

ALABAMA'S

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Educational effort works to reduce tobacco use

Reducing youth access to tobacco is one approach to decreasing youth tobacco use. A survey of retail merchants found that 16.4 percent of Alabama stores surveyed sold tobacco products to underaged youth from October 2000 through September 2001. In November 2001, only 26 stores out of 302 checked sold tobacco illegally to minors. This is a marked improvement over the initial survey in April 1994 when most stores (79 percent) sold tobacco to young people under age 19.

There is an indication that tobacco use is declining among youth. The percentage of Alabama high school students who identified themselves as current smokers in 2000 decreased slightly from surveys conducted in 1999 and 1997. Improvements were shown from 36 percent who self reported smoking in 1997, to 35 percent in 1999, to 30 percent in the year 2000.

The Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and the Alabama Department of Health are working in cooperation to further reduce tobacco use among young people by promoting a website which offers information to the general public about the state's tobacco use prevention efforts. This site includes links to the ABC Board website.

ABC Administrator Randall Smith said, "As a primary goal, we have worked to enhance collaboration of state agencies and private groups to impact this problem. In the current climate of limited resources, this approach has shown how we are able to maximize our efforts and results.

"We have partnered with the Alabama Department of

Public Health to directly limit sales of tobacco products to youth, to educate merchants to the laws and consequences of illegal sales, and to educate young people on the laws and adverse effects of tobacco use. As the enforcement and merchant education agency, the ABC Board works continually with the retail community to lower illegal sales rates. We must reach youth, parents, local law enforcement, educators and justice officials to enlist their aid in combating this problem."

Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer, said, "We support tobacco sale compliance tests by conducting analyses of results and supporting retail merchant education programs. We are making these results available to the public to help them participate in their community in reducing youth access to tobacco as one approach to decreasing youth tobacco use."

The department has tobacco education coordinators in public health areas who work with ABC officials in their tobacco compliance efforts and who work with community groups to develop or support efforts which will reduce tobacco use among youth.

To learn about the results of the most recent 12 months of tobacco compliance checks, log on to the Alabama Department of Public Health website at <http://www.adph.org/tobacco>. Click on the "compliance checks" section at the top of the tobacco page to find those months that are posted, and click on the survey month you would like to view. The information is organized alphabetically by county, and within each county, alphabetically by city.

Samuel F. Rickman, Jr.

Former sanitation officer and environmentalist Samuel F. Rickman, Jr., 84, died Dec. 10. He retired in 1976 after serving 34 years with the Lamar County Health Department.

In recognition of his service to the community, he was named the Lion's Club Man of the Year in 1981, was a brother in the Masonic Lodge for more than 50 years, was an outstanding scout master and an avid sportsman who had played semi-pro baseball.

Under his leadership, restaurants, meat markets and similar establishments serving or handling food for human consumption were commended for being among the best in the state in regard to sanitation. This accomplishment was reported in the spring 1972 issue of *Alabama's Health*.



Joyce Crook, executive assistant to the state health officer, was honored with a reception upon her retirement. Mrs. Crook, shown with Dr. Donald Williamson, was first employed with the department in 1964.

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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Informational materials in alternative formats will be made available upon request..

The virus team helps keep computers safe



Shown from left to right are Virus Team employees David Rozear, Eric Rudolph, Joe Lee, Kelli Courtney, Jim Lewandowski, Yolanda Willis, David Pettway, David Newman, James Coley.

A group of individuals work in the Alabama Department of Public Health's Computer System's Center every day to combat the spread of viruses of a different kind. They are called the virus team and their purpose is to determine the procedures to prevent the spread of computer viruses on the network, as well as research new viruses and determine how to eliminate them so that they will not get the opportunity to infect the system.

The virus team started in 1994 as a result of several encounters with viruses transmitted through infected disks that were being sent to the department. A serious problem with viruses occurred in one of the divisions causing Joe Lee, a network engineer to assemble a team to eliminate the virus. The department decided that instead of having to gather a team together whenever virus problems arose, a team should be created that could specifically deal with those situations.

