

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New Certification for Pediatric Emergency Care
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grantees Announced
- A Season of Holidays
- Hearing Screening Equipment Available
- Meet the newest BWCH staff
- New Teen Outreach Trainers
- BWCH Contact Information

New Certification for Pediatric Emergency Care

A trip to the emergency room with a sick or injured child is one of a parent's worst nightmares, but not an uncommon experience. Last year in Arizona there were just over 400,000 emergency department visits by children ages 0 – 14. Not all hospital emergency rooms are equally equipped to provide care specific to children. Arizona is now one step closer to having a system in place to improve outcomes for ill and injured children.

This past month, the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AzAAP) launched Pediatric-Prepared Emergency Care, a voluntary certification program for pediatric emergency care. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program initiated the development of the system by working with stakeholders in 2008 to create criteria and identify a model that would work for our state. The certification program is modeled after the regionalized perinatal system in which the Arizona Perinatal Trust certifies birthing hospitals through a membership/fee peer to peer driven organization.

The AzAAP will be the certifying body for Pediatric-Prepared Emergency Care. Utilizing volunteer emergency health care professionals as site reviewers, the AzAAP will certify that emergency departments meet criteria for personnel training, policies, quality improvement activities, equipment and facilities. Three tiers of certifications are available: Prepared, Prepared Plus, or Prepared Advanced. Pediatric-Prepared Emergency Care opened applications for membership in August, with the approval of the first round of certifications projected to occur November 2011.

To emphasize the collaborative nature of the program, certifications will be issued quarterly, and all efforts will be made to ensure centers applying for similar levels of certification are recognized at the same time. Funding for initial activities is provided, in part, by ADHS, Bureau of Women's and Children's Health, EMSC Program. Membership fees will enable program sustainability over time.

National statewide pediatric recognition systems have been shown to increase the number of emergency departments that are capable of providing pediatric care. ADHS is proud to partner with the AzAAP in this initiative to ensure Arizona's children are getting the best emergency care possible.



*Wishing everyone a
Healthy Holiday Season*

Loaning Hearing Screening Equipment for children 1-5 years

The Sensory Program through the Bureau of Women's and Children's Health is a legislatively mandated program that requires all Arizona schools to provide hearing screening and referrals to school-aged children. <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/sensory.htm>. The mandate requires that all private, charter and public schools conduct a systematic screening for hearing disorders to allow for early identification and appropriate intervention for its students. Hearing loss can have devastating effects on academic, social and communication development.

While Arizona's birthing hospitals offer Universal Newborn Hearing Screening,

to newborns, there are few programs that offer screening to children age 1 to 5. We know from research that even a mild hearing loss in young children can affect the ability of the child to speak or understand language. Early identification of hearing loss is important for [brain development and success in schools](http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/sensory.htm). Many Arizona partners are working together to bridge the gap of hearing screening between the ages of 1 to 5. <http://www.aznewborn.com/index.htm>.

In order to assist in this early identification, the Sensory Program, in partnership with the Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs, the ADHS Newborn Screening Program and

the EAR Foundation were able to purchase additional hearing screening equipment. The Sensory Program is now loaning hearing screening equipment to trained hearing screeners to screen children ages 1-5.

Hearing screening equipment is located in Phoenix, Tucson, and Flagstaff. Information on how to borrow hearing screening equipment is located on <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/sensory.htm>. In addition, you can find the information to become a trained hearing screener at:

<http://www.ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/t3/index.php>

The Sensory Program continues to loan equipment to screen school age children.

Welcome New Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grantees!

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) expanded teen pregnancy prevention efforts in the state through the recent award of eight community based contracts. Federal funds from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will support the Abstinence Education Program and the Personal Responsibility and Education Program.

Title V Abstinence Education contracts were awarded to **Arizona Youth Partnership** providing services in specific areas of Apache, Cochise, Gila, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, and Santa Cruz Counties, as well as in Tohono O'odham; **Catholic Charities** providing services in Maricopa County; **National Community Health Partners** providing services in specific communities in La Paz and Yuma Counties; and

Pima Prevention Partnership providing services in the City of South Tucson.

