



## WE Energies Steps Forward in the Fight to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning

By Jeff Propp and Sara Schubert

A press conference was held on August 24th to announce a “win-win” partnership between the MHD and WE Energies. Stepping forward in an important leadership role, WE Energies representative Roman Draba, Vice-President of Regulatory Affairs, announced the award of a \$360,000 grant to the MHD’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) for use in assisting qualified landlords and private homeowners in the removal of unsafe, deteriorated windows, and the installation of lead-safe energy-efficient replacements. The announcement of this special grant marked the culmination of efforts initiated by Mayor Tom Barrett’s “Green Team,” whose goals include sustainable and energy conscious development in the city of Milwaukee.



Although rain forced the event indoors, it could not dampen the enthusiasm of city officials, WE Energies representatives, private contractors, Lead Program staff, and community partners in attendance. The event was held at a restored Washington Park residence on North 36th Street. Citing the 13.1% lead poisoning rate in the MHD’s combined North and South Side target areas, Commissioner of Health **Bevan K. Baker** applauded WE Energies for stepping forward to partner with the MHD in its mission to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Milwaukee by 2010. Commissioner Baker stated, “This is another fine example of the public and private sectors in Milwaukee uniting to make our community safer for our children and their families,” and challenged other corporations to come to the table. Dave Klevgard of City Ventures, Inc., a neighborhood-based property ownership group overseeing the renovation of the N. 36th Street residence, extended congratulations over the newly announced partnership, and emphasized its important impact

*Mayor Barrett at Washington Park residence*



*Roman Draba, Mayor Barrett, Dave Klevgard, Commissioner Baker*

on the ability of neighborhoods to survive.

The WE Energies grant will help provide lead safety for up to 600 low-income households. This private sector funding, coupled with existing funds for window abatement through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, allows the MHD to provide a total of \$210 per window toward the cost of energy-efficient replacement. The window replacement program is designed to reach out to property owners or owner-occupants with children under 6 years of age. Replacement windows reduce lead hazards in older homes (pre-1950) and provide increased energy efficiency. New windows also enhance the living quality in homes and help to support overall revitalization efforts. As of October 31, 2006, window replacement has been completed in 235 living units through the WE Energies partnership.



### A School of Public Health in Milwaukee?

At Mayor Barrett's recommendation, a 9-member Public Health Planning Team from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM) and the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) was convened last spring to examine the feasibility and potential value of a School of Public Health at UWM.

I had the privilege of co-chairing the Planning Team with the Dean of the UWM College of Health Sciences, Randy Lambrecht. MHD Health Operations Director Dr. Vivian Chen and MHD Associate Medical Director Dr. Geof Swain also contributed actively in this intense planning process. The Planning Team operated in concert with a 3-member steering team comprised of representatives from the UWM Chancellor's Office, the Office of the Mayor, and the UW System.

The Team's report recommends to the UW System that it develop an accredited School of Public Health in Milwaukee. The report will be presented at the December Regents meeting. You can see the report (after it is released to the Regents), as well as additional information about the team and its process, at [http://www.uwm.edu/News/Public\\_Health/](http://www.uwm.edu/News/Public_Health/).

The nearly year-long planning process included advice from nationally known public health experts, input from area health systems, agencies and community organizations, interviews with experts in the accreditation of schools of public health, and a thorough assessment of UWM's research and academic capacity.

As many of you know, of the 38 accredited schools of public health and 44 public health training centers in the US, none is located in Wisconsin. A school of public health in Milwaukee could help galvanize public concern, and drive research and policy related to the serious health disparities and complex public health problems in Milwaukee. It would also address the increasing need for a trained public health workforce in coming years as public health workers now over age 50 begin to retire.

UWM is well positioned to host a school of public health. It has substantial expertise in public health through its College of Health Sciences and College of Nursing, as well through programs and collaborations involving other schools and colleges. It also has existing research programs in public and environmental health, such as the Great Lakes WATER Institute, the Center on Addiction and Behavioral Health Research (CABHR), the Center on Aging, and the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research.

UWM also has strong public health partnerships and collaborations involving MHD, local health systems, and community organizations, such as Partnerships for a Healthy Milwaukee and the Institute for Urban Health Partnerships, which operates three community-based nursing centers in Milwaukee. Both UWM and MHD also have long-standing relationships with the state's two academic medical centers, the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) and the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health.

A school of public health at UWM would need to work collaboratively on public health education and research with other institutions of higher education, other local health departments, and additional community-based organizations within the seven counties of metropolitan Milwaukee and across the state.

Developing an accredited school of public health school would take eight to ten years, and would require significant financial and other resources, including investing in current programs that can serve as building blocks for the school.

