



# EmployeeUPDATE

*Our Mission: The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with its partners, protects the health and safety of all North Carolinians and provides essential human services.*

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

## 2010 Governor's Conference on Aging **Building a livable, senior-friendly state**

North Carolina's 2.3 million baby boomers – one quarter of the state's population – are beginning to enter what has historically been considered retirement age. The oldest boomers, born in 1946, celebrate their 65th birthday in 2011.

As Gov. Bev Perdue noted in opening the 2010 Governor's Conference on Aging on Oct. 13, this marks the start of an enormous increase in the number of older North Carolinians and the challenges and opportunities that accompany this age wave.

After an inspiring introduction by Dr. Bill Friday, Perdue welcomed about 650 seniors, service providers, advocates, faith and business leaders, and experts in the field of aging and other



Mitchell Silver, Raleigh city planner, shares research during the 2010 Governor's Conference on Aging.

disciplines to the conference on aging, held at the Sheraton Imperial in Research Triangle Park.

She spoke of her aging initiative – Living Wise and Aging Well – and emphasized her long-time interest in and commitment to the conference

theme of Building a Livable and Senior-Friendly North Carolina. She urged the conference participants to help the state meet the coming demographic change head on.

“We can't go over this wave – we can't go under it – we can't go around it... We must engage in innovative thinking and come up with creative solutions to make our services work better for our aging population in these tight budget times,” Perdue said. “And we must seize opportunities to use the talents and experience of our seniors.”

Today, 37 North Carolina counties have more people age 60 and older than those 17 and younger. In 2030, it

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Gov. Perdue addresses more than 650 during luncheon at Oct. 13 opening of Conference on Aging.

is projected that 71 counties will have more people age 60 and older than those 17 and younger.

The primary goal of the conference was to develop recommendations to guide future state policy to strengthen North Carolina's response for its aging population. Those attending the three-day event identified more than 170 strategies for consideration covering six areas of discussion: health and aging, the economics of aging, access and choice in services and supports, lifelong engagement and the contributions of seniors, neighborhoods and communities, and safe communities.

**Some of those recommendations include:**

- Strengthening coordination among state and local agencies to reduce fragmentation
- Promoting workplace flexibility, succession planning and lifelong learning
- Strengthening support of family caregivers, including developing a means for some to be paid
- Strengthening linkages between health care and community services
- Expanding evidence-based health promotion for better managing chronic conditions
- Assuring the involvement of seniors in planning transportation, housing and other community improvements
- Encouraging and supporting volunteerism
- Strengthening emergency preparedness for residents of long-term care facilities
- Supporting the interests of seniors to age in the community
- Promoting aging education and training of health and allied professionals
- Promoting preparedness planning for those nearing retirement
- Expanding the aging readiness assessment to include local government, the faith and business communities, and the non-profit sector.

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N.C. Conference on Aging, continued from page 2



Secretary Cansler, flanked by cabinet secretaries and their representatives, addresses Conference on Aging on Oct. 15.

Several cabinet secretaries and their representatives – including Secretary Dee Freeman of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Donnell Adams of Cultural Resources, Anne Bander of the Department of Administration, and Jim Westmoreland of the Department of Transportation – as well as members and representatives of the Council of State – including State Treasurer Janet Cowell, Department of Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin, and David Kirkman from the Attorney General’s Office – were present at the conference’s closing session on Oct. 15, to hear



Dr. Bill Friday



Gov. Bev Perdue

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N.C. Conference on Aging, continued from page 3

some of these recommendations and offer their perspectives about how to make North Carolina a more “livable and senior-friendly state.” In moderating this closing panel discussion, DHHS Secretary Lanier Cansler emphasized that “this population growth has important implications for every segment of society.”

Other presenters at the conference – including Ran Coble, executive director of the N.C. Public Policy Research Center and Mitchell Silver, chief of planning for the City of Raleigh and president-elect of the American Planning Association – also stressed the importance of North Carolina preparing now for the graying of our state.

