



# EmployeeUPDATE

*Our Mission: To serve the people of North Carolina by enabling individuals, families and communities to be healthy and secure, and to achieve social and economic well-being.*

A monthly publication for employees of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

## OEMS receives FEMA equipment

A change in the scope of missions for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has resulted in North Carolina landing \$16.5-million in mobile hospital equipment that will enable the state to transport and set up a stand-alone medical facility with up to 260 beds.

“This puts North Carolina at the forefront of medical surge capacity in the nation,” said Dr. Lew W. Stringer Jr., who as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security senior medical advisor designed the facility. Stringer is now the project manager in the Division of Health Service Regulation’s Office of Emergency Medical Services for the Mobile Disaster Hospital. “When not in use, it will be valuable for training medical professionals from North Carolina and neighboring states to ensure smooth set up and operation should the need arise.”

The mobile hospital equipment complements the layered systems already in place at eight medical centers for



Mobile hospital unit showing expandable side

the State Medical Assistance Teams (SMAT). The SMAT teams stand ready to coordinate large-scale emergency medical responses across the state. FEMA developed the mobile hospital as a prototype before determining that the design no longer fit within the scope of FEMA missions.

“This provides us with a remarkable asset,” said Drexdal Pratt, chief of the

N.C. Office of Emergency Medical Services. “When coupled with medical equipment and the portable hospitals that we already have in place, this will

**See OEMS receives  
FEMA equipment  
page 2**

### INSIDE TOP FEATURES

Combined Campaign Needs You ➔ Page 6

DHHS Food Drive ➔ Page 3

Get Your Seasonal Flu Shots ➔ Page 4

New Assistant Secretary Named ➔ Page 8

**OEMS receives FEMA equipment , continued from page 1**

enable us to deliver services – either in remote rural areas or in urban areas where disaster conditions may result in over-extended hospitals. We have teams across the state that are qualified to step up and staff such a facility.”

Under an agreement with FEMA, the equipment is warehoused and maintained by North Carolina to be deployed anywhere in the nation to provide medical surge capabilities of up to 262 beds. The equipment is available to Region IV states and national medical response via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

The equipment arrived in North Carolina in June 2009. Components are being checked and inspected. According to Stringer, the goal is to have the Emergency Department component with its support services of lab, blood bank, x-ray, pharmacy and supply ready for deployment early this fall.

Once all components have been verified for readiness, the goal for the Mobile Disaster Hospital is to be ready for deployment with functional units – Emergency Department, Operating Room/ Critical Care Unit, Medical/Surgical Beds, or the entire hospital – within 12 hours of a valid request. The MDH is to arrive on-site within 36 hours of the request, and to have basic hospital components operational to begin to treat patients within 24 hours of arrival.

It is this kind of equipment that would be most useful to deploy in response to a disastrous hurricane or flood, or a bioterrorist attack.



Interior of mobile hospital operating room

Think for a moment of your community hospital. It is a multi-story building with full complements of technology to provide services to meet most local needs. Now imagine packing it all up, maintaining it and stowing it away into trailers; and later deploying it to create an enormous medical complex, all at ground level.

The equipment includes six portable operating rooms contained in expandable trailers.

To set the entire hospital in motion, imagine an area the size of three football fields – likely a huge parking

lot connected with a shopping center, college or major industrial plant. In short, notice the parking lot as it would undergo a transformation as it became a fully functional temporary hospital.

“This is one of those assets that you hope you’ll never have to use, because it means that wherever you send it, there will be a lot of people hurting there,” Pratt said. “But if something that terrible should ever happen, we now have the equipment to enable us to respond to meet that need, to ease the pain and suffering, and that can be a pretty wonderful thing.” ■

– Jim Jones,  
DHHS Public Affairs

# Gov. Perdue extends gift ban to all executive branch state employees

**Also requires education for employees and contractors**

Gov. Bev Perdue today signed **Executive Order 24** to extend North Carolina General Statute 133-32, the state's gift ban, to cover all executive branch state employees. Currently, the ban applies only to a limited number of employees who are directly involved with contracts, or the inspection or supervision of construction.

"This executive order makes it clear – those of us who serve the people of North Carolina must be held to the highest ethical standards and act accordingly," said Perdue. "Citizens expect and deserve nothing less."

