

July 2007

Unique opportunities, perks available at Barn Raising VI

Early registration deadline for Governor's Conference on Public Health, July 13

By Don McCormick*

What will \$50 get you these days? Quite a lot, if you plan to attend the [Governor's Conference on Public Health: Barn Raising VI](#) on August 2 & 3.

"From an accounting standpoint, the early bird registration fee of \$50 can really only cover the meals we provide," said Conference Coordinator, Louise Lex. "So when you look at everything available through this two-day conference, you've got to admit it's one of the best deals around."

Held every two years at [Drake University](#), the conference is re-

garded as one of the most important public health events held in the Midwest. This year's theme is Celebrating Healthy Communities.

The speakers

Thanks to contributions from 73 partner organizations, the conference will include a wide variety of attractions and benefits. Plenary session speakers include: Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the [Centers for Disease Control and Preven-](#)



Click on the barn to register, or visit www.trainingresources.org.

[tion](#); Admiral Dr. John O. Agwunobi, assistant secretary for health at the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#); and Martin Collis,

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Grant to help reduce youth suicide in Iowa

By Dale Chell*

By the time the next issue of this monthly newsletter is released, four Iowa youth will have taken their own lives. Behind motor vehicle crashes, suicide is the second leading cause of death for Iowans aged 10 to 24.

Thanks to a recently awarded \$1.2 million federal grant, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) will now have the resources it needs for

the next three years to address this important public health issue.

"Youth suicide is an unimaginable tragedy for a family and for society as a whole," said Iowa Senator Tom Harkin. "By boosting public awareness of suicide risks and investing in prevention and treatment for those in crisis, I hope we can provide young Iowans with the help they need."

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Iowa Department of Public Health

Advancing Health Through the Generations

Immunization conference hosts national, state experts

By Bridget Konz*

Nearly 700 public health and health care professionals from across the state attended the [2007 Iowa Immunization Conference](#) at the Hy-Vee Conference Center in West Des Moines on June 7. Organized by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), the theme of the conference was Immunize for a Better Life.

Held every two years since 1993, the 2007 conference enjoyed a 35 percent increase in attendance over the gathering in 2005. The Iowa

conference is highly regarded by health care professionals and is now the largest of its kind in the Midwest.

In addition to opening remarks by IDPH Director Tom Newton, the conference featured presentations by several well-known national,



Dr. Paul Offit

regional and state experts. Topics included new vaccines and recommendations, the history of vaccines, vaccine storage and handling, and communicating with parents regarding tough issues such as thimerosal.

A time for rededication

Director Newton emphasized the important role health care workers have in vaccinating Iowans. "Immunizations in Iowa happen because of you," Newton said. "The work you do on a daily basis is the reason why we are so successful in our immunization of children in this state."

The conference was also a time to "rededicate ourselves," Newton said, in terms of vaccinating health workers. Recent data indicates only about 45 percent of health care personnel attending to clients receive get immunizations each year.

"This number has to be increased," Newton stressed. "It's incumbent on

each and every one of us in this room to go out and get immunized, especially as it relates to influenza," Newton said.

Important history, resources introduced

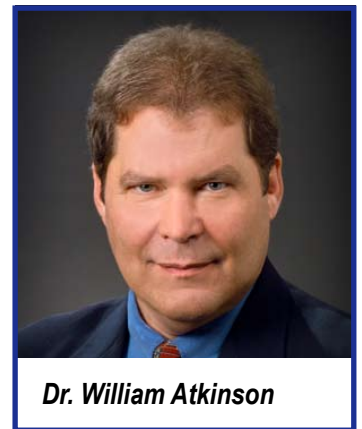
Dr. Paul Offit, chief of the [Division of Infectious Diseases](#) and the director of the [Vaccine Education Center](#) at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, spoke on the history of vaccines, specifically those developed by Maurice R. Hilleman. Offit has written a book about the little-known microbiologist, and described him as a man with a unique combination of "resources, guts and talent... who probably saved more lives than any other 20th century scientist."