The team oversees the RSA Tower system as well as the 117 public health department sites throughout the state. It is composed of Lee, LAN administrator, who is in charge of the program, and five network engineers. One of the engineers, Eric Rudolph, runs the Support desk, assisted by Yolanda Willis and Jim Lewandowski in anti-virus procedures. David Rozear, a network engineer on the WAN team, works with the countywide computer system. The virus team's process involves numerous discussions to

determine the origin of a virus and the discovery of a solution to eliminate it. The team's role is essential to the department. If a virus infects the system it can corrupt or even destroy data, which can be critical, especially if the destruction involves data such as medical records. "Prevention is important," states Lee. "When a virus is found it should be reported to the Support desk. The virus team will check it out and then send a system-wide e-mail with an attachment describing the virus so that it will not be spread."

There are two major kinds of viruses. There is the boot sector virus which infects disks and there is the file-infecting virus which infects the programs and becomes active when that particular program is started. These types of viruses can manifest themselves in different ways. They can either cause harmless, but annoying, problems to the system or maliciously corrupt or even destroy data or software.

If a virus destroys software, while a problem, it can be fixed by simply reloading that software program back onto the individual's computer. But, if a virus destroys data the problem becomes more difficult to correct and vital information could be lost.

If employees believe that they have encountered a virus they should immediately report it to the Support desk so that it can be investigated. The most serious threat for viruses comes not from individuals downloading from the internet, but from e-mails. If a person is not familiar with the sender he or she should not open attachments. "People should be particularly careful during holiday season because so many e-mail greetings sent during this time contain attachments. Many of these attachments could contain viruses," states Lee.

Most importantly, people should read their virus alert e-mails and take heed to warnings so that viruses will not spread and the computer system will stay protected.

By Takenya Stokes

Tornado destruction doesn't faze Winston County employees

Thanks to the quick actions of the employees of the Winston County Health Department, severe tornado damage to the building over the Thanksgiving holidays failed to interrupt the public health services provided to county residents.

Some of the windows of the health department building in Haleyville were blown out, there was damage to a wall, a portion of the roof was taken off by the tornado, and the satellite dish was destroyed. (See the Winston County tornado article on page 7.)

One employee, Kay Wickwire, witnessed the destruction from inside the building. The lifecare clerk was working in the office on Saturday, Nov. 24, when it became very dark, so she turned on her radio to a local station. Even though there were no sirens, she descended the stairs of the facility and headed for the basement when the whoosh of the tornado propelled her down the stairs.

She tried to stand up, but the wind blew her down the cement steps along with the mops, mop buckets, brooms and a trash can, and when she tried to stand up she was at the bottom landing of the stairs. She suffered bruises, cuts on her chin, and had a mouthful of glass and dirt. Another employee later found her eyeglasses on the landing.

Employees who lived nearby then came to survey the damage, and they found their offices covered with dirt, mud, leaves and debris. So they and their family members got to work.

Staff praised

Lifecare manager Gwynne Simmons praised the Winston County staff members for their "really good spirit." Packing had to be done without electricity. They proceeded to locate cardboard boxes and move the patient records into a covered and locked truck. They tried to salvage all the equipment they could. "They were just super," Ms. Simmons said. They were concerned especially about water damage to their computers, and they covered each of the systems with plastic.

Public Health Area 1 clerical director Frances Holder, clinic supervisor Beth Romo and office manager Judy Stephens were among those involved. Ms. Holder contacted Gene Hill, county support manager of Computer Systems Center, on Saturday night. The next morning he and county support network engineer Jimmy Brown drove from Montgomery to pick up the AS400, the terminals, the PHALCON server, computers and printers. The equipment filled their van. None of the computer equipment was lost

or damaged due to the storm.

Winston County home health and lifecare employees moved their records and offices to the Marion County Health Department's Community Room and they are driving daily to Hamilton to work. The clinical employees are working from the Winston County main clinic in Double Springs.

The community has really supported the health department during this time. A small satellite clinic is now open in Haleyville courtesy of the Haleyville Rescue Squad which has opened its headquarters building for this purpose. Ms. Romo thanked the local Parks and Recreation Department for sending employees and work release prisoners to help them move.

The PHALCON system was connected into the Wide Area Network at the Double Springs site so that clients could resume receiving their food instruments by Wednesday. During this turbulent period, no home health visits were missed and clinical services continued from the satellite location.

