

HealthPro

The Employee Newsletter of the DuPage County Health Department Vol. 16 No. 6, June 2005

We promote health, prevent illness and provide quality service.

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Successful Open House for new West Chicago Mental Health Center

More than 40 guests and staff members attended an Open House on June 13 for the Health Department's new West Chicago Mental Health Center at 245 W. Roosevelt Road, Building 15, Suite 107.

Guests heard remarks from Robert Schillerstrom, DuPage County Board Chairman and Linda Kurzawa, DuPage County Board Member who represents West Chicago and also is President of the DuPage County Board of Health.

Officials representing West Chicago, the DuPage County Board and Illinois State Senators and Representatives also attended.

The West Chicago Mental Health Center will be open daily and offer a full complement of child/adolescent and adult outpatient services. Children are already being served and adult services will be added soon.

Health Department officials say the new center is an effort to spread services throughout DuPage County. Access to services was among top priorities in the recently completed Illinois Project for



Open House at West Chicago Mental Health Center

An Open House was held in June for the new West Chicago Mental Health Center. Speakers included DuPage County Board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom and Board of Health President Linda Kurzawa. Shown in this photo are, from left, State Sen. Carole Pankau, President Kurzawa, Chairman Schillerstrom, Leland Lewis, Executive Director DuPage County Health Department, and DuPage County Board Member James Zay. Both Kurzawa and Zay represent District 6, home of the new Mental Health Center.

Local Assessment of Needs. IPLAN is required by the state to be a certified Health Department. The IPLAN process covers 2006 to 2010.

The West Chicago Center will be staffed by psychiatrists (for both children and adult clients), social workers, case managers and nurses. Three existing residential programs will be managed through this site.

Health Department officials also said the intent of the Center is to be a part of

the local community and responsive to local needs. The Center staff will work closely with local service providers and school districts.

The Open House received news coverage with a story and photograph in the Daily Herald and in the West Chicago weekly newspaper.

More than 140 people Attend Healthy Cookout

More than 140 people filled the patio in back of the Health Department's Central Office to enjoy a healthy cookout and learn about the new Walk DuPage walking program.

June 17 turned out to be a wonderful day to have a picnic and celebrate health. The Employee Wellness Committee hosted the picnic, which included a healthy lunch at a cost of \$4.00 paid by each employee who attended, and health education materials and resources.

The weather cooperated and it was a perfect day to take a walk around the County Campus. Walk DuPage was represented at the health education table to promote the countywide virtual walking program. Walking maps were also handed out which included three County Campus walking paths. Information on men's health and tobacco prevention was also distributed at the table.

Comments from staff included: "It was a fun opportunity to socialize. We got to see other staff members and see people we have never even met, only talked to on the phone," said Carem Velez. "It was nice being outside," added Jessica Pasindo.

Lunch was served on the patio, where tables and chairs were set up. Many staff members expressed appreciation for the event. The Employee Wellness Committee is pleased to announce that 143 people attended. The committee thanks all who participated. The Wellness Committee hopes the success of this event will lead to other similar events in the future.

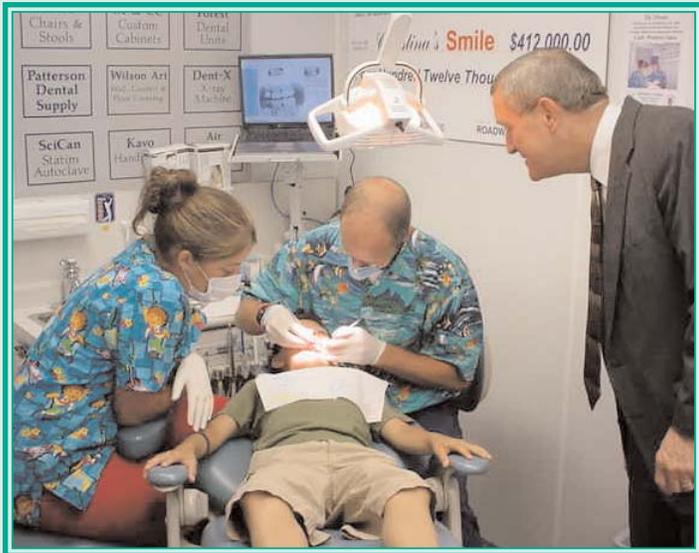


Grapevine

Congratulations to **Linda Prozialeck** of Community Health Services for co-authoring an article that was recently published in the Public Health Nursing journal for professionals. The title of the article was "Emergency Preparedness and Bioterrorism Response: Development of an Educational Program for Public Health Personnel."

E-mail Grapevine news to Dave Hass.

