NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK IN REVIEW

by Julie Becker

Each spring the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) celebrates National Public Health Week, taking time to recognize the contributions of our public health workers and raise awareness about issues important to improving the community’s health. With a theme of “Safety is NO Accident: Live Injury-Free,” this year the focus was on preventing injuries and violence before they happen, in all areas of life – at work, at home, or in the community.

During the week of April 4-10, displays in the City Hall Rotunda and informational tables at ZMB and each health center provided information to the public on the services MHD offers, as well as materials related to this year’s theme of public safety and injury and accident prevention.

As in previous years, Commissioner Baker visited each MHD location, where he acknowledged staff’s hard work and accomplishments, even in light of recent challenges facing public workers. He also gave an update on the department’s efforts to begin the accreditation process, which will help position MHD for continued future success, and discussed the role that the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Public Health will play in educating and shaping future leaders of our department.

A Public Health Week favorite, the department’s traditional volleyball tournament also returned this year. Three teams participated in the 9th annual competition, with the Lead Program team taking home the trophy for the second consecutive year.

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This month, the City of Milwaukee Health Department will host the second annual Infant Mortality Summit, which will focus on prematurity. As you all know, prematurity is Milwaukee’s #1 cause of infant mortality, contributing to more than half of our infant deaths.

The summit will target Milwaukee physicians and healthcare systems that work with at-risk women and our speakers will share up-to-date, evidence-based prenatal care interventions that can decrease pre-term births.

Our keynote speaker, Janice Whitty, is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Meharry Medical College, and is only one of a handful of physicians in the United States who is triple Board-certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Critical Care.

I am proud that to say that we continue to make a strong impact in our community. In addition to the summit, we are also gearing up for the third annual Milwaukee Child Health Week to promote the importance of having a consistent medical provider and to encourage parents to make sure that their children have the basic health services needed to return to school.

We will host two Back-to-School Health Fairs again this year. The first will be held on August 12th at South Division High School and the second will take place on August 19th at North Division Campus as part of the week’s activities.

More details on additional events that will happen throughout the week will be provided later.

Thank you all in advance for the hard work and preparations that will happen to make sure that these events are a success.

PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK, continued

The week brought another opportunity for friendly competition in the form of the department’s first annual Bag Toss Tournament. Three teams of two competed in the game, held at Fanatics Sports Central. Jennifer Zanin and her husband, Gino, became the first champions for the MHD event, which was a success and is likely to continue in future years.

Children of MHD employees also had the opportunity to get involved in the week’s festivities through a poster contest. Entrants in three different age groups submitted creative drawings reflecting the week’s theme. Winners, chosen by the Public Health Week planning committee, were Hailey Litwaitis (age 6 and under), Nicole Wicker (ages 7-10) and Breanna Hults (ages 11-14).

Overall, MHD enjoyed another engaging, successful Public Health Week. We look forward to hearing your feedback and ideas on how we can make next year’s activities even better.
Pat Wilson has a secret she’d like to share. She loves to write. So much so that she recently published a romance novel entitled “Cloudy with a Chance of Rain” under the pen name Patricia Balentine. The Alabama native is one of 11 children, and is passionate about family, getting a closer relationship with God, and celebrating and enjoying life. At the MHD, she serves as a Program Assistant II for the Home Environmental Health program and is responsible for maintaining the department’s complex databases and providing support to the lead program nursing staff. Pat took time out of her busy schedule to tell us more about herself.

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
I wanted to be a dancer, actress, and singer. The whole package. Being shy wasn’t so good.

Do you consider yourself an introvert or an extrovert?
Somewhere in between if that’s possible…if not, an introvert but I’m getting better at being an extrovert.

What gives you energy?
A goal. When I set a goal, I’m energized to make sure it is achieved. New adventures also give me energy. Doing new things and meeting new people. Seeing others realize their potential, it’s all energizing.

Who is the person you admire the most?
My mom. She’s gone through so much in her life but she still got back up time and time again, and she’s still smiling.

What was your favorite toy as a child?
My Grandmother gave me a doll that was almost as tall as me when I was about 4 or 5 that could walk with you when you held her hand. My grandmother kept that doll for years after our family moved to Illinois and I think she finally gave it to one of my little cousins.