Dr. Karen Landers, area health officer, said, "The Winston County Health Department and the area staff are to be commended for their rapid assessment of what needed to be done and their immediate action to protect patient records, department supplies and equipment. Their efforts made it possible for public health activities to be operational at other sites by opening of business Monday morning.

"Additionally, I would like to thank the other counties of Area I, especially the "neighbors" of Winston County—Marion, Walker, and Franklin — for opening their doors to staff and patients to ensure that the public continued to be served. The community has really supported the health department during this time."

Carolyn Morgan, director of the Home Health Division of the Bureau of Home and Community Services, said, "Not only did they do a heroic job in saving these items, they quickly set up business in the Marion County Community Room and continued providing care to our home health patients and lifecare clients. Above all of that, their spirit is remarkable as they remain enthusiastic about the care they provide for the citizens of Winston County beyond normal work expectations."

Employees now are sporting "I Survived the Tornado" tee shirts, and are looking forward to the reopening of their building in early February.

What you can do to prevent falls

Falls are not just the result of getting older. Many falls can be prevented. Falls are usually caused by a number of things. By changing some of these things, you can lower your chances of falling.

You can reduce your chances of falling by doing these things:

Begin a regular exercise program

Exercise is one of the most important ways to reduce your chances of falling. It makes you stronger and helps you feel better. Exercises that improve balance and coordination (like Tai Chi) are the most helpful.

Lack of exercise leads to weakness and increases your chances of falling.

Ask your doctor or health care worker about the best type of exercise program for you.

Make your home safer

About half of all falls happen at home. To make your home safer:

- * Remove things you can trip over (such as papers, books, clothes and shoes) from stairs and places where you walk.
- * Remove small throw rugs or use double-sided tape to keep the rugs from slipping.
- * Keep items you use often in cabinets you can reach easily without using a step stool.
- * Have grab bars put in next to your toilet and the tub or shower.
- * Use non-slip mats in the bathtub and on shower floors.
- * Improve the lighting in your home. As you get older, you need brighter lights to see well. Lamp shades or frosted bulbs can reduce glare.
- * Have handrails and lights put in on all staircases.

- * Wear shoes that give good support and have thin non-slip soles. Avoid wearing slippers and athletic shoes with deep treads.

Have your health care provider review your medicines

Have your doctor or pharmacist look at all the medicines you take (including ones that don't need prescriptions such as cold medicines). As you get older, the way some medicines work in your body can change. Some medicines, or combinations of medicines, can make you drowsy or light-headed, which can lead to a fall.

Have your vision checked

Have your eyes checked by an eye doctor. You may be wearing the wrong glasses or have a condition such as glaucoma or cataracts that limits your vision. Poor vision can increase your chances of falling.

Walk this way

1. Always walk on the sidewalk. If you must walk on the road in the absence of a sidewalk, always walk facing traffic, so you can see any car that might go out of control.
2. Dress to be seen. Brightly colored clothing makes it easier for drivers to see you during the daytime. At night, wear special reflective material on your shoes, cap or jacket to reflect the headlights of oncoming cars.
3. Tips for crossing the street:
 - Cross only at corners or marked crosswalks.
 - Stop at the curb or the edge of the road.
 - Stop and look left, then right, then left again, before you step into the street.
 - If you see a car, wait until it goes by. Then look left, right and left again until no cars are coming.

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- If a car is parked where you are crossing, make sure it has no driver. Then go to the edge of the car and look left-right-left until no cars are coming. Keep looking for cars while you are crossing. And remember: Walk. Don't run.

Source: NHTSA's Virtual Bike and Pedestrian Tour

Injury News

Published By

The Alabama Department of Public Health
 Injury Prevention Division
 Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease
 Carol F. Mysinger, M.Ed., M.P.A.....Director
 Lynn B. Williams, M.A.....Editor

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 and Community Affairs

Retirees named

A number of employees have retired recently. Wilma Firestone of the Etowah County Health Department retired in December. January retirees are as follows:

