

New Bioterrorism Preparedness Training Unit debuts in Santa Ana



HCA is pleased to announce the formation of a new Bioterrorism Preparedness Training Unit (BPTU) that will serve as the Agency's clearinghouse for emergency response-related trainings and as a bioterrorism learning resource center for employees and for HCA's community partners.

The new unit is conveniently located on the third floor of the 405 W. 5th Street building in Santa Ana in Room 357, formerly the home of HCA Volunteer Services. With a current staff of five HCA employees – John Van Sky, Ph.D., Barry Havlick, MA, Lani Orr, RN, Jocelyn Argame, RN, and Silvy Gomez, OS, trainings will be provided internally to HCA employees, and externally to Orange County ambulance companies, hospitals and community clinics.

"The BPTU works hand in hand with HCA's Bioterrorism Planning Unit, located next door in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), to ensure that HCA employees receive the learning resources and proper training they need to be prepared in case of

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Estuary Awareness Day Celebrated

HCA's Public Health Water Quality Laboratory at Shellmaker Island in Newport Beach participated in a free public event hosted by the Upper Newport Bay Naturalists on May 1 to celebrate Estuary Awareness Day 2004. The event aimed to educate adults and children about wa-

ter quality and provide an understanding of how estuaries link the land and the ocean.

With daylong activities designed to be an educational and hands-on experience for attendees, HCA's water quality staff provided demonstrations at the Shellmaker Laboratory on how

ocean water is tested for bacterial levels to protect public health.

City of Newport Beach Mayor Tod Ridgeway served as Honorary Chairman for the day's festivities, which included boat tours, opportunity drawings, poster contests, environmental exhibits, and a variety of interactive programs offered by the California Department of Fish and Game, Harbors, Beaches and Parks, Naturalists, and the Coastal Commission at Upper Newport Bay.

An estuary is a coastal



Several children observers look on as Public Health Microbiologist Mariam Zhouandai demonstrates how bacteria levels are determined by testing water samples taken from Upper Newport Bay.



Mariam Zhouandai, Public Health Microbiologist explains to Trudy Purpura and her daughter Jenna about the sources of bacterial pollution to estuaries during Estuary Awareness Day at Upper Newport Bay on May 1.

wetland where salt water from the ocean mixes with nutrient-rich fresh water from inland sources. Upper Newport Bay is one of the few remaining natural estuaries in Southern California, and is home to nearly 200 species of birds, mammals, fish, other creatures and native plants.

Students recognized for winning essays

Congratulations to local Orange County students, Kyle Ryan, Dewi Harjanto and Kristen Van Dine for the winning essays they submitted to Nutrition Services' 7th annual Health and Nutrition Essay contest. The students were honored at the June 8 Board of Supervisors Meeting, and were presented with certificates from Supervisor Campbell and Supervisor Silva.

Along with the recognition they received from the Board of Supervisors, the students received savings bonds from Nutrition Services to further their education. Their winning essays, which were displayed at the Hall of Administration, featured topics including diet and nutrition, nutrition as a key to cancer prevention, and the role nutrition plays in preventing obesity in schools.

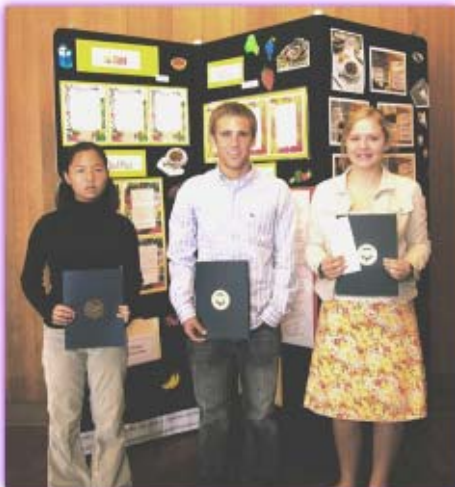
HCA's Nutrition Services program also presented certificates of participation to four special needs students from Costa Mesa High School Annex: Lisa Belware, Rosa Garcia, Michelle Contreras and Cheryl Frolich.

The annual essay contest, held during the month of March to celebrate National Nutrition Month, provides Orange County students with an opportunity to take responsibility for their health and food choices by writing an essay on nutrition-related topics. Each year the contest helps students explore reliable sources of information and think critically about good health.

The Nutrition Services program thanks all students and schools that participated in helping to make this year's essay contest a success. For more information about the Nutrition Services program or the essay contest, visit www.ochealthinfo.com/public/nutrition or call (714) 834-7952. Stay tuned for next year's contest!