Within the next 30 days, all executive branch agencies are required to:

- Review with employees the executive order and NCGS 133-32 and inform them that violation of NCGS 133-32 is a class one misdemeanor and may subject employees to disciplinary action.
- Require all employees to certify in writing that they have received a copy of and reviewed the executive order, NCGS 133-32 and any other relevant agency policies.
- Establish a process of providing a copy of the statute and executive order as part of new employee orientation.
- Report to the Governor's Ethics Officer regarding compliance with the executive order.

The Department of Administration, the Department of Transportation, the Office of Information Technology Services and all other cabinet agencies will be required to include a provision about NCGS 133-32 and the executive order in all new RFPs and the North Carolina General Contract Terms and Conditions. The Department also must notify all current contractors regarding the executive order.

## 'Give a Little - Feed a Lot' DHHS employees contribute

Food Banks statewide will have a lot more food on the shelves thanks the kind hearts of Department of Health and Human Services employees. During the week of Sept. 21-25 DHHS employees contributed thousands of pounds of food.

The week-long effort began when Secretary Lanier Cansler traveled the state from east to west to lend a hand at local food banks stocking the shelves and encouraging DHHS workers to get involved in the agency-wide DHHS Food Drive.

Cansler volunteered at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina at Wilmington on Sept. 18. The facility serves Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender counties. The Wilmington food bank distributes food to 83 partner agencies including food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens and group homes.

Cansler's efforts kicked off a department-wide effort to get the approximately 19,000 DHHS employees statewide to join "Give a Little - Feed a Lot" by donating non perishable food items.



Secretary Cansler at Food Bank in Wilmington

"We have hundreds of dedicated employees who do so much for their local communities already, this effort gives all of us a chance to give back in some small way by bringing in an armload of canned goods," said Cansler.

Each of the department's 19 divisions and offices, ranging from the state mental hospitals, vocational rehabilitation centers to public health to the Division of Aging and Adult Services selected a coordinator and organized their collections and drop off.

All deliveries were made to six regional food banks across the state on Sept 29. Employees brought canned goods, cereal, rice, pasta, hygiene and infant items along with paper products during the week. There were collection bins at all facilities for the drive. On Sept. 29, Cansler culminated the effort at the Asheville Food Bank by helping to stock the shelves at the facility that serves the western part of the state.

"DHHS is excited to have been part of a grand effort by the Food Bank and hopes the offerings from the department's employees help families during their time of need," Cansler said.

The initiative started as part of the United We Serve effort, in which President Obama and Gov. Bev Perdue encouraged all Americans to give back to their local communities. During that effort Cansler delivered Meals on Wheels to homebound seniors in the southeast and downtown Raleigh areas. "The United We Serve time frame may be over, (ending Sept. 11) but that doesn't mean we can't continue to help our neighbor all year long, it feels good to give back," said Cansler. ■

— Renee McCoy,  
DHHS Public Affairs

# Get your seasonal flu shot at DHHS!

Seasonal flu immunizations are available again this fall at no additional cost to DHHS employees, retirees and dependents who are covered by the State Health Plan and/or Blue Cross Blue Shield NC (BCBSNC). Immunizations for the H1N1 flu (sometimes called swine flu) – a different flu virus – will not be available until later in the fall.

To help DHHS employees and families get their flu shots, flu clinics are being offered in several locations in Raleigh (see sidebar). Bring your IDs with you – State Health Plan and/or BCBSNC members must present their member ID cards and a photo ID to receive the flu shot at no charge, and will be required to sign a consent form before receiving the shot.

Other DHHS facilities are also offering flu shot clinics; contact your Human Resources office for more information.

Seasonal flu shots are particularly recommended for the following people:

- **Women at all stages of pregnancy (pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy may receive the flu shot without a prescription)**
- **Adults ages 65 years or older**
- **Household contacts of people at increased risk of influenza-related complications, such as those with asthma or other health problems**
- **Employees or residents of a nursing home or other chronic care facility where some of the residents have chronic medical conditions**
- **People who have a chronic medical condition such as asthma, other lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease or blood disease**
- **People who have immune system problems caused either by disease (e.g., HIV or lymphoma) or by medication (e.g., chemotherapy or radiation therapy)**
- **Children or teenagers, 6 months to 18 years of age, who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy (if under 18 years of age, see management at the clinic location for minimum age requirements)**
- **Healthcare workers who care for high-risk patients at home**



Gov. Beverly Perdue received her seasonal flu shot last month along with several cabinet members during an event held to promote the importance of immunization against the virus.