The Planning Team recommends that public health programs at UWM be primarily directed toward master's and doctoral level preparation of students who will occupy professional positions within public health. It also recommends that UWM develop certificate programs and continuing education offerings at the undergraduate and graduate level in order to address the critical workforce shortage.

MHD will play a key role in any future school of public health at UWM. I am committed to seeing MHD become the premier academic public health department in the nation. In this vision, many of MHD's professional staff would have faculty status at a Milwaukee school of public health, and would teach, conduct and oversee both community-based and on-campus research.

In exchange, the school of public health would provide additional faculty expertise, available on-site at MHD. Having graduate-level students here would extend MHD's workforce and suffuse our organization with an excitement about learning. All told, the academic health department relationship with a local school of public health will make MHD a more effective organization.

I am extremely excited about the possibility of a school of public health in Milwaukee. It is a worthy endeavor that we can all be proud of.

Bevan K. Baker, CHE  
Commissioner of Health



## New Faces at

## MHD Places

# Welcome!

**Anna C. Benton**



**Barbara Beck**

Maternal and Child Health is the largest MHD division, with a diverse group of employees and programs all working to improve health outcomes for women and children. After a long and detailed national search for just the right person, Anna C. Benton was recently named as the new MCH Division Manager. She is newly returned to the Milwaukee area after having spent much time abroad managing international health projects. We asked Anna to share a little more about herself.

*Educational background:* MA in International Development from University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

*Professional background:* Most of her career has been spent in international public health, managing US Government-funded health projects in developing countries, and working to promote women's health and rights.

*Q. How long have you been in Milwaukee?*

A. I moved to Milwaukee in May, but I grew up in Green Bay, and spent a lot of time in Milwaukee.

*Q. What do you like about the city so far?*

A. I think for being a small city, Milwaukee is packed with fabulous places, events, and culture. In terms of places, I really like Alterra's by the Lake, Seven Bridges Park, Mader's Restaurant, and Bay View—my new neighborhood!

*Q. What attracted you to public health?*

A. My longstanding interest in women's issues, social problems, and equity brought me to public health, an arena which I find both challenging and deeply fulfilling.

*Q. What's your impression of public health and the MHD so far?*

A. There is a lot of diversity in our staff, which I'm really enjoying. Everyone has strong opinions, and is not shy about making themselves heard. I'm really impressed with the people I've been getting to know.

*Q. How do you envision making an impact on the MHD?*

A. I hope to be able to provide leadership for my Division in terms of setting goals and objectives, helping our team to

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Dr. Beck is our new Public Health Training and Education Coordinator, a position funded by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UWSMPH). In this capacity, Dr. Beck will help the MHD become a premier training site for students and fellows, and will also collaborate in related programs of the Center for Urban Population Health (CUPH). Dr. Beck will be responsible for overseeing and supporting the work of fellows and MPH students working in the MHD, CUPH, and community organizations, from project development to implementation, evaluation, and dissemination. She will also collaborate with the UWSMPH Population Health Fellowship Program, with other educational programs sponsored by the UWSMPH, and with other Public Health related educational programs throughout the UW System. Dr. Beck has a substantial track record as an educator, and is experienced with and connected to community-based organizations and community-based participatory research.

*Educational background:* MA in Social Work from College of St. Benedict; MS in Sociology from Colorado State University; PhD in Urban Studies from UW-Milwaukee

*Professional background:* For the past 10 years she has worked at the Medical College of Wisconsin as an Assistant Professor in the Center for Healthy Communities.

*Q. Originally from where?*

A. I was born in Milwaukee but my family moved within a couple of months of my birth to Iowa. I spent most of my childhood in rural communities in Iowa and central Wisconsin.

*Q. How long have you been in Milwaukee?*

A. I've been in Milwaukee for about 10 years.

*Q. What do you like about the city?*

A. I like the shops, galleries, and restaurants of the Third Ward and along the Riverwalk. I'm also a big fan of the Milwaukee Art Museum and the Milwaukee Repertory Theater.

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# Johnston WIC Program Moves to SSHC

by Nancy Castro

On Sept 6th the Johnston WIC program moved to its new location. The WIC program is now on the newly renovated first floor of SSHC. WIC is very excited to be at the new location! The office/reception area has been beautifully remodeled and is now customer friendly and provides privacy to our participants.

The Johnston WIC office served approximately 2,300 - 2,500 WIC participants annually, and we are confident that we will continue to serve that number here at SSHC. We are currently receiving transfers from other WIC sites in the area, and our potential for growth is great.

WIC is pleased to be in our new surroundings as we continue to work towards a common goal of serving the needs of the southside community. We would like to thank the SSHC transition team for helping us in the adjustment phase of the move by hosting a "Meet and Greet" meeting with the SSHC and WIC staff.