Four special needs students from Costa Mesa High School Annex received certificates of participation for the essays they submitted to this year's Nutrition Services Essay Contest. Pictured (clockwise) are Para Educator David Van Sutphin, Teacher Nicole Price and students Enrique Medranda (accepted certificate for Cheryl Frolich), Adonise Larkins (accepted certificate for Michelle Contreras), Rosa Garcia and Lisa Belware.



Pictured (left to right) are Dewi Harjanto, 2nd place winner from Northwood High School; Kyle Ryan, 1st place winner from Edison High School; and Kristen Van Dine, 3rd place winner from Edison High School.

LMC Team Excellence Awards

Attention all HCA teams! It's time to submit entries for the next Labor Management Committee (LMC) Team Excellence Award! As Environmental Health's Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)/Used Oil Program team can tell you, being selected for the 1st LMC Team Excellence Award was quite an honor. The LMC gave this group the VIP treatment at a special LMC meeting, team members and their accomplishments were featured in HCA's "What's Up" newsletter, and they were also honored at the April HCA Service Awards Ceremony. The Environmental Health team definitely showed that they were committed to clearly defining their goals, creating valuable roles for each team member, practicing positive and creative thinking, and communicating and solving problems effectively.

What does it take to be an award winning team? Just complete an application form including information regarding the team members, supervisor and reference names, and provide additional information addressing how your team meets the following criteria:

- The ability to plan, prioritize, communicate and resolve problems,
- Excels in their responsibilities, and practices the principles of Enlightened Leadership,
- Handles setbacks, overcomes obstacles, and successfully meets challenges, and
- Describe how the team's efforts and accomplishments have provided better service, improved performance and productivity, and improved morale.

Obtain copies of the application form, nomination criteria and one page description of the Characteristics of Excellent Teams from the HCA/LMC Intranet site at <http://bal-sam/intranet/lmc/default.asp>.

It's time to celebrate the accomplishments of the next award winning HCA team! Make sure your team gets its chance and the recognition it deserves!



Team Excellence Award

HCA & OCEA LMC
LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

health care agency
WHAT'S UP
keeping staff informed & current

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Prevention a Key to Agency Compliance

It's summertime, and some of you may be heading off for a family vacation in your car, truck or van. One of the important steps in preparing for your vacation trip is preventive maintenance for your vehicle, which has an important connection to the Health Care Agency Compliance Program's annual risk assessment.

Many of us have experienced that discouraging feeling of standing next to our vehicle, trying to diagnose an engine problem or change a flat tire. That's why it's better to find those potential problems before they actually occur and prevent any untimely interruptions to our trip.

It's much the same with HCA's Compliance Program. Through a risk assessment, we can identify potential problems before they happen and make the changes needed to prevent them from occurring, saving us time, trouble and, potentially, money. So what is a risk assessment? Simply put, the purpose of a risk assessment is to detect weaknesses in an organization that could pose a compliance or operational risk. Given that HCA operates in a highly regulated industry – healthcare – it is important to reduce any potential exposure to legal or financial problems. A risk assessment helps (1) identify high-risk areas, (2) prioritize our efforts, (3) establish a baseline for ongoing auditing or monitoring programs and (4) provide a platform for corrective action.

While this sounds straightforward, the challenge is to integrate the risk assessment into the daily operations of the Health Care Agency and to use the knowledge of experts within our programs and services to drive the process. This is where the Compliance Committee comes in. The Compliance Committee consists of 15 people representing a broad cross-section of the Agency. They participate in an annual risk assessment to identify high-risk areas within their areas of operation. Each risk is discussed in committee and evaluated independently. Depending on the level of risk, appropriate steps can be taken to minimize the risk, which may include auditing or monitoring, providing training and educational opportunities, and developing new procedures. While it is never possible to eliminate all potential risks, the annual risk assessment process helps us identify and address some of the major risks that may occur as HCA provides services to our community.

The Compliance Committee members are listed on the Office of Compliance website at http://balsam/intranet/compliance/committee_members.asp. Contact your service area representative if you have questions about this process, or have a compliance concern in your program area. Each one of us has a responsibility to keep our Agency running smoothly.

The HCA Compliance Program offers a confidential telephone hotline to voice your concerns about any situation that may conflict with Compliance Program principles. You may call the hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at:
(866) 260-5636

Bioterrorism

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an emergency, disaster or terrorist incident," said John Van Sky, BPTU Program Manager.