**Get your seasonal flu shot , continued from page 4**

Children between the ages of 9 and 17 must have a parent present to receive a flu shot. Children under nine must go to a physician for their seasonal flu shots. Family members and employees who are not covered by the State Health Plan and/or BCBSNC will need to pay \$30 for the shot at the DHHS clinics.

Anyone who is allergic to chicken eggs should avoid being vaccinated, since the virus used to make the vaccine is grown in hens' eggs.

**REMINDER:**

Each State Health Plan and/or BCB-SNC member must present his or her member ID card and a photo ID at the clinic to receive the flu shot at no charge.

**H1N1 Flu Virus**

The seasonal flu vaccine will not protect against the H1N1 flu virus (swine flu). Protection against H1N1 influenza will need a separate vaccine, which is expected to become available later this fall. Distribution plans are being developed for H1N1 immunizations.

**For more information:**

To find out more about seasonal and H1N1 influenza, visit [www.flu.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.flu.ncdhhs.gov). For more information on the immunization clinics, visit [www.bcbssc.com/flu](http://www.bcbssc.com/flu) and click on State Health Plan FAQ. ■

*– Carol Schriber,  
DHHS Public Affairs*

## **DHHS Raleigh-area Flu Shot Clinics:**

**Main DHHS Campus:**

**Tuesday, Oct. 5 and Thursday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Haywood Gym on the Central Regional Hospital Raleigh Campus  
(Dix Campus).**

**Division of Health Service Regulation:**

**Monday, Oct. 12, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Council Building basement (appointments will be scheduled at a  
later time).**

**Division of Social Services:**

**Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Albermarle Building, 8th floor, Room 832**

**Division of Public Health:**

**Bath Building  
Thursday, Oct. 1, 9:00am - 12:00pm  
2nd Floor, Conference Room 201**

**Cooper Building**

**Wednesday, Sept. 30, 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
6th Floor, Norton Board Room**

**Epidemiology Section, Front St. location**

**Monday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
1200 Front St., Conference Room 202**

**Six Forks Campus**

**Tuesday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
5605 Six Forks Road (Bldg 3), Cardinal Conference Room**

**Raleigh CDSA**

**Wednesday, Oct. 21, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
319 Chapanoke Road, Room 100  
Contact Annette Pridgen to schedule a time:  
[Annette.Pridgen@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Annette.Pridgen@dhhs.nc.gov) or 919-662-4600 ext 212**



September 21, 2009



Dear DHHS Colleagues:

The 2009 State Employees Combined Campaign is well under way in our Department. Many of you have already completed pledge forms and I thank you for your participation.

The Department Executive Leadership Team for this year's campaign includes Dr. Frank Farrell (O'Berry Neuro-Medical Center), Vi Simmons (Division of Child Development), and Floyd Jones (Division of Budget and Analysis). Having served as department campaign executives last year, they bring with them the experience and success of the 2008 Campaign. New to the leadership team are Walker Wilson (Division of Public Health), Debra Nichols (Division of Health Services Regulation) and Bancroft Neufville (Division of Human Resources) and Heather Laffler (Division of Child Development). In addition to our DE Leadership Team, there are many volunteer coordinators who are also working hard toward another successful campaign. Please join me in showing your appreciation for their leadership and volunteer efforts as we work toward achieving 100 percent employee participation this year.

Our Department has a tradition of generously supporting the SECC. Last year we pledged more than \$422,509 in spite of the financial challenges presented by the higher costs of gas, food and housing. This year may prove to be even more challenging. However, I am confident that each of us will find within ourselves the means by which we can participate in this effort to raise money for charities that meet the needs of so many North Carolinians.

The 2009 SECC Campaign is due to wrap up on Friday, October 30. During the next few weeks you will have an opportunity to learn about the many charities that participate in the campaign and the work they are doing every day in our communities. You will hear from our DE Leadership Team and the many volunteer coordinators assisting them about how you can be part of this campaign. I trust that you will join me making a pledge to the 2009 SECC and once again demonstrating the depth of compassion we have always shown to those less fortunate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lanier M. Cansler', is written over a light blue background.