What has been your most memorable vacation?
My first cruise to the Bahamas was wonderful. The weather and the ship were beautiful. There was way too much food, and I stayed up way too late, but I really enjoyed myself.

Read the first two chapters of Pat’s book FREE online at Barnes & Noble, Borders, Authorhouse.com or Amazon.com.
MHD STAFF HONORED

This spring, the Executive Leadership Team began recognizing employee anniversaries. MHD employees celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 or 35 years of service anniversaries are formally recognized and presented with a framed Certificate of Appreciation—signed by Mayor Barrett and Commissioner Baker—indicating their years of service. In addition, ELT meetings now rotate between various worksites to honor those employees outside of ZMB. Here are the names of the most recently honored employees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Anniversary</th>
<th>Years of Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debora Tobin</td>
<td>01/12/11</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Anderson</td>
<td>03/24/11</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracy Wetzel</td>
<td>03/04/11</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lori Hoffmann</td>
<td>02/06/11</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melen Dogan</td>
<td>02/19/11</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Dunn</td>
<td>02/26/11</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Payne</td>
<td>03/25/11</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Colla</td>
<td>04/01/11</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Wilson</td>
<td>04/15/11</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eileen Taylor</td>
<td>04/22/11</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherri Green</td>
<td>01/22/11</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Kieser</td>
<td>02/19/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kandy Perez</td>
<td>02/19/11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Stinson</td>
<td>02/20/11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Conley</td>
<td>04/02/11</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Ann Kiepczynski</td>
<td>04/16/11</td>
<td>10</td>
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In February, MHD and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin launched the third phase of Milwaukee’s Strong Baby campaign by unveiling a light-hearted image that promotes breastfeeding as the preferred method of providing nutrition to infants.

And in March, Mayor Tom Barrett announced that preliminary data found that Milwaukee’s infant mortality rate decreased in 2010.

From left: Pat Wilson, Robert Dunn, Melen Dogan, Mary Ann Kiepczynski, Kandy Perez, Denise Anderson, Commissioner Baker, Robert Kieser, Deb Tobin, Bob Colla

continued on next page
WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Yvonne Greer and Lisa Phillips

The MHD Wellness Committee continues to meet monthly to plan and implement activities, including Lunch and Learns, physical activity events, and nutritional Tips of the Month. It is our hope that you will be able to participate in some, if not all, of these events.

Every MHD location has a Wellness Committee representative who goes above and beyond their workload to find some activities that hopefully each of you can participate in. The committee representatives are always looking for help and input from MHD staff members.

Some of the 2011 activities planned are:

May 7th – American Cancer Society Walk (Captains Liz Rodriguez and Lisa Phillips) – we’re forming a team now – walk with us!

May/June – Ergonomics Lunch and Learns. Any participant will have one on one access to the presenter to review their area to see how they can ergonomically improve their work area. First dibs will go to those that attended the presentation.

June – Men’s Health Month – Black Health Coalition Quality Health Walk (Captain Emerald Mills) and other promotions (TBA)

July – Sand Volleyball Tournament – get your team ready!

Hope to see you at these events!
HEALTH CENTER MODERNIZATION AND BEAUTIFICATION TASK FORCE

In August 2010, nine MHD employees met to determine how to standardize signage and modernize the look and function of all health centers.

The result: a cleverly designed renovation of the South Side second floor classroom. The room was dedicated on February 24, in honor of the late Carol M. Graham, former Director of Public Health Nursing Manager.

Using WIC program infrastructure funds, the Health Center Modernization and Beautification Task Force decided to paint, install new window treatments, replace the ceiling lights, install custom cabinetry, sink and counter tops, purchase new tables that connect to outlets and purchase beautiful chairs for the remodel. We also created a “Wall of Clients” with numerous framed client photos and displayed them for everyone to see.

In the future, we will look at a Smart Board installation as funds are available.

We are proud of our new conference room and use it for meetings for staff and community partners. If you haven’t seen it yet, please stop by the next time you are at SSHC to see the transformation. It’s beautiful!

