

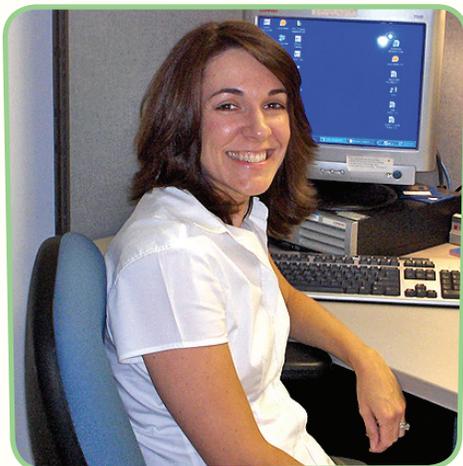
Alabama's health

A publication of the Alabama Department of Public Health

Athens Social Worker Jennifer Lord Donates Kidney

How far would you be willing to go to help another? What if you could help save a life? Social worker Jennifer Lord of the Limestone County Health Department went the distance when she made a living sacrifice by donating a kidney to the son of a former co-worker and friend.

Ms. Lord once had been employed as a social worker at Limestone Correctional Facility and knew the mother of Ryan



Jennifer Lord hopes her experience will inspire others.

Collins. Ryan was born with prune belly syndrome, a condition which occurs in one in every 40,000 live births. Ryan's kidneys were diseased, but fortunately he had been able to receive a kidney transplant from his father as a youngster and had become one of the longest living kidney recipients in Alabama.

But at age 30, Ryan again became ill because his kidney began shutting down and his doctors determined that he needed a second kidney transplant to survive. No one in his family was a match.

Meanwhile, Ms. Lord saw a poster with a phone number encouraging others to join the database for kidney donation in order to obtain a possible kidney match for Ryan. Ms. Lord volunteered to be screened and was not ruled out initially. She then provided additional blood samples and went through an entire battery of tests before she was miraculously determined to be a match.

"I left it in God's hands," she said. "The Bible says to count the costs. I am a girl originally from New Jersey, and I wonder why was I brought to Alabama. Maybe I came here just so my kidney could give Ryan life."

A graduate of Georgia State University, Ms. Lord moved to Athens where her sister lives. She met and married her husband there and joined the Alabama Department of Public Health on Dec. 1, 2006. She is employed in the home health program.

The surgery was accomplished with success at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital on May 2. Ms. Lord was able to return home the next day, but she experienced some complications including fever.

"I prayed for Ryan," Ms. Lord said, "and I was able to start healing. I was hurting,

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2007 Safety Belt Poster Contest Winners Urge 'Buckle-Up Alabama!'

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade entered their posters in the 2007 "Buckle –Up, Alabama!" Poster Contest. The use of child safety seats and safety belts has been shown to be the most effective measure in preventing and reducing serious/fatal injuries during motor vehicle collisions.

"It is encouraging to see Alabama's children participate in such a contest and take the initiative to become educated about seat belt and restraint usage," said Victoria Broussard, health educator. "We hope that through activities such as this, Alabama's children and parents will continue or begin to buckle up--Buckle-Up Alabama!"

