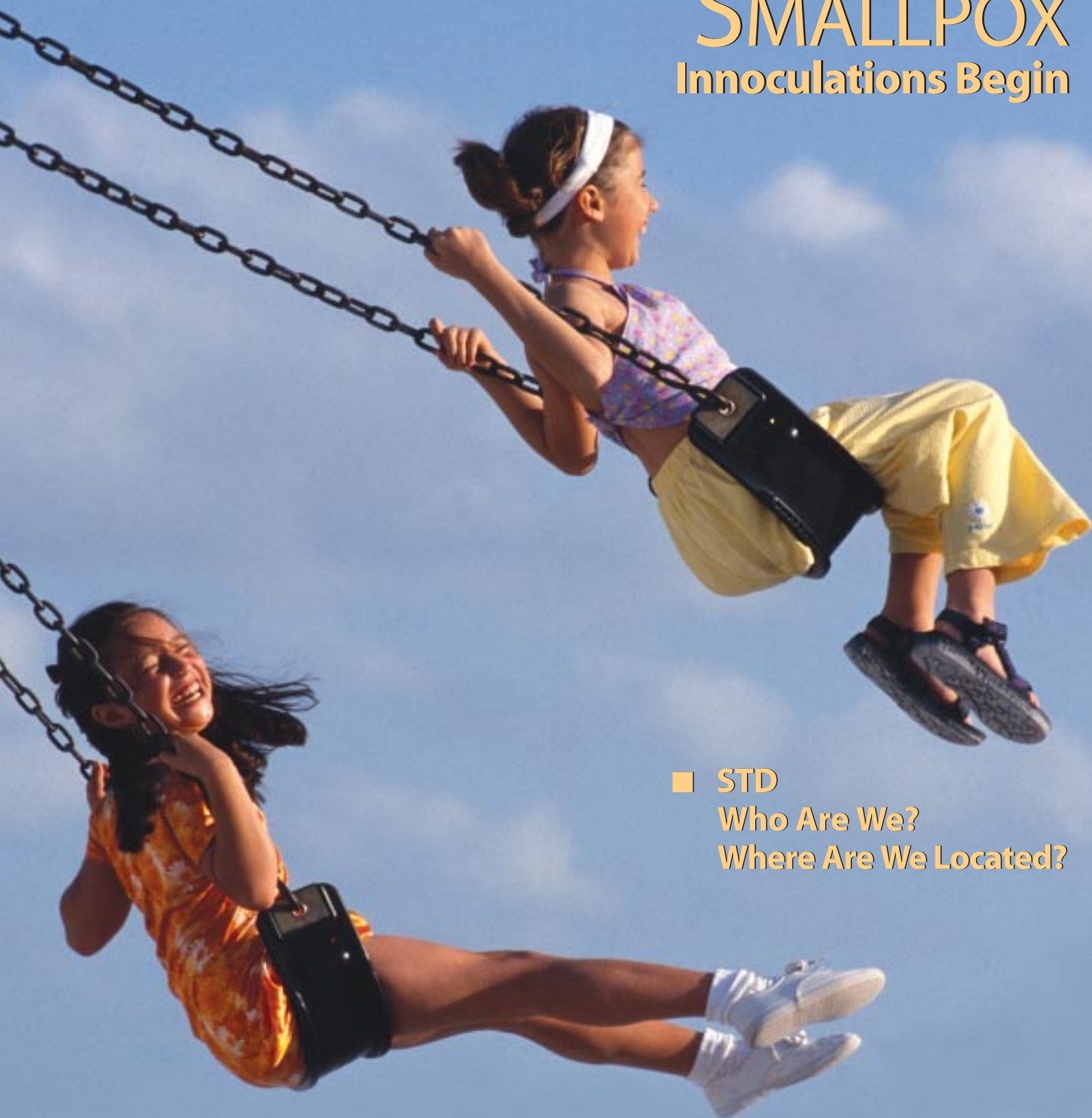


Health Beat

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

SPRING 2003

SMALLPOX Innoculations Begin



- **STD**
Who Are We?
Where Are We Located?

