Loan Counseling, Weatherization Assistance, Older Adult Services, Public Health Preparedness and CEAP were also provided to participants of the event. For 28 years, Kwanzaa Fest has brought one of the largest free events in the metroplex.



Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaiyer, Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, Ram Kalpat-Sound O'Rama LLC

In 1991, KwanzaaFest rolled out its inaugural run and has continued ever since. The first KwanzaaFest was held at Lincoln High School and attracted approximately 1,000 patrons.

KwanzaaFest, a 501(c) 3 organization, and its contributions to the north Texas communities it has served for the past 28 years have been plentiful and varied. The annual festival that hosts more than 50,000 people during a two-day event (the second weekend in December) at Fair Park in Dallas, Texas, has become a staple of substantive family friendly activities and services needed by the community. KwanzaaFest has maintained its FREE admission to the public, thanks to the vast number of sponsors.

KwanzaaFest, Inc., coordinates the planning and implementation of this event through volunteer staff. This event is truly an effort by the community for the community.



L-R: Interim Director Shivaramaiyer and County Administrator Darryl Martin



DCHHS attends 2018 National Ryan White Conference

DCHHS Ryan White staff attended the 2018 National Ryan White Conference on HIV care and treatment. It is recognized as the largest national conference for comprehensive HIV care and treatment providers, Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients and stakeholders. The conference took place December 11-14, 2018 in Oxon Hill, MD. This year's conference theme, "Catalyzing Success: Advancing Innovation. Leveraging Data. Ending the HIV Epidemic." The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program's national goals for ending the HIV epidemic include:

- Decreasing new HIV infections
- Reducing HIV-related health disparities
- Improving access to HIV care and treatment without stigma and discrimination



Justin Henry- Health Planner for the Ryan White Planning Council Office of Support



L-R: Sonya Hughes-Asst. Director Ryan White Grant Compliance, Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramayer, Sonia Contreras-Health Advisor, Wanda Scott-Program Monitor, Dr. Oscar Salinas-QA Manager, Carla Jackson-Program Monitor, Chief Russell Roden-DA's Office, Charles Price-Interim Purchasing Director

- Achieving a more coordinated national response

"The Ryan White National Conference was an extraordinary learning opportunity for our team. We heard from world renowned leaders in the field and learned about leveraging data and advancing innovation to end the HIV epidemic", said Sonya Hughes, Assistant Director Ryan White Grant Compliance.

At the 2018 National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care and

Treatment, Justin M. Henry, Health Planner for the Ryan White Planning Council Office of Support, presented information on lessons learned from conducting the 2016 Comprehensive HIV Needs Assessment of the Dallas Area. The results encouraged the Planning Council to create a committee solely dedicated to refining the process to capture feedback from the HIV community and reduce gaps and barriers to client access to medical care.

National Survey on Drug Use and Health Coming to Dallas County

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) will be conducting surveys in the Dallas County area beginning in January. The NSDUH is authorized by the Section 505 of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 290aa4) and is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The NSDUH is a scientific, national survey of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized

population aged 12 years and older. "DCHHS supports this very important mission by NSDUH which seeks to identify the extent of substance abuse, detect trends and determine the need for treatment services", said Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramayer. The purpose of the study is to provide up-to-date information on alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, mental health and other health-related issues. For more information on the survey please visit <https://nsduhweb.rti.org/respweb/homepage.cfm>



DCHHS Hosts S.T.O.P School

DCHHS hosts the quarterly S.T.O.P of STD/HIV”, said STD/HIV Program (Solicitors, Traffickers & Offenders Manager Shirley Jefferson. For more of Prostitution) School.