2007 Poster Contest Winners

KINDERGARTEN

1st Place, Katherine Moore, Trinity Presbyterian School, Montgomery

2nd Place, Natalie Watts, Garywood Christian Academy, Pleasant Grove

Honorable Mention

Madison Wisner, Odenville Elementary, Odenville

Jonathan Cunningham, Vernon Elementary, Millport

Leah Meriwether, Alabama Christian Academy, Montgomery

FIRST GRADE

1st Place, Mary Kathryn Morgan, Monroe Academy, Monroeville

2nd Place, Dakota Coleman, Lyeffion Jr. High School, Evergreen

Honorable Mention

Hyeonjeong Park, Heritage Elementary, Madison

Olivia B. Roberts, Vernon Elementary, Sulligant

Hunter Lind, Odenville Elementary, Odenville

SECOND GRADE

1st Place, Maggie Bounds, Columbia Elementary, Madison

2nd Place, Winter Thorington, Trinity Presbyterian School, Montgomery

Honorable Mention

Allison Houlton, Head Elementary, Montgomery

Erica Smith, Harlan Elementary, Florence

Grant Hopkins, Heritage Elementary, Madison

THIRD GRADE

1st Place, Laremey Griffith, Marengo Academy, Thomaston

2nd Place, Allison Joyner, Monroe Academy, Monroeville

Honorable Mention

Sharley Miller, Hayden Elementary, Warrior

Rachel Donaldson, East Memorial Christian Academy, Prattville

Kendall Galloway, Vernon Elementary, Vernon

FOURTH GRADE

1st Place, Tina Tran, Weeden Elementary, Florence

2nd Place, Ryan Garrett, A.H. Watwood Elementary, Childersburg

Honorable Mention

Anisa Heilman, Odenville Elementary, Odenville

Donnie Murphy, Weeden Elementary, Florence

Wynter Young, Weeden Elementary, Florence

FIFTH GRADE

1st Place, Connor Morgan, Monroe Academy, Monroeville

2nd Place, Katie Gray Carolson, Trinity Presbyterian School, Pike Road

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Alabama Department of Public Health
 Mission
 To serve the people of Alabama by assuring conditions in which they can be healthy.

Value Statement
 The purpose of the Alabama Department of Public Health is to provide caring, high quality and professional services for the improvement and protection of the public's health through disease prevention and the assurance of public health services to resident and transient populations of the state regardless of social circumstances or the ability to pay.

The Department of Public Health works closely with the community to preserve and protect the public's health and to provide caring quality services.

Alabama's Health

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- Donald E. Williamson, M.D.** State Health Officer
- Jim McVay, Dr. P. A.** Director, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease
- Arrol Sheehan, M.A.** Editor
- Takenya S. Taylor, J.D.** Contributing Editor
- Noelle Ahmann** Graphic Designer

Alabama Newborn Screening Initiatives Are Designed to Better Protect Alabama Infants and Their Families

The Alabama Newborn Screening Program tests infant blood and hearing for signs of unseen inherited or acquired disorders that have the potential for disastrous results if left undetected or untreated. A series of newborn screening initiatives has been designed to provide even better protection for Alabama's infants and their families.

These initiatives include the following:

1. Implementation of the Alabama Newborn Screening Division on Jan. 1, 2007. This new division was created based on a recommendation of a panel of experts who made two site visits to Alabama to observe the existing program and to make recommendations for its improvement.

2. Expansion of the Newborn Screening Program screening panel from 24 to 29 disorders by December.
3. Training for blood specimen collectors.
4. Re-vitalization of its advisory committee.
5. Statewide publicity regarding the program and its value to infants and their families.

Improvements in the Alabama Newborn Screening Program are among the ways the department is attempting to reverse the sudden increase in the state's infant mortality rate and to provide even better protection for Alabama's infants and their families. This initiative is one of State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson's strategies to reduce infant deaths in Alabama.

The new division is composed of the NBS Laboratory Branch, formerly included within

Alabama's Bureau of Clinical Laboratories, and the NBS Follow-Up Branch, formerly included within the Child Health Division of the Bureau of Family Health Services. The NBS Division brings both branches under a single director, located within the Bureau of Family Health Services. Although currently geographically separated, it is hoped that bringing both branches within the same organization will have profound effects on NBS efficiency and effectiveness.

Bob Hinds, division director, stated, "The Alabama Newborn Screening Program, which was already an excellent, award-winning program, stands ready to do even more to save lives and reduce the consequences of unexpected infant medical catastrophes."

Based on the research and study of organizations such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of Medical Genetics, the March of Dimes recommends all state NBS programs adopt a screening panel of 29 disorders.

The Alabama NBS Division has accepted the March of Dimes recommendations as the goal to which it should strive. On Jan. 1, 2007, the Alabama NBS panel of tests included 21 of the 29 recommended tests. On April 16 an additional three disorders were added. Later this summer four more will be added bringing the Alabama panel to



St. Vincent's Hospital-East in Birmingham is one of the first hospitals in Alabama to achieve the statewide goal of less than 5 percent unsatisfactory newborn screening blood specimens. Shown are Andrew Gnaun, Administrative Director of Operations; Laurell Thornton, Phlebotomist; Ernesto Obregon, Blood Bank and Phlebotomy Manager; and Mary Harrington, Director of Laboratory Services. Ms. Thornton was given special recognition for her important role in keeping the unsatisfactory rate below statewide guidelines. Her co-workers honored her, nurses and all phlebotomists with refreshments.

