

Hepatitis Health



Hepatitis Day at the Capitol

On March 18, 2010, there was a flurry of activity on the third floor of the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee. The Hepatitis Prevention Program, along with other Department of Health (DOH) programs and community partners, set up displays and handed out educational materials. Rebecca D'Alessio, from the Leon County Health Department, provided free hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccines.

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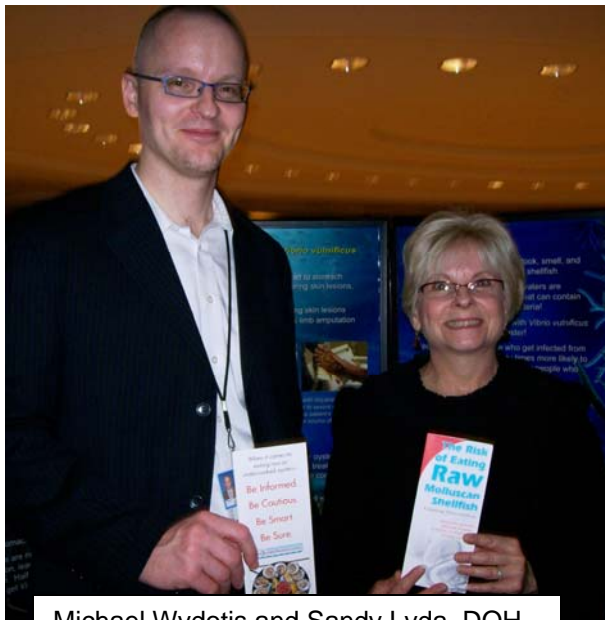
- ≈ *Hepatitis Day at the Capitol*
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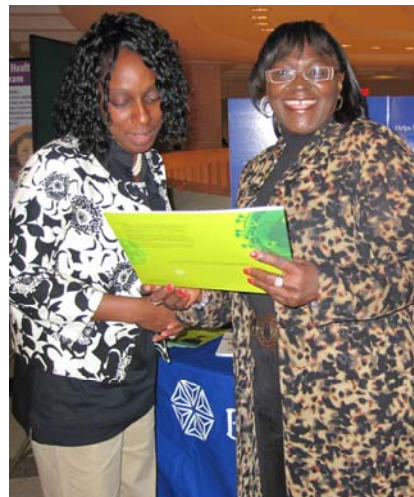
Becky D'Alessio provides Dena Hall with a hepatitis B vaccine injection.



Linda Zeigler, DOH Bureau of Immunization



Michael Wydotis and Sandy Lyda, DOH Environmental Epidemiology, Food and Waterborne Disease Program



Sherese Bleechington, Bureau of STD, & Thesda Mosley-Manu with Bristol Myers Squibb

More Hep Day photos on page 2



Trivia

He won a battle with HCV. He's a drummer & son of a late jazz legend.

Ironically, his father died of a stroke which was complicated by hepatitis.

Answer on page 10

Hepatitis Day at the Capitol Continued



L to R: Phil Reichert, Hepatitis Program, Judy Buchanan and David Poole with Gilead Sciences



Jimmy Llaque, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, chats with DOH Chief of Staff Robert Siedlecki



L to R: Pat Simmons & Karen Simons, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, and DOH Division of Disease Control Director Dr. Julia Gill



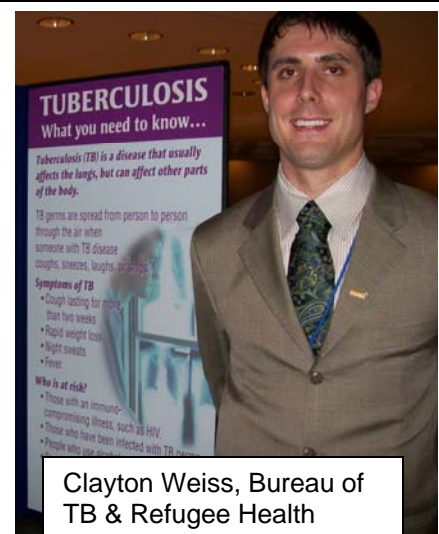
L to R: Nosipho Beaufort from the Hepatitis Program, consumer Shelley Brimacombe, & Jimmy Minton with GlaxoSmithKline



Melissa Auter, Leon CHD



HIV/AIDS Bureau Chief Tom Liberti checks out the the hepatitis display.