Lanier M. Cansler

# THE Cultural Competency CORNER

*By Gloria Sánchez, Latino Public Information Officer*



## **One size does not fit all: The power of multicultural marketing.**

Whether it's developing new materials or services, revising existing ones, or building new campaigns and messages, you always need to keep in mind who is your target audience and what do you want them to do or change.

Knowing your audience's gender, age, ethnicity, location, lifestyle, opinions, likes and dislikes, and cultural values are keys to creating effective communication and behavior change. Multicultural language is more than language, it's speaking to the culture and values of your audience. And as social marketers with need to be more aware of our changing demographics and stop neglecting diversity. To appeal to diverse audiences, we need to learn that one size does not fit all and leave behind the traditional mass-marketing practices. We need to focus on how best to target our growing diverse

population and reach out to all North Carolinians.

When general messages are created, they may not reach any particular group well, and ethnic audiences often view these messages as "not for them." Ethnic groups may not feel represented, understood, and most important, they may not feel that these messages speak directly to them. Therefore, a large portion of your audience is left out, not reached.

To improve the development of culturally appropriate messages and services, it is necessary to involve people from the group you are trying to target. Do focus groups, surveys, get feedback and test your messages with your target audience. And make sure they feel identified with your messages and find them culturally appropriate.

Once you have a culturally suitable product, you can target ethnic groups by going into their communities. Work with community organizations, minority-owned newspapers, and radio and TV stations. Pitch press releases in other languages and exhibit in ethnic events and fairs..

Regardless of the message or service you are trying to get out or promote, you should never forget who your target audience is. And whether your goal is to reach whites, Hispanics, African Americans, Asian Americans or Native Americans, or all together, make sure your message resonates well with each of them.

Hasta pronto! ■

# Watson named assistant secretary

## Focus is on mental health community care

Stabilizing and expanding mental health services will be the focus of the newly created position of assistant secretary of mental health service development for the Department of Health and Human Services. To fill this critical post in his administration, DHHS Secretary Lanier Cansler has tapped Michael F. Watson, currently the chief executive officer for Sandhills Center for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services.

Watson will provide the leadership and oversee the operations of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services.

In naming Watson, Cansler stated he wanted a person in this post with direct field experience in dealing with the issues of providing MH/DD/SAS care at the local level.

“We look to Mike to help us chart our course toward increasing inpatient capacity for MH/DD/SAS services to those parts of the state where we have already begun providing community care options, and to expand it into the parts of the state where the capacity is lacking,” Cansler said. “We also will draw on his knowledge as we work toward finishing stabilizing our state facility operations as well as undertak-



Michael F. Watson,  
DHHS Assistant Secretary

ing the strategic planning necessary to guide our future needs for state-provided treatment care.

“The Governor has charged this agency to build a strong foundation for improved patient care, staff training, and increased transparency. I am confident Mike is the person to bring those attributes to our management team at a time when they are most needed.”

Watson has more than 20 years of experience and leadership in developing and operating MH/DD/SAS services on a local and regional level, Cansler added.

“I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity that Secretary Cansler has offered me,” Watson said. “The last few years have been extremely difficult ones for community mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse system in North Carolina. Our consumers and their families deserve and should expect access to effective community services. Despite the stark fiscal realities that confront our state, we must work to create a stable, competent and efficient provider network that meets the needs of our citizens. It is my hope that my years of experience in the management of community services will provide a strong foundation to help achieve these goals.”

Since 1983, Watson has led the Sandhills Center, which is an eight-county local management entity (LME) serving Anson, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore, Montgomery, Randolph and Richmond counties. He also served as assistant director of the Division of Youth Services in the N.C. Department of Human Resources from 1978-83. He has been named Professional of the Year by both The Arc of North Carolina and the N.C. Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). ■

– Mark Van Sciver,  
DHHS Public Affairs

# Meeting alternatives save money, time

Budget constraints and travel restrictions do not have to make meetings impossible. By using available technologies through DHHS and state resources, you can organize meetings with staff, customers and/or vendors whether they are local or on the opposite end of the state.

Here are some of the available technologies, along with a description of service and details on how to request service:

## **Audio Conferencing (Conference Calls)**

This service allows the calling party to have more than one person listen in to the audio portion of the meeting. There are three types of audio conferencing available for use: Local Meet-Me, Toll-Free User Managed Audio and Attendant Controlled. Each service type offers different benefits ranging from the amount of meeting participants, 24x7 availability and how calls are set up.