Discharge Planning Summit Supports HIV-Positive Inmates

The Alabama Department of Public Health, the Alabama Department of Corrections and community-based groups collaborated with the National Partnership Network Alabama to host a summit to explore ways to ease the transition of HIV-positive inmates in returning to society. The National Prison Network Re-Entry/Discharge Planning Summit was held Feb. 22 in Montgomery.

According to Prison Initiative Manager Adisa Griffin, "The summit proved to be a great forum to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of re-entry planning from a variety of perspectives." As it was in the summits in 14 other states, he further noted that re-entry planning and post-release care for HIV-positive inmates is "a complex and resource intensive process."

An estimated 50 to 60 HIV-positive inmates are released from Alabama prisons annually. The total number of positive inmates on a given day averages between 250 and 300, including about 20 to 25 female inmates.

Major barriers the summit addressed included stigmatization, housing shortages, and recidivism. Even a seemingly minor concern which can pose a major barrier is securing state-issued identification for recently released inmates. The Prison Program works with partners to create a seamless continuum of care for HIV-positive and recently released inmates.

Griffin commented about his experiences in the state, "I was struck by the unique level of passion and commitment that I found in Alabama. This passion was exemplified by the nearly 100 registrations submitted by Alabamians expressing their desire to attend the summit."

Attendance at a typical statewide network meeting ranges from 20 to 35 participants. Griffin further complimented Elana Parker, then director of the Program Collaboration and Special Projects Branch of the HIV/AIDS Division, for "the stellar turnout and enthusiastic response" by stakeholders to the summit.

Together they attended graduation ceremony for prisoners in the Many Men Many Voices Program at Limestone Correctional Facility and visited Aletheia House, a community-based substance abuse and treatment center in Birmingham that helps recently released HIV-positive inmates with employment, temporary housing, counseling and connections to health care.

Partners who provided assistance included Gregory Underwood, executive director of the Urban Proactive Education and Prevention Project; Warden Billy Mitchem, Limestone Correctional Facility; Deputy Warden Patricia Hood, Tutwiler Prison for Women; and Associate Commissioner of Health Services Ruth Naglich.

In addition to the summit, Griffin attended the department's Public Health and Corrections Forum which provided an opportunity to meet dedicated health, corrections and community-based stakeholders working on public health and corrections issues.

NMAC's Prison Initiative, in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, seeks to increase access to, and use of, HIV prevention and care resources for people living with HIV due to a history of incarceration. To accomplish this goal, the program fosters and supports statewide collaborations among stakeholders from corrections, health departments, and community and faith-based organizations. NMAC supports these networks with comprehensive, consumer-driven capacity building assistance and resources.

Ms. Parker has taken on new responsibilities with the Bureau of Professional and Support Services as re-entry coordinator and public health liaison based at the Alabama Department of Corrections in Montgomery. Her contact information is as follows:

*Elana M Parker, M.Ed., M.L.A.P.
(334) 353-4933
elana.parker@doc.alabama.gov*



Alabama Rural Health Association Recognizes Rural Health Champions

The Alabama Rural Health Association recognized several of Alabama's rural health champions in a ceremony April 20 at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa. Recognition of these very special individuals and organizations concluded the annual Rural Health Conference, presented by the Institute for Rural Health Research at the University of Alabama.

Marsha D. Raulerson, M.D., a pediatrician in Brewton (Escambia County) since 1981, was recognized with the Rural Health Provider Exceptional Achievement Award. Dr. Raulerson has earned great respect for being a local, statewide and national agent for change in improving services for children and families. When she started practicing in Brewton, the exceptionally high number of children without pediatric services prompted her to start conducting a free, monthly clinic at the county health department that continues to be the medical home for hundreds of area children. She and Dr. Tom Vaughn from Birmingham are now conducting telemedicine interviews with several patients, providing mental health services that are not locally available. This "tele-psychiatry" program is generating considerable statewide and national attention.