Clayton Weiss, Bureau of TB & Refugee Health

NCHHSTP Strategic Plan for 2010-2015 Released

By Kevin A. Fenton, MD, PhD, FFPH

I am pleased to announce the publication of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention's (NCHHSTP's) *Strategic Plan for 2010-2015*. This plan articulates a vision and overarching goals and strategies to guide and enhance NCHHSTP's programs to prevent HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and tuberculosis (TB) infections.

The strategic plan recognizes the dynamic interplay of factors that continue to drive epidemics of HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STDs and TB at home and abroad. These include a diverse array of infectious agents; heterogeneous disease prevalence; behavioral, social, and structural determinants; and the effectiveness of disease prevention and control interventions. It also acknowledges that these infectious diseases often present concurrently within individuals as co-infections, or within communities as overlapping epidemics (or syndemics) thereby requiring fundamental shifts in how our traditionally siloed prevention services are conceptualized and delivered. Chief among these shifts are our Center's commitment to implementing more holistic and integrated prevention approaches; comprehensively addressing the individual, social, and structural barriers; engaging a more diverse array of sectors and partners; and a deeper, more meaningful engagement of affected communities.

The new strategic plan therefore provides an overarching framework within which our disease-specific prevention strategies will be developed and implemented, and opportunities for collaborating within and outside our agency will be leveraged better. We look forward to new, reinvigorated, and productive partnerships as we implement this plan, fully acknowledging the need for openness and flexibility as we gain additional input, experience, and perspectives.

Thank you for your commitment and service to protecting the public's health. For more information, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/publications/>

Editor's Note: Dr. Fenton is the Director of the NCHHSTP at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



The Bureau of Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Prevention and Control has a new web automated human interaction (wahi) Internet site called *Florida's Access to Comprehensive Education using Internet Technology*—FACE IT for short. The website targets adolescents and is designed to provide information about individual health and personal responsibility. The launch date coincided with the first day of STD Awareness Month (April 1st). See for yourself at FACEitFlorida.com.

National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

By April Crowley

On Friday, March 19, 2010, Jessi Embleton, Office Manager for the Hepatitis Prevention Program, and I participated in National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NNHAAD) at the Florida Capitol. Delegations from some of Florida's 307 tribes, bands, and clans were represented in the Capitol Courtyard, along with members from the American Indian Advisory Council.

Many of us felt an incredible spiritual connection throughout the entire event especially during the playing of the drums and the dancing. There was lots of talk about peace, unity, and learning from the past. I believe those are good lessons for all of us.

We found out that when Native Americans dance in a circle, they are sending up prayers. According to Karen Simons, Special Projects Coordinator for the Bureau of HIV/AIDS, dancing is a way of honoring important people in your present life (your tribal leaders for instance or veterans) as well as honoring those who have crossed (died). In this instance, the memorial dance was for those lost to HIV/AIDS and other health disparities.

The inter-tribal dance honored all those living with HIV, our departmental staff working to stop the epidemic and the American Indian community leaders working to address other health issues. The American Indian people are praying for continued relationship building with the Department of Health and are working towards a better health future for all their people.



HIV/AIDS Bureau Chief Tom Liberti



Sandra Lee Sunfeather



Above: The Johns Family drum

Robert DuBose Sun Wolf (right), PBT, shows Jessi Embleton his shield which is made out of turtle shell.



More photos on page 5

Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Cont...



Robert Johns Cedar Bear, Perdido Bay Tribe (PBT)



Monica Hayes, Assistant Director, Office of Minority Health and Jerry Lang, Chair of the American Indian Advisory Council located within the Bureau of HIV/AIDS, Prevention Section.