For additional information regarding the availability, cost and/or features of local meet-me conferencing, contact DIRM at 919-855-3200, option 2. For information regarding the availability, cost and/or features of toll-free user managed audio or attendant controlled conferencing, contact ITS at 919-754-6000 or 1-800-722-3946.

## **Web Conferencing**

This service is used to conduct live meetings, training, and/or presentations via the Internet. In a Web conference, each participant sits at their individual computer and connected to other meeting participants via the Internet. The state's Web conferencing service is based on Adobe Connect Pro and Flash and is being hosted by Carahsoft Technology Incorporated.

To obtain this service or receive additional information on its availability, cost and/or features, please contact DIRM at 919-855-3200, option 2.

## **Streaming Media**

Streaming media refers to the synchronized broadcast of live or hosted audio/video/graphic presentations over the Web. It is accessible to any computer that has an Internet connection and the appropriate hardware and software. Content may be simulcasting live or stored so that viewers can watch it later on-demand. More information is available at <http://www.its.state.nc.us/ServiceCatalog/StreamingMedia.asp>. To obtain these services, contact ITS at contact ITS at 919-754-6000 or 1-800-722-3946, or [its.incidents@ncmail.net](mailto:its.incidents@ncmail.net)

## **Video Conferencing**

Videoconferencing brings people at different sites together for a meeting, using audio and visual transmission of meeting activities.

For effective videoconferencing, know your purpose! Video conferencing is probably not as effective for consensus building and/or negotiation. It can be excellent for information sharing and information-based (rather than skill building) training and education. There are two methods for DHHS employees to access video conferencing:

## **Public Health Training and Information Network**

Our Public Health Division maintains a two-way videoconferencing system with large sites in seven locations from Elizabeth City to Sylva, and access to smaller sites in up to 40 local health departments. Other divisions may use the sites but time slots are limited since Public Health has first priority on scheduling. If you can find a time slot and facility available, there is no up-front charge for using the system. However, since Public Health allocates costs back to their offices on a pro-rated basis for yearly percentage of usage, other DHHS divisions are expected to contribute in the same way.

**See Meeting alternatives,  
on page 10**

Meeting alternatives, continued from page 9

Contact Joy Reed or Marty Melvin at 707-5130 to check on availability and other details. They have an excellent “Public Health Training and Information Network (PHTIN)” web site with more information. You may go to the “class schedule” section before contacting Joy to see if the dates you need are already booked.

(Raleigh and Chapel Hill sites are best for faculty and training presentations since they can accommodate instructional aids such as Power Point and overheads.)

Statewide Video Conferencing Network: North Carolina Information Highway (NCIH)

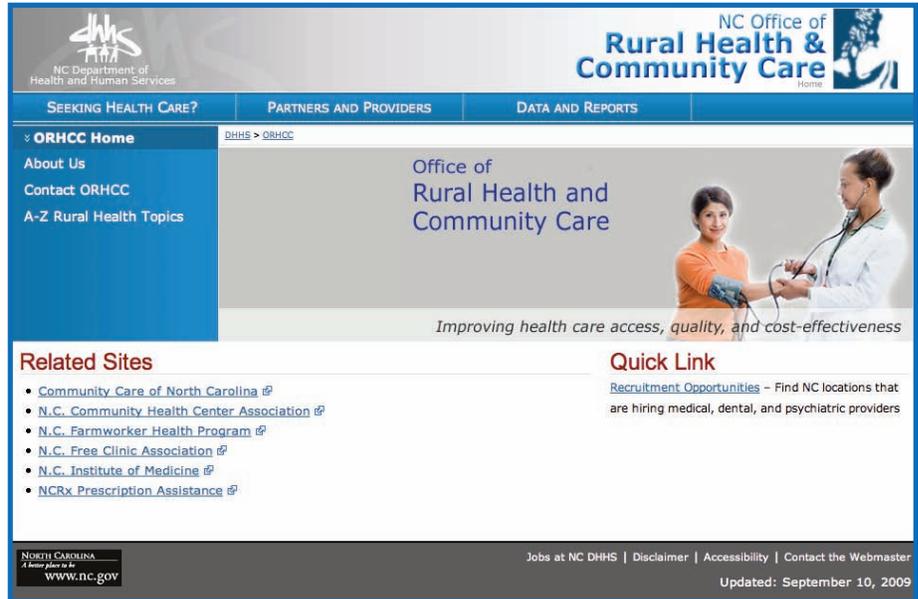
For a fee, you can schedule video conferencing through the NCIH network. A number of sites are located in our own department, including Governor Morehead School in Raleigh, the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf in Wilson, and a number of health departments. They are also at many community colleges throughout the state.