The work of conference participants built on two other activities initiated by Perdue – the governor’s six Policy Roundtables held across the state in the spring, and the Assessment of the State’s Readiness for an Aging Population, which began this summer and is still under way.

Under Perdue’s historic Executive Order No. 54, state agencies for the first time are assessing their readiness for an aging population and working to identify ways to better prepare for an aging work force, to improve the safety and security of seniors, to increase opportunities for lifelong learning and to identify ways to better utilize senior volunteers and their skills. Fifty state agencies have designated a staff member to serve as an ‘Aging Liaison’ to complete this assessment

and work as part of an evolving corps of aging liaisons to share information and identify and pursue opportunities for interagency collaboration.

The work of conference participants – along with that of the roundtables and state assessment – will inform the next State Aging Plan for 2011-2015, which is being prepared by the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS). “Clearly this is not a task that we are undertaking alone – we will build on the important work of the conference participants, the contributions of our partnering aging liaisons, and the input of our Area Agencies on Aging and many others,” noted Dennis Streets, DAAS director.

For more information about the Governor’s Conference on Aging, or to view highlights (including the governor’s remarks), and conference materials go to [www.aging.unc.edu/nccoa](http://www.aging.unc.edu/nccoa). With questions about the conference, you can contact Heather Burkhardt at DAAS ([Heather.Burkhardt@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Heather.Burkhardt@dhhs.nc.gov)). The division partnered with the UNC Institute on Aging, the Governor’s Policy Office, and the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging in planning this conference. ■

– Lori Walston,  
DHHS Public Affairs



Dennis Streets, DAAS director, sums up the recommendations of the three-day Conference on Aging. – Photos by Jim Jones

# DHHS Excels outreach sessions successfully concluded

About 1,250 DHHS employees participated in 18 different DHHS Excels outreach sessions. The sessions were held across the state starting in August and concluding Oct. 26 at J.F. Keith Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center and the Black Mountain Neuro-Medical Center, where about 50 participants attended briefings.

Several sessions were held in Raleigh where DHHS has the greatest concentration of staff, but meetings were also held in numerous other locations from Wilmington to Asheville.

According to evaluations submitted after each session, the greater majority of attendees agreed that (1) they had a better understanding of the DHHS

Excels initiative; (2) a greater understanding of the five values; (3) they had a chance to participate in the small group exercise; and (4) they would recommend that their fellow staff members also attend. Each attendee was provided with a folder of information to share with co-workers.

Deputy Secretary Maria Spaulding, Executive Sponsor of the outreach sessions, was pleased with attendance and the level of participation. "The purpose of these sessions was to have an open discussion and interaction with staff around the state. Although these meetings added to everyone's already full work responsibilities, they were well worth the effort. I feel as though we have better understanding and greater

transparency between Raleigh and the field as a result of these sessions. I appreciate the opportunity to personally meet so many DHHS employees."

Spaulding added that summaries of the evaluations have been shared with Secretary Cansler, the DHHS Excels Steering Committee, and members of the DHHS Leadership Team. Additionally, notes provided by each values work group will be reviewed by the Outreach Committee and compared with the original definitions and examples developed by the five goals committees. Summary information will be provided in an upcoming newsletter and placed on the DHHS Excels web site (see link on the DHHS home page). ■

– Sandra K. Trivett,  
Special Projects Office



## Secretary Cansler's next video conference is Nov. 10

Continuing his efforts to be transparent and to reach out to DHHS employees, Secretary Lanier Cansler has scheduled his next video conference for Nov. 10 from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m..