Dr. Raulerson's leadership positions include being president of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, lead spokesperson for the CARE Coalition, president of the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, member of the State Subcommittee of Public Health, member of the State Board of Medical Examiners, member of the Medical Association's Board of Censors, member of the Physicians Advisory Committee for Alabama Medicaid, member of the State Perinatal Advisory Committee, and president of the Escambia County Medical Society. She has been recognized by Kid One Transport for her exceptional advocacy for the children of Alabama.

The Black Belt Eye Care Consortium was recognized with the Rural Volunteer Excellence in Service Award. This innovative consortium is a combined effort of Sight Savers of Alabama, the UAB Rural Alabama Diabetes and Glaucoma Initiative, Eye Care Alabama, the UAB Department of Ophthalmology, Vision Research Corporation, Impact Alabama: FocusFirst, the UAB School of Optometry and the Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association.

Through the efforts of these organizations there are approximately 75 screening days per year in schools, day cares and health fairs throughout the Black Belt. Almost daily, a child in the Black Belt is sent for a vision-related appointment. In counties with limited or no access to eye care, the Black Belt Eye Care Consortium pulls together and plans an eye clinic, bringing the resources to those who need them the most. Eye care professionals from across Alabama travel to a site in the Black Belt and create a full-service eye care facility to meet the needs of local citizens who have already been identified via screenings.

Through the voluntary activities of this consortium, over 12,100 Black Belt children have received vision screenings with over 1,600 receiving follow-up care and over 270 receiving vision saving treatment. Over 3,000 adults have received vision screenings with over 1,200 receiving follow-up care.

The Alabama Poison Center (APC) was recognized with the Billie Gilliland Exceptional Contribution To Rural Accident Prevention Award. This center is a telephone information resource for both the public and health care professionals throughout Alabama. APC is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation governed by a statewide board of directors. The center is staffed by qualified nurse specialists trained in toxicology. Toxicologists and consultants in many fields provide back-up for the specialist

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Tractor Injury Victim's Life Saved by Physical Therapist's Intervention

Patients sometimes call their physical therapists miracle workers, and in Kerry Richardson's case this appellation is no exaggeration. Rehabilitation Consultant Barbara Davis related this story she had learned about in a very casual way.

Richardson was seeing a patient in Lamar County around his lunch time. While doing gait training on uneven surfaces he was walking outside with the patient when he heard a noise. He said it did not sound like a distress call, but that it was unusual. He continued on with the patient and they returned to the house.

When he returned to the house with the patient he said that he "just didn't have any peace" and felt that he needed to go back outside and investigate. He went back outside, got in his car, and headed in the direction of the noise he had heard. He found a man lying in a field. His leg had been essentially torn off. He was conscious and told Kerry his name and the name and phone number of his brother. Kerry called 911 and then the man's brother. The man told Kerry that he had been in a tractor accident about 90 minutes earlier and had crawled to the location where Kerry found him.

Kerry assured him that he would be all right, laid hands on him and prayed for his life. Kerry looked in his car for something to use to stop the bleeding. Kerry was carrying a large black bow in his car because his father-in-law had just died and the black ribbon was to be placed on their mailbox. Richardson quickly untied the ribbon which he used to wrap the dying man's leg. At this point the man had little blood remaining. Kerry continued to reassure the victim until the rescuers arrived about 10 minutes later. The victim was airlifted to Tuscaloosa where his leg was amputated above the knee. Now in rehabilitation, Richardson continues to see the man whose life he saved as his physical therapist.

Rural Health, cont'd from page 5...

in poison information. The center is located in Tuscaloosa. APC is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and has been serving the citizens of Alabama for 20 years. Over 400 thousand people have used this service. Goals of the center are to provide telephone management and consultation advice, poison prevention materials, public and professional educational presentations, data collection concerning types of poisonings and treatment, and research. For poisoning emergencies, call 1-800-222-1222.

This award is named in honor of the late Billie Gilliland, wife of State Trooper Chuck Gilliland. Billie was a long-time champion of accessible health care for the residents of Butler in Choctaw County and was lost to a tragic automobile accident en route to interview a physician candidate for her clinic.