Offit, who is a member of the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) (ACIP) to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), also tackled the emotionally charged issue of thimerosal and advised providers on how to discuss the topic with parents.

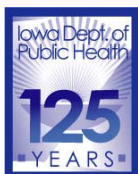
Dr. William Atkinson, medical epidemiologist in the [National Immunization Program](#) for the CDC, gave a presentation on pediatric, adolescent, and adult updates in vaccines. He introduced the [General Recommendations on Immunization](#) recently updated by the CDC.

"It's a very useful document because we've packed it full of the issues and the questions you ask us about," Atkinson said. "If you know this document reasonably well, I guarantee that you will become the 'go-to' immunization person in your office."

Atkinson added that about 75 percent of the most commonly asked questions are addressed in the updated recommendations.



Dr. William Atkinson



Iowa Department of Public Health

Advancing Health Through the Generations

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New state vet helps redefine position

By Don McCormick*

When people think of public health, they don't usually think of veterinary science. If they do, it's probably about high profile issues like rabies.

"Traditionally speaking, most people don't consider the role public health has in studying illnesses that can jump from animals to people, which we call zoonotic diseases," says Dr. Ann Garvey, the new state public health veterinarian at the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). "Certainly planning for zoonotic illnesses and participating in response exercises are not things people think of when I tell them I'm a public health vet."

Garvey, who began in June, is excited about changing this perception and making a difference in Iowa. Her boss, Mary Jones, director of the IDPH division of [Acute Disease Epidemiology and Emergency Response](#), couldn't be more pleased with Garvey's decision to join the department.

"Responding to zoonotic issues means coordinating across jurisdictional and disciplinary lines, and between private and public sectors," Jones said. "Dr. Garvey's experience and knowledge will help us achieve our new vision for the position by balancing historically managed programs with new, evolving responsibilities."

Garvey's credentials and experience are impressive. She has a doctorate of veterinary medicine from Iowa State University, a master's of public health degree from the University of Iowa, and a master's degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.

Garvey comes to the department from the [Iowa Homeland Security Emergency Management Division](#) where she was an agriculture specialist and state exercise training officer. Prior to this, she worked for [Iowa State University Center for Food Security and Public Health](#); served as a veterinarian for [Land O' Lakes Inc.](#); and did internships at the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and IDPH under then State Veterinarian, Dr. Russell Currier.

Bringing together veterinary science and emergency preparedness is important for many reasons, Garvey says. "While nobody



Dr. Garvey works at the Operations Table at the State Emergency Operations Center during the February 2007 winter storm. Garvey's experience in emergency preparedness will help define the new role of state public health veterinarian.

knows where the next pandemic may originate, scientists around the world are looking closely at avian influenza," Garvey said. "But a number of illnesses come from animals, and happen more frequently than people realize. Preparing for large-scale emergencies like a pandemic means better day-to-day coordination."

As for rabies, Garvey says that this responsibility will be shared among the epidemiologists at IDPH. "Rabies is a serious issue," Garvey said. "But it's also important we continue to forge relationships and work with local and state agencies, commodity groups, and the public so we're able to respond to issues involving animal and human health."

Originally from Webster City, Garvey lives in Clive with her husband, six-month old daughter, 110-pound Newfoundland, and long-haired cat. She enjoys golf and softball.

* Don McCormick is editor of Iowa Health Focus.



Iowa Department of Public Health

Advancing Health Through the Generations

Iowa gets straight A's in health care

Private health foundation gives Iowa good marks in 'Health System Performance'

By Brad Anderson*

In a report issued by the New York-based [Commonwealth Fund](#), a private foundation that studies health care issues, Iowa received straight "A's" across the board on its scorecard. Iowa was the only state in the country to receive straight A's in each of the five categories – Access, Quality, Avoidable Costs, Equity and Healthy Lives.

