

PULSE

A look at what keeps ISDH ticking



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FUN FACT

Elephants can swim as many as 20 miles a day — they use their trunks as natural snorkels!



Indiana State
Department of Health

Mission:
To promote and provide
essential public health services

GREAT GOVERNMENT SERVICE AT WORK

One of the five pillars of Governor Holcomb's administration is to deliver great government service. We strive for that every day here at ISDH, and I want to highlight two endeavors that dovetail nicely with the governor's priorities.

If you haven't already done so, check out StatsExplorer, which is the brainchild of ERC and Chris Waldron. [Here](#) you can find county- and state-level data for a number of health issues, including those related to the opioid epidemic (another of the governor's pillars), cancer and other illnesses. This is a valuable tool for our local health departments, media and the public



Dr. Adams

to allow them to better understand the trends in communities across the state. I thank Chris and the ERC data team for bringing this to life!

I also want to recognize Phanlada Chantha-Hill and Linda Stemnock on the data analysis team for a similar project that is about to be published. Phanlada has created four interactive dashboards that pull data from our mortality and natality reports into a user-friendly interface similar to StatsExplorer. This will make it easier to quickly iden-

tify birth and death trends in the state, whether you're a member of the media or a local health or community leader.

Initiatives like these are just two examples of the daily ways that our team rises to the challenge of delivering great government service. If you have something you want to tout, let me know!

Great government service also means being inclusive, and that's why I'm putting out a call for ISDH staff who speak and write fluent Spanish – or any other language. If you are fluent in a language besides English, please let [Jeni O'Malley](#) in our Office of Public Affairs know.

NEW ROLES FOR HARVEY, PHPER'S BROWN

The ISDH new hires list for May featured some familiar names.

Please welcome Patrick Brown to a new role as the director of resource and evaluation, overseeing the Logistics and Training and Exercise sections within the Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response division. Previously, Patrick was the North Area Coordinator in



Misty
Harvey

PHPER.

Some other familiar names are also on this month's hiring list, including DJ Shannon in ERC, Rachel Kenny in Trauma and Misty Harvey, who has moved to a Food Scientist II with wholesale food establishment responsibilities. Also

welcome Tammy Barber, a public health nurse surveyor; Jennifer Newland, exercise coordinator in PPHPER, Jack Kinsey, an environmental field scientist with the lead program; Nicole Tipton, Aaron Catt and Cheryl Flick, surveyors in Long-Term Care; and Shanbri Cade, HIV medical service enrollment specialist.

Welcome aboard!

ACCREDITATION UPDATE: STATE HEALTH ASSESSMENT

By Eden Bezy

The Office of Public Health Performance Management (OPHPM) is pleased to provide regular updates on the agency's path toward accreditation. Currently, the OPHPM team, with help from over 100 stakeholders, is working to complete Indiana's latest State Health Assessment (SHA). Although required for accreditation, a SHA is also critical for health departments to better understand the health of residents, and how the policies, systems, and the environments in which we live impact their health.

The SHA is being completed by con-

sidering data from a wide variety of sources. These include: nationally available data sets (such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, etc.), hospital discharge data, and county health rankings. Additionally, OPHPM conducted an environmental scan of existing assessments to identify needs across all Indiana counties.

In May, the stakeholder group participated in a SWOT analysis and a Forces of Change analysis. The exercise allowed the group to better understand the strengths and shortcomings of the public health system in Indiana, and recognize forces outside our control

that still impact the health of Hoosiers. The last piece of the SHA will come from hearing from residents themselves. OPHPM is seeking any assessments ISDH program areas, or their community coalitions, might have done. This could include: listening sessions, surveys, town-hall meetings, stakeholder engagement meetings, or any other way feedback was solicited directly from Indiana residents. Please send assessments to Eden Bezy at ebezy@isdh.in.gov.

Interested in learning more about the SHA? Or about accreditation? Would you like to be involved? Contact Eden Bezy or go to PHAB.org.