Greg Hagler, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, with his son, Greyson



Steven DuBose Fire Wolf, PBT, Vern Bishop, & Sandy Dubose White Sage Woman, PBT



Kim Bishop (far left) and Anna Collins (far right) with other members of the Unity Drum



Robert DuBose Watching Face, PBT, Wendy Johns Four Dogs, Dumna/Kechayi Yokuts Tribe, & Yelitza Zubr, Bureau of HIV/AIDS



L to R: Mekko (Chief) Robert Johns Bearheart, PBT, and his wife, Marian Johns, chat with Linda Johns.

World Tuberculosis Day

By Clayton Weiss

What was once in history called consumption is today called tuberculosis, or for short, TB. The infectious disease has destroyed many lives, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 1900 was one of the three leading causes of death in the U.S. With the arrival of antibiotics, TB was once predicted to be on its way to extinction. But, due to the misuse of the drugs and the bacteria's ability to mutate against some of them, it has re-appeared as an emerging public health threat.



Clayton Weiss

Every year on March 24th the Bureau of TB and Refugee Health observes World TB Day. We do this to provide awareness to Floridians that TB is still here, that it is curable, and that the Florida Department of Health is dedicated to reducing the burden of TB for all Floridians. We also recognized World TB Day this year as an opportunity to be proud of the 14% drop in TB cases in Florida.

TB can be a deadly disease that causes symptoms such as coughing, weight loss, fever and night sweats. To make matters worse, the germ that causes the disease can be passed by being in close contact with someone who has active TB. Additional factors that impact whether the disease is spread are the ventilation in the environment where the exposure occurred and the degree to which the individual is able to pass the germ to others.

TB is caused by a microscopic bacterium that eventually makes its way to the body's lungs. The bacteria reproduce into large enough numbers that, once inside the lungs and various parts of the body, treating this disease is a very long ordeal. For example, treating an individual with drug-resistant TB can take up to two years.

Today, one of the things that makes experts most nervous is drug-resistant TB. Drug-resistant TB is a type of disease in which the bacteria cannot be killed by at least one of the antibiotics that had previously been very effective at treating it. Drug-resistant forms of the disease have occurred because some people were inadequately treated for their disease; either they chose to end their treatment earlier than prescribed or their care was mismanaged. Also problematic is that when someone with a drug-resistant form infects someone else, the new infection is of the same drug-resistant form.

In the state of Florida and in the United States overall, TB programs are delivered in ways to ensure that patients with disease fight their illness to completion. Providing education and counseling to patients are examples of what the state of Florida does to encourage patients to see their treatment all the way to their cure, thus avoiding the possibility of one developing drug-resistance. TB programs benefit both the patient and the community in this fashion. The work of all program practitioners is fundamental to the Florida Department of Health's mission – *Promote, protect, and improve the health of all people in Florida.*

Editor's Note: Clayton Weiss is a Health Educator Consultant in the Bureau of TB and Refugee Health. On March 24, 2010, the Hepatitis Prevention Program participated in World TB Day with educational displays at Kleman Plaza in downtown Tallahassee. See page 7 for local photos.