*New client registration area*



*New client seating area*

## Combined Giving Campaign Report

by Julie Hults

The 2006 Combined Giving campaign began on Monday, 10/9 and ended Friday, 11/3. This year's theme was "Strengthening our foundation. Building our future."

**Loyce Robinson** served as the campaign coordinator for the MHD and **Julie Hults** provided assistance. Also assisting in the effort were campaign solicitors from many divisions; **Stacy Berdan, Daphne Prater, Yvette Rowe, Mary Smith, Pat Walker-Anderson, and Jean Wojnar.**

The MHD raised \$27,475.38, which was almost 10% more than 2005. 47% of employees contributed \$26,058 which was \$308 over our goal and 4% more than 2005.

### Benton, continued

fulfill these goals, and letting the world know about our successes. I envision a strong, well-functioning team; an empowered and fulfilled staff; and great results in terms of the services we provide to the community.

*Q. What do you like to do when not totally immersed in public health?*

A. I love reading science fiction, historical novels, and classic lit; I enjoy running and biking, skiing and camping; I paint watercolors and make mosaics; and of course I love hanging out with family and friends.

### Beck, continued

*Q. What attracted you to public health?*

A. I like that public health takes a holistic approach to health and doesn't just focus on medical health issues. Public health's focus on the community and environment as determinants of one's health is very important to me. I'm also attracted to the emphasis public health puts on prevention.

*Q. What's your impression of public health and the MHD so far?*

A. I feel that I've just begun to get to know the MHD staff and the many activities of the health department. So far everyone has been extremely friendly and welcoming. I'm looking forward to learning more about the wide array of services and activities the department is involved in.

*Q. How do you envision making an impact on the MHD?*

A. The majority of my time with the MHD will be spent working with Masters of Public Health students and fellows. I hope to make their time with MHD an excellent learning experience for them and also a beneficial experience for MHD staff. I also hope to pursue some of my own research interests and to collaborate with others at MHD who have similar research interests.

*Q. What do you like to do when not totally immersed in public health?*

A. I like to spend my non-work time with my family, and whenever possible, being outdoors. I enjoy biking, hiking, walking our dog, cross-country skiing, and gardening.

# AIDS Walk

by Kathy Blair

The 2006 AIDS Walk was a huge success for the MHD's *No Condom? No Way!* Project. The walk was held Saturday, September 30 and was supported by Mayor Barrett, Governor Jim Doyle and B.D. Wong from the television drama *Law and Order*. For the third year in a row the MHD was selected as a benefiting agency. This means that 70% of all dollars raised comes back to the MHD in order to purchase supplies for the *No Condom? No Way!* campaign.

Highlights of this year's event included a pre-walk fundraiser sponsored by Club Garibaldi, which was heavily promoted on WMSE 91.7fm and in the community. The event included five bands, free food and a raffle with all proceeds directed toward the AIDS Walk. This year the MHD team was "adopted" by Milwaukee's roller girls, the Brewcity Bruisers, Milwaukee's first all-girl roller derby league. The Bruisers raised money for our team and were on hand to



Left to Right: Lauren Otte, Tracey Hagedorn, Julie Driscoll, Kathy Blair, Commissioner Baker, and Barb Giessel

staff the pre-walk event at Club Garibaldi, and to lead the walk at the lakefront.

**Tracey Hagedorn** was honored as a Grand Walker by raising more than \$2,000. Thanks to all the MHD staff who donated money and came out for the walk. Although the final numbers are not in yet, it is estimated that the MHD team raised more than \$4,000!!



Morgen Alexander-Young

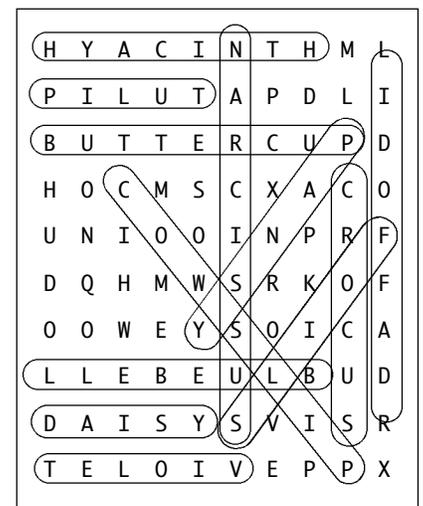
# Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week



Wisconsin's First Lady Jessica Doyle and State Senator Spencer Coggs topped a list of dignitaries present at the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center – Parkway facility to proclaim October 22-28 as "Childhood Lead Poisoning Awareness Week." Health Commissioner **Bevan Baker** read a City Proclamation from Mayor Tom Barrett, and reaffirmed the MHD's commitment to eliminating childhood lead poisoning by 2010. Also expressing their heartfelt remarks were State Health Officer Dr. Sheri Johnson and 16th Street Community Health Center President and CEO John Bartkowski.