- Teresa Abernathy** - Cherokee County Health Department
- Barbara Becker** - Morgan County Health Department
- Joyce Crook** - Administration
- Mary Emmons** - Public Health Area 9
- Virginia Hall** - Covington County Health Department
- Brenda Irby** - Children's Health Insurance Program
- Patsy Killough** - Health Promotion and Chronic Disease
- Frances Love** - Etowah County Health Department
- Brenda McClure** - Marshall County Health Department
- Robbie Randall** - Houston County Health Department
- Reba Rhodes** - Public Health Area 6
- Betty Smith** - Public Health Area 3
- Bonnie Wheelles** - Public Health Area 6

Family New Year's resolution keeps families healthy and fit

This year why not try an idea to help those close to you keep their New Year's resolution? It's called the Family New Year's resolution and it will inspire your family to eat smarter and live healthier.

In a time when most Americans are not leading healthy lives, this type of resolution is needed. U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher recently released a report calling for action to prevent and decrease obesity and being overweight, the most pressing health challenge that Americans face today. Obesity among adults has doubled since 1980, and the Surgeon General reports that approximately 300,000 deaths a year are associated with obesity and being overweight.

This problem is not limited to adults either. American children are becoming alarmingly overweight resulting in an increase in such conditions as asthma and type 2 diabetes among them. The reasons attributed to this added weight in children are that they are spending too much time watching television and playing computer games coupled with busy parents utilizing fast food to feed their families.

Families can began the process of living healthier this year by making a joint resolution to change their lifestyles. With the entire family involved each member can help support one another and encourage each other to stick to the resolution.

"By making a family New Year's resolution everyone

can participate. When the whole family is involved, it becomes much easier for healthy food selections and increased physical activity to become part of the routine," states Miriam Gaines, LRD, MACT, director of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Unit.

Only three percent of Americans meet their intake of at least four of the five Food Guide Pyramid recommendations of grains, fruits, vegetables, dairy products and meats. Americans also do not maintain enough healthy physical activity. Less than one-third of adults meet the federal recommendations of engaging in at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity at least five days a week.

"The family New Year's resolution should center activities around the outdoors, for example, hiking or bike riding. This allows families to spend time together as well as get the physical activity that they need to maintain a healthy lifestyle," states Gaines.

According to the Surgeon General, failure of Americans to address the problem of obesity could result in wiping out gains made in areas such as heart disease, several forms of cancer and other chronic health problems.

The following tips are recommended for maintaining a healthier life:

- * Eat foods that are low in fat and calories, making more selections from vegetables, fruits, whole-grains and low-
- Resolution.....continued on page 7*

Destruction of the Winston County Department of Public Health

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was written by Shelly Lane, daughter of Lora Lane, administrative support assistant with the Winston County Health Department in Haleyville. Both the author and her brother Brett were home for Thanksgiving and assisted in the cleanup effort.

The Thanksgiving holiday is normally a time when people can forget their everyday duties, spend time with their families, and just relax. For the staff of the Winston County Home Health, Health Department and Lifecare Program, Thanksgiving weekend, 2001, turned out to be a time to step up to face incredible challenges and sacrifice.

A devastating F2 tornado struck the city of Haleyville at approximately 11:30 a.m. the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The tornado began its destructive journey in South Haleyville winding its way through the downtown area and up into the heart of town, leaving sheer ravage in its path. The last building to feel the storm's wrath was the County Health Department. Located on a shady one-way street, the 1930's era building was once home to Haleyville Elementary School. For the last four years, it has been the Health Department's home.

It is strange to find someone working at the Health Department on a weekend, much less a holiday weekend, but Lifecare clerk Kay Wickwire had been pulling double duty between Winston and Marion counties, so she was using Saturday morning to play catchup. She was in the building when the storm struck. She tried to make her way to the basement, but only reached the stairwell. There, she watched in horror as the storm shattered the windows in the stairwell, sending shards of glass everywhere. Luckily for Wickwire, she emerged with only minor scrapes and bruises. Ironically, if she had remained in her office, she would have escaped even light injury.

Once Wickwire was able to find a working phone, she notified other employees about what had happened to the office. At the same time, some Health Department employees were slowly making their way to the building to see if it was safe. They could only stare in shock at what the storm had done. A large portion of the brick wall in the Home Health office had been peeled away. The windows were blown out, and the storm had sucked papers, office supplies and personal items from desks, propelling them several yards before allowing them to fall to the soggy ground. Inside the building, employees realized that the roof had been damaged, too. Large sheets of insulation

were lying on the floor among ceiling tile, papers and piping. Water was dripping onto the floor, and everything was covered with a layer of grit.

