

The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

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DHSS and partners identify Substance Use Disorder strategies



Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) staff and key partners recently met to work on the department's Substance Use Disorder strategy map. The strategy map will enable DHSS to meet its vision of Delaware having a coordinated and comprehensive approach to prevent, identify, effectively treat, and support those impacted by substance use disorder. Nine objectives are supported by initiatives and activities, all of which will align with the Addiction Action Committee, which is chaired by Division of Public Health (DPH) Director Dr. Karyl Rattay. This strategy map is now transitioning to a

performance management system to establish accountability.

From top: Recorder Jeffrey Gentry, DHSS Manager of Internal Communications, and Brent Waninger of DPH's Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Section, listen intently to Diane Hainsworth of the Office of EMS. Community Relations Officer Jen Brestel of DPH's Office of Health and Risk Communication provides a summary.

DPH offers chronic pain course

Delawareans with a primary or secondary diagnosis of chronic pain – pain lasting longer than three to six months – may find some relief through DPH's Chronic Pain Self-Management Program (CPSMP).

Volunteer lay leaders teach the free six-week CPSMP course, using an evidence-based standardized curriculum developed at Stanford University. Participants learn to manage their chronic pain through physical activity, decision-making, action planning, breathing techniques, problem solving, communication, healthy eating, medications, and working with health professionals.

To review the class schedule, visit <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/dpc/files/smpschedule.pdf>. To register, call Tiffany Pearson in the Bureau of Chronic Disease at 302-744-1020.



Flu cases hit record high

DPH reported 6,674 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases for the current flu season as of the week ending February 27, an all-time high since record-keeping began with the 2004-2005 season. The actual number of flu cases in the community is likely much higher.

Twenty-four flu-related deaths

had occurred by that date.

DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay advises people to stay home if sick, to contact their doctor at the first sign of illness, and to prevent the spread of the flu virus with frequent hand-washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and sanitizing common surfaces.

MCH Bureau awarded for community health work in Sussex County

The Sussex County Health Coalition (SCHC) presented DPH's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Bureau with its "2017 Community Partner of the Year" award. SCHC also gave a special recognition award to MCH Program Manager Patricia "Patti" Burke, who has attended their monthly meetings for the past four years to determine shared goals.

Through the partnership, birth discharge papers in some Sussex County hospitals now contain developmental screening information, and the gift bags that SCHC gives to new mothers contains developmental screening literature. Those gains support the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant administered by DPH.

Other positive outcomes support good oral and dental health and bullying prevention. MCH and SCHC partnered with DPH's Bureau of Oral Health and Dental Services (BOHDS) to organize a professional development training for 60 Sussex County child care providers. MCH and BOHDS also encouraged pediatric medical providers to conduct an oral health assessment and fluoride varnish application as part of the well-child visit. An analysis of 2016 Medicaid claims data showed that the number of pediatricians statewide who are billing for fluoride applications grew from 10 practices in 2016 to 28 practices in 2017, Burke said.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health