By DALE QUINNEY

Safety Belt, cont'd from page 2...

Honorable Mention

Anna Moses, Julian Harris Elementary, Decatur
Rayme Santorum, Columbia Elementary, Madison
Shaye Lackey, Coosa Valley Academy, Talladega

Sixth Grade

1st Place, Mitch Nolte, Saks Middle School, Anniston
2nd Place, Matthew Chan, Columbia Elementary, Madison

Honorable Mention

Kaleigh Brannan, Grand Bay Middle School, Grand Bay
Ashley McDaniel, East Memorial Christian Academy, Prattville
Catherine Buttrey, Our Lady of the Valley School, Indian Springs

Retirees

The following department employees have retired recently:

June

Carol Signorelli - Limestone County Health Department
Mac Spurlin - Center for Emergency Preparedness

July

DiAnne Hamilton - Public Health Area VI
Bettye McNear - Health Statistics
Rachel Taylor - Randolph County Health Department
Donna Young - Lauderdale County Health Department

Officials Act to Help Keep Nursing Home Residents Safe

By Kenneth Mullinax

This article/photograph is reprinted by permission of the Montgomery Advertiser. It appeared in the June 20 issue.

Because of the care and commitment of two state public health officials, Alabama is one of five states in the nation to have an automatic fire sprinkler system in every one of its nursing homes.

Victor Hunt and Bill Coleman began their push in 2004, a year after nursing home fires in Connecticut and Tennessee claimed more than 30 lives. In charge of facilities management for the state Health Department, the men oversee the safety of 24,000 nursing home residents.

"Today, Alabama's nursing homes are among the best protected facilities in the nation because these two men corrected a loophole in the code that could have cost countless lives," said Dr. Donald Williamson, the state health officer.

Hunt and Coleman decided to act after finding that Alabama, like Connecticut and Tennessee, didn't require certain older nursing homes -- those that had a concrete frame with fire retardant steel girders -- to have a sprinkler system. Of the state's 242 nursing homes, 74 either had no or incomplete sprinkler systems.

The men's plan won support on all sides -- their bosses, the nursing home industry, firefighters and families.

Health department board members thought 100 percent compliance was key and decided nursing homes without sprinklers wouldn't be licensed to operate. After the board acted, Williamson said, the state and the Alabama Nursing Home Association formulated a three-year timetable that has enabled every nursing home to meet code.

"These two men at public health are heroes for making this code revision before a life was lost," association spokesman Mike Jordan said of Hunt and Coleman. "Their proactive foresight and the department's quick action is commendable."

Firefighters like that the plan focused on prevention.

"When automatic fire sprinklers are present, the chance of people dying in a fire is reduced by up to 75 percent," said Maj. Johnny George, Montgomery Fire Department's deputy fire marshal.

The sprinkler requirement gives peace of mind to the family of 93-year-old Weita Fay Garner, a patient at Montgomery's Capital Hill Health and Rehabilitation Center.

"Since she is unable to get up and move in a hurry, we feel it's important to make sure she has as much time as possible to get away from a fire," said Betty Dozier, her daughter. "These new sprinklers help buy her that time."

Both men are modest about their accomplishment. Coleman, the facilities management director, and Hunt, his deputy, insist they don't deserve any accolades because they were merely doing their jobs.

Hunt, though, acknowledged that he has a sense of fulfillment about what he and Coleman have achieved.

"For the rest of my life, whenever I hear of a fire that broke out at a nursing home and it didn't amount to much because of fire sprinklers, it will give me a great feeling of satisfaction," Hunt said.

Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer, and Eddie Jackson, president of the Alabama Nursing Home Association, held a news conference May 31 to make the announcement that Alabama's nursing homes are now fully sprinklered.



Mickey Welsh Photo

Victor Hunt, left, and Bill Coleman, right, display a sprinkler head like the ones used in Alabama's nursing homes. The two men pushed to be sure automatic fire sprinkler systems were installed at all state nursing homes.

Mission Meltaway Participants Praise Program that Focuses on Healthy Eating, Physical Activity

May 21, 2007, marked the end of yet another successful Mission Meltaway taught by Steps to a HealthierAL in Pike County. Eighteen of the 36 participants completed the program with 51.6 pounds lost, bringing a grand total of 567.6 pounds lost since Steps to a HealthierAL started Mission Meltaway in January.

