

NEWSLETTER

of the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

Texas Department of State Health Services, February 2011

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DSHS Programs for Cervical Health: Breast & Cervical Cancer Services and Adolescent & Adult Immunizations

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. All women are at risk for cervical cancer. It occurs most often in women over age 30. Cervical cancer is highly preventable because screening tests (such as the Pap test) and vaccines to prevent HPV (human papillomavirus) infections are available.

According to the Texas Cancer Registry (*Cervical Cancer in Texas, 2010*), in 2010, an estimated 1,219 Texas women will be diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer and 378 women will die of the disease. The rates of women being diagnosed with and dying from cervical cancer in Texas are higher than those of the United States overall.

Two programs at the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) are available in the fight against cervical cancer: the Breast and Cervical Cancer Services Program and the Adolescent & Adult Immunization Program.

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Services (BCCS) Program was created to reduce the morbidity and mortality of breast and cervical cancer by offering clinical breast examinations, mammograms, pelvic examinations, and Pap tests throughout Texas at no or low-cost to low income women who have no health insurance.

Of the 33,490 women seen during the 2009-2010 program year, a total of 19,163 cervical screenings were provided through BCCS program contractors, with a total of 1,084 precancerous conditions and 47 invasive cervical cancers detected. (www.bccstexas.com)

Breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services are provided at over 200 sites throughout Texas by local and regional health departments, community health centers, university-based teaching institutions, public and private hospitals, and other community based organizations.

For more information regarding eligibility requirements, screening locations, resources, and other BCCS information, please go to: www.bccstexas.com.



Both the Breast & Cervical Services Program and the Texas Cancer Registry are partners of the Cancer Alliance of Texas (CAT).

DSHS Programs for Cervical Health: Breast & Cervical Cancer Services and Adolescent & Adult Immunizations (cont.)

The Adolescent & Adult Immunization Program (AAIP) focuses on educating the public and physicians about the need for adult and adolescent vaccinations. The AAIP provides vaccines to uninsured or underinsured adolescents and adults through local health departments or Health Service Regions (HSR).

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is the main cause of cervical cancer. This program promotes the two HPV vaccines *Cervarix* and *Gardasil* which protect against cervical cancer. Both vaccines are safe, protect against HPV types 16 and 18, and require a three dose series. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that girls 11 years of age and women through 26 years of age get all three shots of either vaccine.

In the coming year, the AAIP will be working to increase teen vaccination coverage estimates for HPV by promoting the DSHS HPV vaccine webpage: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/hpv.shtm>, distributing marketing materials, and working with stakeholders by making presentations at health classes at schools, health fairs, and other events.

At the end of January of 2011, all regional coordinators will meet in Austin to design strategies to carry out these objectives for the year. If you have any questions or would like to contact any of the regional coordinators, please contact them at the following numbers.

<u>Adult & Adolescent Immunization Regional Coordinators</u>	<u>Health Service Region</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Sanders, Sonna (Program Manager)	2 & 3 (Arlington)	817-264-4791
Williams, Sonia	4 & 5 North (Tyler)	903-533-5229
Jones, Shannon	6 & 5 South (Houston)	713-767-3418
Ponsonby, Lynn	7 (Temple)	254-778-6744 x6765
Hunter, Charlotte	8 (San Antonio)	210-949-2022
Byrd, Sandra	9 & 10 (El Paso)	915-834-7851
Medina, Joe	11 (Harlingen)	361-889-3483

Val Verde-Kinney Cancer Task Force: "Don't Turn Your Back on Cancer!" County Proclamation

The Val Verde-Kinney County Cancer Task Force (VVKCTF) challenged the Val Verde County Commissioners' Court to proclaim, "Don't Turn Your Back on Cancer in 2011!" at the Court's meeting Monday, January 10, 2011.



Val Verde-Kinney Cancer Task Force members (from L to R): Willie Braudaway, Mae Pierce, Linda Jimenez, Linda Morris, Dotty Vogt, and Gloria Sotelo.

Judge Laura Allen and the County Commissioners unanimously approved and proclaimed 2011 as "DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON CANCER!" YEAR. The Court also took the opportunity to urge all residents to implement the "Seven Tips to Reduce Your Cancer Risk," become aware of their own risks, talk to their health care providers and when appropriate, take the necessary screening tests for the disease.

The awareness campaign will continue throughout 2011 as the VVKCTF writes its own newspaper articles and provide health education and displays at special events and gatherings throughout the community.

Cameron County and *Frontera de Salud* Partnership in South Texas

Cameron County Commissioner Sofia C. Benavides in partnership with the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSC) and the Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services have established a partnership that provides healthcare to medically underserved residents in colonias and rural areas. *Frontera de Salud (Frontera)*, a volunteer organization run by medical students, provide preventive healthcare screenings while also learning to treat diverse populations such as the unique cultural context of South Texas. *Frontera* includes staff and medical students from UTHSC San Antonio and UTHSC Houston.



Pictured: Sofia C. Benavides (Cameron County Commissioner), Members from Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services, University of Texas Health Science Center Houston, University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, and University of Texas Health Science Center Houston Mobile Clinic.

On November 13, 2010 *Frontera* initiated the operations of a recurring clinic for the rural area communities of Browne Road Social Service Center and Blessed Juan Diego de Guadalupe Church, located outside of Brownsville, Texas. *Frontera* volunteers provided examinations and physician referrals; cancer, diabetes, hypertension screenings; a diabetic foot assessment station; and healthcare counseling.