HEALTH CARE QUALITY & REGULATORY COMMISSION AWARDS

By Terry Whitson

The Health Care Quality and Regulatory Commission employs approximately 170 nurse and medical surveyors who survey health care facilities for compliance with standards of care. The job of a health care facility surveyor is challenging and difficult. They work throughout the state assessing quality of care provided at health care facilities.

The ISDH is fortunate to have a number of surveyors who have dedicated many years to state service protecting quality of care for



Hoosiers. Twice a year our surveyors gather to review new care standards and survey protocols. At the spring meeting on March 7, the Commission presented service awards to its health care facility surveyors who reached service milestones. Special recognition goes to two long-serving surveyors.

From the Division of Long Term Care, Jodi Meyer was recognized for completing 30 years of service. Jodi is survey supervisor for southwest Indiana for nursing home and residential care facility surveys. From the Division of Acute Care, Grace Russell was recognized for completing 25 years of service. Grace surveys hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers and psychiatric hospitals in northern Indiana.

Thanks to all of our recipients for their service to the state and their contributions to promoting health care quality.

2017 INSHAPE INDIANA BLACK & MINORITY HEALTH FAIR

For 32 years, ISDH has worked to increase awareness of chronic diseases among minority populations, as well as how to prevent them, by partnering with Indiana Black Expo to host a health fair during Expo's Summer Celebration.

This year's INShape Indiana Black & Minority Health Fair will take place July 13-16 at the Indiana Convention



Center, Exhibit Hall F. The theme is "Your Ticket to Healthy Living!"

If you are interested in volunteering in the ISDH area, please go to the volunteer site and register: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/23423.htm>

Your participation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel to contact the Office of Minority Health at 317-233-8499 or 317-232-3231, or email inomh@isdh.in.gov.

ON THE MOVE: DR. ADAMS' SMALL STEPS CHALLENGE

Earlier this month, the Office of Public Affairs launched Dr. Adams' Small Steps Challenge to help promote physical activity at ISDH and set an example for the rest of the state. The challenge was born of Dr. Adams' desire to see more staffers take the stairs or find other ways to get moving.

Since the challenge was announced, we've received some questions that we'll answer here.

Is this a DNPA or Wellness Council initiative?

OPA conferred with the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity and received



suggestions about how IU Health did a similar challenge. Many thanks to Lindsey Bouza and Kelsey Barrick for their input!

Who do we turn this into at the end?

This is a personal challenge—look at it like keeping a diary or journal, logging your daily movement and

seeing how you progress.

What happens with our total points? Is this a contest?

The Small Steps Challenge is a personal challenge—there is no need to turn in your activity sheet. But if you commit to moving more and have a success story to share, we want to hear it!

Is there a prize at the end?

There is no official prize, but divisions can certainly come up with their own ways to reward success. The wellness coordinator at the ISDH Labs has

done just that: Those who complete Dr. Adams' challenge will receive 50 percent off a bowl of frozen yogurt at the next Labs Frozen Yogurt Social, and those whose step total is in the top 10 percent of all participants will receive a free bowl of frozen yogurt and be recognized for their efforts.

Are you creating a division contest based on the Small Steps challenge? Have you heard any success stories? Please let the Office of Public Affairs know! Send information to Jeni O'Malley at jomalley@isdh.in.gov.

CAITLIN CONRAD NAMED TO NATIONAL COALITION BOARD

Caitlin Conrad, STD Prevention Program Director at ISDH, has recently been elected to serve on the board of the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD). During its 14 years of existence, NCSD has represented the interests of state and local STD program directors by providing a united voice to develop and articulate state and local concerns to national policy makers and organizations. With a broad membership reach, NCSD actively provides a state and local STD program perspective around the issues of STD prevention, treatment and control and the broader issue of sexual health.