Many of the employees who came to view the damage believed they were there only to remove what personal items might have been spared. Instead, the staff resolved to save as much as they could possibly salvage. Rolling up their sleeves, they began picking their way through the rubble, placing equipment, papers and books onto carts to move outside.

Most of the staff members had family who came to witness the destruction. They too waded into the building to help wherever they could. A generator was brought to light the dark hallways making the work to be done somewhat easier. Word was sent from the area office in Colbert County that all medical records would need to be removed from the unsafe building.

A trailer truck was brought to the scene, and all staff and family members began the daunting task of packing the records into any type of container available to place onto the truck. The work was done in a cheerful manner. No one tried to pull rank over anyone else. All departments

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Resolution.....continued from page 6

- fat or non-dairy products.
- * Increase physical activity by reducing time spent watching television and other sedentary behavior.
- * Avoid unhealthy activities such as excessive drinking and smoking.
- * Find a method to reduce stress that does not include food, such as walking, reading a good book, or soaking in a bath.
- * Change your perception of healthy living by focusing on health choices and not personal appearance.

For more information on nutrition and physical activity, visit the Alabama Department of Public Health website at www.adph.org.

By Takenya Stokes

Dr. Michael Fleenor is new health officer for Jefferson County

The Jefferson County Board of Health has elected Michael E. Fleenor, M.D., as new health officer of Jefferson County. Dr. Fleenor will fill the position presently held by Carole W. Samuelson, M.D., who will officially retire in March. Dr. Samuelson has served as Jefferson County Health Officer since 1985.

The Board of Health conducted a nationwide search for Dr. Samuelson's successor and interviewed candidates from several parts of the country. Dr. Greer Geiger, chair of the Jefferson County Board of Health, said, "Many of the candidates were outstanding, but none had adequate prior experience with managing a complex public health department which includes primary care services for the public. Dr. Fleenor's close association with the health officer over the past several years has given him the



Dr. Michael Fleenor

knowledge and experience required to oversee primary care, communicable disease, and environmental health services, and to address new issues such as bioterrorism. In Jefferson County, we have one of the most comprehensive public health departments in the country. Its excellence has been recognized at the national level. Dr. Fleenor has the leadership ability and vision needed to keep the Department on its path of excellence."

Dr. Fleenor received his undergraduate degree from University of Alabama at Huntsville and his medical degree and Master's of Public Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He served his medical internship and residency at Carraway Methodist Medical Center. Dr. Fleenor has served as Deputy Health Officer for Operations at the Jefferson County Department of Health since October 1994. He was Deputy Health Officer for Preventive Health Services from 1993 - 1994 and Director of the Bureau of Disease Control from 1987 - 1993 in Birmingham.

As Deputy Health Officer, Dr. Fleenor oversaw and

directed the transition of the Health Department's clinic services to meet the needs of a managed care environment. Dr. Fleenor oversaw the implementation of an electronic medical records system which connects the Department's eight health centers and enables interaction with Cooper Green and UAB hospitals. He also developed and tested an emergency operations plan for the department and a coordinated system of response with other area emergency management agencies.

Dr. Fleenor holds a number of professional licenses and certifications. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians; a member of the American College of Physician Executives; Medical Association of the State of Alabama; an associate fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians; the Jefferson County Medical Society; an associate staff member of Cooper Green Hospital; and secretary of Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical Medicine and Preventive Medicine. Dr. Fleenor has also served as Medical Advisor for the Birmingham Industrial Health Council since 1992, has been involved with Leadership Birmingham since 1996, and with Region 2020 since 1997. He has made several medical missions to the Ukraine and has been instrumental in a public health exchange program with the People's Republic of China. He is active in his church and Hand-in-Paw, a pet therapy organization.

Dr. Fleenor has authored and co-authored numerous articles on infectious diseases and public health. His works have appeared in publications such as *Journal of Adolescent Health*, *American Journal of Epidemiology*, and *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*.