In addition to the classroom makeover, we also painted the walls of the first floor waiting areas, registration area, stairwells up to the second floor and the hallways. We removed all the posters and bulletin boards and are in the process of determining guidelines for uniform placement of pictures and posters. Painting has also been completed in the waiting rooms at the Northwest Health Center.

Plans are in process for the remodel of the Keenan Health Center registration area on the first floor. We are excited about having a central registration area for the first floor programs. We plan to have the renovation completed by the summer of 2012, just in time to celebrate Keenan’s 80th Year Anniversary in October 2012!

We would also like to consider an updated look of the SSHC Break room too! If you have any ideas or concerns, please email Yvette Rowe at yrowe@milwaukee.gov.

THE
Healthy TIMES

UPAF/VISIONS CAMPAIGN 2011

by Ali Reed

The 2011 UPAF/Visions campaign was a success: in addition to having lots of fun, MHD staff raised a total of $12,385! This breaks down to $11,809 in paycheck deductions or one-time donations, and an additional $576 from fund-raising events. Of those fund-raising events, the big money maker was the health center chair massages, courtesy of the SPA SCHOOL. What a great way to relax and contribute at the same time!

Other UPAF/Visions events this year included a kick-off breakfast at each site and many raffle prizes: tickets to Discovery World, Betty Brinn Children’s Museum, the Milwaukee Public Museum, the Milwaukee Art Museum and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

The Cookie-Gram campaign sent 11 dozen shamrock cookies throughout the MHD on St. Patrick’s Day – what a sweet way to show co-workers how much they are appreciated!

None of it could have happened without the support of our outstanding MHD Solicitors: Kawanza Newson, Ali Reed, Nancy Hills, Carol Johnsen, Ron LaPorte, Jill LeStarge, Becky Litwaitis, Alicia Pacala, Ali Reed, Claire Vand  en Wymelenberg and Laura Vanderbilt.

Thank you to everyone for making this year’s campaign so successful!

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From Lisa Phillips

KUDOS TO MBCCAP STAFF

On March 6th, the Milwaukee Bucks held their 18th Annual Bucks Wives Saves Lives auction to benefit the MBCCAP program. The Milwaukee Bucks handle everything which includes getting autographed items for the auction, printing flyers to be passed out before the game, and setting up the display.

The MBCCAP staff arrives at the game before the gates open to pass out flyers and talk about the auction. This year the event raised $20,113.63 from this event. The auction raised $10,113.63 and Senator Herb Kohl graciously donated $10,000 from his foundation. These funds are used to maintain the Immunization van, purchase incentives, and gift cards.

This year we had 15 helpers giving out flyers. It really helps to have all the extra hands passing out flyers and encouraging game attendees to participate in the event.

A big thank you to MHD staff Sherri Green, Brenda Holman, and Janet Woolfolk and MHSI staff Lavinia Matias.

Also helping were family members and friends.

I would like to say kudos to additional hires for MBBCAP that started with the program in September and October. Both have been and are a much welcome addition to the program.

Janet Woolfolk (PHN) transferred from STD and recently received a much deserved thank you from an extremely worried patient in need of diagnostic services through the program. For many years, MBCCAP has only had one PHN to provide breast and cervical diagnostic follow-up and enrollment into Medicaid for treatment for the City of Milwaukee. Janet has taken on her own case load which now allows both PHN’s to provide better follow-up of our clients. Janet is also currently filling in for WISEWOMAN until a new PHN is hired.

Luz Cruz (OA) is new to the Health Department and has been a welcome addition to the program as a bilingual staff. MBCCAP serves approximately 50% Spanish speaking clients and we are very happy to welcome Luz to MBCCAP. Luz schedules Spanish speaking Well Woman clients and is the OA for the WISEWOMAN program which was added in 2009. The addition of Luz to our programs provides a much needed resource to the Spanish speaking women we serve.

From Nancy Castro

KUDOS TO WIC STAFF

Kudos to Becky Litwaitis, WIC Health Project Coordinator, for implementing the City Watch auto dialer in the WIC program. Great job!

