

# Region 6 News Network



**Covia L. Stanley, MD, MDiv**  
**Region 6 Health Director**

## *The Eagle's Perch*



### *Domestic (Intimate Partner) Violence*

I read a report in 1999 about homicides of spouses secondary to domestic violence or physical abuse. The report revealed that Nevada was number one, Delaware was number two, and South Carolina was number three. I was surprised and chagrined because I thought South Carolina was part of the Bible Belt. I gave a presentation in a church setting that month and could see the expressions on the faces of some spouses who were possible victims. Domestic violence is not a subject that people are interested in talking about. Many believe it should stay in "that" house.

Domestic violence is the violation of a spouse, significant other, or a child's humanity or being as a person. It may be physical, mental, sexual, and other ways (i.e., bat at the door to keep the wife from going to the OB appointment). It is more prevalent than we think. DSS has reported that 24,807 women/children have received services in 2007 and 2008. Domestic violence is found in all social strata, all ethnicities, faith groups, and even among homosexual relationships. It was once seen as a problem of men abusing women; now, it has been recognized that women are abusing men in mounting numbers.

Reports show that spouses of military, police and judicial persons are highly victimized. As alluded to earlier, even clergy and deacons have need "to keep the wife in check." CEOs, politicians, and people who seem to be very nice outside the home, are tyrants at home. With finances and the economy on the downside, more abuse prevails. Many pregnant women have lost their lives and that of their fetuses due to physical abuse. Date rape has risen sharply.

There is a general cycle of this violence: (1) love (2) attack (3) asking for forgiveness and making up (bringing chocolates and flowers), and (4) resume attack.

Much more can be presented on this serious and critical problem. Suffice it to say that we need to show vigilance, recognition, and advocacy. The victims of abuse may present to us in different ways: (1) failure to look you in the eyes at the counter or room; (2) scars, blue marks on the face and hands; (3) swollen lip or eye; (4) during home visits, spouse may be the only one talking; (5) attire may be torn, bloody, etc. When the above is suspected, please confer with your supervisor. If it's your consensus that abuse may be evident, inform DSS, MSW, or other authority.

Prevention of domestic violence is a continuum. A fetus should have a nurturing environment, secondary to expectant parents growing up in a peaceful home (not just a house). Children should have nurture, love, and personal time with parents and siblings. Personal responsibility, and positive esteem will be most contributory or conducive to grooming a stable person for teen years and adulthood.

Domestic violence should be beyond the confines of a house. Advisory and support of CASA and other safe places should be practiced by all of us. Check the website <http://www.say.net/casa/> for more information.

*"Physical comfort can't subdue mental stress, as when reclining on a comfortable bed won't bring true repose if one is wracked with worry and concern."*

The Dalai Lama

## State of the Region



July 1 marked the start of a new state fiscal year for South Carolina state agencies. The budget cut that went into effect with the new state fiscal year was about 8½% of the state funds allocated to us. Many necessary changes have been made over the past months that will have to remain in place for the near future.

Recently we learned that in response to the Budget and Control Board's 4.04% reduction to all state agencies, the agency's Executive Management Team has decided to implement an across the board 4.04% budget reduction within DHEC. For the agency's budget request for next fiscal year (FY 2011) we are being required to submit a 15% reduction plan. In doing so, they prioritized activities and eliminated from the bottom up. The reduction started at number 54 and went up to number 42. The 4.04% reduction that we are taking now is part of the 15% overall reduction. Only two employees opted for the last Voluntary Separation Program/Retirement Incentive Program.

There are some new funds being allocated to the Region but they are for specific uses only. For example: Nurse-Family Partnership, H1N1 activities, Diabetes, and Tobacco program.

The agency now has 4,715 FTEs authorized of which 4,000 are filled. A year ago, the agency's state funds totaled \$147,000,000 and now they have decreased to \$107,000,000. This brings us back to the 1991 or late 1980s level of funding with no inflation factor. Revenue activities are more important now than ever.

*Best Wishes  
for a  
Happy Retirement  
to  
Steve Baxley  
Sharon Bryant  
Arlene Harris  
Harriet Lemmon  
Judy Wheeler*



## SAFE DRIVER AWARD



DHEC is proud to partner with the Office of General Services-State Fleet Management in recognition of the State Government Safe Driver Award Program. DHEC employees travel significant miles annually and should be recognized through this annual Fleet Safety Program.