## Answers to last issue's puzzle:

Find 12 Spring Flowers



- |           |          |           |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Bluebell  | Daffodil | Narcissus |
| Buttercup | Daisy    | Pansy     |
| Cowslip   | Foils    | Tulip     |
| Crocus    | Hyacinth | Violet    |

# MHD Presents at APHA

## Terrorism Early Warning System (TEWS) *presented by Paul Biedrzycki*

As part of the Department of Homeland Security's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), the City of Milwaukee is in the process of developing a local "Intelligence Fusion Center" in partnership with both State and local law enforcement agencies. The Milwaukee Fusion Center will be one of only a handful currently operating nationwide that will actively integrate public health "intelligence" in its analytical framework. This includes information about communicable disease occurrence, environmental monitoring signals and most recently, syndromic surveillance data. The MHD has been formally appointed as a member of the Fusion Center Governance Steering Committee and has assigned **Kathy Bruhn**, PHN as the dedicated staff to the Fusion Center. Dissemination of intelligence information securely and broadly to the community is the core of the Terrorism Early Warning System



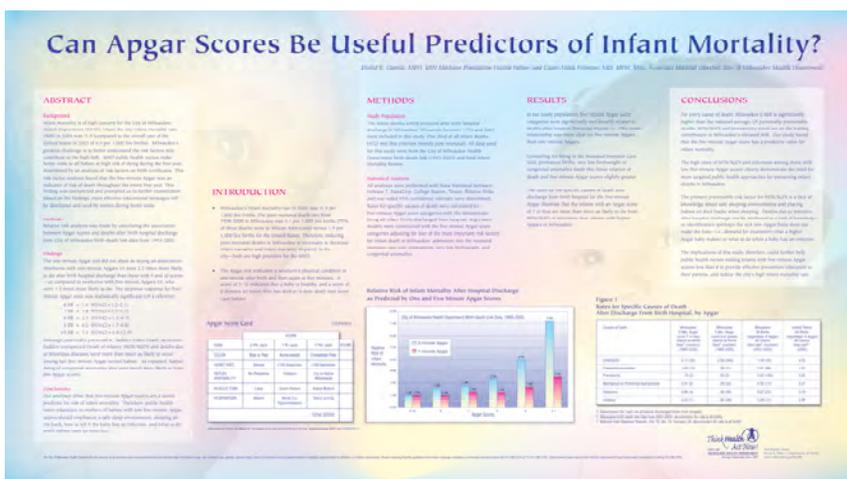
(TEWS) that is embedded in the Fusion Center.

At the recent APHA held in Boston, MA November 4-8, 2006, the MHD presented a poster highlighting this initiative entitled "Public Health Linkage to Local Intelligence Fusion Center and Terrorism Early Warning Systems". **Mat Wolters**, Dan Alexander and MFD Battalion Chief

Mark Owen were co-authors. The poster was well received by conference attendees as it is seminal in its practical and operational framework. There were many inquiries by public health officials as to the mechanism for building cooperative and collaborative partnerships with law enforcement in this context.

## Apgar Scores as Useful Predictors of Infant Mortality *presented by David Garcia*

Infant mortality is of high concern for the City of Milwaukee Health Department, because Milwaukee's infant mortality rate is significantly higher than the national average. MHD Public Health Nurses make home visits to all babies at high risk of dying during the first year, determined by an analysis of risk factors on birth certificates. The five minute Apgar test was an indicator for risk of death throughout the entire first year - an unexpected finding which prompted further examination. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome/ Sudden Unexpected Death of Infancy (SIDS/SUDI) and deaths due to infections were more than twice as likely to occur among infants with



low five-minute Apgar scores. Based on these findings, more effective educational messages emphasizing a safe sleep environment, sleeping on

the back and how to tell if a baby has an infection will be developed and used by nurses conducting visits to mothers of at-risk infants.

# Getting to Know our Wisconsin Population Health Fellows



*Morgen Alexander-Young, David Garcia, and Sabrina Smiley*



*Deannah Byrd*

## **Morgen Alexander-Young**

### *First year Fellow*

A recent graduate of the University of Michigan School of Public Health, Morgen is currently working with the MHD's division of Maternal and Child Health to develop and implement programs to address infant mortality and child neglect.

## **David García**

### *Second year Fellow*

David is leading a qualitative project on the norms and beliefs of unintended pregnancy and STIs among Milwaukee African-American adolescents with the assistance of local teen investigators and cultural experts. He also co-authored the replication proposal and authored grant proposals for Milwaukee Plain Talk, an Annie E. Casey teen pregnancy prevention initiative. David also completed an analysis of the relationship between Apgar scores and post-hospital discharge deaths of infants in Milwaukee. This study is an important element of the State and Milwaukee partnership to increase healthy birth outcomes. He is also a member of the Board of the Latino Health Organization.