Jeb Bush
GOVERNOR

Toni Jennings
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.
SECRETARY, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Bonita J. Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A.
DEPUTY STATE HEALTH OFFICER

Annie R. Neasman, R.N., M.S.
DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH

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ACTING EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

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EXECUTIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING DIRECTOR, PHI

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ASSISTANT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR
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Maurice Darden
MANAGER, VITAL RECORDS

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DIRECTOR, REFUGEE HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Paula Schimpf, M.S.N., A.R.N.P.
ASSISTANT CHN DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

Message from our Acting Executive Administrator, **NANCY HUMBERT, MSN, ARNP**



NANCY HUMBERT,
—MSN, ARNP—

Greetings to all of my fellow Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) employees, community partners and State Department of Health Leaders/Supporters! In early January, we bid farewell to our Director, Dr. James J. James. In a recent phone conversation with him, he extended "warm" wishes from "chilly" Chicago to all of you. Over the past weeks, I have cherished the privilege of serving as your interim administrator. Together we have accomplished many exciting projects. Let's recap!

Operation Vaccinate Florida (OVF) was officially launched on February 10, 2003 under the leadership of Dr. Mary Jo Trepka and Ms. Lillian Rivera. The MDCHD "heroes" who were able and willing to "step up to the plate" were vaccinated against smallpox. This group, together with many other employee volunteers, began the next component of Phase I, the vaccination of hospital volunteers. OVF has highlighted leadership and talents that exist amongst us. Newly hired, highly qualified professionals have joined our team as well. I officially applaud and commend the entire OVF team!

Construction Projects are thriving! An improved action/tracking system and bi-weekly meetings are in place. The long awaited West Perrine Center is expected to open in the spring or early summer. It is absolutely a beautiful facility that will showcase 22,000 square feet of exam rooms, offices, state of the art conference rooms and an open courtyard. Employees and clients can look forward to a truly professional environment. Our Little Haiti Clinic should break ground within 6 months. That site is slated to be astonishing as well. During construction, our team will relocate to the Center for Haitian Studies.

Programs that serve the public are flourishing! You are all achieving so much! A School-Health Center ribbon cutting, a highly successful Pneumococcal Vaccine Campaign for the elderly, unprecedented Refugee Health Services, the approval of the Healthy Start transition plan, and increased STD testing in jails, to name a few. The accomplishments are thriving. Congratulations to these and to all of the programs and to the dedicated staff who are making a difference in our community every single day!

Customer Driven Excellence is premier at the MDCHD. Activities that align to this priority continue to resonate. Many department-wide Black History Observance activities are planned; we recently attended the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day event at Charles Hadley Park where the community honored Evelyn Ullah and her team. On February 06, 2003 the "We're All EARS" team won first place at the South Florida Manufacturers Association's (SFMA) 13th Annual Performance Excellence Showcase. They will go on to the state championship! What an honor!

Finally, I would like to highlight the activities of the MDCHD Leadership Transition Team. In the true spirit of stakeholder buy-in and shared leadership/decision-making, I applaud Dr. Agwunobi, Dr. Sorensen and Ms. Annie Neasman - our Tallahassee leadership! They have empowered the MDCHD to participate in the recruitment and selection process for the new Director/Administrator. Ms. Evelyn Ullah and Ms. Sheryll Lee are Co-chairs of the Leadership Transition Team, which is comprised of diverse and talented staff members from all levels of our organization. Employees will have an opportunity to meet the top 2-3 candidates. With the current timeline, we should have a new leader on board by early to mid April.

I would like to reiterate what I have shared with many of you already. I am not a candidate for the position and I did not submit an application. Please know that my sole reason for not applying for the Administrator position is quite candidly this: While I am confident and prepared to serve in the top role, my strengths can best serve in the deputy role. Being the Assistant County Health Department Director is a very rewarding and challenging leadership role; I love the challenge! I enjoy rolling up my sleeves with the programs, being out in the field, in the clinics, with the staff, the community and the customers.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. I do so with humility, confidence, accountability and PASSION. I thank each and every one of you for being great and extraordinary!