Put this date and time on your calendar now so that you can listen in if your work responsibilities allow. Here is the link for the conference:

<http://mediasite.online.ncsu.edu/online/Viewer/?peid=05771fb7963c4cb28a79d5cfc73fc4311d>

As in previous broadcasts, there will be an opportunity for employees to interact directly with the secretary by submitting questions or comments to him via the DHHS Excels e-mail box at [DHHSExcels@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:DHHSExcels@dhhs.nc.gov). All submittals will be treated confidentially and forwarded to him without the name of the sender. ■

## I got mine! Flu vaccination campaign is under way

Gov. Bev Perdue and State Health Director Dr. Jeff Engel joined DHHS employees on Oct. 4 to get their seasonal flu immunizations. Perdue recognized state government agencies for their leadership in sponsoring more than 650 flu clinics around the state.

“We recommend that anyone over 6 months of age be vaccinated,” Engel said. “While it is still highly recommended for folks at risk for complications, such as pregnant women, children and people with chronic medical conditions, this year’s supply should be plentiful enough that we don’t have to limit who can receive it.”

This year’s seasonal flu vaccine, available by injection or nasal spray formulas, is available at pharmacies, doctors’ offices and local health departments across the state. The vaccine includes protection against the H1N1 strain of the virus as well as two other anticipated flu strains. For most people, that means only one flu immunization is necessary. As usual, children under nine years of age who haven’t been vaccinated against the flu in the past will need two doses of flu vaccine.

For more information about flu and to find a vaccine clinic near you, visit [www.flu.nc.gov](http://www.flu.nc.gov) ■



Gov. Bev Perdue receives flu vaccination from Annette Stuart, a nurse with Maxim Health Services.  
– Photos by Jim Jones

– Julie Henry, DHHS Public Affairs

# DHHS employees team up: 'walk the AT' and Race to Wellness

The DHHS wellness program encourages employees to improve and maintain their health by getting more exercise during the work day. Walking is one of the easiest and most effective ways to be more physically active every day.

A large number of DHHS employees has learned that entering a walking competition can make exercise more fun and help sustain motivation. This fall, 872 employees formed 107 teams to walk the 2,174-mile distance of the Appalachian Trail in 60 days. Employees at 17 DHHS agencies and facilities are competing in the Office of State Personnel's state employee Fall Walking Challenge. Participants use pedometers to record all of their walking and running steps/miles and report them weekly to their team captains until Nov. 11.

DHHS continues to set the pace for state employee walking events. The department has the largest number of teams participating in the fall walking challenge and also had the most teams in last spring's 60-day Walk to San Diego Challenge. DHHS employees logged a total of more than 258,000 miles in 60 days on the Walk to San Diego and a DHHS team from Murdoch Developmental Center walked the most miles and won the challenge trophy.

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### Top finishers in 5K

Top three men's finishers, left to right, Kevin Kelley, third; Perry Boseman, second; and David Brown first. Laurie Edgerton finished first in women's division.

Right: Susanna Young, left, DHHS Wellness coordinator, was joined by Ruth Barlow, state Wellness coordinator, at the DHHS event.

Below: Runners begin their 5K race on the Dix campus.

– Photos by Jim Jones



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**DHHS Race to Wellness, continued from page 8**

Employees in the Raleigh area had an additional opportunity to walk and run at the Wellness Program's second annual 5K race and 1.5-mile walk/race event held on Oct. 15 on the campus of Dorothea Dix Hospital. This year, other departments were invited to participate in the wellness event. Employees gathered after work at the Haywood Gym DHHS Employee Wellness Center area to run or walk in one of the races or to enjoy the variety of free wellness activities offered. Employees were dancing in the street as Jazzercise instructors provided a warm-up for race participants and continued with a half hour class for other employees. Inside the gym, dancing continued to the Latin rhythms of a Zumba class. Volleyball games followed.