Frontera volunteers also offered services beyond the usual scope of clinical practice, such as domestic violence screening, obesity counseling, and referrals to nutritional and fitness classes. The Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services provided a Family Outreach Specialist to follow up on the referrals to ensure that individuals have accessed the necessary services including nutrition and fitness classes at the Browne Social Service Center.

"Gift of Life" and Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas Provide Free Mammograms for Medically Underserved Women



Breast cancer survivor, Victoria Bonsall (center), whose breast cancer was detected following a "Gift of Life" mammogram she received at Baptist Beaumont Hospital, Todd Senters, FACHE, and Irene Ramirez, RN, as well as "Gift of Life" Board President Nell McCallum Morris and Vice President Marty Craig.

On Saturday, October 30, 2010, the Julie Rogers "Gift of Life" Program, Baptist Cancer Center and Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas teamed up to make available free mammograms for 31 medically underserved women at the Dauphin Cancer Screening and Prevention Center in Beaumont.

"October's National Breast Cancer Awareness Month has been an excellent platform for heightening awareness, but we want the community to remain mindful that this is a year-long effort and women should remember the importance of annual mammograms and breast cancer education," said "Gift of Life" Board President and Baptist Hospitals Board Member Nell McCallum Morris.

Breast cancer survivor Victoria Bonsall, whose cancer was detected following a "Gift of Life" mammogram she received at Baptist Beaumont Hospital in 2007, extended her gratitude for saving her life. "If I hadn't had access to

either of these programs and this mammogram, I wouldn't be here today," Bonsall said. "I have been given the utmost attention, compassion and care, and I know I could not have made it through this journey without the 'Gift of Life.'"

Since 1994, Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas has partnered with the "Gift of Life" Breast Cancer Program, making available nearly 12,000 free mammograms for medically underserved Southeast Texas women and helping extend the lives of more than 50 women diagnosed with breast cancer and provided access to treatment.

WilCo Wellness Alliance: Policy, Systems, & Environmental Changes in Williamson County

In March 2009, Williamson County was designated an ACHIEVE community by the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. ACHIEVE focuses on policy, systems, and environmental change strategies to prevent or manage chronic disease risk factors. The WilCo Wellness Alliance, which is comprised of key leaders representing schools, healthcare, worksites, and community organizations, began their focus on Georgetown, TX in the following areas:

1. Physical activity in healthcare (*Exercise is Medicine*): implement policy and systems changes for patient protocols. Exercise prescriptions written based on physical activity assessments.
2. Nutrition in community (*Por Vida*, developed by San Antonio Healthy Restaurants Coalition): implement environmental and policy changes for recipe and menu composition. Restaurant items are designated and approved based on analysis against nutrition criteria.
3. Health in worksites (Comprehensive Worksite Wellness): implement policy, systems, and environmental changes for overall health. Employers implement interventions based on identified employee needs and interests.
4. Partner with the Tobacco Environmental Coalition to implement strategies related to tobacco use.



At the ACHIEVE Action Institute Meeting in Denver, Colorado. Members of the WilCo Wellness Alliance from left to right: Kimberly Garrett, Cynthia Guerrero, Debbie Hoffman, Kelly Bressler, Tammie Danielsen, David Bastis, Mary McKenna, Bride Roberts, Jennifer Helmcamp, Jane Osmond and Melissa Cole

This model serves as a blueprint for other communities as the coalition expands throughout the county. Next community to begin the process is East Williamson County. For information visit www.achievecommunities.org or contact Melissa Cole, MS, CHES at 512-248-3252 or mcole@wchd.org.

LIVESTRONG Supports Communities in the Fight Against Cancer

LIVESTRONG opened in Austin, Texas, in 1997 shortly after its founder, world champion cyclist Lance Armstrong, was diagnosed with cancer. The goal of LIVESTRONG has always been to offer useful information and hope to people living with cancer, as well as their family, friends, caregivers and health care professionals. Over the years, the organization has met its goals in many ways, with survivors always at the center of its mission to inspire and empower people affected by cancer. Since 2004, LIVESTRONG has provided this assistance via phone and email support. In 2010, the LIVESTRONG Cancer Navigation Center opened in East Austin, and with it came a great new opportunity to serve.



Now, through in-person meetings, navigators at the center offer guidance and resources in the fight against cancer. Some people seek reassurance upon receiving a diagnosis. Others want help making healthy post-treatment plans. While the center does not offer medical treatment, it does provide help with diagnosis and treatment information; emotional support; insurance, employment and other financial concerns; and fertility preservation options.

One-on-one assistance is free, confidential and available in English and Spanish. LIVESTRONG also offers support programs in communities across Texas. For more information, visit www.LIVESTRONG.org/GetHelp or call the LIVESTRONG Cancer Navigation Center at 1.855.220.7777. LIVESTRONG is a partner of the Cancer Alliance of Texas (CAT).

Monthly Health Observances for Spring 2011

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
(www.preventcancer.org/colorectal)

May is Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month
(www.melanomamonday.org)

May 8-14 is National Women's Health Week
(www.womenshealth.gov/whw)

June is Men's Health Month
(www.menshealthmonth.org)

June 5 is National Cancer Survivors Day
(www.ncsd.org)



Thank you for your interest in the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Program.

News items are collected from and written by a variety of sources including Cancer Alliance of Texas members, media outlets, and other cancer-control partners throughout Texas and the United States.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reserves the right to edit all content for space, clarity, and accuracy. Newsletter items are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Texas Department of State Health Services or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