"Success has a simple formula: do your best, and people may like it..." (Sam Ewing)
Thank you for your ongoing successes.

CARING FOR THE UNINSURED, URBAN MERCY CLINIC

Lends Helping Hand

Table of Contents

Acting Executive Administrator's Message
page 2

Urban Mercy Clinic Lends Helping Hand
page 3

CDC Growth Charts
page 3

Operation Vaccinate Florida
page 4

STD - Who Are We?
page 6

In the Spotlight
page 7

MDCHD Recognizes Staff involved in Teams and Shelters
page 8

MDCHD Celebrates Black History Month
page 8



Recipient of the 2002 Governor's Sterling Award for Excellence

Through a partnership with the Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) and other agencies, the Urban Mercy Clinic has gained much respect and recognition through its involvement with the community. Their support has continually helped the MDCHD promote and protect the health and safety of Miami-Dade County residents as part of the Volunteer Health Care Services Program.



Founded in 1999, the Urban Mercy Clinic provides medical care at no cost to indigent patients and families. A variety of care, including internal medicine, pediatrics, podiatry and preventive medicine, is available to patients of the clinic. Dr. Eileen Ramsaran and volunteer physicians from the Christian Medical and Dental Associations treat needy patients that come to Urban Mercy Clinic for care. Additionally, medical students from Nova Southeastern University receive their community health training at the clinic. Over 1,000 patients visit Urban Mercy each year to be

taken care of by the clinic's dedicated staff, students and residents.

For their tireless work and dedication year after year, the Urban Mercy Clinic has repeatedly won community medical service awards from the MDCHD and the City of North Miami Beach. "We are fortunate to have a cadre of volunteer professionals providing medical care for those in need of medical care," said Nancy Humbert, Acting Executive Administrator.



CDC UPDATES

Growth Charts for Infants and Adolescents

Since 1977, doctors, nurses and parents have used pediatric growth charts to track the growth of infants, children and adolescents. Recently, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has released updated growth charts for children of all ages, based on new information. Developed by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), parents and health care professionals use these charts to monitor the growth rate of children, making sure they are within acceptable limits.

Though not a diagnostic instrument, growth charts help form an overall clinical impression for a specific patient. The charts are compiled from data collected in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) that periodically polls Americans for health information such as weight and height.

When the charts were created in 1977, national data on infant growth was lacking. When compared to the new charts, infant growth statistics have changed dramatically. Among charts that have changed are those for head circumference. These revised charts contain a better mix of breast and formula fed infants in the United States than the 1977 versions.

Body Mass Index (BMI) was the most significant new feature in the revised growth charts. Prior to the BMI index, pediatricians used weight-for-stature charts to evaluate whether children were overweight. Now the BMI uses both height and weight to determine if an individual is obese or overweight.

In 1997, a committee of experts ruled that the BMI index should be used to screen overweight children ages 2 and older. Underweight children can also be screened using the BMI index, but a set of guidelines to follow for underweight children has yet to be established.

Operation

Vaccinate Florida

This past December, personnel from the Miami-Dade County Health Department were honored by inclusion into Dr. Agwunobi's Operation Vaccinate Florida Planning Team. Miami-Dade personnel traveled to Tallahassee on a moment's notice to help develop the Vaccinate Florida operations plan. Within a few short weeks, the plan was ready for the Governor's approval. After it was approved and sent to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the State of Florida was informed that the Operation Vaccinate Florida Plan was the first to be submitted and the first to be approved. It was described as an exemplary plan.

Within just a few days of the plan's acceptance, logistical planning for vaccination implementation swept across the Miami-Dade County Health Department. Implementation plans were developed, reviewed and dissected to the point that some of our team members could actually recite a verse from the plan. As the anticipation of the vaccine's arrival grew, so did the scope of multi-agency cooperation. Miami-Dade began its participation in Operation Vaccinate Florida with the full support of local and regional law enforcement, fire-rescue and hospital partners. The first vaccinations were administered on February 10th, 2003.