## **Sabrina Smiley**

### *First year Fellow*

A recent graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health. Sabrina is collaborating on the intervention study of African American adolescents in Milwaukee. In conjunction with her training at the MHD, she is counseling adolescent females after their diagnosis with a sexually transmitted disease—a major health problem in Milwaukee. She is also writing two issue papers addressing the causes of the high STD rate among African-Americans in Milwaukee, and is leading a Young Women of Color Sexual and Reproductive Health Advisory Council through the Community Education Department at Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin. This is an initiative to promote responsible sexual behavior to prevent transmission of HIV through formal and informal discussions with young women of color in Milwaukee. Also at Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Sabrina is assisting in implementing the “Making Proud Choices” Curriculum into Dane County Public High Schools. She is also the MHD

Representative for the American Cancer Society, Milwaukee Chapter, Relay for Life Committee.

## **Deannah Byrd**

### *Second year Fellow*

Deannah is leading a project funded by the American Cancer Society to learn how African-Americans and their caregivers respond to cancer diagnoses. Based on that information, she will make recommendations to improve the American Cancer Society's Patient Navigation system to better serve patient needs. This project includes a survey of Milwaukee area cancer patients as well as conducting focus groups with African-American cancer patients/survivors, caregivers and health providers. Deannah will use the focus group feedback to inform the development of a culturally-tailored Navigation Program.

Think Health.  
Act Now!

*Piensa Salud.  
¡Actue Ahora!*

# Summer's *E.coli* Outbreak Breaks in New DCP Nurses

by Sandy Coffaro and Angie Hagy

The Communicable Disease Unit went through some changes this summer with the addition of four Public Health Nurses specifically assigned to communicable disease follow-up activities. It didn't take long for our new team to get involved in its first major food outbreak caused by *E. coli* O157:H7. This is a strain of bacteria that produces a toxin and can cause serious illness. Past outbreaks have been associated with ground beef, sprouts, lettuce, spinach, unpasteurized milk and juice.

Our first indication of a problem was a call received by an infection control nurse in Ozaukee County regarding a Milwaukee County case. At that time, only one other report had been received by SurvNet (the communicable disease reporting system for Milwaukee County). Soon other indications of a possible problem were identified: the MHD lab confirmed two additional cases in Milwaukee County; a call was received from a private lab which noticed they had cases in both Milwaukee and Waukesha counties; and the Blood Center contacted MHD because of an unprecedented number of requests for plasmaphoresis, a type of dialysis. This series of events triggered a multi-jurisdictional



*DCP Communicable Disease Team*

*Back Row: Robert Dunn, Carol Johnsen, Desiree Rembert, Jill LeStarge  
Front Row: Sandy Coffaro, Susan Thaller, Angie Hagy, Eleni Orthodoxou*

response with the State Division of Public Health to identify a possible source, and quickly escalated to a multi-state outbreak with CDC involvement. By the end of the outbreak, bagged spinach was identified as the cause. There were 7 cases of *E. coli* O157H:7 in Milwaukee that matched the outbreak strain, 12 cases in the county, and a total of 49 cases statewide. Nationally, there were 199 cases spread over 26 states.

*For more information on food safety tips visit the FDA website at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~lrd/tpproduc.html>.*

# Empowering Families of Milwaukee Program Update



by Patricia Lee King

In October, the Empowering Families of Milwaukee team (formerly known as the Milwaukee Comprehensive Home Visitation Program) began providing health, social, parenting education, and child development services to pregnant women and families in six Milwaukee zip codes: 53204,

53205, 53206, 53208, 53212, and 53233. Public Health Nurses teamed with social services staff from community-based organizations including Black Health Coalition and Career Youth Development, Inc., Aurora Family Service, Children's Family and Community Partnerships, La Causa, The Parenting Network, and Vincent Family Resource Center to provide comprehensive, family strength-based services to families.



The MHD's Empowering Families of Milwaukee team includes: Patricia Lee King, Terri Birt, Ebony Cobb, Esperanza Garcia Mendez, Patricia Lee King, Jill Radowicz, Edith Rowe, Nichole Smith, Judy Thorsheim, and Songlor Xiong. Together, the team is working to improve birth outcomes, improve family functioning, improve child health, development, and safety, and reduce child abuse and neglect in our community.

# Lead Program, Partners “Float” through Mexican Independence Day Parade



by Jeff Propp

On September 17th, over 3,000 people on Milwaukee’s near southside viewed the *Think Health. Act Now!* float for childhood lead poisoning prevention awareness during the Mexican Independence

Day Parade. The event was a huge success, thanks to the combined talents and commitment of MHD Home Environmental Health (HEH) staff and community leaders.