"Iowans should take pride in knowing that our state offers some of the best health care in the country," said Governor Chet Culver. "After this past session, I am proud of the fact that we

are going to continue to expand access to health care – especially when it comes to insuring Iowa's kids. I believe Iowa could become the first state in the country to insure every child, and I will continue to work hard to make that happen."

The report came as a legislative commission on affordable health care in Iowa met for the first time on June 20.

The report, titled "[Aiming Higher: Results from a State Scorecard on Health Care Performance](#)," highlighted the fact that better access to health care is associated with better quality.

"Across states, better access to care and higher rates of insurance are closely associated with better quality," the report said. "States with the lowest rates of uninsured residents tend to score highest on measures of preventive and chronic disease care, as well as other quality indicators."

The report also noted that four of the five leading states in the access dimension – Massachusetts, Iowa, Rhode Island, and Maine – also rank among the top five states in terms of quality. The pattern underlines the importance of affordable access as a



first step to ensure that patients get essential care and care that is well coordinated and patient-centered.

* Brad Anderson is communications director in Office of the Governor.



IDPH Bureau of Communication and Planning Intern, Jessica Torneten (in carrot costume) was a big hit at the 2007 Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State in Ames. Torneten shared health messages with high school aged girls and adult volunteers on June 22. Throughout June, IDPH staff took an active role in four education events that were attended by more than 5,000 people from across Iowa. In addition to Girls State, the other events included the Iowa American Legion Boys State, the Juneteenth Celebration for Iowa's African American population and the Scoop on Poop exhibit at Blank Park Zoo.

Magazine, reception prepared for attendees

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worksite wellness expert, educator, humorist, and singer.

Among the 40 concurrent sessions, a big turnout is expected for a special presentation by Vermont Senator M. Jane Kitchel and John McDonough, director of Massachusetts's *Health Care for All*. They will speak about health insurance initiatives in their states.

Other presentations will cover topics like diversity, environmental health, funding issues, mental health, oral health, response to crisis, social marketing, substance abuse, and the workplace.

Education and celebration

Twenty-two opportunities for continuing education credits will be available through the conference. "This year we're using a process by which attendees can efficiently report their credits," said Dawn Gentsch, coordinator of special projects at the *Institute for Public Health Practice* in the University of Iowa, and a member of the Barn Raising Workgroup. "This will leave more time for what the conference is all about – learning and connecting with others."

On the first day, participants will be welcomed by a visual presentation in Drake's Sheslow Auditorium about the tradition of working together to raise an actual barn. Then, in keeping with the celebratory theme, the well-known *Gateway Dance Theatre* will officially kick off the conference.

In addition to two continental breakfasts

and lunches at Drake, a "smoke-free" reception will be held in the historical Ola Babcock Miller Building near the Iowa Capitol. Dubbed "A Taste of Iowa Smorgasbord" because of the variety of hors d'oeuvres served, the event will be catered by 14 smoke-free restaurants from around Iowa. The reception will also feature live music by the Roosevelt High School String Quartet.

Timely and enduring resources available

This year, attendees will receive a number of unique resources. Among them is a special 64-page magazine that celebrates initiatives across Iowa to build healthy communities.

"We wanted something that people would keep on their desk or coffee table well after the conference," said IDPH Fitness Consultant, Tim Lane, who is working closely with the editor and graphic artist of the publication. "We hope the articles, written by national and state experts, and the stunning visuals will help foster even healthier communities in Iowa."

Conference attendees will also receive an electronic version of the 2007 Iowa Fact Book. The publication contains county-level data relating to health outcomes, social and health behaviors, and health care resources. A limited number of hard copies will also be available.

To hold all this, each participant will receive a pocketed and expandable canvas bag – perfect



also for the items nearly 55 exhibitors will be giving away.