Mission Meltaway participants share their experiences:

“Mission Meltaway has not only given me great teaching tools and a great learning experience, but it has also helped me with my depression and helped to get me out of the house and motivated.”

“You all have helped to start me and my family on a road to a healthier lifestyle—thank you all!”

“I experienced a better way of eating after changing my eating habits. I also learned that physical activity is a way of motivating my lifestyle.”

“This was a very good experience. I learned more about healthy eating and positive ways to lose weight and to become healthier without dieting.”

“It helped to get me to doing things again like walking and reading food labels.”

“Exercise is very important and can be fun. I will fit more exercise time into my schedule.”

When asked how they felt about Mission Meltaway, the Steps staff had these comments: Adam Dubose, worksite coordinator, stated, “I believe Mission Meltaway is a very empowering program that allows participants to share what has and what hasn’t worked for them.”

Christy Hill, project director, said, “I think the program has been such a success because the participants set their own goals and work individually to achieve them.”

Brandi Baker, health program advisor, stated, “It has been great for the community to support our program and to get involved in becoming a healthier community.”

Malissa Allen, senior nutritionist from the State Steps Office, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease, provides technical assistance for the program.

The next Mission Meltaway is set to begin either in August or September. And as one participant said, “Please keep this program going. We need help—adults and kids—to become healthier.”

Mission Meltaway is a free eight-week weight loss program focusing on developing a team approach to healthy eating and increasing physical activity. Team members motivate each other with the goal of achieving steps toward good health and meet once a week for educational classes covering a range of topics including menu planning, nutrition, physical activity, diabetes and stress management.

Steps to a HealthierAL is a five-year grant (now in year three) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in association with the Alabama Department of Public Health. Its mission is to serve the people of Southeast Alabama to reduce the prevalence and burden of obesity, diabetes and asthma.

Steps service includes programs and initiatives focused on individuals, families, community organizations, environmental enhancements, and government and policy changes to facilitate improved nutrition, physical activity, tobacco avoidance and health care access. The lead agency for Steps is Charles Henderson Child Health Center.

For more information about this and other programs contact Steps to a HealthierAL at (334) 566-7600 ext 2885, steps@troybabydoc.com, or by visiting www.adph.org/stepssar.

Kidney, cont'd from page 1....

but I was glad that I was in my own bed. I kept praying for him. He is getting married in July."

Since the transplant, Ms. Lord said she has been improving each day. Not one to rest she returned to work two weeks later. Plus she and her husband moved during this same time period.

Ryan Collins' condition has made a real turnaround now that he has a new kidney.

"I am thankful that both of my kidneys were perfect and I could give one of mine to him. I don't feel any different physically now and I don't feel off balance. When God knitted me together it was awesome."

In an update to her colleagues, Ross Hudson, Public Health Area 2 social work director, wrote, "She is a wonderful person and an inspiration to so many."

She added that she has had no second thoughts about her gift, "I encourage everyone to be tested and to be a kidney donor—you have one kidney to keep and another one to give away. I hope this article inspires other people to give."

The National Kidney Foundation Web site (www.kidney.org) offers information on living donations of kidneys and other tissues. Further information on joining the national registry of organ donors is available at the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network Web site (<http://optn.org>).

Alabama ranks in the top five states for deaths from chronic kidney disease, according to a newly published report "Special Task Force on Chronic Kidney Disease Report" which is available on the department's Web site, www.adph.org.

Breastfeeding Q&A

Does my breastfeeding baby need to be on a schedule?

Breastfed infants may nurse as often as every two to three hours. This is about 8-12 feedings in a 24-hour period. Daily breastfeeding patterns vary and sometimes breastfed infants will want to nurse more frequently. Human milk is easily digested and newborns have very small stomachs. Watch for signs of hunger rather than the clock. Signs of hunger include: mouth movements, lip-smacking, sucking on hands or fingers and yawning.

Commendations

Health department employees who are listed here have received letters of commendation recently. To recognize other employees, please send letters through your supervisors or the state health officer to *Alabama's Health*.