Caitlin will serve on the NCSD board for three years to assist NCSD with making recommendations for best practices in national STD prevention activities. She will



Caitlin Conrad

provide leadership, governance and oversight to NCSD by serving as a trusted adviser to the Executive Director through developing and implementing a strategic plan for NCSD, reviewing outcomes and metrics created by NCSD for evaluating impact and measuring performance and effectiveness of the metrics, approving the NCSD annual budget, partnering with the Executive Director and other board members to ensure that board resolutions are carried out, serving on committees or task forces and representing NCSD to stakeholders and ensuring that outcomes and policies from NCSD reflect positive impacts for the communities that all states serve.

HEALTH OBSERVANCES: NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

Injuries are a leading cause of disability for people of all ages – and they are the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1 to 44. The good news is that everyone can help prevent injuries. June is National Safety Month, and with summer activities such as swimming and biking and the upcoming Fourth of July fireworks, it's a



good time to revisit your family's awareness of safety issues such as medication safety and prescription painkiller abuse; driving, biking and working; fireworks safety; first aid and emergency preparedness; and how to prevent falls. You can learn more about National Safety Month by visiting <http://bit.ly/2nsB6dd>.



DEADLINE NEARS FOR GO365

Have you earned Silver Status yet? There's still time! Visit www.Go365.com to find out how to qualify for the state's 2018 Wellness CDHP with Silver status.

ISDH LAB IN SPOTLIGHT AT ASM MICROBE MEETING

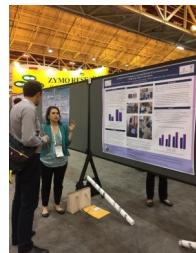
By Jyl Madlem

Two presentations by ISDH Laboratory staff were selected for special attention at the 2017 American Society for Microbiology Microbe meeting in New Orleans recently. Jyl Madlem submitted two posters:

"Carbapenemase Producing-Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacteriaceae" (CP-CRE) and "A Workshop for Indiana Laboratories: Fungi Can Be Fun..." The fungi poster was selected for a Rapid-Fire oral presentation. The CP-CRE poster was presented by Dr. Sara Blosser and was selected for the media room to draw attention of reporters.

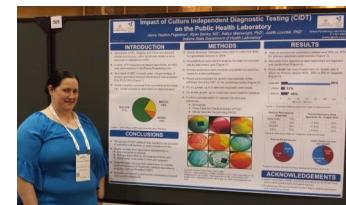
The "Fungi Can Be Fun..." poster received a great deal of foot traffic, likely due to the Rapid Fire discussion the day before. Notables in the industry such as folks from the antimicrobial resistance community, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes for Health, and many

state and international agencies were curious about how we plan, market and present our trainings, whether this workshop was an annual event and how they could register for the next session.



The CP-CRE poster was popular as well. Dr. Blosser explained how the ISDH laboratory teaches techniques to clinical microbiologists necessary to identify these resistant organisms and why it is important to submit these isolates to our laboratory in accordance with the Communicable Disease Rule. For her, the highlight of the poster presentation was the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with other public laboratory directors about how to continually engage clinical laboratories on the topic of antibiotic resistance.

Jamie Yeadon-Fagbohun presented her poster "Impact of Culture Independent Diagnostic Testing on the



Dr. Sara Blosser, left; Jyl Madlem, above top; and Jamie Yeadon-Fagbohun, above

Public Health Laboratory," which highlighted the public health issues related to use of these tests for enteric diseases. These tests do not produce the bacterial isolates necessary to investigate infection outbreaks, and recovery of living organisms from clinical specimens sent to the public health laboratory is poor.

FUN COMMITTEE BOOSTS MORALE IN HIV/STD/HCV

By Dennis Stover

Who says HIV/STD and Hepatitis isn't FUN?

While interviewing for his current position as Prevention Director, John Nichols talked about a fun committee at the hospital where he was working at the time. We loved the idea so much that we launched our Fun Committee for the HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis Division the very next day! It was up and running before the hiring process for John was complete.

I am not ashamed to steal good ideas, and this has been a great team-building committee since it was launched about eight months ago. We have birthday cards for all staff, life celebrations, graduation lunches, group pitch-ins (the favor-



Pitch-ins are the most popular of the Fun Committee events.

ite event, while doughnuts seem to be second highest in ranking). The next event is a lunch in the park to celebrate the Fourth of July.