Throughout the event, employees could tour the gym and fitness room and learn about the daily fitness activities available at the gym during lunch breaks and both before and after work seven days a week. The Be Active N.C. van was on site providing BMI and fitness assess-

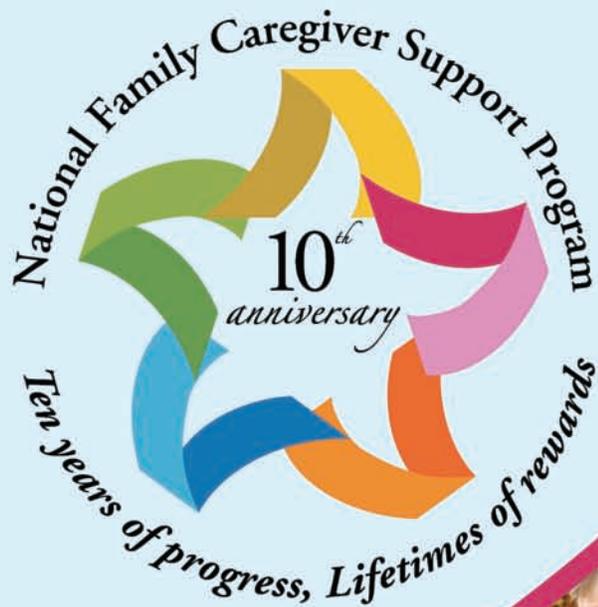
ments. Participants enjoyed fresh fruit refreshments and received gift bags from the N.C. State Farmer's Market.

State Wellness Coordinator Ruth Barlow from the Office of State Personnel joined Suzanna Young, director of the DHHS Wellness Program, in awarding prizes to the race winners. First place in the 5K for men was David Brown from DENR at 20:59. Laurie Edgerton, with the DHHS State Center for Health Statistics in DPH, at 26:28 finished first among women in the 5 K. James Murphy, with DHHS, MISS, was the men's winner of the 1.5 Mile walk with a time of 21:46 and Brenda Sanders, with Health Services Regulation in DHHS finished first place among women in the 1.5 mile walk at 22:44. Each of the four first place winners won a \$25 cash prize. Employees that paid \$10 to register for one of the races were entered in a raffle to win \$100 grocery gift card. The winner of the race raffle was Buffie Raynor with Disability Determination Services.

Wellness committees at DHHS facilities in other areas of the state were encouraged to provide similar events for their employees. The Murdoch Center held its annual "Walk Off" event in Butner on Oct. 15. Murdoch staff had three opportunities during the day to take a quick walk break. After completing the circle, they put their name in a bucket for a drawing for prizes. On the same day as the Raleigh and Butner events, Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro held its second annual "Friends of Cherry Hospital" 5K Walk/Run event. Other fall fitness activities at state facilities include Broughton Hospital offering Yoga and Zumba classes to their employees.

Employees interested in participating in similar wellness activities at their worksite should contact their agency or facility wellness representative or they may email **Suzanna.Young@dhhs.nc.gov**. ■

– Suzanna Young,  
DHHS Wellness Director



November is Family Caregiver Month.  
North Carolina joins the nation in celebrating  
10 years of the Family Caregiver Support Program  
*Ten years of progress, lifetimes of rewards*

Celebrating the Year of the Family Caregiver



Learn more about North Carolina's Family Caregiver Support program by  
visiting [www.ncdhhs.gov/aging](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging)



# Surry County team repeats as top paramedics in N.C.



Surry champions Barry McMillian, left, and Roger Horton are surrounded by judges and watched by their peers as they administer care to 'victims' in a simulated pit row crash.

Last year's champions successfully defended their title and were recognized Oct. 5 as the state's top paramedic team following a graded and timed competition during the 37th annual North Carolina Emergency Medicine Today Conference held in Greensboro.

Roger Horton and Barry McMillian of Surry County Emergency Medical Services were announced the winners of the 20th annual Paramedic Competition at an awards banquet.

In claiming the title, Horton and McMillian overcame the best efforts of five other teams, including a challenge from another paramedic team from Surry County. They also outscored teams from Cumberland, Duplin, Lincoln and Stokes counties in the competition held Oct. 3 at the Koury Center. Those teams all were champions from a five regional competitions held across the state in July.