Brenda Beech
Dennis Etheridge
Erin Jimerson
Washington County
Health Department
from *Rena Carpenter,*
LCSW, ACSW
Grove Hill, Ala.

Jane Belanger
Nancy Esham
Baldwin County
Health Department
from *Rena Carpenter,*
LCSW, ACSW
Grove Hill, Ala.

Theresa Mulkey
Center for Health Statistics
from *Robert L. Hopper, III*
Grand Junction, Colo.

Loula Walker
Health Provider Standards
from *Russell E. Summerlin*
David A. Janes
Bob Hollingsworth
National Committee
for Support of
the Guard and Reserve

Keith Wright
Health Promotion
and Chronic Disease
from *Scott Jones*
and TB Control Staff
Montgomery, Ala.

Newborn, cont'd from page 3....

28 of the 29. And in December 2007 the final disorder will be added making Alabama one of the few states in the country to screen for all 29 disorders.

In screening for these 29 primary disorders sufficient information is collected to call attention to the possibility of up to 20 secondary disorders. Therefore, the Alabama NBS panel may, in fact, include almost 50 possible disorders.

Another panel recommendation was the need to reduce the number of unsatisfactory blood samples collected at each testing site. To address this problem Alabama's five perinatal regional directors were enlisted to go to each of Alabama's 58 birthing hospitals and over 500 physician offices to provide training on the proper techniques for collection, storage and transportation of these critical samples. This training is well underway and great things are expected as a result.

Finally, the Alabama Newborn Screening Advisory Committee, a committee of Alabama's finest NBS experts, has been re-instituted and is providing the program with new ideas and suggestions for even more improvements.



Pictured, left to right, are coordinators Rachael Montgomery, Lisa Carter, Gayle Whitley, Kathy Warren, Catherine Hanks, Cindy Ashley, Deannie Morris, Abbey Swead, Melissa Tucker, Danita Rollin, and Bob Hinds (foreground).

Hinds concluded, "The Alabama Department of Public Health is making every effort to inform our citizens of the steps being taken to improve the NBS program. The goal is for Alabama to have the best NBS program in America, but the real benefit from all these changes will be determined by the number of future infant lives saved and the expected improved health and welfare of our Alabama families."

For more information about newborn screening, contact Bob Hinds at (334) 206-5553, bhinds@adph.state.al.us.

Alabama Statewide Cancer Registry Receives Gold Certification

The Alabama Statewide Cancer Registry was recently awarded Gold Certification by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) once again for excellence in data completeness, data timeliness and data quality. NAACCR awards Gold Certification each year to those state cancer registries which pass 100 percent of EDITS criteria and attain a 95 percent or greater cancer incidence reporting rate.

Cancer became a reportable disease in Alabama with Act 95-275. Since that time, the ASCR staff has worked closely with healthcare facilities and reporting sources throughout the state to ensure all cancer cases are reported to the ASCR in a prescribed format according to a specific schedule. Attaining the NAACCR Gold Certification would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of hospital cancer registrars and healthcare providers throughout the state which report cases on a monthly basis.

With complete and accurate central registry data, the ASCR is able to provide a true picture of cancer incidence in Alabama.

State and county-level cancer incidence data can be found in the Alabama Cancer Facts and Figures report and the county profiles found under "Publications" on the ASCR Web site at www.adph.org/cancer_registry. Alabama cancer data may also be found in such national publications as Cancer in North America and the United States Cancer Statistics.



Pictured, left to right, (front row) are Alabama Statewide Cancer Registry employees Shri Walker, Tracey Taylor, Janice Cook, Vicki Nelson, Diane Hadley, Briana McCants, (back row) Justin George, Shirley Williams, Mark Jackson, and XJ Shen. Not pictured is Bobbie Bailey.