*Stephanie Ortiz in front of the MHD Think Health. Act Now! float*

**Stephanie Ortiz**, Lead Education Assistant, provided overall coordination for the MHD/Parents Against Lead (PAL) float that was built by **Jeff Propp**, Public Health Educator, using a 6x12-foot trailer as its base. Additional MHD HEH staff participating in the parade were **Sara Schubert Mishefske**, acting HEH Division Manager; **Alex Rodriguez**, Lead Risk Assessor; **Norma Avila**, Health Service Assistant; and **Cozby Martinez**, Office Assistant II. There were 50 participants in our “unit,” including parents, children, and staff representing



several of our community-based organization (CBO) partners, including Cristo Rey ELCA, the Dominican Center for Women, Hmong American Friendship Association, Lisbon Avenue Neighborhood Development, Sherman Park Community Association, and Sixteenth Street Community Health Center.

The event marked an opportunity for all five of the MHD Lead Program’s CBO partners to join forces in providing education and demonstrating their support for the elimination of childhood lead poisoning.



# Kudos

*Celebrating those who make our values real*

**Pat Walker-Anderson** and **Jan Rach** send kudos to **staff** as **NWHC** and **SSHC** as they successfully merged into one Health Center. Staff representing clerical, clinic assistants, social workers and Public Health Nurses have been meeting weekly to sort out myriad details that needed to be addressed. Some meetings were attended by support staff, but all that were present put extensive time, energy and effort into the challenging process. We want to thank every person who worked on this project to date - and all the members who went back to staff at the health center to get feedback and ensure that opinions were sought out and concerns were addressed. Some staff took detailed minutes at the meeting and condensed them into a workable document. We also want to thank **Michele LeBourgeois** who was the facilitator. We know the merge was smoother because of your hard work.

Kudos to **Mary McCarron**, Certified Family Nurse Practitioner from **Amy Doczy**. Mary was a featured speaker at the "What's Current in Contraception, STI Prevention and Treatment" conference in Minneapolis on September 20th. Mary provided hands-on clinical training to conference participants on how to perform a male exam for sexually transmitted diseases. Excellent job Mary!

Kudos to **DeAnnah Byrd**, who was recognized for outstanding participation in the Young

Professionals of Milwaukee (YPM) by the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce.

Kudos to **Nancy Hills** from **Raquel Filmanowicz** for her outstanding work in preparing two beautiful and effective APHA posters. "You really have a gift for conceptualizing and illustrating what public health is all about," said Raquel.

Kudos to **Dr. Geof Swain**: On May 19th he was inducted into the Alpha Omicron chapter of Delta Omega, the national honorary public health society. Per Delta Omega, "election ... is based on outstanding performance - scholarship in students, teaching and research in faculty members, and community service in alumni." Dr. Swain has also been appointed to the Editorial Board of the Wisconsin Medical Journal, representing Public Health.

**Raquel Filmanowicz** sends Kudos to **Theresa Hernandez** for her reliable administrative assistance with an important on-going open records request, "Thanks for giving me peace of mind knowing that every week the report will be accurate and ready for pick-up."

**Karen Michalski** is the recipient of the 2006 "Saving Babies, Together" leadership award for education, presented by the March of Dimes. The March of Dimes honored Karen with this award to recognize her efforts to provide accurate statistical

data on infant mortality throughout Milwaukee. Karen's vision of providing hospital specific data to the birthing units in Milwaukee energized movement toward infant mortality reduction, which was not evident prior to her release of the data.

**Polly Belcher**, Public Health Nurse at Meta House (a residential treatment program for mothers and their children) presented at a Statewide conference in Stevens Point on October 26th called Seeking Evidence of Change. Polly's presentation was "Unique Substance Disorder Treatment Issues for Pregnant Women." "Polly really adds so much value to the Meta House program and she influences positive health of each woman, child and baby there," said Christine Ullstrup, Meta House Manager. "The staff are very appreciative of the depth and scope of nursing care that Polly provides and the clients really enjoy the creative classes that Polly presents."

**Kris White** sends Kudos to **Norma Avila, Wanda Frazier, Mary Jo Gerlach, Alva Goldberg, Naomi Jenkins** and **Stephanie Ortiz** for a wonderful job during the MPS Blood Lead Screening event on November 4th for 84 children. MPS Head Start Health Coordinator Ruth Brenna said things went very well. She said it was the smoothest and best run screening she had ever been at!

# Eating Sand: *An Interesting Case with Great Collaboration*



by Jan Rach

There are a lot of jokes made about pregnant women craving pickles or strawberry ice cream in the middle of the night. Theresa

**Remsik-Traczek**, Public Health Nurse (PHN) was visiting a pregnant woman and doing a nursing assessment when the teen mom in her ninth month of



pregnancy mentioned that she craves "sand." She ate it weekly throughout her pregnancy to calm her upset stomach.