Videos of many of the presentations will be archived at www.the-healthconference.org. This site will also be the place to go if you are unable to make it to Des Moines, as many of the presentations will be webcast live.

Register now!

It only takes a few moments to register online. But hurry! The July 13 early bird deadline is right around the corner.

Click [here](http://www.trainingresources.org) to register, or visit www.trainingresources.org. For detailed information about speakers and presentations, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/barn_raising.asp. You can also click [here](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/barn_raising.asp) to view the complete brochure.

** Don McCormick is editor of Iowa Health Focus.*



Iowa Department of Public Health

Advancing Health Through the Generations

Suicide prevention a goal of public health

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In 2004, Harkin co-sponsored the [Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act](#), which dedicates funds to statewide youth suicide intervention and prevention strategies. Harkin is co-sponsoring the reauthorization of the act this year.

Statistics indicate need for action

While an average of 53 Iowa youth have died each year since 2000, there are many more who attempt to kill themselves. In a recent [survey](#), an estimated 8,900 youth in grades six, eight and 11 reported that they had made one or more suicide attempts.

Risks also increase with age.

According to the survey, 19 percent of 11th grade girls in Iowa admitted they had tried to take their own lives.

These startling numbers are what led IDPH to apply for the grant. Awarded by the federal [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#), the new funding will be used to implement part of the [Iowa Plan for Suicide Prevention: 2005-2009](#). IDPH will distribute the funds to local high schools or area education agencies to support early identification of youth who are at risk for suicide.

"It's estimated that over 90 percent of suicides are due to a mental illness, primarily major depression," said IDPH [Disability and Violence Prevention Bureau](#) Chief, Binnie LeHew. "Youth who are depressed, facing loss, or experiencing failure may not tell others, and that places them at great risk for suicide."

LeHew added that this type of isolation and the stigma associated with seeking help can be a primary barrier for youth who are suicidal. The new funding will allow the department to work with schools and local mental health partners to provide early identifica-

tion of those at risk and make appropriate referrals for services.



Suicide linked to public health

Mike Johnson, chair of Iowa's Suicide Prevention Strategy Committee, is encouraged by the new funding and sees a very clear connection to public health. "The grant will not only help our current youth struggling with mental health problems, but in the long run, may help reduce the number of Iowans who die by suicide later on in life," Johnson said.

Besides the lost potential of a life ended too early, many other lives are touched when a young person dies by suicide. Parents, siblings, extended family and friends are left to cope with

the grief and confusion that surrounds such a death. There is often shame and guilt about the death, especially if family members believed they caused it, or if there was something they could have done to prevent it.

"Families may refuse or be reluctant to reach out for help," LeHew said. "This is why it's important for us to develop a public awareness campaign. When a suicide occurs, it really does affect the health of families and the entire community."

The campaign is scheduled for next year and will target parents and others in the community to promote knowledge of risk factors and the benefits of school screenings.

For more information, call Binnie LeHew at (515) 281-5032 or Dale Chell at (515) 281-5675. To learn more about the Iowa Plan for Suicide Prevention: 2005-2009, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/disability_prevention.asp and look under "Additional Information" at the bottom of the page.

** Dale Chell is a program planner in the IDPH Bureau of Disability and Violence Prevention.*



Iowa Department of Public Health

Advancing Health Through the Generations

Mixing household chemicals dangerous

Local public health agencies begin replicating campaign

By Joyce Allard*

Think for a moment about the cleaning products in your cupboards at home. Chances are, they contain chemicals like bleach, ammonia, and acids like vinegar. But did you know mixing common cleaning products can be dangerous? Despite warning labels, health hazards resulting from mixing household cleaners are not uncommon.

The [Iowa Poison Control Center](#) receives nearly 100 calls annually involving this type of incident. Improperly mixing household chemicals can cause coughing, chest pain, nausea, watery eyes, pneumonia, and fluid in the lungs. It also causes irritation to the throat, nose and eyes.