For more information visit <http://www.ncih.net/> and <http://www.ncih.net/howto.html>.

(You can always access this information on the DHHS Web site. Just go to the DHHS employee page and look under Other Job Tools for Employees: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/government/meetings.htm>) ■

– Douglas Howard, DIRM and Lois Nilsen, DHHS Public Affairs

# Redesign is under way across DHHS



Office of Rural Health and Community Care homepage

The Office of Rural Health and Community Care has just launched its Web site. See [www.ncdhhs.gov/orhcc/](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/orhcc/). This is the first time that the office has had a full-blown Web site that describes all of its services.

John Price, director, is pleased with the support and guidance his office received.

“With our limited resources, I never thought we could have a first-class website. I’m impressed at how easy it was. Public Affairs brought us along every step of the way.”

All divisions and office are making progress. Each has a team that works with Public Affairs to determine their

website audiences and the tasks they need to perform. Many divisions and offices have begun the next step: an outline of their redesigned site. This effort encompasses all divisions and offices in the department. Satellite Web sites, such as those for programs, facilities and schools, are not included in the current effort but will be addressed beginning in fall of 2010.

Reminder: departmental policy states that no work on any new Web site in the department will begin until the project is approved by the division director and the director of the Public Affairs Office. ■

– Lois Nilsen, DHHS Public Affairs

# I Got Flowers Today

## (A note from a Domestic Violence Victim)

I got flowers today! It wasn't my birthday or any other special day;  
We had our first argument last night; And he said a lot of cruel things  
that really hurt; I know that he is sorry and didn't mean to say the things  
he said, because he sent me flowers today.

I got flowers today! It wasn't our anniversary or any other special day;  
Last night he threw me into a wall and then started choking me;  
It seemed unreal, a nightmare, but you wake up from nightmares;  
And I woke up this morning sore and bruised all over.  
But I know he is sorry, because he sent me flowers today.

I got flowers today! And it wasn't Valentines Day or any other special  
day; Last night he beat me and threatened to kill me. Make-up and long  
sleeves didn't hide the cuts and bruises this time. I couldn't go to work  
today because I didn't want anyone to know,  
but I know he's sorry because he sent me flowers today.

I got flowers today! And it wasn't Mother's Day or any other special day;  
Last night he beat me again, and it was worse than all of the other times;  
If I leave him, what will I do? How will I take care of the kids?  
What about money? I'm afraid of him, but I'm too scared and dependent  
to leave him! But he must be sorry, because he sent me flowers today.

I got flowers today.... Today was a special day-it was the day of my  
funeral. Last night he killed me. If only I would have gathered the  
courage and strength to leave him! I could have received help from the  
Women's Shelter, but I didn't ask for their help,  
so I got flowers today-for the last time.



– Paulette Kelly, 1992,

If you are a victim of domestic violence or know someone who needs assistance, you may contact your local domestic violence agency for assistance (see [www.doa.state.nc.us/cfw](http://www.doa.state.nc.us/cfw)) or the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 919-956-9124. For additional information, contact Family Violence Coordinator, Glorina Y. Stallworth with the Division of Social Services at 919-334-1154 or [Glorina.Stallworth@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Glorina.Stallworth@dhhs.nc.gov) ■

# Wellness activities are on the move!

DHHS employees have a treat in store during October.

A 5 K (and more!) Wellness Event for Raleigh-area employees will be held Thursday, Oct. 29, from 3 to 4:30 on the Central Regional Hospital Raleigh Campus (formerly Dix Campus).

Wellness committees at DHHS work-sites outside of the Raleigh area have been asked to schedule similar events for their employees to make this a statewide department wellness event. At press time, those plans were still being worked out.

“Save the date!” said DHHS wellness coordinator Suzanna Young of the Raleigh event. “We are planning to have a variety of fun activities, along with great prizes – a 5 K walk/run and a 1.5 mile walk, a Jazzercise class, wellness vendors and a raffle.”