The Personal Responsibility Education Program contracts were awarded to **Arizona Youth Partnership** providing services in the Santa Cruz County communities of Tubac and Patagonia; **Pima Prevention Partnership** providing services in the Maricopa County communities of Estrella, Laveen, and South Mountain; **Pinal Hispanic Council** providing services in the community of Eloy in Pinal County; and **Worthy Institute** providing services in the Maricopa communities of Encanto/Central Phoenix, Estrella, Laveen, and South Mountain.

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New Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grantees cont.

These contracts are an addition to the current teen pregnancy prevention services being funded by state lottery dollars with services delivered by 13 county health departments, 6 community-based organizations, and 6 tribal nations.

A second Request for Grant Application (RFGA) will be issued by ADHS to award the remaining PREP dollars in the Community Health Analysis areas of Mesa West, Glendale Central, Alhambra, Encanto, Tucson Southeast/Tucson North Central, Casa Grande/Coolidge/Florence, and Nogales/Tubac-Patagonia. **Organizations interested in applying** are encouraged to register in the ProcureAZ system to receive notification when the RFGA is released.

Teen pregnancy prevention contracts are managed by the ADHS Bureau of Women's and Children's Health, Office of Women's Health, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Dorothy Hastings, Section Manager of Office of Women's and Children's Health, 602-364-1423 or Dorothy.Hastings@azdhs.gov.

A Season of Holidays

As the holiday season approaches, we are reminded of the great wealth of customs and observances that take place this time of year. Here are some lesser known holidays:

Although [Ramadan](#) is often listed as a December holiday, this year following the [lunar Islamic calendar](#), Ramadan occurred in August. Other important dates, in 2011, include the observance of [Haji](#), approximately Nov. 4 – 9 and Islamic New Year, about November 26th.

December 16 - 25, the Mexican and Latin American tradition of [Las Posadas](#) is observed.

December 20 – 28, [Hanukkah](#) is another observance whose exact dates fluctuate, usually occurring between late November and late December.

December 21 – 22 [Winter Solstice](#), is observed in many native religions, modern versions of ancient pagan religions and others.

December 22, the Hopi ceremony of [Soyaluna or Prayer-Offering](#) is a time for saying prayers for the New Year and for wishing each other prosperity and health.

December 26—January 1 [Kwanzaa](#) is a weeklong celebration held in the United States honoring universal [African-American heritage](#) and culture. It features activities such as lighting a candle holder with seven candles and culminates in a feast and gift giving. It was created by [Maulana Karenga](#) and was first celebrated in 1966–1967.

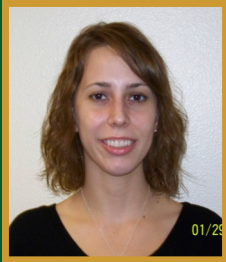
Did you know, the twelve days of Christmas actually begin on Christmas Day and ends twelve days later on January 6, which is traditionally observed as [Three Kings Day or Epiphany](#)?

The months of November and December offer many opportunities to [honor cultural diversity during the holidays](#) and learn more about those around us.

Welcoming New ADHS Staff



Laura Luna Bellucci, MBA Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program Manager, a program that supports state-wide efforts to lower pregnancy rates among teens via teen pregnancy prevention education programs. Laura will provide guidance and technical assistance to providers of service that will improve outcomes for children and families throughout Arizona.



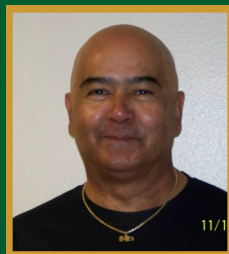
Nicole Thurlow, MPH works in the Office of Oral Health as the Program Manager for the Arizona School-Based Sealant Program and the Arizona Teledentistry Program. The Sealant Program provides dental sealants in a cost effective manner to school children at high risk for tooth decay. The Teledentistry Program supports improved workforce capacity, diversity and flexibility for providing oral health services to underserved populations and underserved areas. Both programs aim to reduce dental disease and increase access to dental care for underserved populations throughout the state.



Laura Gestaut, MPH is the Program Manager for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV). Her program works on implementing and expanding the implementation of evidence-based home visiting programs in the 31 target Community Health Analysis areas. She also works with a variety of partners on strengthening the home visiting system throughout the state.



Sharon Jaycox, MHA Program Manager for Project LAUNCH, a program that promotes interventions to improve the wellbeing of young children by enhancing access to mental health and well-being services, promote developmental screenings, coordinate integration of behavioral health with primary care, and improve parenting skills of families. Sharon will work with a number of stakeholders to improve outcomes for children and young families in South Phoenix, with a particular focus on households with family members in the criminal justice system.



