



Quick Reads

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Wellness challenge from Lt. Governor

I hope you have all signed up for Lt. Governor Patty Judge's Wellness Challenge. If not, there's still time! "Your Heart is in Your Hands Challenge" is a free 12-week, web-based program that encourages Iowans to increase physical activity, eat healthier foods, and promote better living. Participants may choose to work toward heart health through fitness choices, health choices, or both. You can earn fitness points by doing everyday activities like walking or housework. Or, you may also use the Challenge to meet and manage your personal nutrition goals. Either way, you earn points toward a gold, silver or bronze medal. Go to www.ltgovernorschallenge.us.

Work begun on H1N1 after action report

The IDPH [Center for Disaster Operations and Response](#) (CDOR) is busy coordinating the after action report for Iowa's response to the H1N1 influenza outbreak. With help from the [Safeguard Iowa Partnership](#), the report will include data gathered through a survey sent to all local public health agencies and hospitals in Iowa. Although this survey was developed for use with this incident, it is also an important investment in that it can be used for future incidents to document our growth and develop smart practices. Additionally, a face-to-face meeting has been conducted with partners in Marshall County, which saw the heaviest amount of H1N1 activity. Internally, CDOR has held as many as seven duty-specific debriefings with a total of 120 IDPH staff members who were involved in the state response. Other state agencies involved in the H1N1 response have also been surveyed. The report is scheduled for release in July. Special thanks to IDPH employees Diane Williams and Tim Wickam for working on this important report.

Data warehouse project update

IDPH has received a total of \$400,000 to support the development of the Public Health Data Warehouse. The department was awarded \$250,000 for use in Fiscal Year 2010 from the [Iowa Technology Reinvestment Fund](#) and \$150,000 from the [Wellmark Foundation](#). The data warehouse will organize and present information to help communities understand and use data when they identify health priorities, plan programs and services, and set prevention targets. Additionally, by making data widely available, the project will help public health tell our story to Iowans and nationally. I am also happy to welcome [Sogeti USA](#) to the project. As our vendor for the data warehouse development, Sogeti will work side-by-side with IDPH staff over the next 12 months to build and deploy the data warehouse.

Lee County recognized by NACCHO

Congratulations to the [Lee County Health Department](#) on a recent [award](#) from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). The southeast Iowa public health agency was recognized by NACCHO's [Model Practice Award Program](#) as one of 23 initiatives that demonstrate exemplary and replicable qualities in response to identified public health needs. In addition, Lee County was one of six local public health departments who participated in a NACCHO Accreditation Preparation & Quality Improvement (QI) Demonstration Sites Project and submitted an application describing their unique QI efforts. For more information about this award, visit www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/accreditation/demosites.cfm.

Local policy protects celebrating seniors

On May 22, shortly before many local graduation celebrations were to begin, Linn County passed a new [Social Host Ordinance](#). The purpose of the policy is to prohibit the consumption of alcohol by youth at gatherings where adults knowingly allow them to drink. This is a superb example of how communities can make a difference in reducing Iowa's high rate of binge drinking. As cited in a [fact sheet](#) recently produced by the IDPH [Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment](#), 11 percent of Iowans 12 to 17 years of age and 51 percent of Iowans ages 18 to 25 had engaged in binge drinking during the past month. To learn more about how local advocates succeeded in shaping this policy in their community, contact Jennifer Husmann of the Grant to Reduce Alcohol Abuse in Mount Vernon at jhusmann@asac.us.

Legislative summary now available

Despite budget challenges, the 2009 legislative session was a successful one. All of IDPH's bills passed and we were able to prevent layoffs and furloughs. For a public health-specific overview of this year's session, see the recently posted [2009 Legislative Summary](#), on the IDPH Legislative Updates page at

www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/legislative_updates.asp. The document provides summaries of bills of public health interest, enactment dates, and IDPH follow-up requirements.

Live Healthy Iowa remembers Roxane

Many of you may remember that former IDPH employee Dr. Roxane Joens-Matre was posthumously [honored](#) at the Iowa Public Health Conference in April. Recently, the [Live Healthy America](#) program also honored Roxane for her tireless work that led to enhancing the evaluation of the Live Healthy program and its outcomes. Each year, Live Healthy America will present this recognition at their annual Live Healthy Communities Summit. This award will go to an individual or individuals who display the same passion and commitment as Roxane had for health and wellness. This year's recipients were Patti Clapp, vice president of the Dallas, Texas Regional Chamber of Commerce; and Erik Nieuwenhuis, wellness consultant for the Center for Preventive Medicine at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Sioux City.

ATR exceeds goals, gets additional funds

Recognizing the performance of Iowa's [Access to Recovery](#) (ATR) program, the national Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration recently awarded IDPH with an additional \$319,000. The ATR program helps individuals seeking recovery from substance addiction by extending treatment and recovery options, allowing them to choose the path to recovery that is right for them. Of the 24 grantees nationwide, Iowa is one of only seven to meet performance requirements that make them eligible for this incentive supplemental funding. Congratulations ATR team!

Wellmark Foundation targets population-based programs

The [Wellmark Foundation](#) seeks to support communities to develop, implement, and enhance local-level wellness and prevention programs. These programs should be population-based; that is, they work with a non-patient population versus targeting patients already in a clinical setting. A prospective grant applicant conference call will be held July 29. Letters of Interest are due Sept. 3. For more information, visit www.wellmark.com/foundation/apply/downloadRFPs.htm.

We want your best practices

IDPH is committed to telling the citizens of Iowa about the good things public health is doing to make a difference. To do this, we want to highlight your best practices/success stories. Please send your ideas to Don McCormick at dmccormi@idph.state.ia.us.

To everyone in public health and all our partners—keep up the great work!
Tom