Theresa found out that the young woman was eating a cookie-like substance (see photo above) that came in a plain brown bag without manufacturer packaging or label. Theresa took a sample of this "sand" for processing to the **MHD Laboratory**, and also went to the same small store where the "sand" was

purchased by the family, but was told that it was not sold there.

Three days later, the lab analysis results showed that the "sand" product had 28ppm lead levels, which were elevated results. Theresa immediately reported the results, updated her supervisor, and left a message for the family to call her immediately.



Theresa Remsik-Traczek

The grandmother called that evening and said that the new mom was at the hospital with her baby boy, and "all was wonderful and that the Mom and Baby were doing great." The hospital staff, nurse on the postpartum unit and the attending pediatrician and obstetrician were all informed about the sand cookie ingestion and possible lead poisoning. The Mom and baby received a lead test including a protoporphyrin level at the hospital. There was also collaboration with the **Lead Program** to determine if home lead abatement might be needed, as

well as with the physicians and the lab to be certain that the lead levels would be obtained from the family for necessary follow-up.

Theresa also coordinated with **Lydia Madrigal**, SSHC Spanish Interpreter who visited several small Hispanic stores to try to purchase this "sand" for more testing. Lydia was successful at one store. It was not found on the shelf, and she had to ask for it as "arcilla blanca" (white clay). It was dispensed without

packaging or label and put into a brown paper bag. It cost \$1.50 per item and was only found at that location.

Currently, all in the family are doing well, without complications from the lead exposure. Lead levels were found to be in the safe range for the mother and baby. Follow-up protoporphyrin levels are pending and Theresa continues to visit the family. Now the entire family speaks out to family and friends about looking out for lead and not to buy or use the "sand" anymore.

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## Staying Safe this Holiday Season from Food-borne Illnesses

Holiday gathering often times means preparing special dishes for family and friends, but be sure during the holiday giving season not to give the unwanted gift of bacteria and illness. According to the United States Department of Agriculture's "Fight Bac" website, here are some helpful tips to keep you and your loved ones healthy this holiday season:

- **CLEAN**, wash hands and surfaces often;
- **SEPARATE**, don't cross-contaminate;
- **COOK**, cook to proper temperatures; and
- **CHILL**, refrigerate promptly.

Always wash your hands with hot, soapy water before and after handling food. Keep your kitchen, dishes and utensils clean too. Clean up kitchen surfaces with a clean cloth or paper towels.

Always serve food on clean plates - never put cooked food on plates that previously held raw meat, poultry or seafood.

Keep raw meat, poultry and seafood away from fruits and vegetables so juices will not cross-contaminate foods.

Cook foods thoroughly to safe temperatures. (Roast beef to 145°F for medium rare and 160°F for medium; whole poultry to 180°F, poultry breasts to 170°F and ground poultry to 165°F; all other meat, fish and ground red meats to 160°F)

Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. Hot foods can be kept hot with chafing dishes, crock pots and warming trays and should be 140°F or warmer. Cold foods can be kept cold by placing dishes in bowls of ice and should be 40°F or colder.

Arrange and serve food on several small platters rather than one large tray. Replace empty platters rather than adding fresh food to a dish that has already been used.

*Continued on back page*

# PERSONNEL • LY SPEAKING

## • NEW HIRES

Christina Abu-Hadba, OA I  
 Maria Andino-Otero, Dietetic Tech  
 Barbara Beck, PH Training & Ed Coord  
 Anna Benton, MCH Div Mgr  
 Terri Birt, EFM HPC  
 Earl Blair, CD Specialist  
 Kristine Alanis, CD Specialist  
 Ebony Cobb, PHN  
 Anupa Gandhi, CRI HPC  
 Benjamen Jones, HIS  
 Kristin Kroll, PHN  
 Tim Maher, PHN, SCL Program  
 Jeanette McKnight, OA  
 Daphne Prater, CD Specialist  
 Jill Radowicz, PHN  
 Vanessa Vann, CD Specialist  
 Songlor Xiong, HIS

## Location

Vital Stats-ZMB  
 WIC  
 ZMB  
 MCH-ZMB  
 STD-KCHC  
 STD-KCHC  
 STD-KCHC  
 HFS-SSHCH  
 DCP-ZMB  
 DCP-ZMB  
 SSHC  
 KCHC  
 TBCC-KCHC  
 STD-KCHC  
 HFS-SSHCH  
 STD-KCHC  
 HFS-SSHCH

## • PROMOTIONS

Sanjib Bhattacharyya, Interim Chief Vir  
 Sandra Dobryznski, OA III  
 Karen Jeffries, Adm Specialist  
 Marilyn Kirtley, from OA IV to PA 1  
 Peggy Luckow, Adm Specialist  
 Ali Reed, Compliance Officer  
 Sara Mishefske, Interim HEH Mgr