Surry Champs:  
Surry EMS Roger Horton and Surry EMS Barry McMillian  
– Photos by Jim Jones

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**Surry County team repeats, continued from page 11**



Pratt Gets Award

Each team competed in front of an audience of more than 300 of their peers. The scenario involved a mock NASCAR accident in which two stock car racing pit crew members were injured when a car entering the pits bumped another car just as the crew prepared to jack it up for a tire change. Then came the twist. About midway through their treatment of the two injured pit crew members, a nearby spectator suffered a heart attack. Then one of the two injured pit crew members began having seizures.

“These scenarios are designed to challenge and test the teams, and they accomplish that,” said Regina Godette-Crawford, interim chief of the N.C. Office of Emergency Medical Services, which organizes the conference and competition.

“But there are so many more benefits – not only do the competing teams step up their training in preparation for the competition, but all the spectators benefit as they watch their peers perform under pressure. This is a great way to emphasize the importance of all the needed skill sets and validate all the steps that paramedics follow when responding to citizens in crisis.”

The originator of the competition was recognized for his foresight during the banquet. Drexdal Pratt was presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of North Carolina’s highest honors given to its citizens. Pratt rose through the ranks of OEMS and served as its chief for 12 years before taking a post in August as director of the N.C. Division of Health Service Regulation.

“I thank you all,” Pratt said to about 700 EMS professionals and spouses attending the awards banquet. “This is all about patients and care. You all are doing a fantastic job.”

The competition is a collaborative effort that included assistance from the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians, Richard Childress Racing, and the Childress Institute of Pediatric Trauma at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. ■

*– Jim Jones,  
DHHS Public Affairs*

## Let the waters flow



Using a mixture of leftover materials from other construction projects, a bit of recycling and a lot of imagination and creativity has given the entrance to O'Berry Neuro Medical Treatment Center, Goldsboro, a makeover. Landscaping and Grounds workers Mark Martinmianakis, Ricky Hope and Richard Rice spent about two weeks working on the new fountain while working other projects at the facility.

Grounds Supervisor Martinmianakis came up with the design after noting that the shrubs in front of the sign were dying and need to be replaced. In addition, the main entrance needed to reflect the mission of the facility as a Neuro-Medical treatment center specializing in long-term care. ■



The redesigned main entrance to the O'Berry Center got a significant face lift (above), with the help of three grounds crew members (below), Richard Rice, left, Ricky Hope, center, and their supervisor, Mark Martinmianakis

## N.C. ranks high in Assistive Technology services

North Carolina ranks near the top nationally in services provided under the Assistive Technology (AT) Act, federal legislation focused on access and acquisition of devices that increase independence for people of all ages with disabilities.

Based on FFY 2008-2009 data from 56 Assistive Technology Programs which includes states, territories and Washington, D.C., the NC Assistive Technology Program (NCATP) ranked second in short-term loan of assistive technology devices, fourth in AT device demonstrations, and eleventh in information and assistance to individuals.

NCATP provides these access services statewide through 11 AT centers. Each AT center has a sampling of AT devices and is staffed by AT consultants who are knowledgeable about the technol-

ogy and can demonstrate the devices; answer questions and problem solve.

The AT devices are also available for loan for up to two weeks. Individuals can use the information they gather at the device demos along with the actual experience of using the loaned devices to decide which device works best for them.

In the acquisition area, North Carolina ranked eleventh in the number of open-ended loans and twenty-fourth in device exchanges through the Technology Exchange Post. NCATP offers extended or open-ended loans when devices in the AT centers become outdated, are no-longer on the market or supported by the manufacturer. These AT devices are loaned to individuals for as long as they are useful to them.

NCATP now publishes the newly revised Technology Exchange Post, an online listing of used equipment for people with disabilities. The link is [www.ncexchange.org/home.php](http://www.ncexchange.org/home.php). All transactions are between buyer and seller as to condition and price of the item. Both of these device reutilization programs ranked eighth nationally in financial actual savings to consumers. North Carolina ranked fourteenth in assistive technology related training.