The race event prizes are \$20 and \$10 Food Lion gift cards. Other participant incentives, refreshments, and raffle prizes are being donated by local businesses, Young said.

The DHHS Wellness Committee will be sending out more information and registration forms for the races in the next few weeks. Employees are asked to pre-register for the 5K run or 1.5-mile walk by submitting the registration form and a \$10 registration fee to their agency



Walking group leaves from Adams building on scheduled wellness walk

wellness representative. Race registration on the day of the event will be \$12. Funds raised from the race registrations and the \$1 raffle tickets will be used to sponsor future wellness activities for Raleigh-area employees.

There is no need to pre-register for the other activities.

Participation in the October 29 Wellness Event, like all worksite wellness

activities, is voluntary; non-work time should be used to attend. Employees can request from their supervisor a flex work schedule that day or week, combined with authorized break time, to participate. ■

– Carol Schriber,  
DHHS Public Affairs

## Ladies and Gentlemen, 'Play Ball!'

DHHS Secretary Lanier Cansler joined players, coaches and staff at the North Carolina Senior Games softball tournament on Sept. 1, to toss a commemorative pitch honoring the silver anniversary of Senior Games.

Created as an initiative within the state Division of Aging (now Division of Aging and Adult Services) in 1984, Senior Games, now a non-profit organization, has grown to host 54 local games in all 100 of North Carolina's counties.

Cansler tossed out the pitch as he joined players, coaches and staff at the State Finals Softball Tournament. Ten women's and 35 men's teams competed for the state championships. The 665 senior participants, ranging in age from 55 to 92, were the best in the state and had to qualify at one of the 54 local senior games this past spring.

Several staff from DHHS were also involved at the event as volunteers.

North Carolina Senior Games is a state-wide non-profit organization sponsored by the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services. Senior Games is a year-round program dedicated to health promotion and prevention for adults 55 years and older. ■

– Lori Walston,  
DHHS Public Affairs



Cansler pitch



Cansler, Spaulding and Streets  
with two Senior Games participants



Ali Banks from the Division of Aging and Adult Services and Jan Moxley from the Office of Long-Term Services and Support volunteer at the N.C. Senior Games softball tournament. Ali and Jan ran the scoreboard and provided public address for one of the six fields of softball games.

## Viar receives award

W. Michael Viar, licensure and support services coordinator for the Office of Education Services, was honored by the North Carolina Association of Developmental Day Directors (NC ADD) at its statewide meeting on Aug. 13.

Susan Deans, the 2009-2010 president, recognized long-time association member Nell Barnes from Learning Together, Inc. in Wake County who made the presentation. Not only did Barnes say that the award recognized Viar for

his more than 10 years of service to the teachers and administrators in developmental daycare and preschool classes and programs across the state, but it was also recognition of his commitment to the need for highly qualified teachers for all children in the state.

Dr. Dwight Pearson, Office of Education Services (OES) superintendent, congratulated Viar noting his contributions in all areas at OES, especially those for groups others may not remem-

ber to reach out to and to assist. He was also commended by Pearson and the NC ADD for involving other staff in OES in areas of need for the NC ADD such as teacher evaluation and mentor training.

Viar, who has been with DHHS for 12 years, has provided licensure and credentialing support as well as the inclusion of NC ADD teachers in the DHHS Teacher Licensure Plan since 1999. ■

*– Lori Walston,  
DHHS Public Affairs*

## Reggie Redding recognized

Dr. Reginald Redding, director of the Eastern N.C. School for the Deaf (ENCSD) in Wilson, received the Dr. Andrew Foster Humanitarian Award from the National Black Deaf Advocates on Aug. 1 at the organization's 24th national conference in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Redding was recognized for his service to black deaf communities across the country. Aristotle Ogoke, a teacher at

ENCSD, attended the conference, entitled "Moving to a High Level: Change Starts from Within," and accepted the award on behalf of Dr. Redding.

Dr. Andrew Foster was the first African American to graduate from Gallaudet University, the nation's largest higher education institution for the deaf in the country. Foster worked in Africa establishing more than 30 schools for deaf students. He was the first Gallaudet

alumnus to have a building named for him on the campus in Washington, D.C. A bust of Foster, which is stationed in the building named for him, was commissioned by the National Black Deaf Advocates between 2002 and 2005 when Redding was president of the association.