To receive this award recipients must have driven a state-owned vehicle at least 11,000 miles within a year without receiving any violations. They must also have taken the Defensive Driving class within three years.

Region 6 is happy to announce that we have two staff members that have met the requirements for this award. Susan McCutchen, a Social Worker in the BabyNet program, and Joanne Hemingway, working in the Home Health program in Horry County will receive this award for 2009.

## INSIDE SCOOP



- **Molly Smith**, South Strand HD, is a new mother to Vivian Marie Garcia, born July 12, weighing 6 lbs. 7 1/2 oz.;
- **Lavonna Lavendar**, Conway HD, has a new son-in-law. Her daughter, Leslie, was married on August 1;
- **Brenda Beaty**, Conway HD, is a new grandmother to Olivia Marie Sampson, born August 3;
- **Sarah Moorman**, Conway Region Office, is a new grandmother to Caroline Hope Moorman, born August 18;
- **Glenda Goff**, Conway HD, has a new granddaughter, Sarah Grace Goff, born August 19;
- **Alex Hawkins**, South Strand HD, and his wife are the proud parents of a new daughter, Mackenzie Lee Hawkins, born August 30, weighing 6 lbs. 6 oz.;
- **Shami Capers and Parez Riley**, MBHD, were married on September 5.

## Recipe Corner

### FALL FRUIT DESSERT



- 3 small Granny Smith apples, diced
- 1 (large size) can of crushed pineapple with juice
- 1 Box sugar-free Butterscotch pudding
- 1 cup miniature marshmallows
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 1 – 12 oz. tub of fat-free Cool-Whip

Combine all ingredients except Cool-Whip in a bowl, then fold in the Cool Whip.

This dessert will last several days in the refrigerator.

Submitted by: Jo Fesler

## Region 6



## Spotlight

### Paul Repik

#### Myrtle Beach Health Department

Paul has been with DHEC for 14 1/2 years. He is a native of Charleston. Paul is a registered nurse working with the Family Planning/Adult Health program. He was the 2008 Virginia C. Phillips Excellence in Nursing Practice Award winner.

Paul and his wife, Renee, have two children, Ryan, four, and Tim, one, and stepdaughter Marissa who is 13. His dog, Gina is also an important family member.

Paul enjoys going to the gym, boating on the intracoastal waterway on his john boat, playing video games, and spending time with his family.

He and his family have just moved into their beautiful new home that was built in the Forestbrook area of Myrtle Beach. His favorite food is cheeseburgers and his favorite football team is the Carolina Panthers.

### Chris Raitano Conway Health Department

Chris Raitano, who comes from New York and still has a slight New York accent, has been a DHEC employee for 16 1/2 years. Her career as an RN has included Home Health, Preventive Health, and now TB. Chris's gentle demeanor and calm manner make her popular with her patients and co-workers. She is genuinely nice and always has a positive attitude.

Chris and her husband, Joe, live in Little River. She has one son, Jason, who graduated from the College of Charleston and now lives in Florida. She also has a large extended family of stepsons and grandchildren. Chris is an animal lover and has been known to rescue stray animals even when it may incur a vet bill. She currently has four cats.

She enjoys spending time with her friends in the area and going to Pelicans games. She has also learned a few things now that she is a southern girl.... deer corn is not for human consumption, butter beans are not the same thing as snow peas, and a cold storage facility in the south is not for storage of fur coats. Chris is also a music lover and huge fan of Eva Cassidy, as evidenced by her bumper sticker.

### Iva Greene

#### Georgetown Health Department

Iva has been with DHEC for 25 years, working as a nurse in the clinic.

She is happily married to husband, Melvin. Iva has one son, Trevor, who is pursuing his PhD in Computer Science at AT & T College in North Carolina.

Iva enjoys reading mystery novels, doing community service, and riding her Gold Wing with her husband.

### Joe Cooke

#### South Strand Environmental Health

Joe came to work for DHEC in 1995...14 years ago. He is a Food Protection supervisor.

He grew up in Loris and now lives in the Little River area of Horry County with his wife, Christy. Joe and Christy have two boys, Riley two years old and Layne seven years old.

Joe enjoys camping, riding mountain bikes, spending time with his family, and surfing (when he can find the time). He also enjoys watching movies and playing with remote control cars and planes.