We have also asked each staff member to give us a little biography, and we share those randomly throughout the year. We usually fig-

ure out how to give away some sort of prize at our events.

I want to offer thanks to Summer Wagner-Walker, who works in our STD department and is leading this effort with a staff team that help organize events.

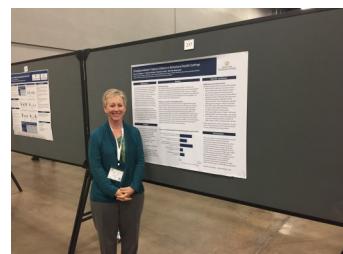
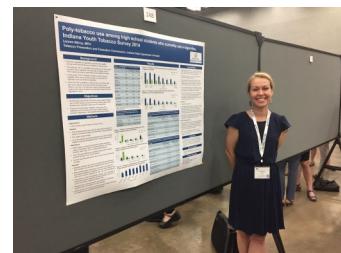
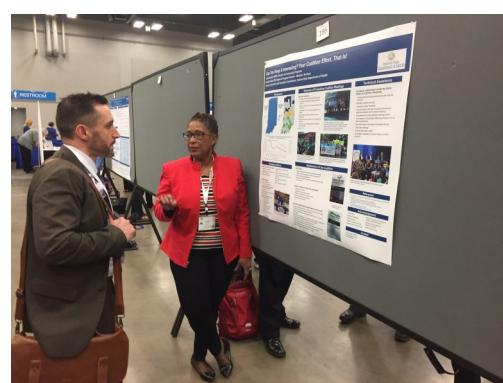
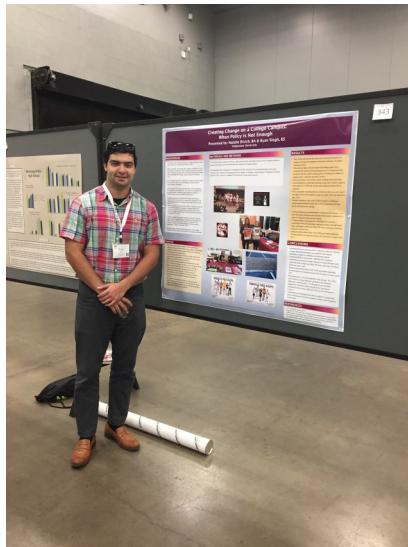
Summer says the events have been "instrumental in developing our teams, improving our morale and making us a more cohesive unit."

Keep your eyes peeled for our informal recognition event, "I am a Fan," when team members will recognize colleagues once a month. The honor will travel from the person who is recognized to the next FAN each month. Thanks to Michael Ryan, our new Deputy Director, for bringing us "I am a Fan!"

TPC TEAM SHARES INDIANA STORY AT CONFERENCE

In March of 2017, the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Commission (TPC) at the Indiana State Department of Health was represented at the National Conference on Tobacco or Health. TPC representatives, as well as local and state tobacco control partners, shared the great work being done in Indiana through break-out sessions and poster sessions. Here are some highlights that Indiana shared:

- ◊ New youth empowerment model (Voice) working to engage Hoosier youth to help peers from ever starting tobacco
- ◊ Data on tobacco point-of-sale strategies at the county level to help raise awareness of local issues
- ◊ Analysis on the rise in electronic cigarette use among Indiana youth
- ◊ Data on the age of initiation and frequency of use of other tobacco products among Indiana high school students who are current users
- ◊ Local smoke-free policy success in the city of South Bend; presenters focused on the many aspects of an effective local smoke-free air campaign
- ◊ Importance of addressing tobacco use prevalence among Hoosiers with mental health diagnoses and substance abuse disorders
- ◊ TPC's work and partnership with the Indiana Women, Infants and Children program to implement an electronic referral option to the Indiana Tobacco Quitline for WIC clinics and patients
- ◊ TPC shared best practices for building and maintaining local tobacco control coalitions.



