

RC/PIO News & Notes 5-3-2024



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
Contents may be FYUO – FOR YOUR USE ONLY

News and Notes

The annual Georgia Public Health Association meeting was held Wednesday through Friday this week. On Monday a group of international visitors stopped by the state DPH Emergency Operations Center. We'll have more details on these happenings and more as highlights this week.

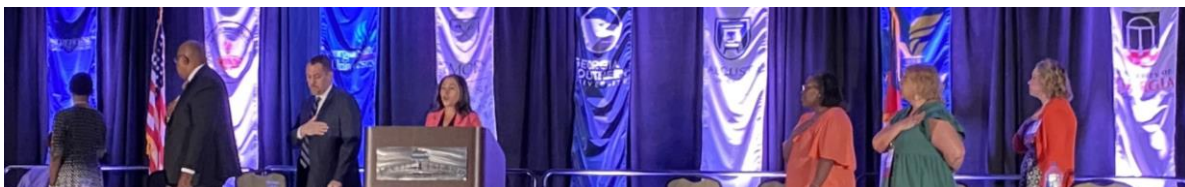
International Visitors

Health officials from nine countries in Africa including Liberia, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo visited the state DPH EOC Monday. We provided an overview of DPH emergency response activities and heard more about the successes and challenges our visitors have experienced in their own countries. Their emergency response efforts include floods, drought, malaria, and food borne illnesses. We shared information on planning, exercising, and communication tools and practices.



GPHA Annual Meeting

The 94th annual Georgia Public Health Association conference theme was “Lighting the Way to a Healthier Georgia.” The three-day conference wraps up today with 644 registered attendees. There were many great opportunities to learn from section meetings, breakout and round table sessions and the full group plenary events. Some of the best information was exchanged through the informal networking that went on throughout each day.





Presentation topics ranged from research into Adverse Childhood Experiences, to Refugee Health planning, to ingestion of Kaolin.



At the GPHA Communications Section meeting, Fulton County presented the multiple vaccine communication efforts that flowed throughout the last four years. The inaugural Communications Excellence Award was presented to Valerie Crow, and Past Section Chair Sally Silbermann was recognized for her role in establishing the entity. New officers were elected for the next year: Chair: Kristin Patten, Vice Chair: Eric Jens, and Secretary: Chandler McGee. There were also live broadcasts promoting DPH from WDDQ and Valdosta Mayor / radio host Scott James.



Section awards were presented at the section meetings and at the full session finale. The 2024 Sellers-McCroan Award went to team members of the Georgia Public Health Laboratories. Interesting program notes indicate the first GPHL opened 1/1/05...as in 1905, in the basement of the Capitol Building with a two-year budget of \$3,000.



Region K meeting

Thanks for the update and images of the Region K Healthcare Coalition meeting Thursday from LaKieva Williams. The meeting included plum case training, an exercise and preparation for the anticipated above-average hurricane season that's about to begin.



Next Week Preview

There is a series of meetings at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth next week Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The Thursday event is a tabletop exercise focused on the new state Medical Support Shelter.

About "News & Notes"

"News & Notes" is a weekly communication aimed at risk communicators and public information officers within Georgia's 18 public health districts. The goal of the communication is to increase preparedness through the exchange of information about significant events, training, and other planned activities. Some information herein may be considered FYUO or For Your Use Only. Please be judicious when forwarding. For questions, comments or to submit information for inclusion, contact Eric Jens at Eric.Jens@dph.ga.gov