Thanks to a new brochure and awareness campaign developed by Debbi Cooper, environmental health specialist at the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), more Iowans are learning not to mix certain household chemicals.

Cooper, who works with the [Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance](#) program, said she was encouraged to try to make a difference. "The more stories I came across about Iowans getting injured after mixing certain chemicals, the more I wanted to educate people about these dangers."

One of Cooper's first partners was the 12 Des Moines area [Dahl's Foods](#) stores. Cooper expects this strategy to be effective since many people buy household chemicals at grocery stores.

"Dahl's Foods stores understand the importance of this awareness campaign," said Dahl's Vice President of Store Operations, Walt Blake. "The information about the dangers of mixing household chemicals is something we want to share not only with our customers, but also our employees."

Since the campaign began in May, Cooper has received requests for the free campaign materials from 11 local public health agencies across Iowa.

"Locally, we have seen serious, life-threatening consequences when people have mixed household chemicals," said Mitchell County Public Health RN Administrator, Deb Freeman. "The brochures are great. I will distribute them at the library, the local fair, and other locations in our county. I encourage public health agencies across Iowa to take advantage of this material."

In addition to a "Do Not Mix List" (see sidebar), the brochure introduces three basic types of chemicals, and lists some common reactions to exposure of gases produced by mixing certain chemicals.

To receive copies of the free brochure, contact Debbi Cooper at (515) 242-6337 or dcooper@idph.state.ia.us. It is also available at www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/hseess_program_information.asp.

* Joyce Allard is community education coordinator at IDPH.



Do Not Mix List

- Bleach with toilet bowl cleaners
- Bleach with vinegar
- Bleach with ammonia
- Two drain cleaners together
- Different brands of one type of product

Certain disinfectants with detergents



Iowa Department of Public Health

Advancing Health Through the Generations

IDPH

Team Voices

Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Bureau Chief, DeAnn Decker recently spoke to *Focus* about the bureau and its role within IDPH and the state.

What is the mission of your bureau?

We provide leadership and resources pertaining to substance abuse. There are two sides: prevention and treatment. We oversee resources provided by the state and federal governments, and make sure the funding is distributed to providers and monitored appropriately. This is important since our programming is funded primarily through grants.

Tell me about the prevention side.

Some examples include law enforcement partnerships, parent involvement, programs that foster youth mentoring, and youth development.

Working with youth sounds like a good strategy.

It is! We work very hard to bring youth to the table, and it's been very successful. One recent example is a project that allows youth to help kids who have been removed from their home due to a substance-using parent. Kids make "care bags" that include donated items from community members, such as travel-sized soap, shampoo, and a new stuffed animal. During the project, nearly 60 bags were created, and now

other groups are replicating it.

And on the treatment side?

Our goal here is to ensure that appropriate substance abuse services are available to all Iowans, including certain target populations. For example, we oversee a grant that focuses on female methamphetamine abusers and addicts. There's also the project that *Focus* reported on last year in which providers worked with prison inmates prior to their re-entry into society.

I understand Iowa was chosen as one of four states to participate in a special process improvement project.

Yes, that was about three years ago. It involved conducting walk-throughs at substance abuse agencies. A walk-through is a process that includes making an appointment, going through an appointment as a client, and then evaluating the experience. Potential improvements are then discussed with the facility's executive director, and the necessary changes are determined and implemented. The providers were responsible for looking at their agencies, determining barriers to quality treatment services, and implementing change projects to improve treatment services. Based on the results of this project, we

were awarded a grant that's allowing us to do basically the same thing with eight IDPH-funded treatment facilities.

Tell me about some of your team's challenges.

As with all areas of public health, funding is the primary challenge. Getting enough money to serve all Iowans is tough. For example, some of our largest cities are still considered rural because of their low population, and that makes it difficult to serve communities and individuals that really need our help.

It's obvious you're really focused on people.