With support and assistance from HCA's Quality Management staff, the BPTU recently launched "Disaster Service Worker/Standardized Emergency Management (SEMS) 101" training, required of all HCA employees. Both online and instructor-led versions were developed.

"There was an overwhelming response by HCA employees who completed the online version of the SEMS 101 training," said John Van Sky. "It was our goal to provide an easily accessible way for employees to complete the training and we're excited to see that so many have taken advantage of the online version of this course."

The BPTU will have a number of on-site computers to enable employees without computer access to complete required trainings. A library containing bioterrorism and emergency related videos and publications will also be available for employees to learn more about various topics, such as anthrax and smallpox. Similar to a public library, employees and members of the Orange County medical community will be able to check out materials for several weeks at a time. Instructor-led trainings will be held in a new "mini" classroom inside the new training unit for certain groups and/or individuals when the nature of the training topics requires "hands on" experience.

Future trainings in the works include preparation for a simulated anthrax drill scheduled next year and a "Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Threats" training based on curricula developed by UCLA under contract with the State Office of Emergency Services.

Newly established in April 2004, the BPTU was created by HCA Administration to provide the Agency's workforce and HCA's community partners with appropriate bioterrorism and emergency response related trainings and resources to meet serious challenges unknown to previous generations of Americans.

John Van Sky adds, "BPTU staff are committed to providing excellent preparedness resources, both to HCA employees and the community. Our goal is nothing short of first-rate customer service."

Stay tuned for an upcoming Bioterrorism Preparedness Training Unit Open House! For more information about the new unit and/or upcoming trainings, e-mail or call John Van Sky, BPTU Program Manager at (714) 834-6587 or JvanSky@ochca.com.

HIPAA myths and realities

For many years, California has had its own set of medical privacy laws, most of which are as stringent, or more so, than the HIPAA Privacy Rule. HIPAA regulations contain a pre-emption clause, which allows that when State privacy laws conflict with HIPAA, the law providing the greater protection of individual's medical information pre-empts the lesser law.

Over the past year, many misconceptions and clarifications regarding HIPAA have come to light. The "myths and realities" shown below were recently addressed in a communication from the United States Department of Health & Human Services.

Myth HIPAA requires patients to sign consent forms before doctors, hospitals, or ambulances can share information for treatment purposes.

Reality HIPAA allows providers to share information with other providers for treatment purposes without getting a signed patient authorization or jumping through other hoops. (Other laws providing greater protection may apply in certain situations.)

Myth HIPAA prevents child abuse reporting.

Reality Doctors must continue to report child abuse or neglect to appropriate government authorities.

TUPP Youth Coalition receives honors

Congratulations to the “Back That Ash Up!” (BTAU) Youth Coalition of HCA’s Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPP) which received honors from the California Youth Advocacy Network last month as one of the top youth coalitions in California working to reduce tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

As a youth-led and youth-driven group of teens aged 11-17, the BTAU coalition received recognition based on their level of dedication and commitment to educating the Orange County community about tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, as demonstrated through projects, campaigns and activities.

Goals of the BTAU coalition include, establishing smoke-free areas at popular outdoor entertainment venues, educating peers on the value of being media literate, and hosting anti-tobacco media events, including bus shelter ads, billboards and poster unveilings to showcase youth-created anti-tobacco artwork in their community.

The coalition also participates in a number of local events and activities

such as community health fairs, Red Ribbon Week, World No Tobacco Day and creates public service announcements. Bi-monthly and subcommittee workgroup meetings are also held to build leadership, advocacy, communication and teamwork skills.

The BTAU Youth Coalition includes ethnically and regionally diverse members who represent all areas of Orange County. Past and present youth members have come from cities including La Habra, Fullerton, Anaheim, Buena Park, Placentia, Tustin, Los Alamitos, Garden Grove, Westminster, Huntington Beach, Santa Ana and Irvine.

For more information about the “Back That Ash Up!” Youth Coalition, contact Anabel Garcia at (714)



Youth coalition members joined Nicolas Jr. High School art contest winner Patrick Wongprasert during the unveiling of a bus shelter that featured his winning artwork. Pictured in back row (left to right) are BTAU Youth Coalition members Miriam Aguilares, Chelsea Jersin, Devin Jersin and Nicolas Jr. High Principal Allan Waterman. Pictured in front row (left to right) are Anthony Trinh, Patrick Wongprasert and Adriana Romo.

834-5710 or Sherryl Ramos at (714) 834-2909 from TUPP or visit www.ochealthinfo.com/tupp.



Members from TUPP’s “Back That Ash Up!” Youth Coalition took a moment to pose for a group photo at Olive Park in Orange during their August 2003 kick-off meeting.