This smallpox vaccination initiative was instituted by President Bush. Stage 1 of the plan began February 10th, and entails the vaccination of emergency smallpox response teams and county health department personnel on a voluntary basis. There are 33,000 doses of the vaccine allotted for use throughout the state. Stage 1 is expected to be completed by the end of 60 days. This will be followed by Stage 2, which calls for the voluntary vaccination of firefighters, police officials, emergency medical crews, and other health care professionals. No date has been set for the beginning of this phase, but an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 doses of the smallpox vaccine will be provided to prepare these individuals.

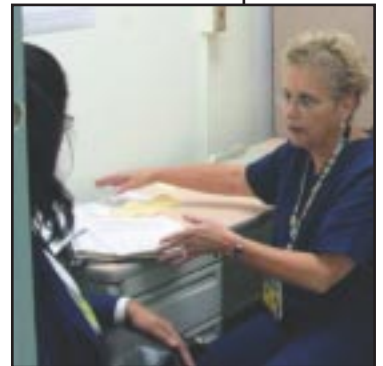
"Their efforts have proven their dedication to protecting the health and safety of our county's residents, and the vaccination teams they create will allow us to ensure the protection of everyone should the need arise."

"I am very thankful for the hard work and cooperation of the employees of the Miami-Dade County Health Department," said

[Nancy Humbert,](#)
[Acting Executive Administrator.](#)



Proceeding Well



STD

WHO ARE WE? WHERE ARE WE LOCATED?

By: Tom Burns, contributing writer

WHO ARE WE?

The Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Prevention & Control Program works to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases. By providing screening, testing, diagnosis and treatment for infected individuals, the STD program is fighting the war against sexually transmitted diseases one person at a time. Identifying and providing prophylactic treatment and counseling for sexual partners of confirmed cases is another task of the STD program. These roles coupled with increasing the level of public awareness to sexually transmitted diseases describe the role of the STD program within the Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD). The program's interventions help to protect infected individuals, their partners and unborn children from the serious complications that may result from untreated STDs. Four major program components comprise the STD Prevention & Control Program, they are: Surveillance, Field Services, Clinical Services, and Community Relations.

■ SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance is responsible for verifying the diagnosis and treatment of all reportable STDs from public and private health care providers. Private and public hospitals, laboratories, physicians and other health related care providers, as required by law, report positive STDs such as syphilis and HIV to the MDCHD on a daily basis.

■ FIELD SERVICES

Field services are a link between clinic services and persons who are either infected, and/or at risk of acquiring a sexually transmitted disease. The STD field staff serves as the front line of defense for intervening in the spread of STDs. Services are confidential and include counseling for persons who are infected with STDs and their partners; conducting organized community outreach screenings for syphilis and HIV, and reaching thousands of at risk residents and visitors annually.

■ CLINICAL SERVICES

The MDCHD contracts with the University of Miami to provide STD clinical services. These services are confidential and available to all residents and visitors seeking care for the prevention and treatment of STDs. Our clinics offer services on a reasonable and/or no cost basis to adults and adolescents, regardless of their citizenship status.

■ COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Community Relations Specialists serve as liaisons to public and private providers, and community-based organizations in Miami-Dade County. They encourage providers to focus on STD surveillance, reporting, and training. Emphasis is placed on promoting advocacy for the STD Prevention and Control Program at the community level, and improving relationships with the community at large.



WHERE ARE WE?