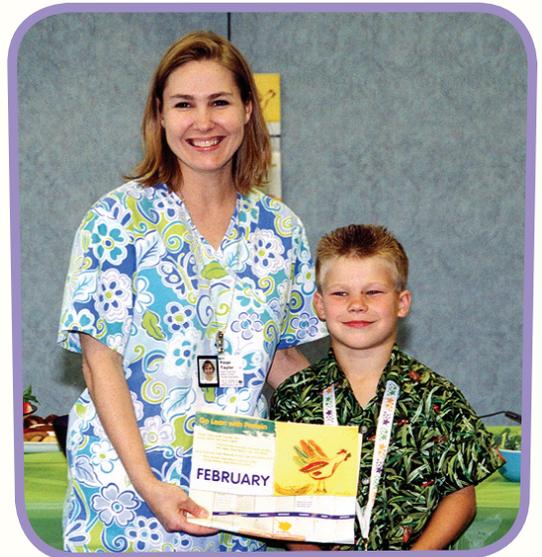
Marion County WIC Participant's Drawing Chosen for National WIC Calendar

Marion County Health Department WIC participant, Landon Chandler entered an art drawing in the National WIC Calendar Competition and was selected a winner. His art work is printed in the WIC 2008 calendar that will be distributed nationwide to WIC participants.

Of the 500 entries in the competition only 36 drawings selected to appear on the calendar. Chandler's work was the only entry from Alabama and the first winner to be selected from Alabama. Chandler will receive a \$50 gift basket from Scholastic Books for his winning drawing.



The reception featured fruits, vegetables, cheese and a cake with Landon's drawing on top.



Paige Taylor, R.N., WIC coordinator, Marion County, presents Landon Chandler a copy of the National WIC Association 2008 Calendar at a reception held in his honor at the Marion County Health Department in May.

Employees Bring Health Issues to TV Talk Show

Each month dedicated staff and partners appear on WAKA's Midday News program's health segment in Montgomery to discuss relevant health issues and to answer calls from the public. To show our appreciation, *Alabama's Health* would like to recognize those persons who took time to participate in this valuable service the past several months.

February's guest was **Mim Gaines**, director of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Division. Ms. Gaines spoke about the statewide weight loss program Scale Back Alabama. In April, **Michele Jones**, acting director for the Center for Emergency Preparedness, discussed how Alabamians could become more

prepared during National Public Health Week. On the May show **Qula Madkin**, Office of Women's Health Steering Committee member, promoted National Women's Health Week and encouraged women to take steps to have a longer, healthier lifestyle. And, in June **Dr. John Campbell**, medical director for the Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma, appeared on the show to explain how a new trauma system could help save lives in Alabama.

If you would like to appear on WAKA's Midday News program, please contact Takenya Taylor at 334-206-7026, or by e-mail at ttaylor@adph.state.al.us.



Calendar of Events

July 18 
**Satellite Conf & Web Cast
Home Health Aides
and Attendants,
2-4 p.m.**
For more information contact
Debbie Buchanan, (334) 206-5711.

July 19 
**Satellite Conf & Web Cast
Pandemic Influenza
Information for First
Responders: The Basics,
12 noon-1:30 p.m.**
For more information contact
Alice Floyd, (334) 206-3898.

July 24 
**Satellite Conf & Web Cast
Adolescent Health:
Risks and Resources,
1-3 p.m.**
For more information contact
Sandy Powell, (334) 206-5050.

July 26
**Satellite Conf & Web Cast
Medicare Prevention
Bus Tour,
1:30-2:30 p.m.**
For more information contact
Heidi Hataway, (334) 206-5603.

August 2 
**Satellite Conf & Web Cast
ADPH Statewide
Staff Meeting,
3-4 p.m.**
For more information contact Video
Communications, (334) 206-5618.

August 10 
**Satellite Conf & Web Cast
The Pharmacist's Role
in Disasters,
12 noon-1:30 p.m.**
For more information contact Video
Communications, (334) 206-5618.

August 16 
**Satellite Conf & Web Cast
South Central Public
Health Training Center,
12 noon-1:30 p.m.**
For more information visit
www.adph.org/alphtn.

September 12 
**Satellite Conf & Web Cast
Consequences of a
Foreign Animal Disease
on the Rural Community,
12 noon-1:30 p.m.**
For more information visit
www.adph.org/alphtn.

September 19 
**Satellite Conf & Web Cast
Infection Control Update
2007 for Home Health
Aides and Attendants,
2-4 p.m.**
For more information visit
www.adph.org/alphtn.