Pictured:
 Ryan Singh, far left, program coordinator, Tobacco Education and Prevention Coalition for Porter County; Anita Gaillard, Director of Community Programs, TPC, above; Katelin Rupp, Director of Program Evaluation, TPC, middle left; Debi Hudson, Project Manager, Bringing Indiana Along, bottom left.

LAB'S JESSICA GENTRY IS LABORATORIAN OF THE YEAR



Dr. Ed Desmond, Jessica Gentry, Dr. Sara Blosser and Eric Hawkins.

Jessica Gentry, the ISDH Laboratories' TB Supervisor, was the recipient of the Ed Desmond Laboratorian of the Year Award at this year's APHL/TB Controllers meeting. This award honors exemplary service, dedication, or leadership to a TB laboratory professional. The Desmond Award is a merit-based award, and Jessica was nominated for her contributions in data mining research, cost-effectiveness studies, refinement and enhancement

of daily operation of the ISDH TB laboratory, and contributions to the National TB Laboratory community. This dedication was also recently acknowledged by the CDC, as Jessica was invited to provide bench-level expertise at the CDC's Diagnostic Mycobacteriology Course in 2017. The award was presented by Dr. Ed Desmond, Eric Hawkins (ISDH TB controller), and Dr. Sara Blosser (ISDH clinical microbiology director).

CDHHE URGES COMMUNITY TO ‘BE INSPIRED’

By Sandi Lerman

As a parent of a deaf child herself and the director of multiple organizations serving parents and families over the years, Executive Director Christine Moody has brought a creative vision to life at the Center of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education through a new speaker series called “Be Inspired!”

Christine’s goal for this program is to support parents of deaf and hard of hearing children by bringing awareness to all the successful deaf and hard of hearing adults following their personal dreams and career passions. “I know how much it inspires hope to get to know deaf and hard of hearing adults; it helps you to see that there truly are no limits to your child’s future,” she said.

So far, the Center has hosted three outstanding deaf and hard of hearing speakers for the “Be Inspired” series: Mobeen Ansari, visual artist; Sam Sepah, human resources specialist for Google; and Evelyn Glennie, internationally recognized classical solo percussionist. The next event will feature Roz Rosen, author, educator and Deaf community advocate. The speaker series is held off-site to promote community collaboration and to foster an engaging and informal dialogue with families. Collaborating partners have included Sigman’s Art Gallery, Launch Fishers, Butler University Arts Fest, and Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

To further support the mission of serving all families and children, Christine brought Sandra Lerman on board as the new Family and Community Education Liaison for the Center. In addition to provid-



Mobeen Ansari at Sigman’s Art Gallery April 14, 2016, as part of the “Be Inspired” series. Christine Moody, director of the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education, is in the red skirt.

ing support to families through parent-to-parent support, community collaboration, social media and educational workshops at the Center, part of Sandra’s role is to make contacts with potential speakers for the “Be Inspired!” event.

“It’s exciting to have a part in bringing such a talented group of individuals together with families who otherwise might not have the opportunity,” Lerman said. “Our guests have appreciated these events so much, and the audience interaction with our featured speakers has been truly inspiring!”

The Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education serves children from birth to 21 and promotes positive outcomes for all deaf and hard of hearing children through information, services and education.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: ANN KAYSER AND ALEX BOLAND

Ann
Kaysers,
left, and
Alex
Boland.



Two members of the Epidemiology Resource Center were recognized June 4 at the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists’ conference in Boise, Idaho. Ann Kaysers and Alex Boland both were honored during graduation ceremonies for the fellowships they are completing this month. Alex is completing a two-year applied epidemi-

ology fellowship through CSTE and is leaving ISDH to begin physician assistant training. Ann is completing a one-year Informatics Training in Place Program (I-TIPP) fellowship through CSTE but will stay at ISDH, where she leads our electronic surveillance/informatics team.

Congratulations to both!