Lab-ZMB  
 HEH-ZMB  
 ZMB  
 CEH-ZMB  
 ZMB  
 ADM-ZMB  
 HEH-ZMB

## • RESIGNATIONS

Trista Gelhar, EHS  
 Ammie Brown, PHN  
 Amy Murphy, HEH Div Mgr  
 Jacqueline Sills-Ware, Health Educator  
 Jill Olson, HIS  
 Katie McFaddin, Health Educator  
 Paula Roberts, Med Asst Outreach Spv  
 Widaly Rivera, OA II, to MPS

ZMB  
 SSHC  
 HEH-ZMB  
 DCP-ZMB  
 KHC  
 HEH-ZMB  
 NWCH  
 ZMB

## • INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS

Claire Bark, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Annie Brown, PHN, from NWCH to SSHC  
 Shirley Cooksey, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Twyla Devine, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Julie Driscoll, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Janet Esch, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Joyce Evans, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Brigid Ford, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Esperanza Garcia Mendez, from NWCH to SSHC  
 Nia Hardison, from KCHC to NWCH  
 Jane Hays, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Robyn Hicks, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Rhonda Hoernke, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Lori Hoffman, OA III from NWCH to ZMB  
 Carol Johnsen, from KCHC to ZMB-DCP

to SSHC  
 to ZMB  
 to ZMB-DCP

## Location

Jacqueline Johnson, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Jennifer Ladowski, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Darlene Lathon, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Jenny Lazuardi, PHN from NWCH to SSHC  
 Janet Lester, PHN from NWCH to KCHC  
 Tim Maher, from NWCH to ZMB-DCP  
 Eleni Orthodoxou, NWCH to ZMB  
 Desiree Rembert, from NWCH to ZMB  
 Susan Thaller, PHN from KCHC to SSHC  
 Pat Walker-Anderson, from NWCH to KCHC  
 Richard Weidensee, from ZMB to ICHC  
 Bill Wright, from ZMB to ICHC

## • INTRADEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS

Paul Akert, PHN from NWCH to MPS  
 Danielle Hull, PHN from NWCH to MPS  
 Sandra Rusch-Walton, ZMB to Library  
 Nichole Smith, OA II from DPW to SSHC

## • RETIREMENTS

Gerald Sedmak, Chief Virologist MHD Lab  
 Janet Nell, Adm Specialist, Sr. ZMB-ADM

## Key to Abbreviations

ADM Administration  
 B&G Buildings & Grounds  
 CEH Consumer Environmental Health  
 CLPPP Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Prog  
 DCP Disease Control & Prevention  
 DNS Dept. of Neighborhood Services  
 EFM Empowering Families of Milwaukee  
 EHS Environmental Health Specialist  
 F&CHS Family & Community Health Services  
 F&M Foods and Measures  
 H&V Heating and Ventilating  
 HBHA Healthy Behaviors & Healthcare Access  
 HEH Home Environmental Health  
 HIS Health Information Specialist  
 HPC Health Project Coordinator  
 ICHC Isaac Coggs Community Health Center  
 ITS Information Technology Systems  
 KHC Keenan Health Center  
 MHD City of Milwaukee Health Department  
 NWCH Northwest Health Center  
 OA Office Assistant  
 PHA Public Health Aide  
 PHN Public Health Nurse  
 SSHC Southside Health Center  
 TBCC Tuberculosis Control Clinic  
 ZMB Zeidler Municipal Building

*Just for Fun*  
 by Marlene Jamel

Find 12 Islands

E	F	I	I	V	M	W	A	B	R
Y	C	U	C	R	G	N	U	O	E
I	A	A	X	E	I	A	T	R	V
M	R	W	R	L	L	K	T	N	U
R	N	P	A	H	E	A	A	E	O
H	V	T	A	A	T	S	N	O	C
W	A	G	S	C	C	O	O	D	N
C	I	T	I	H	A	T	M	L	A
B	E	R	M	U	D	A	O	A	V
R	L	Z	W	A	K	E	Z	S	S

(Answers will be in the next issue of Healthy Times)

## Holiday Cooking, cont.

Don't let foods sit at room temperature for more than 2 hours. Keep track of how long foods have been sitting on the buffet table and discard anything left out for 2 hours or more.

Promptly refrigerate and store all leftovers in small, shallow containers. Most cooked dishes can keep for up to 3-4 days in the refrigerator. Reheat thoroughly to 165°F when food is hot and steaming.



Mayor Tom Barrett



Tom Barrett, Mayor  
 Bevan K. Baker, Commissioner of Health  
[www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health)

## Deadline for Next Issue

Please email articles to Raquel Filmanowicz by January 19, 2007 at [rfilma@milwaukee.gov](mailto:rfilma@milwaukee.gov)

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