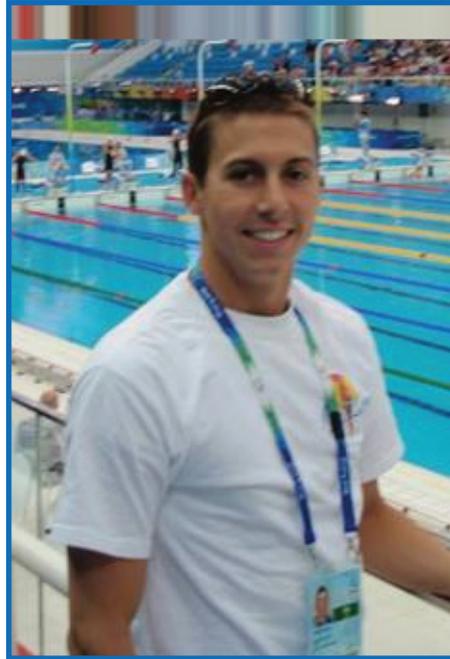
Redding has been the director at the ENCSD since 2006. ■

*– Lori Walston,  
DHHS Public Affairs*

## Paralympian inspires GMS staff

Governor Morehead School staff inspired by paralympian

In preparing to start a new school year, staff at the Governor Morehead School had an opportunity to be challenged and inspired by a guest motivation speaker on Aug. 18. Tucker Dupree of Garner came and shared his experience of losing his vision and becoming a paralympian.



Tucker Dupree

Dupree is now a professional swimmer and motivational speaker. He related to the group that after giving up his driver's license, he knows what its like to be in the valley, facing disappointment. But it is what you learn from those disappointments that motivate you back to the peak of the mountain.

For more information on Dupree, see his website at [www.tuckerdupree.com](http://www.tuckerdupree.com). ■

*– Lori Walston,  
DHHS Public Affairs*

## Heroes in the Fight awarded to DMH/DD/SAS

The state Crisis Intervention Team committee has been honored with the 2009 Heroes in the Fight treatment team award by the N.C. Coalition for Persons Disabled by Mental Illness (CPDMI). The award recognizes individuals and groups that have demonstrated an ongoing dedication to the mental health field.

CPDMI is a statewide group of 11 advocacy, consumer, family and provider organizations that advocate for quality public services for citizens of North Carolina with mental illness. The program provides law enforcement the knowledge and skills they need to help people in crisis situations de-escalate

and emphasize treatment rather than jail time for people showing symptoms of mental illness.

The award was presented on Sept. 29 at a luncheon held in Raleigh by CPDMI.

“We are honored by this award,” said Leza Wainwright, DMH/DD/SAS director. “It recognizes the importance of our efforts to help people in their own communities when they are in crisis.”

“When you have mental health advocates, professionals, and law enforcement working together, you have a very strong voice for change,” said Bob Kurtz, program manager with

the Justice Systems Innovations Team at DMH/DD/SAS. “The training law enforcement officers receive provides the skills to help de-escalate crisis situations and get people in crisis into treatment instead of into jail when it can be done without risk to the public.”

The state CIT committee includes mental health advocates and consumers, mental health professionals, sheriff’s deputies, police officers and law enforcement executives, and community college staff, Kurtz said. DMH/DD/SAS coordinates the statewide initiative through its Justice Systems section. For more information, go to <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas/cit/index.htm>. ■

– Mark VanSciver,  
DHHS Public Affairs

## Ad features VR employee

Rebecca Parks, an assistant unit manager with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in Greensboro, is an alumni member of the Elon Career Network. The network allows Elon students to connect with alumni and parents who are willing to share their career experiences and advice. Her photo and career information were recently chosen to help publicize the network's services. ■

— Ed Bristol,  
Marketing Director, DVRS

**NICE TO MEET YOU.**

**ELON CAREER NETWORK**

[www.elon.edu/careers](http://www.elon.edu/careers)

Connect with hundreds of Elon alumni, parents and friends to expand your professional network, get career advice and gain invaluable first-hand experience about careers in your industry of choice.

BEYONDELON  
CAREER SERVICES



*If you truly want to be successful, challenge yourself  
to take risks and create extraordinary  
results in your life.*

Rebecca Parks  
Elon Alumni, 1997  
Assistant Unit Manager  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (State of NC)  
BA, Psychology