The twentieth annual N.C. Assistive Technology Expo, the only statewide AT training conference in North Carolina, will take place Nov. 17 -19 at the North Raleigh Hilton. Go to [www.pat.org](http://www.pat.org) for registration information. The exhibit hall on Nov. 18 is free and open to the public. ■

– Tammy D. Koger, Director, NCATP

## November is Adoption Month in NC

**NC Heart Gallery is a photography portrait exhibit that raises awareness about North Carolina's children available for adoption.**

The Heart Gallery will be exhibited in several churches and at adoption events during the month of November. If you know of a business or organization that is interested in hosting a Heart Gallery, please contact NC Kids.



## DHHS graduates 10 from Certified Public Manager program



### New graduates

From left to right, front row, Tammy Tanner, Tamara Barnes, Linda Eckert and Becky Wertz; center row, Mary Maas, Michele Tart and Frances Pedrigi; top row, Ron Byrd, Alma Taylor and Roydan Saah.

Ten employees of the Department of Health and Human Services are among the graduating class of 2010 for the North Carolina Certified Public Manager program. The class graduated on Oct. 11 in a ceremony held at the Museum of History in downtown Raleigh.

The CPM program provides in-depth, comprehensive leadership development and training to middle managers and statewide program directors in state government agencies and universities. Graduates earn CPM designation, which is recognized by a consortium of more than 30 states and public sector entities.

DHHS graduates and their assigned work areas are: Tamara Barnes, child day care assistant director, Regulatory Service Section, Division of Child Development; Ron Byrd, chief child day care program, Operations Subsidy Services Section, DCD; Linda Eckert, disability determination supervisor, Disability Determination Services; Mary Maas, facility survey consultant, Division of Health Service Regulation; Frances Pedrigi, engineering/architectural supervisor, DHSR; Roydan Saah, medical laboratory supervisor, Division of Public Health; Tammy Tanner, child day care program manager, DCD; Michele Tart, social services

program administrator, Division of Social Services; Alma Taylor, rehabilitation program specialist, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; and Becky Wertz, facility survey consultant, DHSR.

The program is based in the Office of State Personnel, Human Resource Development Division. Each year 72 participants are selected by the agencies and universities to enroll in the program. ■

– Jim Jones, DHHS Public Affairs

## SECC fund raising efforts pay off

Staff at the Division of Health Service Regulation's Adult Care Licensure Section raised \$380 for the State Employees Combined Campaign with an annual soup lunch on Oct. 21. For \$5 diners could select one of seven soups, cornbread and drink, and for an extra \$1 a dessert. In the top photo, left to right, Marcella Crocker, June Spears and Doug Barrick stand ready to serve. Below, diners dig in during the soup lunch. Other DHHS divisions and work sections also held events to raise funds for SECC. While the SECC is winding to a close in DHHS this month, it is not too late to turn in your campaign pledge sheet. If you've been holding back, think of the difference your generosity can make in the lives of others. Now is the time to make a pledge from your heart. ■ – Photos by Jim Jones



## Immunization Rates Up For N.C. Children

The 2009 National Immunization Survey (NIS) results show North Carolina children are among the best-protected in the nation against vaccine-preventable diseases. The survey shows 76.7 percent of children 19 to 35 months of age are up to date on all their routine childhood immunizations. That's better than the national average of 70.5 percent. The rate gives North Carolina a fourth-place rank among states for 2009.

The 2009 NIS was a random telephone survey of more than 17,000 households which looked at the vaccinations of children born between January 2006 and July 2008. The survey is sponsored by the National Center for Immunizations and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) and conducted jointly by NCIRD and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ■

## Hoping To Avoid The Dreaded Holiday Weight Gain?

The statewide Eat Smart, Move More North Carolina movement is offering a free resource to help you stuff the turkey, but not yourself this holiday season.