"The Board of Health has made an excellent choice," says Carole W. Samuelson, M.D. "Dr. Fleenor and I have worked closely for several years and I am continually impressed by his intelligence, energy, innovative ideas, and understanding of the needs of others. As Deputy Health Officer, Dr. Fleenor has made significant improvements in the way we do business, both in the clinics and in the services we provide to the public, streamlining our operations and making them more cost efficient. He has encouraged employee growth and development by instituting a Leadership Academy and arranging training from the Disney Institute. Both our employees and the community have and will continue to benefit from his vast knowledge of public health and expertise in administration."

By Linda Gosa

Jefferson County Health Officer retires

Dr. Carole W. Samuelson, who served as interim state health officer from May through November 1992, retires effective March 1 after 17 years as Jefferson County health officer and area health officer for Public Health Area 4.

Dr. Samuelson will continue serving on the faculty of the University of Alabama at Birmingham as assistant professor in the Department of Health Care Organization and Policy and in the Department of Pediatrics.

Previously, she was deputy health officer for Jefferson County, medical director of two health centers with the Jefferson County Department of Health, assistant professor and medical co-director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing, and a pediatrician with the Jefferson County Department of Health and with the Anthony L. Jordan Health Center in Rochester, N.Y.

Her honors and awards include Top Ten Birmingham Women of the Birmingham Business Journal and Administrator of the Year Award, American Society for Public Administration, Central Alabama Chapter. She serves on numerous boards including the United Way and the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham. She was a founding member of Region 2020, Alabama Maternity, Inc., and Coordinated Health System for

Jefferson County.

Dr. Samuelson is a board certified pediatrician who received her medical degree from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. She completed a residency and an ambulatory fellowship in pediatrics.



Dr. Carole W. Samuelson

Tornado.....continued from page 7

came together as one to make sure that absolutely all integral items within the building were removed. As the work was being carried out, however, it was soberingly obvious to everyone that their lives had been dramatically changed.

Night fell just as the last records were being loaded onto the truck. The only light in the pitch black came from the generator. It created eerie shadows on the walls as staff made a final sweep of the building, covering computers, copiers and other office equipment with plastic in an attempt to keep out any possible rain. They drove away, not knowing where they might be working on Monday.

Monday came. The clinic went to its Double Springs office. The building in Double Springs is not large enough to house all health department programs, so Home Health and Lifecare staff had to make their home within the

Marion County Health Department, an hour away in Hamilton. Happily, work is already being done on their building in Haleyville, and they should be able to move back into it within six weeks

The Thanksgiving weekend tornado created many hardships for Winston County Health Department staff. They are having to drive farther distances to work, spending less time with their families. They are having to conduct their work in unfamiliar surroundings. However, the work is getting done. Patients are being seen, and billing is taking place. Everyone is exceedingly grateful that the storm struck when it did and no lives were lost. The tornado may have nearly destroyed the Winston County Health Department building, but it only makes the Winston County Health Department stronger.

By Shelly Lane, Journalist

Community group honors Denton

Will Denton, administrator of Public Health Area 3, received the the A.H. Bean Spirit of Challenge 21 Award in recognition of his outstanding work with teenage pregnancy prevention and youth services. The award was presented Dec. 5 in Tuscaloosa.

Denton has been described as “a creative, non-traditional leader who is constantly giving and always finds a way to get things done.”

Among his accomplishments are putting together a local teenage pregnancy coalition, lobbying the state for funding, and developing a grant request with the assistance of the county extension service. These efforts have provided funding for teenage pregnancy prevention programs in Tuscaloosa.

Additionally, the work Denton has done with pregnancy prevention has helped him develop a Youth Coalition, which brings together agencies which work for children. This project recognizes each agency’s services and allows for collaboration among the groups. The work has produced a comprehensive directory of youth services in the area.



Lew Drummond of Challenge 21 presents the A.H. Bean Spirit of 21 Award to Will Denton (right) for his teenage pregnancy prevention and youth services work.

Other programs that can be attributed to Denton include the state’s participation in the America’s Promise program, the national organization devoted to youth begun by Colin Powell. Plans are underway for the beginning of Tuscaloosa’s Promise, a proposed local chapter of the national program.