## FORMER DHEC EMPLOYEE MAKES DONATION TO COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Kenneth Swain, was employed in our Environmental Health office for 19 years, retiring in 1988. He was also a registered pharmacist, working part time on the weekends.

Last year Kenneth made a donation to Coastal Carolina University (one of the largest in the University's history) even though he has no direct ties to the University. Groundbreaking for a new science building named after him, Kenneth E. Swain Hall, was held this past February. The building is expected to be completed in 2011.

Mr. Swain grew up in Horry County and has watched the university grow and has seen how it has become such an important part of the community.

His gift will not pay for the actual construction of the building, but for the programs and scholarships. The scholarship program began with the Fall 2009 semester with four students receiving the Swain scholarship.

We are proud that Kenneth Swain was a part of our Agency and that he is making such a difference in the lives of students and in the community.



## MONTHLY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

JULY

Keith McKinney

AUGUST

Mary Thomas

SEPTEMBER

Shirley Small

## Region 6 H1N1 Response

Extensive planning is underway to address the H1N1 swine flu virus that emerged this past spring. The Region 6 H1N1 Response Team is involved in several aspects that it felt all members of the Region 6 team should be familiar with in the event community members ask "What is DHEC doing about this?"

On July 24, 2009, a public health emergency was declared by HHS (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in response to the worldwide H1N1 swine flu novel virus. This action sets in motion several emergency authorizations one of which is the production of the H1N1 pandemic vaccine. Others include funding authorizations to 1) purchase the vaccine; and 2) fund state and local health department activities...or mass vaccinations.

In regard to H1N1, there are three items you should know and these include:

What do you do to prevent the flu?

What is Region 6 doing?

Who to call when you have a question or someone in your community asks a question and they need an answer.

**What do you do to prevent the flu?** Of course a flu shot is the best prevention against the flu. But until it arrives there are several other things to do whether it is seasonal flu or H1N1 flu. In this issue of the Newsletter, the DHEC flyer is reprinted. You can get copies of these along with flu brochures by calling Faye Dorman. But the five things you can do to stay well are listed on the brochure and we encourage you to be familiar with these things, practice them and pass along to others to keep your family and community members healthy. In fact, why not grab a handful and teach a class on what others can do?

**What is Region 6 doing?** Region 6 has been working closely with school districts for several months. The first week of November has been set aside for vaccinating the Georgetown School District while we still work to schedule Horry and Williamsburg county schools. We are also working with hospitals as well. If you have seen the H1N1 priority groups, you'll know that healthcare workers, pregnant women, infants and children are all listed among



the priority groups. But we have approached hospitals and all have stepped forward to serve as vaccinators for their employees as well as physician practices that have admitting privileges at their facility. Many pediatric practices are also going to be offering H1N1 vaccinations to their patients through a CDC/SC DHEC partnership.

Region 6 is also targeting special groups as well such as day care centers and private schools. Typically, children attending day care centers are still under the care of a pediatrician and, therefore, can see their family doctor for an H1N1 vaccination. We have also contacted private schools and will work them into the clinic schedule as well. But the effort is to reach out to all priority groups with a single message of how their members can get an H1N1 vaccination.

Much education is also happening. Last night Dr. Stanley talked to the Horry County Medical Society about bioethics and alternate standards of care during a pandemic. He has been invited back with other members of the Region 6 bioethics committee to provide additional information.

Region 6 has also maintained contact with first responders through the county emergency management officials. This is also an important group to keep healthy so we are keeping them in the loop of Region 6 actions such as those described above.

### Who to call?

Finally, who should you call if you have a question about Region 6 H1N1 activities?

Physician Education  
Immunizations & Clinics  
Education Materials  
Region 6 Employee Health  
Callers with flu symptoms

Dr Stanley, 915-8874 (Annette)  
Lea Altman, 915-8889  
Faye Dorman, 915-8882  
Sarah Moorman, 915-8883  
Lori Goulet, 915-8885  
Sarah Moorman, 915-8883  
Betty Ann Bourbeau, 915-8758

**How you can help?** School districts have asked for a "mommy Q&A" or question and answer guide for parents. Those DHEC employees with a child in K-12 will be offered an H1N1 vaccination. What question(s) would you want answered before signing the form that permits your child an H1N1 vaccination? You can help by submitting your questions to Willie Ann Hucks or Tom Russo by Friday, October 5, 2009.



South Carolina Department of Health  
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