Ralph Figueroa, Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs Title V Outreach Manager, a program that works to improve systems of care, provide information and referral to families, who would like assistance in finding the services available to their child; provide training to families and professionals on best practice related to medical home.



Marla Herrick, BSW, M.Ed., MA Program Manager for Child Fatality Review Program and Maternal Mortality Review Program. Whenever a child dies or a woman dies within 1 year of giving birth, that death is reviewed. This consists of an extensive look into the circumstances surrounding the death. Each death is reviewed by a team of professionals including medical examiners, pediatricians, law enforcement officers and members of the public. The data collected during the review process is analyzed and published in an annual report each November. This report includes recommendations to prevent future deaths. These recommendations have been used to educate communities, initiate legislative action and develop prevention programs.



Sarah Henry, MPH is the Epidemiologist for two programs. The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) program screens pregnant women in the Health Start program for alcohol use and risk, providing a brief intervention to those who screen positive. The Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program (SVPEP) focuses on primary prevention of sexual violence throughout Arizona.

Dyanne Herrera, MPH Maternal and child health (MCH) epidemiologist in the Office of Assessment and Evaluation provides epidemiological support for all MCH needs within the state and the Bureau of Women's and Children's Health (BWCH). Dyanne serves as the epidemiologist in the Maternal Mortality Review and Title V Block Grant and provides technical assistance to MCH programs within BWCH and external partners.



Valerie Odeh, High Risk Perinatal Hospital and Physician Services/Community Nursing Services Program Manager. Valerie has a strong neonatal background as the High Risk Coordinator for the High-Risk/Neonatal Intensive Care Unit hearing follow up program at the Office of Newborn Screening where she worked closely with NICUs throughout the state. The High Risk Perinatal Program/Newborn Intensive Care Program (HRPP/ NICP) is a comprehensive, statewide system of services dedicated to reducing maternal and infant mortality (deaths) and morbidity (abnormalities that may impact a child's growth and development).

Saji Gopalakrishnan is working as an Administrative Assistant III for the Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs. He is responsible for performing numerous administrative tasks including clerical administration, scheduling of activities and staff, travel arrangements and claims, phone coverage, data entry, and maintaining of personal confidentiality of records particularly regarding protected health information.



Staff Become Certified Trainers with ADHS's New Teen Outreach Program

Replication Partnership

The Teen Outreach Program (TOP), implemented by the Wyman Center in St. Louis, Missouri is a nationally recognized youth development approach that has been proven to foster academic success and prevent teen pregnancy. TOP, 30 years in operation, is based upon the principles of youth development, and the socio-emotional well being and mental health of teens. The program provides teens with the necessary support and opportunities to prepare for successful adulthood and avoid teen pregnancy and other negative behaviors.

Delivering curriculum with fidelity is one of the most important concepts for providing effective results in not only TOP but in all teen pregnancy prevention programs. The Wyman Center, the national replication partner for the Teen Outreach Program has recognized this importance and as a result has implemented replication and training certification programs to ensure accuracy of program delivery.

Congratulations to Angie Lorenzo and Laura Bellucci, ADHS Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program Managers who recently completed the intensive week-long certification training in St. Louis, Missouri at the Wyman Center Headquarters to become Certified Trainers for the Teen Outreach Program. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is now a Replication Partner. With both certifications in place, training and technical support will be provided to teen pregnancy prevention programs ensuring Arizona's TOP Clubs are being delivered with fidelity.

The TOP certification can also benefit your organization and offers the opportunity to build capacity! ADHS certified trainers can provide free TOP facilitator trainings to your staff. Once trained, your organization can start implementing the program and gains all the benefits of becoming one of ADHS' TOP Club Partners. Facilitator trainings are offered statewide upon request. For more information on the Teen Outreach Program and how to get a Club started, contact Angie Lorenzo at (602) 364-1400.

The Bureau of Women's and Children's Health The Bureau of Women's and Children's Health (BWCH) supports efforts to improve the health of Arizona women and children. Activities focus on assessment of health status and identification of health issues, development of partnerships and planning to address health issues, and provision of "safety net" services.