Join the fifth annual Eat Smart, Move More...Maintain, don't gain! Holiday Challenge. Rather than focusing on trying to lose weight, this free six-week challenge provides tips, tricks and ideas to help maintain your weight throughout the holiday season. On-line

sign-up is open at [www.MyEatSmart-MoveMore.com](http://www.MyEatSmart-MoveMore.com). Only an email address is needed to join. All participant information is kept confidential.

The challenge begins Nov. 22 and will run through Dec. 31. People who sign up early and complete a pre-survey will receive bonus healthy holiday recipes and a shopping list. Each week, participants will receive free weekly emailed newsletters with tips to manage holiday stress, ideas for fitting physical

activity in during the busy season, and resources for cooking quick and easy meals when time is in short supply. A calorie counter, food log and activity log are also available for free download to help track your progress.

In 2009, more than 5,200 people from all 100 North Carolina counties and 47 other states took part in the challenge. At the end of the program, 82 percent reported maintaining their weight. ■

## Diabetes Education Program Recognized With National Award

The Division of Public Health's Diabetes Branch was recognized in October by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) with a Vision Award for its Diabetes Education Recognition Program.

The Diabetes Education Recognition Program's mission is to provide quality comprehensive diabetes self-management education to empower

persons with diabetes. Its purpose is to increase access across the state for people with diabetes to get needed self-management training, while providing a mechanism for reimbursement to local health departments. The program addresses health disparities with particular emphasis on poor, rural counties with high rates of diabetes.

The ASTHO Vision Awards are presented each year to honor creative state health programs and increase awareness of successful initiatives encouraging replication in other states. Laura Edwards, North Carolina Diabetes Education Recognition Program coordinator, and Joanne Rinker accepted the award on behalf of the division. ■

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## Free Webinar On Quitting Tobacco For Good

November 18 is the annual Great American Smokeout. The Division of Public Health's Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch is offering a free webinar to get the latest information on how you or someone you love can quit tobacco. Feel free to share this information with others.

Choose from two times:

Great American Smoke-out: Quit Tips for NC Employees

When: 11/18/2010 9:00 AM

Dial-In: 1-866-899-5399

Pass-Code: \*2269313\*

To join the meeting:

<https://ncpublichealth.ncgovconnect.com/gaso1/>

GASO: Quit Tips for NC Employees

When: 11/18/2010 12:00 PM

Dial-In: 1-866-899-5399

Pass-Code: \*2269313\*

To join the meeting:

<https://ncpublichealth.ncgovconnect.com/r26358578/>

– Julie Henry, DHHS Public Affairs

## What's public about your personnel file?

The N.C. Legislature recently made changes to GS 126-23 which affect what information in your personnel file is considered public, effective Oct. 1, 2010. Before the change, only certain information in your personnel file was considered public and could be released:

- Name
- Age
- Date of original employment or appointment to state service
- Current position and title
- Current salary
- Date and amount of most recent increase or decrease in salary
- Date of the most recent promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or other change in position classification and office or station to which employee is currently assigned
- Assigned office or station

The changes to the statute make the following additional items maintained by DHHS public record:

1. Salary History	Date and amount of each increase and decrease with DHHS.
2. Personnel Transactions	Date and type of each promotion, demotion, transfer, disciplinary suspension, separation, or other change in position classification with DHHS.
3. Promotion History & Reason	Date and general description of the reasons for each promotion with DHHS.
4. Discipline History	Date and type of every disciplinary suspension, demotion, and dismissal taken by DHHS.
5. Dismissal Letters	A copy of the dismissal letter with the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the dismissal.

More information in your personnel file is now considered public information and can be released. If you have questions regarding these changes, please contact your local Human Resources/HR office. ■

## Lekwauwa named Division of MH/DD/SAS medical director

Ureh Nnenna Lekwauwa, M.D. has been named medical director of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services.