Health Department hosts Christina's Smile; Provides \$50,000 in free dental service



10th annual visit for Christina's Smile

Volunteer dentists and their assistants provided dental care to 120 children during the annual visit of Christina's Smile Dental Clinic to the DuPage County Health Department in June. More than \$50,000 in free dental care was provided. In this photo, Leland Lewis, Executive Director, right, visits the mobile clinic, which was parked in front of Central Office.

The Health Department hosted Christina's Smile Children's Dental Clinic in June. This was the 10th year for Christina's Smile to visit DuPage County.

Christina's Smile provides free dental care to 120 needy children during its annual visit. The free dental services exceed \$50,000 in value.

DuPage County is the only Health Department in Illinois to host Christina's Smile.

Christina's Smile operates in cooperation with Professional Golf Association tournaments. In DuPage County the clinic was held in conjunction with the Cialis Western Open in Lemont.

Dentists and assistants volunteer their time and talent to deliver quality, free dental care, which may include cleanings, sealants, fillings, crowns, root canal treatments and extractions to children between the ages of six and 15.

Christina's Smile will offer 21 clinics nationwide during 2005, treat more than 2,400 children and provide approximately \$1 million in free care. Since its inception in 1990, the mobile clinic has treated more than 32,000 children and provided \$11 million in services.

Walk DuPage sponsors forum On 'Safe Walking in Severe Weather'

The Walk DuPage: Pathways to Health program is partnering with the Carol Stream Park District and inviting Health Department employees to a discussion on "Safe Walking in Severe Weather." The program features Jim Allsopp, noted National Weather Service Warning Coordinator Meteorologist. The event is scheduled at 7 p.m. on July 19 at Carol Stream Park District office located in Armstrong Park, 391 Illini Drive, Carol Stream. Attendance is voluntary.

Walk DuPage is a partnership of numerous DuPage County organizations and agencies all promoting the benefits of walking. The Health Department is lead agency.

More and more residents are engaging in walking as an enjoyable and easy way to increase physical activity during the warmer months. However, summer is the peak season for thunderstorms and lightning.

According to the National Weather Service, nearly 70 people die each year from lightning strikes, but far more are struck and their injuries go unreported. Survivors can experience a variety of short-term and long-term symptoms. Residents are reminded that there is no safe place to be outside in a thunderstorm. The program will offer tips, reminders and other helpful information on what to do during a sudden thunderstorm, or other hazardous weather condition if you are outside and absolutely can't get to safety.

For information on Walk DuPage, contact Bette Lawrence-Water at (630) 682-7979, ext. 7537.

County Board member Olson joins Walk DuPage

Debra Olson, a DuPage County Board Member from Wheaton, has joined the partnership promoting the Walk DuPage campaign. The Health Department is the lead agency for Walk DuPage, a coalition representing the public and private sectors to promote walking all across DuPage County.

Olson has offered to track her family's walking progress during the summer and fall. More than 350 people have already signed up for Walk DuPage, which was launched last month.

For information on Walk DuPage, contact Bette Lawrence-Water at ext. 7537.

Awakenings Healing Mural At Good Samaritan Hospital

The first in a series of murals created in partnership with the Awakenings Project and the Health Department has been created at Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove. An opening reception was held in June.

Among guest speakers was Irene O'Neill, Consumer Specialist at the Health Department's Transitional Services Center. O'Neill helped organize the design and painting of the mural by consumer volunteers.

The mural is part of the "Brighter Beginnings in Mental Health" Program and is an attempt to create a bright atmosphere in a hallway where mental health services are provided.

All of the contributing artists are living with a psychiatric diagnosis.

The outline for the mural was created first with a heart in the center, both inside and outside of the home. Lines representing rays of sunshine extend to the edges of the mural. The semi-circles on both sides represent the sun spreading light over the world. The effect is a quilt-like pattern, with colorful images, both abstract and realistic within each piece of the "puzzle."

Artists had complete freedom to create their own images for their spaces. The basic theme was to share colors and images that were hopeful, to inspire people and fill them with the promise of recovery and a future filled with the desires of their hearts.

Each viewer of the mural can interpret differently the images within each frame of the picture.



New mural at Good Samaritan Hospital

The first in a series of murals created in partnership with the Awakenings Project and the Health Department has been created at Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove. Irene O'Neill, Consumer Specialist at the Transitional Services Center, is shown speaking during a reception for the unveiling of the mural. Consumer volunteers helped design and paint the mural.



Americanism Medal to Moon Khan

Health Department employee Moon Khan, right, was recently presented with the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Americanism Medal for 2005. Making the presentation were Ellen Stortz, left, Anan Harmon Chapter of Glen Ellyn Americanism chairwoman, and Jane Hooe, Illinois State Regent. The award is given to a naturalized citizen for at least five years who has shown outstanding leadership, trustworthiness, service and patriotism. Khan, a native of India, is a Lombard resident. He is a newly elected trustee of York Township. He has served on the boards of directors of more than two dozen organizations and has organized voter registration drives and candidate forums.