Oh, yes. Even down to the more administrative jobs like data collection. The outcomes of the data we gather are

very important because we find out which treatment and prevention services work best. This allows us to constantly improve our ability to do our job, which is to serve Iowans.

What is coming up for the bureau?

We have many things going on in the bureau. We've recently applied for three more grants in hopes of continued funding. These grants would allow payment for transportation to treatment services, payment for child care services and other needed services.



Held in September 2006, the Voices of Recovery event featured a march, a picnic, and speeches by national and local experts on substance abuse prevention and treatment.

Health workers' role highlighted at conference

Continued from page 2

Practical advice shared

State Epidemiologist, Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, spoke about immunizations and the health care workforce. Quinlisk approached the topic with humor, and made the seemingly daunting task of vaccinating all Iowa's health care workers seem manageable. Quinlisk said that Iowa has made substantial gains in immunizing its health care workforce, but that more remains to be done.

Patricia Stinchfield, director of Infectious Disease, Immunology, Rheumatology and Infection Control at the [Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota](#) spoke about communicating with parents. Her intelligent method of working with parents who are unsure of vaccines and the process of vaccination proved very informative for participants.

Like Dr. Offit, Stinchfield is an ACIP voting member. She is the first nurse in the United States to hold such a position – a fact that was applauded by the many nurses in the audience.

The conference wrapped up with a state-focused presentation on vaccine storage and handling. During the presentation, Jean Thomas, office administrator for the Family Medicine Specialists, PC in Linn County spoke about her clinic's role in a 2003 revaccination program for approximately 1,500 patients due to vaccine storage issues. She spoke candidly about how the event happened and what steps the conference participants could take to avoid costly mistakes.

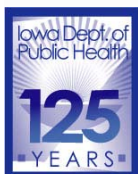
** Bridget Konz is a nurse clinician in the Bureau of Disease Prevention and Immunization at IDPH.*

Board names changed to better reflect duties

During the last legislative session, a law was passed to remove the word "examiner" from several state boards whose work relates to public health. Effective July 1, the Iowa Board of Dental Examiners changed its name to the [Iowa Dental Board](#). Also, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners changed its name to the [Iowa Board of Medicine](#).

The names of several boards which operate under the auspices of the IDPH [Bureau of Professional Licensure](#) were also changed to reflect the fact that their duties extend beyond the administration of licensure examinations. They include the Boards of:

[Athletic Training](#)
[Barbering](#)
[Behavioral Science](#)
[Chiropractic](#)
[Cosmetology Arts & Sciences](#)
[Dietetics](#)
[Hearing Aid Dispensers](#)
[Massage Therapy](#)
[Mortuary Science](#)
[Nursing Home Administrators](#)
[Optometry](#)
[Physical & Occupational Therapy](#)
[Physician Assistants](#)
[Podiatry](#)
[Psychology](#)
[Respiratory Care](#)
[Sign Language Interpreters & Translators](#)
[Social Work](#)
[Speech Pathology & Audiology](#)



Iowa Department of Public Health

Advancing Health Through the Generations

Health literacy Web site continues to attract attention

By Joyce Allard*

Since its launch in February of 2007, the [Plain & Simple](#) health literacy Web site continues to draw the attention of people interested in improving the way they write or speak about health. The Web site, www.idph.state.ia.us/health_literacy, is coordinated by the [Iowa Department of Public Health](#) (IDPH).

"When research shows health literacy is a stronger health predictor than age, income, employment status, education level, and race, health professionals have to start with the way they communicate," said Don McCormick, Plain & Simple project manager. "The way we speak, write, and even lay things out on the page can have a direct effect on whether people can act appropriately on the health information we give them."

In addition to the home page, information on the site is divided into seven subcategories: News, Tools, Readability, Examples, Stories, Resources and Research.

"I am impressed with the Web site's development and rapid evolution to serve so many audiences on health literacy," said Mary Ann Abrams an MD and health literacy expert in the Clinical Performance Improvement department at [Iowa Health System](#). "Your site provides valuable resources and is easy to use."