Kudos to Yvonne Greer, Nutritionist Coordinator for her work with the 7th and 8th graders at Milwaukee College Prep School. Yvonne presented two classes: Nutrition and Fitness: How Do You Measure Up? – Milwaukee College Prep School, Active Living Program, 2 sessions with 7th Graders (50 total) on March 7th and 2 sessions with 8th Graders (50 total) on March 9th; and Nutrition Trivia: Test Your Knowledge (Assembly Program – 100 Students) – Milwaukee College Prep School, Active Living Pro-

gram, 7th and 8th Graders combined on March 11th. Thank you, Yvonne – the impact on their lives is invaluable.

Kudos to Pam Jones, WIC DTR, and Bonnie Brower, WIC RD, for successfully completing the “Shopping Matters for WIC Parents” grocery store tours!

Congratulations to the MHD Registered Dietitians Bonnie Brower, Yvonne Greer, Becky Litwaitis, Angela Hamilton and Nancy Castro, as they celebrated National Registered Dietitian Day on March 10th!

From Becky Litwaitis

Kudos to WIC staff for serving 7,652 participants in the month of February!
RETIREMENTS

Thank you to all who have devoted their careers to educating, empowering and improving the health of Milwaukee’s citizens. Your many years of service are deeply appreciated.

Claire Bark  PHN  FCH  SSHC
Rob Chalhoub  PHN  HEH  ZMB
Sandra Dobrzynski  OA III  HEH  ZMB
Herman Fields  Custodial Worker II  Hlth Op  KHC
Wanda Griffin  Lab Assistant III  Lab Svcs  ZMB
Tim Helm  OA III  DCEH  ZMB
Tracy Ingram  Custodial Worker II  Hlth Op  NWHC
Sharon Ostergaard  Health Access Asst II  FCH  SSHC
Kris White  PHN Supervisor  HEH  ZMB
Noutou Xiong  Health Access Interpreter  FHC  SSHC

NEW STAFF/REINSTATEMENTS/APPOINTMENTS

Cindy Huebschmann  PHN  NFP  SSHC
Traci Lebow  PHN  EFM  SSHC
Karen LeSage  Prov FCH Operations Manager  FCH  ZMB
Jim Patzer  Payroll Assistant II  HR  ZMB
Ann Porreca  PHN  STD  KHC
Diab Qadah  Chemist II  Lab  ZMB

PROMOTIONS/RECLASSIFICATIONS

Julie Becker  to OA II  Lab  ZMB
Karl Curda  to Lead Project Coordinator  HEH  ZMB
Irmine Reitl  to CD Program Supervisor  STD  KHC

TRANSFERS

Laura Beyer  OA III  to STD  KHC
Nancy Burns  PHN Coordinator  to PNCC  SSHC
Pat Makarewicz  PHN Coordinator  to PNCC  SSHC
Margot Manassa  PHN  to HEH  ZMB
Janet Woolfolk  PHN  to MBCCAP  NWHC

RESIGNATIONS/INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS

We also bid farewell to the following staff members and wish them well in their new endeavors:

Terri Birt  Health Project Coordinator  EFM  SSHC
Eboni Cobb  PHN  FCH  NWHC
Debra Husar  OA III  FCH  ZMB
Charlie Lauters  Environmental Health Specialist I  DCEH  ZMB
Sara Mishefske  FCH Operations Manager  FCH  ZMB
Bill Morales  Mayors Against Illegal Guns  ADM  ZMB
Ashley Saggio  PHN  FCH  SSHC
Vinni Tanega  Epidemiologist  ADM  ZMB
Eleni Toperzes  PHN  DCEH  ZMB
Yesenia Valle  OA II  HEH  ZMB
Bernita Zollicoffer  PA II  DCEH  ZMB

Answers

APPLE PIE  MASHED POTATOES
BAKING  MITTENS
BREAD  PUMPKIN PIE
CHESTNUTS  RELATIVES
COAT  SCARF
CORN  STUFFING
CRANBERRY  THANKSGIVING
FALL  TURKEY
FIREPLACE  WARMTH
FOOTBALL  YAMS
FROST 
GOURD  
HAM  
HAYRIDE  
LEAF  
MAPLE SYRUP  

Mayor Tom Barrett

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