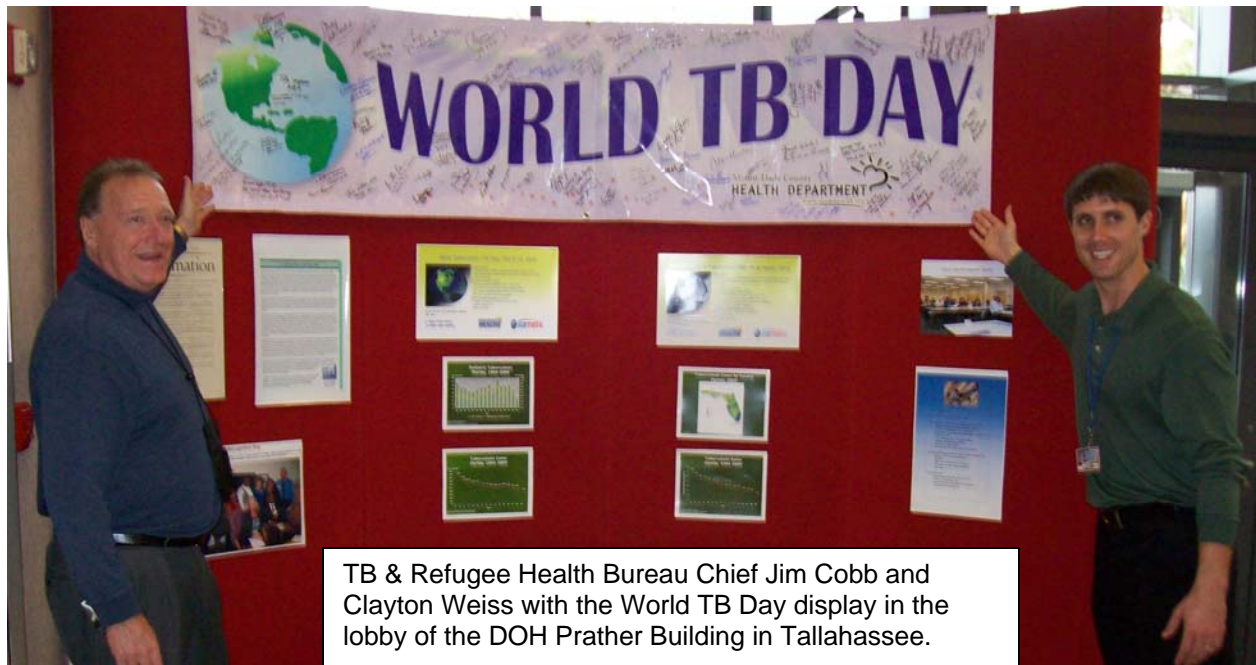
Look at all the people who showed up for World TB Day! As it turned out, thousands of youngsters were marching to the Capitol for school choice as Gov. Charlie Crist and legislative leaders promised to expand a tuition-voucher program.



Dena Hall, with the Hepatitis Program, & Clayton Weiss pose with the TB and Refugee Health display at Kleman Plaza.



Carla Todaro with the Pasco County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) stopped by and picked up educational materials.



TB & Refugee Health Bureau Chief Jim Cobb and Clayton Weiss with the World TB Day display in the lobby of the DOH Prather Building in Tallahassee.

Woman Needs Doctor's Note to Attend Church

<http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=12065179>

Doctor's notes may be needed to get out of school or work. But what about a doctor's note to get back into church? One woman in Pleasant View, Tennessee, needed one after being diagnosed with hepatitis C (HCV).

Betty Brewer, who is 64-years-old, was diagnosed with HCV in February. She said she had nowhere to turn, except the front door at Grays Point Baptist Church where two church Deacons brought bad news.

"They told me if I wanted to come back to church that I had to have a note before I could come back in the doors," said Brewer. "They said hepatitis was contagious, and that I would give it to everyone in my church."

In a phone conversation with News Channel 5, Preacher James Humphrey spoke about his genuine concern for Betty and his congregation of 80. "My duty to the church is to look out for the welfare of that congregation," said Humphrey.

Health Officials said hepatitis C is not contagious. It's only spread through blood to blood contact. "There's no reason whatsoever that people should be excluded from regular daily activities," said State Epidemiologist Tim Jones.

Betty isn't sure about going back to Grays Point just yet. Even though she got the doctor's note to return to church, she's holding her own services at home.

The pastor said Betty is welcome at church as long as she has a doctor's note ensuring that the rest of the congregation isn't in danger.