Leadership Council members from the BTAU Youth Coalition (standing left to right) Michelle Altura, Monika Zhou and Sandra Mariano give a presentation during an October 2003 Youth Coalition meeting held at the Santa Ana Police Department.

Welcome home, Manny and Carla!

HCA welcomes home Manny Hernandez, Building Manager for HCA’s 17th Street Facility and Carla Marcinek, Supervising Public Health Nurse for the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health program, after serving on active duty in Iraq.

Manny was away for 6 months and served as an aviation mechanic with the Helicopter Combat Support Squadron. Carla is a reservist with the Aero Medical Evacuation Unit and served more than a year in Iraq. Her unit was responsible for the care of troops being flown from Iraq to hospitals in Germany and other regions. She was also one of the nurses who accompanied the seven freed American POWs on their flight out of Iraq. HCA is glad to have both Manny and Carla safely home.

HCA’s Manny Hernandez and Carla Marcinek were featured on a “Wall of Honor” display at the County’s Hall of Administration.



WIC increases collaborative efforts

With the goal of providing services and accessibility to meet client's needs, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program increased its collaborative efforts with Orange County's Community/Family Resource Centers (FRC) through its recent partnership with the Hermosa Village Community Resource Center located in Anaheim.

Nutrition Services provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support and supplemental food vouchers to women who are pregnant, breastfeeding and/or postpartum, or have infants and children up to 5 years of age. Below is a listing of HCA's WIC and Family Resource Center locations throughout the County where clients are served. Client referrals to WIC clinics are always welcome. For more information about the WIC program or to schedule an appointment, call (714) 834-8333 or visit www.ochealthinfo.com/public/nutrition/wic.htm.



The Fountain Valley WIC Clinic celebrated its grand opening in October 2003 and has since served many of its clients at this convenient and easily accessible location.

WIC Clinics

- Ball Road WIC
2137 E. Ball Rd.
Anaheim, CA 90621
- Buena Park WIC
7342 W. Orangethorpe Ave.
Buena Park, CA 90621
- Costa Mesa WIC
2845 E. Mesa Verde Dr.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
- Fountain Valley WIC
8570 Warner Ave.
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
- Hemlock WIC
1220 Hemlock Way
Santa Ana, CA 92706
- Room 101 WIC
1725 W. 17th St.
Santa Ana, CA 92706
- San Juan Capistrano WIC
27512 Calle Arroyo
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
- Sigler Park WIC
7200 Plaza St.
Westminster, CA 92683
- West/Beach WIC
14120 Beach Blvd.
Westminster, CA 92683

Family Resource Centers

- Centralia Neighborhood FRC
195 N. Western Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92801
- Danbrook Neighborhood FRC
320 S. Danbrook St.
Anaheim, CA 92804
- El Modena FRC
8672 E. Center St.
Orange, CA 92669
- Hermosa Village Community FRC
1515 Calle del Mar
Anaheim, CA 92802
- Jerome FRC
726 S. Center St.
Santa Ana, CA 92704
- La Independencia FRC
10841 Garza Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92806
- Ponderosa Park FRC
2100 S. Haster Blvd.
Anaheim, CA 92802

PH Nurses/Support Staff honored at luncheon

To honor public health nurses and support staff in the Specialized Public Health Nursing Program, a garden luncheon event was held on June 22 at the Victorian home of Program Manager Sally Wurth, located at Olive Heights.

With best regards from Agency Director Julie Poulson, Sally was joined by Dr. Mark Horton, Dr. Margaret Beed and Steve Thronson and representatives from HCA and SSA programs in recognizing staff from the Perinatal Substance Abuse

Services Initiative/Assessment and Coordination Team, Foster Care Public Health Nursing Program, CALWorks Public Health Nursing, Senior Health Outreach & Prevention Program (SHOPP), Preventive Health Care for the Aging (PHCA), and Child Abuse Services Team (CAST).