Dr. Lekwauwa served as medical director for CenterPoint Human Services in Winston-Salem for 13 years, directing the development of clinical practice policies at that local management entity (LME), promoting best practices in the service delivery system, and collaborating with providers and community stakeholders to improve service access and quality. CenterPoint provides MH/DD/SAS services to residents in Forsyth, Stokes, Davie and Rockingham counties.

Prior to that she served as staff psychiatrist at CenterPoint Human Services. She is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and by the American Board of Addiction Medicine. In her new role at the Division of MH/DD/SAS she will provide leadership regarding the quality and effectiveness of service delivery. Dr. Lekwauwa will begin her duties at the end of November. ■

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## DPH's Rodgers recognized as top health educator

Mary Glyn Rodgers, training coordinator for the Women's Health Branch in the Division of Public Health's Women's and Children's Health Section, was recognized as the Outstanding Health Educator by the N.C. Society for Public Health Education (NCSOPHE).

In nine years as training coordinator, Rodgers has developed, implemented and evaluated women's health trainings statewide for a variety of audiences. She also has spearheaded the annual women's health training survey,



Mary Glyn Rodgers

which evaluates the training needs for women's health professionals and is instrumental in securing funding for, developing, implementing and evaluating the offerings statewide. Rodgers began her career with DHHS/DPH in 1994 in the Tuberculosis Control program, providing training and continuing education to nurses, physicians and outreach workers.

Rodgers also is an active volunteer with Hospice of Wake County. ■

# DDS exceeds all performance targets in FFY 2010

N.C. Disability Determination Services has again exceeded all targeted workload expectations. The federal fiscal year ended Sept. 30 with disability claims at all-time high levels.

The agency staff received a congratulatory note from the DDS executive leadership team “for another outstanding performance year!”

The top performance occurred during a year in which disability claims were received at unprecedented high levels. Expedient service delivery required extra effort on the part of all agency components.

The National and Regional Disability Quality Branches provide oversight to ensure consistency of decisions. Routine reviews are conducted to check

accuracy of claims handling. For FFY 2010, the DDS unit earned a 97.4 percent accuracy rating for initial claims after delivering services to 161,107 applicants for Social Security Disability benefits and 50,917 applicants for Medicaid services.

“This is truly a remarkable accomplishment,” said Linda Harrington, director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. “Everyone stepped up and met all the challenges presented.”

“The achievements made in FFY 2010 would not have been possible without each member of the DDS staff embracing change; offering suggestions as to ways to improve efficiency; turning challenges into opportunities to succeed and believing in our mission to provide quality, efficient service to

our fellow N.C. citizens,” said Rhonda Currie, director of the North Carolina DDS.

“Your results-oriented approach in managing your job duties is very much appreciated! Your efforts truly demonstrate that there is no “I” in TEAM.

Currie noted that “one of Secretary Cansler’s DHHS Excels initiatives focuses on the management of ‘resources that provide an elevated level of effective and efficient delivery of services and programs’ to North Carolinians. Your achievements in FFY 2010 reflect an understanding of the meaning of this goal. You are an amazing team!”

Paul Barnes, DDS regional commissioner, lauded the performance of North Carolina and other DDS teams in the Atlanta Region, which:

- Processed 25 percent of all of the initial claims in the nation.
- Processed 26 percent of the total disability cases in the nation.
- Processed 33 percent of all of the reconsiderations in the nation.
- Set an all time record by processing 1,149,474 total disability cases.
- Exceeded the nation’s PPWY(272.5) with a PPWY of 277.2.
- Finished the year well above the net accuracy goal (97 percent) with a net accuracy of 98.1 percent.
- Processed cases 23 days earlier than the national goal.
- Processed cases for \$78 less than the national average.

“My thanks and congratulations to all of you for your leadership and hard work,” Barnes said. “This is clearly our best performance year ever! You all played a major role in this success nationally.” ■