Editor's Note: This story is just one example of the stigma that people living with HCV face everyday. Fear of the unknown is mighty powerful, especially when it comes to one's health. As the health educator in the Hepatitis Prevention Program, I answer questions from people every day from all over the state of Florida. I have never had a minister call me, but several restaurant owners have contacted me over the years in a panic because they found out one of their employees has hepatitis C. Here is what I always tell them:

"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), 'Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection and HCV-Related Chronic Disease,' (MMWR 1998; 47(No.RR-19): 1-39) that HCV is **not** spread by:

- sneezing
- hugging
- coughing
- food or water
- sharing eating utensils or drinking glasses
- or casual contact

In addition, the CDC states that persons **should not be excluded from work, school, play, child-care, or other settings on the basis of their HCV infection status.**" And, to that, I say Amen.

---April Crowley

Betty Brewer



Brandon Health Fair

The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce of Brandon, Florida, hosted their annual health fair on Saturday, March 6, 2010, at Campo Family YMCA in Valrico. Dozens of health industry-related businesses, including IndoAfrika Hepatitis Awareness & Prevention Foundation (IAHAPF), were present to showcase their products, services, and educational materials. Free health screenings were provided along with lots of giveaways from the vendors. Approximately 600 people passed through the doors and picked up information about viral **hepatitis** from the IndoAfrika display.



Barbara Washington, volunteer for IAHAPF



L to R: Julie Gibson with the Africa Library Foundation, Jim Carlstedt from Impression Masters, and Jasmine Malu with IndoAfrika.

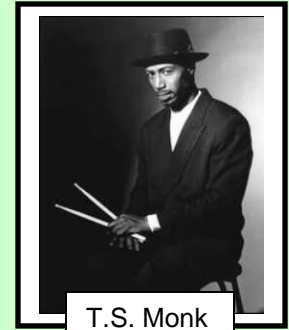


Jasmine Malu and Melissa from Women's Care Brandon

Drummer & Son of Late Jazz Great Carves His Own Musical Path

<http://www.news-herald.com/articles/2010/02/21/life/nh2112587.txt>

There's a simple but often forgotten message that drummer T.S. Monk, son of legendary jazz artist Thelonious Monk, gives to music students: "Play your own stuff," says Monk. "You are not supposed to have the sound of the same person next to you. This is a fundamental philosophy of jazz. When I was growing up in the house with Max Roach, Art Blakey, and Miles Davis — all of these cats coming through the house all of the time — that was a mantra. Play your own stuff. So the philosophy of self is fundamental, foundational to the creation of a great jazz musician, although it's not taught in the schools."



T.S. Monk

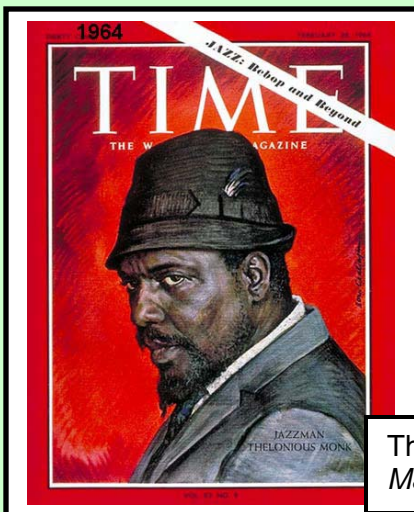
For the past quarter of a century, Monk has taken on the role of jazz ambassador. He continues the legacy of his father's music, both as a performer, and as an educator, by chairing the prestigious Thelonious Monk Institute in New Orleans, which has become one of the premier schools in the country for aspiring jazz musicians.

In addition, Monk continues to explore his own jazz sounds with his sextet, which in theory performs music in the hard and bebop tradition. However, Monk being a drummer by trade and a bandleader allows him to spread his wings and, well, play his own stuff.

"It's a weird thing because when you really look at all of the great drummers in jazz, solos may get you enough attention to put you in a position to have a band, but to sustain a band — if you look at the body of work from Chico Hamilton, Buddy Rich, Max Roach — the music tends to be a little bit more substantial," Monk said. "That's because the only thing to keep people's attention really is the music. A lot of times when people ask me what the sextet will be playing, they think I'm going to say a lot of Thelonious Monk, but I'll be the first one to tell you I have some funk, I sing a song. We play some drop-dead straight-ahead stuff but also some smooth, interesting modern-funk kind of things.

