
press Release

NEWS

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PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERS SELECTED FOR NATIONAL PROGRAM

Public Health Leaders to Focus on Lead Poisoning Prevention

A team of public health leaders from the Burlington County Health Department, Virtua Community Nursing Services, and the College of New Jersey have been selected to participate in the National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health (NLAPH) program, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Office of State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS). The program is being implemented by the Center for Health Leadership and Practice (CHLP), a center of the Public Health Institute (PHI).

"County residents should be proud to have such dedicated public health leaders working on their behalf to improve the health of our county," said Freeholder, Mary Ann O'Brien.

As a part of the program, the Burlington County NLAPH team will address the important community issue of lead poisoning prevention in children. The project will focus on primary lead poisoning prevention efforts through the use of geographic information systems (GIS). GIS will aid in the identification of neighborhoods at risk for increased lead poisoning prevention and that can be targeted for screening and outreach.

Team members consist of: Jeff Grosser, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, and Holly Cucuzzella, Coordinator of Community Health Services, with the Burlington County Health Department; April Lyons, Director of Virtua Community Nursing Service - Health Promotion Services; and Trina Gibson-Jones, Assistant Professor at the College of New Jersey.

NLAPH will provide training and support to assist the team in successfully addressing lead poisoning prevention. Training and support will focus on two tracks. The first is the development of leadership skills, including personal and collaborative leadership in a multi-sector environment. The second emphasizes growth from team-based collaborative work to

policy and systems change. NLAPH is provided at no cost to the participants or the community.

“The NLAPH program will impart community health teams with the skills to lead across sectors and collaboratively solve complex community health problems in innovative ways,” said Carmen Rita Nevarez, Vice President for External Relations and CHLP's Director. “These are the types of leaders who will ultimately be able to drive critical efforts, such as the adoption of evidence-based policies and practices at the community level, which can have a tangible impact on health outcomes.”

For more information about the project in Burlington County, contact Jeff Grosser at the Burlington County Health Department, JGrosser@co.burlington.nj.us or 609-265-5522. For more information on NLAPH visit <http://www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/NLAPH/index.html>.