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MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



Lillian Rivera

As you all know, the year 2007 brought us our new mobile dental van, and in little time we've had great progress in providing needed dental services to students in our community.

The "Seals on Wheels" Mobile Dental Program has provided over 2,200 preventive dental services to 600 students, with 800 sealants placed and 557 fluoride varnishes applied. In addition, 723 children participated in oral health educational presentations, a 45 minute interactive demonstration that makes learning about oral health fun and educational.

Seals on Wheels participated and collaborated in various school and community health fairs, among them World Wide Day of Play, the Health & Safety Expo Health Fair, The Children's' Trust Family Expo and the Hip Hop Fair event. Over 2,479 children and families were

given oral health education at these events.

The dental van also took part in a State sponsored Read for Health Program, and its staff was able to reach 305 kindergarten and first grade students. Through their involvement with the Oral Health Consortium and other community partners, they were able to co-host two Give Kids a Smile events. "Seals on Wheels" provided preventive and restorative dental services to over 400 underserved children at no cost to their families.

I would like to congratulate the dental van's staff for these wonderful achievements and we expect the good news will continue in that important front.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lillian Rivera".

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The dental van has provided over 2,200 preventive dental services in 600 schools.

Preparedness is Key to MDCHD

Instructors of the Florida Department of Health, together with our Office of Public Health Preparedness, trained a group of leaders and employees of the Miami-Dade County Health Department, and local agencies partners in the application of the Incident Command System 300 (ICS 300). As part of the training exercise, participants learned about the importance of interagency planning and how to develop incident objectives and coping strategies.

“These trainings and exercises are an essential part of how our Department prepares to cope with health emergencies or other incidents that could affect our communities,” said Administrator Lillian Rivera.

The instructors also demonstrated action plans for simulated events, and participants were able to learn how incidents could be best managed in a multi-jurisdictional or multi-agency scenarios.

The Incident Command System consists of an organizational hierarchy and procedures for the management of incident and the mechanism of controlling personnel, facilities, equipment, and communications.

ICS was originally developed in the 1970s during massive wildfire-fighting efforts in California.



Leaders and employees prepare responses to possible events and incidents during the training, that took place at Beacon Center.



Senator Peaden Visits the New 1350



Florida Senator Durell Peaden, Jr., receives a plaque from Administrator Lillian Rivera.



Visitors at the construction site.

Florida Senator Durell Peaden, Jr., visited recently the construction site of the new 1350 Center of Excellence Building and was received by Administrator Lillian Rivera and other Senior Leaders of the Health Department.

Senator Peaden, who was instrumental in obtaining funding for this construction, was shown the progress of the new building. Dr. Rivera presented him with a plaque.

Florida's Surgeon General Dr. Ana Viamonte Ros was also present.

NOTED...

There are more new cases of Americans infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, than previously believed, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

About 56,000 people became infected with HIV in the past year, which translates to about 40 percent more cases than officials had estimated, said Dr. Kevin Fenton, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention.

Previous CDC estimates suggested about 40,000 new people were infected each year. But those estimates used "limited data and less precise methods," said the center, which now uses a technology capable of determining when someone is infected.

According to the report, 53 percent of new HIV infections occur in homosexual or bisexual men. African-Americans account for 45 percent, or 25,000 new cases annually, meaning they are seven times more likely to contract HIV than whites.

The new method can indicate whether someone has been infected with HIV during the previous five months, rather than relying on statistical models. Diagnosis of HIV can occur years after infection, he said.

Source: www.cdc.gov



Water Improvement Project

Samir Elmir (first from right to left), Director of the Environmental Health Program, participated recently in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Sunset Area Water Improvement Project. Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez (third from right to left) and other public officials attended the event.



Back to School Immunizations

With the back-to-school rush in full swing, the West Perrine Health Center and other clinics of the Health Department provided immunizations to patients, mainly students who returned to schools.

A Sterling Attitude

A foot injury did not impede Carla Munoz, an assistant breastfeeding coordinator with our WIC program to attend the Sterling Conference in Orlando.

Munoz had been invited to the conference to learn about the management philosophy that the Health Department has adopted and how to apply it to her new position within the agency. But life and work, as usual, is not without some challenges: while on a family camping trip Carla's zest for adventure led her to an injury.

Because of her drive, determination and specifically that zest for adventure, Munoz turned an uncomfortable, awkward and a little painful situation into one of the best conferences she and her coworkers attended.



Carla Munoz and Vicky Martinez at the Sterling Conference.

IN the Spotlight

Smoking Cessation Classes

The Miami-Dade Area Health Education Center and the Office of Community Health & Planning are offering free smoking cessation classes for employees and the community. If you are interested in signing up for a class, contact Lizette Pabon at 305-234-5400 ext. 2505, 786-877-8595, or send an e-mail to: lizette_pabon@doh.state.fl.us.

CRI GROWS STRONGER AND BETTER



The Miami-Dade County Health Department continues to organize and coordinate local and regional efforts to strengthen preparedness. Continuous planning with local government and organizations from the private sector strengthen our collective capabilities and prepare us to respond to all hazards incidents. Our mass prophylaxis dispensing capabilities were

tested for a radiological emergency in a countywide a scenario this past Spring. Personnel were trained during the exercise.

“The lessons learned and the opportunities for making improvements to our plans is what makes the initiative stronger,” said Alicia Reyes-Perez, the Director of the Public Health Preparedness.

Environmental Health Supervisor Chosen to Attend CDC Institute



Trevor Coke

Trevor Coke, a supervisor from the Environmental Health program, was one of a few applicants selected to attend the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Leadership Institute in 2008.

The Institute, funded by CDC, trains public health leaders throughout the country.

His one-year training included

several management classes lasting one week each at several locations. The graduation ceremony took place last February at CDC. Coke, who was chosen by his classmates to give the closing remarks on behalf of the 2008 graduating students, serves as a mentor for a group of students for the class 2008-2009.

HI-TECH RADIOS ISSUED

The Public Health Preparedness Program has issued 800MHz radios to Senior Leaders to improve communication during emergencies. It is important that leaders can use interoperability equipment as part of their daily operations to ensure familiarity and preparedness for a major incident. A comprehensive radio training was offered by the county's communication office to all Senior Leaders.

The new radios will improve the communication with all agencies and areas of Miami-Dade County. An 800MHz radio system is a blend of traditional two-way radio technology and computer controlled transmitters. The system's main advantage is that radio transmitters can be shared among various users and agencies, with the aid of computer programming.