It's an exciting time for Monk, who, after winning a battle with **hepatitis C** that kept him off the road for more than a year, has returned to play the music that he loves.

And continuing the theme of discovery within jazz, Monk said he recently mixed up his sextet's lineup — longtime collaborators Helen Sung (piano) and Patience Higgins (alto sax) will be joined by newcomers Dan Loomis (bass), Mike Karn (tenor sax) and James Zollar (trumpet) — in hopes it will lead to something magical and new.



Thelonious Monk on the cover of *Time Magazine* in 1964.

"Because I'm really getting back on the road again, I'm checking out some new people and getting my sea legs back," Monk said.

Note: What's ironic is that T.S. Monk's father died in 1982 at the age of 64 after suffering a stroke that had been complicated by a bout of **hepatitis**. Source: "Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original" by Robin Kelley.

Pinellas CHD Employee of the Month

Submitted by Pinellas CHD

Human Services Program Specialist Dante Ross was named February Employee of the Month at the Pinellas County Health Department.

Dante has been providing invaluable services to the community with a generous heart since June 2001. He's always willing to help and assist both staff and clients and has the reputation of never saying "no."

The first thing you notice upon meeting Dante is his positive self image and confidence. He is well respected both in and outside of the Disease Control Division and Pinellas CHD due to his willingness to collaborate with other programs as well as assist clients with their various and individual needs. He doesn't hesitate to volunteer when a special project needs to be started or taken to completion.

Dante has expanded the **Hepatitis Education Calendar** throughout the county and now includes jails, work release centers, schools, churches and community centers – just to name a few. The DVD presentation to promote hepatitis vaccines has been showcased as a best practice for other programs. **The Pinellas CHD Hepatitis Program was recognized as the #1 site in the state in providing hepatitis B vaccines to clients.** This can be attributed in part to the hard work and dedication of Dante Ross.



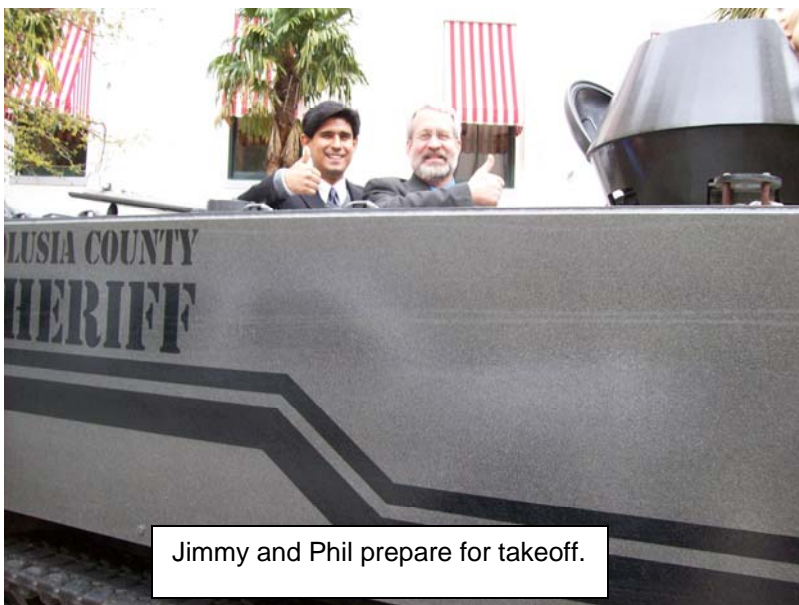
L to R: Dr. Claude Dharamraj, Dante Ross & Lynn Swain

Hepatitis Health is brought to you by the Hepatitis Prevention Program, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, Division of Disease Control, at the Florida Department of Health. Submit your articles and photos to:

April.Crowley@doh.state.fl.us



Just how do you set up a display?



Jimmy and Phil prepare for takeoff.



L to R: April Crowley, Dena Hall, Nosipho Beaufort, Jimmy LLaque, and Phil Reichert