Our Vision

Healthy Women...Healthy Children...Healthy Tomorrow

Our Mission

To strengthen the family and the community by promoting and improving the health and safety of women, infants, and children.

Contacts

Acting Bureau Chief

Mary Ellen Cunningham, MPA, RN

Phone: (602) 364-1453

Email: MaryEllen.Cunningham@azdhs.gov

OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH

High Risk Perinatal Program Transport

Valarie Odeh

Phone: (602) 364-1453

Email: Valarie.Odeh@azdhs.gov

High Risk Perinatal Program Hospital and Community Nursing

Mary Ellen Cunningham, MPA, RN

Phone: (602) 364-1453

Email: MaryEllen.Cunningham@azdhs.gov

Project LAUNCH

Sharon Jaycox Project Director

Phone: (602) 364-1449

Email: Sharon.Jaycox@azdhs.gov

ADHS Hotlines & Medical Services Project

Karen Kuhfuss, Section Manager

Phone: (602) 364-1454

Email: Karen.Kuhfuss@azdhs.gov

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

Laura Gestaut, Program Manager

Phone: (602) 364-1441

Email: Laura.gestaut@azdhs.gov

OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH

Office Chief

Julia Wacloff, RDH, MS

Phone: (602) 364-1474

Email: Julia.Wacloff@azdhs.gov

Dental Trailer Loan Program Dental Sealant Program/Fluoride Mouth Rinse Program

RaNee Tuscano, RDH

Phone: (602) 542-2945

Email: Ranee.Tuscano@azdhs.gov

Oral Health

Nicole Thurlow, MPH, Program Manager

(602) 542-1891

Email: Nicole.Thurlow@azdhs.gov

OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

Office Chief

State Adolescent Health Coordinator

Toni Means, MBA-HCM

Phone: (602) 364-1422

Email: Toni.Means@azdhs.gov

Education Section Manager

Dorothy Hastings

Phone: (602) 364-1423

Email: Dorothy.Hastings@azdhs.gov

Health Start/Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Sara Rumann, MA, Program Manager

Phone: (602) 364-1421

Email: Sara.Rumann@azdhs.gov

Sexual Violence Prevention & Education Program

Carol Hensell, Program Manager

Phone: (602) 542-7343

Email: Carol.Hensell@azdhs.gov

Email: carolrpep@aol.com

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

Angie Lorenzo, Program Manager

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Phone: (602) 542-0360

Email: Angie.Lorenzo@azdhs.gov

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

Laura Bellucci, Program Manager

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Phone: (602) 542-0360

Email: Laura.Bellucci@azdhs.gov

Domestic Violence & Family Planning Program

Brenda Nichols, Program Manager

Phone: (602) 542-7341

Email: Brenda.Nichols@azdhs.gov

INJURY PREVENTION

Section Manager

EMS-C, Safe Kids

Tomi St. Mars, RN, MSN, CEN

Phone: (602) 542-7340

Email: Tomi.St.Mars@azdhs.gov

Injury Prevention Program

Alana J. Shacter, MPH

Injury Epidemiologist

Phone: (602) 364-1444

Email: Alana.Shacter@azdhs.gov

Child Injury Prevention Manager

Marla D. Herrick, BSW, M.Ed., MA

Phone: (602) 364-4683

Email: Marla.Herrick@azdhs.gov

OFFICE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Office Chief

Marta Urbina

Phone: (602) 542-2528

Email: Marta.Urbina@azdhs.gov

Title V Outreach Manager

Ralph Figueroa

Phone: (602) 354-1397

Email: Ralph.Figueroa@azdhs.gov

Program Project Specialist

Shelly Persons

Phone: (602) 364-1497

Email: Shelly.Persons@azdhs.gov

Education and Advocacy Manager

Rita Aitken

Phone: (602) 364-1480

Email: Rita.Aitken@azdhs.gov

Administrative Assistant III

Saji Gopalakrishnan

Phone: (602) 542-1860

Email: Saji.Gopalakrishnan@azdhs.gov

OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION

Office Chief Khaleel Hussaini, PhD (602) 364-1415 Syed.Hussaini@azdhs.gov

Epidemiologist Sara Henry (602) 542-2097 Sarah.Henry@azdhs.gov

Epidemiologist Dyanne Herrerra (602) 364-1432 Dyanne.Herrerra@azdhs.gov