The STD Prevention & Control Program's administrative office is located at 1350 NW 14th Street, Building 1, Room 204, Miami, FL, 33125. For more information about the STD Program please call (305) 325-3242 or visit one of the four area STD Clinic locations listed below:

DOWNTOWN CLINIC

1350 NW 14th St, Bldg. #4
Miami, FL 33125
(305) 324-2422

LITTLE RIVER CLINIC

300 N.E. 80th Terrace
Miami, FL 33137
(305) 754-6821

QUAIL ROOST CLINIC

12330 Quail Roost Dr.
Perrine, FL 33157
(305) 278-0310

MIAMI BEACH CLINIC

615 Collins Ave.
Miami Beach, FL 33139
(305) 535-5540

The Honorable
Comm. Jimmy
Morales with Wally
and Ann Livingstone
at Walter "Wally"
Livingstone's
Retirement Celebration



MDCHD Toy Drive Brings Cheer to Children at Jackson Memorial Hospital

Below is an abridged version of the letter from JMHS staff thanking the MDCHD employees.

Dear Health Department Employees:

We're honored that during the past Holiday Season, the Health Department selected Jackson Health System to reflect the values and principles that are the essence of a productive community. The Holidays is an excellent time for personal reflection, thanksgiving, hope and joy. Your involvement has made all these emotions possible for our patients. Each smile that your actions generated reinforced the value of the work that together we strive to accomplish.

On behalf of our patients, their families and the Volunteer Resources Department, we thank you.



LEADERSHIP TO "Walk the Talk"

Our Miami-Dade County Health Department Recognition Committee is always looking for innovative ways to promote recognition throughout our department. Now, they are asking senior leaders for their support by challenging them to undertake different activities at the program level to show appreciation for their staff. The committee will be awarding bonus points based on the senior leaders' demonstrated creativity and caring towards employees. At the end of the year, special presentations and tokens will be given to senior leaders with the most bonus points earned over 100 points.

Contributing writer: Kiki Valdes,
Organizational Development Coordinator

Employee of the month



Mamie Walker
Bonus Star Award
December 2002



Christine Kelly
Bonus Star Award
January 2003



Lisa Winchester
Employee of the month
February 2003

Congratulations To:

- Latasha Jones, Michelle Medina and Diana Yong for being featured in Miami-Dade Community College's "Successful Alumni" ads
- Lillian Rivera who was selected to serve on the Robert Wood Johnson National Advisory Committee
- Olga Connor for being appointed by Governor Bush as a member of the Long-Term Care Policy Advisory Council
- Arelis Valero for achieving a Master's Degree in Health Service Administration from Barry University
- Diana Yong for completing her Master's Degree in Science Taxation
- Ramon Olivo for achieving his second Masters Degree. (Science, Public Health)
- Clementine McCray for completing her Masters Degree in Business Administration
- Nurses, January 23rd was National School Nurse Day
- Our "We are all EARS" Team. They were awarded 1st place in the Regional 2003 Performance Excellence Showcase and also received the award for The Best Use of Quality Tools
- Olga Connor for receiving the Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling Service Award
- Walter Livingstone for receiving the Key to the County upon retirement from the Miami-Dade County Health Department
- Social Workers celebrating Social Workers month

*Miami-Dade County Health Department
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Miami, Florida 33126
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Information, Legislative and Community Affairs*



Miami-Dade County Health Department

Recognizes Staff Involved in Teams and Shelters

Last December, the Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) Image and Holiday Celebration Committees put together a Holiday/Recognition Celebration for all employees. The event featured an employee talent show and raffles of items donated by the different programs. During this event, the MDCHD recognized over 200 employees who participated in workgroups, committees or quality teams throughout 2002. The organization also recognized employees working in special needs shelters for over three years. The employees received a pin symbolizing their type of involvement. The groups covered the following areas: Revenue enhancement, internal/external customer satisfaction, infection control, safety, education, bioterrorism, management information system and performance improvement. The MDCHD values teamwork across program areas and promotes employee involvement to improve performance by tapping the talents and creativity of its staff.

Contributing writer: Kiki Valdes,
Organizational Development Coordinator

Black History

Month

Thank you to the Black History Month Committees, sponsored by the Image Committee, for their tireless work in planning the Miami-Dade County Health Department Black History Month Celebrations. One of the locations displayed a re-enactment presentation, the day then proceeded to feature an informative presentation on Black History and closed with a pot luck lunch. To all participants and task group committee members, we are proud of your excellent work. Great job!