The course is tailored for solicitors, traffickers and offenders of prostitution. This one day class provides instruction to attendees about prostitution laws, street facts to sex addition and recovery. DCHHS offers STD/HIV education and testing, which is required of all participants, during the course. “This

is yet another effort to educate the community to help mitigate the spread information please visit <http://www.pdinewlife.org/>



STD/HIV Program Manager-Shirley Jefferson

DCHHS meets with DCCCD Chancellor

DCHHS met with Dallas County Community College District Chancellor Dr. Joe May to discuss accessibility and affordability of meningococcal vaccine, a requirement for college students. Students in grades 7 through 12 attending public or private school are required to have one dose of meningococcal vaccine. Incoming

college and university students in Texas are required to receive the MCV4 vaccine before attending school. Meningococcal disease can refer to any illness caused by the type of bacteria called Neisseria meningitidis, also known as meningococcus. These illnesses are often severe and can be deadly. They include infections of



Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaiyer, Dallas County Judge Clay Lewis Jenkins' office Health Policy Advisor Ruby Blum and Immunizations Nurse Supervisor Barbara Davis meet with DCCCD Chancellor Dr. Joe May and DCCCD staff

DCAO Collaborates with DCHHS in Offering Help and Hope

In collaboration with the Dallas County Auditor's Office (DCAO), DCHHS adopted a family during the holiday season. The DCAO provided the donated items with DCHHS selecting the family and delivering the provisions. The family of seven selected, received clothes, diapers and school supplies.



L-R: Masooma Hyder-Interim Asst. Director of Finance, Budget and Contracts, Denise Ramirez-Case Manager, Maria-Family Recipient, Tina Blakely-Welfare Supervisor, Marisa Gonzales-Public Health Health Educator

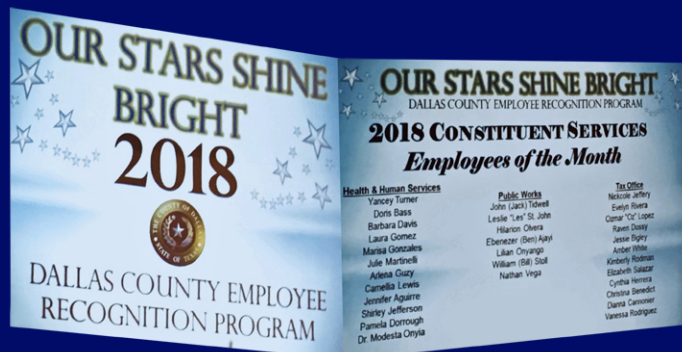
the lining of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) and bloodstream infections (bacteremia or septicemia). One of the barriers that students face is the access and associated cost to the required vaccine for college. “Schools need to ensure students are vaccinated for higher learning”, said Dallas County Community College Chancellor Joe May. DCHHS provided staff with a list of providers in the Dallas County area that offer the vaccine at little or no cost which may go a long way in mitigating said barriers. “The challenge to vaccinate students in a timely manner, prior to their ushering into college, is one that we must address”, said Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaiyer. To learn more about meningococcal disease and vaccine requirements please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/>

<https://dshs.texas.gov/immunize/PreteenVaccines.aspx#MeningVac>

Dallas County Hosts Employee Recognition Reception

Twelve DCHHS employees were recognized by Commissioners Court for their hard work and dedication to the organization and the residents of Dallas County. These employees represent the exemplar that Dallas County hopes

to recruit and retain. Immunizations Nurse Supervisor, Barbara Davis was selected as a County Operations finalist for employee of the year. Congratulations to all of the employees of the month!



L-R: Kelly Hall-Assst. Director Human Resources, Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaier, Doris Bass-CEAP Manager, Dr. Modesta Onyia-STD Clinic Supervisor, Barbara Davis-Immunizations Nurse Supervisor, Laura Gomez-TB Program Manager, Dr. Julie Martinielli-Epi Planner, Jennifer Aguirre-Immunization Nurse, Marisa Gonzales-Public Health Educator (not pictured Yancy Turner-Weatherization Assistance Program Supervisor, Pamela Dorrough-Clerk IV Employee Services, Camellia Lewis-HR Tech III Employee Services, Arlena Guzy-Jackson-Stanfield Health Center, Shirley Jefferson-STD/HIV Program Manager)



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



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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 at 214-819-1929 or PIO_DCHHS@dallascounty.org

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