Thank you to the following HCA nurses and staff for your dedication and continued commitment to excellence, integrity and service in the field of public health nursing:

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| • Irma Anthony | • Carla Estrada | • Liza Navarro | • Michelle Todesco | • Carolyn Wadsworth |
| • Jocelyn Argame | • Joan Flinn | • Barbara Neesen | • Donna Tran | • Jennifer Yates |
| • Zinnia Arroyo | • Eleanor Forrest | • Mahdere Negash | • Yvonne Tran | • Gloria Zamarripa |
| • Andrea Arthur | • Alicia Fuly-Smith | • Ken Nguyen | • Florence Turley | |
| • Debra Barnes | • Lori Funke | • Armida Ocker | • Darolyn Underwood | |
| • Ruth Barnett | • Marilyn Geller | • Judy Ogan | • Gary Vicencia | |
| • Jeanette Beck | • Sandi Gomez | • Karen Ribaudo | | |
| • Mary Biedebach | • Madhu Gupta | • Connie Rosplock | | |
| • Lee Boon | • Janellyn Hannah | • Melanie Sandkamp | | |
| • Kathy Brown | • Lorena Hermogeno | • Lynette Schnur-Rubel | | |
| • Deborah Browning | • Viera Hillis | • Kathryn Schwabl | | |
| • Brenda Butler | • Sarah Hoang | • Deborah Seeley | | |
| • Mai Chiem | • Jane Lee | • Beth Sevey | | |
| • Deborah Chitty | • Linda Lopez | • Chander Singh | | |
| • Denise Cota | • Cheryl Lowes | • Kathleen Stockton | | |
| • Linda DePriest | • Cherry Macalino | • Maya Thona | | |
| • Justine Dinh | • Jeanie Ming | | | |





Richard Kite receives recognition for research

Congratulations to Richard Kite, Ph.D., Analyst for HCA's Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team (ADEPT) on receiving an award from the County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California for Outstanding Achievement in the Alcohol and Drug Field for Research and Evaluation.



Richard has worked on several key research projects for ADEPT including the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) Use Prevalence: 2002 Survey of Orange County Adults, and the Circumstances of Last Drink survey.

The data collected from both surveys has enabled ADEPT and other ATOD prevention providers in helping to identify key areas of need, implementing outcomes that address those needs, and monitoring prevention efforts.

As ADEPT's only Research Analyst, Richard has played an integral role in shaping and guiding the ADEPT program in planning, implementing and evaluating prevention programs throughout the county.

H/LaTEN honors Juan Montes for contributions

Hats off to Juan Montes, Health Education Associate for HCA's Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPP), on receiving an award from the Hispanic/Latino Tobacco Education Network (H/LaTEN) for his outstanding efforts in leadership, guidance, commitment and dedication to the Network and the Latino Community.



Juan has been with TUPP for the past 10 years, working on a variety of tobacco control activities, including contributing technical assistance with the smokefree apartments project. His expertise and interests include providing outreach to the public, developing and translating materials into Spanish, and participating as a Spanish-language interviewee by the media to educate the community about secondhand smoke policies and smoking cessation.

As a consultant to H/LaTEN, Juan has reviewed media pieces developed for the Hispanic/Latino community for comprehension and cultural appropriateness, translating materials into Spanish and providing input on projects for the target population.

On July 1 Juan transferred to HCA's Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team (ADEPT), where he is now broad-

Spotlight on Excellence

Behavioral Health's Cultural Competency program presented its June "Spotlight on Excellence" Award to Andrew Perry, Mental Health Specialist with Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services' (ADAS) Drug Court program.

Andrew began his career with HCA six years ago and is acknowledged by his colleagues as a gentle, humorous soul who consistently assesses cultural issues and individual responsibility to increase connection and understanding.



Cultural Competency's Veronica Kelley presented Andrew Perry with the June 2004 Spotlight on Excellence Award at the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services' office located at 1200 N. Main in Santa Ana.

Jeopardy Challenge 2004

HCA is once again gearing up for the upcoming 2004 United Way Countywide Jeopardy Tournament! In preparation for the event, the Agency needs your help in deciding how teams and players will be chosen to represent this year's HCA team at the tournament that will take place on October 20 and 21.

Contribute your thoughts and suggestions on how teams will be chosen as well as contributing ideas on new Jeopardy categories. Visit HCA's Intranet site at ocintranet.ocgov.com/unitedway/jeopardy.htm to take a mini Jeopardy Challenge survey.

ening his knowledge and impact regarding alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) issues.

H/LaTEN, located in Alhambra, is a Proposition 99 CA Department of Health Services/Tobacco Control Section funded agency that provides statewide technical assistance and coordination to county health departments to improve the effectiveness of tobacco control in the Hispanic/Latino community.

AUGUST HEALTH OBSERVANCES

- Cataract Awareness Month
- National Immunization Awareness Month
- Psoriasis Awareness Month
- Spinal Muscular Awareness Month
- National Minority Donor Awareness Day 1
- World Breastfeeding Week 1 - 7
- Hearing Aid Awareness Week Aug. 29 - Sept. 4