The innovative nature of the site has also attracted attention outside



Iowa. "Your new Web site is excellent! In fact, I just bookmarked it as a tool to tell others," said national health literacy expert Helen Osborne. "One feature I hadn't seen elsewhere is the section on research. Lots of folks ask me 'do you know of an article about...' Now, I'll refer them to your site."

The research page is divided into eight subsections. Because health literacy plays such a large role in whether people are able to act upon health information, this section of the site was designed to help grant writers connect health literacy to their topics.

McCormick said site development could not have happened without funding from the [Wellmark Foundation](#) and the hard work of partners from the [Iowa Association of Local Public Health Agencies](#), the [Iowa Public Health Association](#), and the [University of Iowa College of Public Health](#).

The most important contributions, however, have come from the site visitors themselves, McCormick says. "We know the site is serving its purpose as a resource by and for public health workers and partners by the number of contributions made to several areas of the site," McCormick said. "In fact, seven of the 25 items announced in our most recent update, came from site visitors."

To contribute to the site or be added to the mailing list, contact Don McCormick at dmccormi@idph.state.ia.us or (515) 281-8960.

** Joyce Allard is community education coordinator at IDPH.*



Iowa Department of Public Health

Advancing Health Through the Generations

Team VERB encourages health through triathlon

Pictured from left to right, Tim Lane, Sarah Taylor and Dennis Haney participated in the [Hy-Vee Triathlon](#) last month. The three IDPH staff competed as Team VERB, and placed 20th out of 51 teams in the coed relay division.

The World Cup portion of the competition, which will become an Olympic qualifying event in 2008, had 96 participants this first year. In the amateur races, nearly 1,700 men and women took part as individuals or as team members.

Haney, who ran the 10K leg of the race for the team, stressed the significance of the event. "When this many people participate in a locally-held competition like this, it really does encourage a healthy and active lifestyle in the people who see or even hear of the event," Haney said. "Nearly everyone in Iowa seemed to know about it."

Overall the event drew an estimated 15,000 spectators to Des Moines. An abbreviated version of World Cup portion of the triathlon will air on NBC July 15 at 1:00 p.m.



Redesign tools available for local public health

The [Redesigning Public Health in Iowa](#) initiative Web site recently received a redesign of its own. Available on the IDPH domain at www.idph.state.ia.us/rphi, the site is now easier to navigate and includes a number of new features.

Of particular interest to local public health professionals, boards of health, and boards of supervisors is a new "Tools" page. This section of the Web site includes 11 fact sheets that explain the local criteria of the Iowa Public Health Standards.

The "About Redesign" section of the site also contains helpful resources. A smaller navigation bar on the left side of this page links visitors to the latest



updates, a section on frequently asked questions (FAQ), information about the public health system in Iowa, and articles about the Redesign initiative.

To learn more about Redesigning Public Health, please contact Martha Gelhaus at mgelhaus@idph.state.ia.us or (515) 242-5224.



Iowa Department of Public Health

Advancing Health Through the Generations

Safety messages shared at festival in Shelby County

Every three years, local businesses, organizations, and individuals in the greater Shelby County area hold a Community Kids Festival. This year's festival was an overwhelming success, with 446 children registered and over 1,000 people in attendance, including parents and grandparents.

Each child received their choice of a free bicycle helmet or knee, elbow, or wrist pads. Grand prizes included five bicycles, an emergency preparedness kit, a free night of camping at Nishna Bend Recreation Area, and Omaha's Henry Doorley zoo passes.

Organized by the Community Health Department at [Myrtue Medical Center](#), the festival included more than 30 interactive activities. Kids also had many opportunities learn firsthand about health and safety.



L-r, cousins Alissa (10) and Hailey (12) Anderson staff one of the booths at the festival.

Iowa Department of Public Health

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