The Challenge 21 recognition was named in honor of the late A.H. Bean, a longtime Tuscaloosa community volunteer and former Challenge 21 board member. The award recognizes an individual or group’s outstanding work in the community over the past year. Specifically, Challenge 21 strives to focus on how the recipient has collaborated with others on an issue to improve the community.

Other 2001 recipients recognized were Dr. Tom Meredith and Douglas McElvy. Challenge 21 is a grassroots organization that collaborates with agencies, businesses, governments and citizens to bring interested parties

together on important community issues.

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*.

Alfreda Arrington
Public Health Resources Management

from Leon Barwick
Montgomery, Ala.

Susan List
Center for Health Statistics

from Mr. and Mrs. William J. Lewis
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Theresa Mulkey
Center for Health Statistics

from Celeste Coleman
Montgomery, Ala.

Deidra Munnerlyn
Public Health Area 9

from Dioma T. Swann, Ed.S.
Birmingham, Ala.

Record Services
Center for Health Statistics

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Commendations.....continued from page 10

from Percy Dubose, Jr.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dottie Strickland, R.N.
Debbie Wetzel, R.N.
Health Provider Standards

from Nancy Rogers, R.N., B.S.
Mobile, Ala.

Stanley Cotton
Jason Dixon
Gloria Henderson
Georgia Minor
Rodriko Sankey
Public Health Resources Management

from Geraldine Daniels
Montgomery, Ala.

Al Stone
Center for Health Statistics

from Don Bogie
Montgomery, Ala.

Vital Records
Center for Health Statistics

from Bridgett M. Dzah-Franks
Georgia

Employees continue testing for anthrax



Testing of anthrax samples submitted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation is an ongoing activity at the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories in Montgomery. Shown are the personnel involved in testing samples during this heightened period of anthrax awareness: first row, left to right, Dr. Sharon Massingale, Joanna Roberson, Julia Ramsey, second row, Ethel Oldham, Dr. Jerry Callan, Mel Berry.

Among those not shown but who have been involved with anthrax activities are several employees of the Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease. Jamey Durham was in contact with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and informed law enforcement personnel of

proper procedures. Priscilla Goodner, Angela Harmon and Valerie Rainge handled telephone calls, reporting of suspected anthrax cases, and data processing.

Epidemiologist Angela Marr of the Injury Prevention Division, with the assistance of Dr. James Moorhead, designed the instrument used to develop a database and epidemiologist Philip Jones and Melissa Olmstead provided assistance with the database used to track the potential anthrax cases.

Calendar of Events

January is National Birth Defects Prevention Month, Cervical Cancer Health Awareness Month and National Eye Care Month.



January 17 Promoting Physical Activity Among People with Arthritis, 12:30-2:30 p.m. For more information contact Linda Austin, (334) 206-5603.



January 18 PHALCON Update: Three Month Issuance, 9:30-11 a.m. For more information contact Debbie Patterson, (334) 206-5310.



January 29 Revisions to Cancer Detection/Family Planning Section of ADPH Clinic Protocol Manual, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Laurie Stout, (334) 206-5310.



January 30 Infection Control Update 2002, Home Health Aide and Home Attendant Continuing Education, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Brenda Elliott, (334) 347-2664, extension 402.



February 13 Epilepsy in the Elderly: Quality of Life Issues, 2-4 p.m. Public Health Staff Development. For more information contact Fay Smith, (334) 206-5655.



February 27 Responding to 911 and Anthrax: The NYC Experience, 12 noon-1:30 p.m. For more information contact Dr. Mike Maetz, (205) 934-7074.



February 28 Alabama Board of Nursing Update, 8:30-10 a.m. For more information contact Fay Smith, (334) 206-5655.



March 6 Home Health Aide and Home Attendant Continuing Education, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Brenda Elliott, (334) 347-2664, extension 402.



March 7 ADPH Statewide Staff Meeting, 3-4 p.m. For more information contact Jim McVay, Dr.P.A., (334) 206-5600.



March 13 Diabetes Across the Generations, 2-4 p.m., Public Health Staff Development. For more information contact Fay Smith, (334) 206-5655.



April 9 Cultural Competencies. For more information contact Gwen Lipscomb, (334) 206-5655.