



HEALTH BEAT



Volume 1, Issue 1

February 11, 2008

Calendar of Events:

- **February 1**—Go Red for Women. Wear red to remind us all that women have the ability to improve their heart health and live stronger, longer lives.
- **February 6**—WOW
- **February 6**—Meet with the American Heart Association and learn how you can prevent heart disease, exercises to do at your desk and information on upcoming events. Join us at 2:00 PM in the 2nd Floor Cafeteria.
- **February 7**—BCHD collaborates with Morgan State's School of Public Health for the "Get Out the Word/HIV/AIDS Awareness Health Fair." Join us at Morgan State's Student Union from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM to help with testing and handing out information and condoms.
- **February 10**—Red Dress Sunday at local churches. To learn more visit www.sistersheart.org/.
- **February 13**—Prevention Wednesday Press Conference at the Central Library at Enoch Pratt. Join us at 12:00 noon for the unveiling of the Heart Awareness Window for the month of February.
- **February 13**—WOW
- **February 20**—WOW
- **February 26**—Sister to Sister Women's Heart Health Fair at the Baltimore Convention Center from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Use two hours of permission leave to get free screenings, see cooking demonstrations and much more!
- **February 27**—WOW

Message from the Commissioner



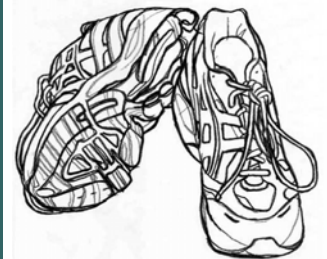
Welcome to the Health Department's first newsletter of 2008. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information on key dates and a focus on one area of the Department. We'll send it around by email and post it by the elevators and in key locations. 2008 is off to a great start

with the implementation of Baltimore's smokefree law for bars and restaurants. We also welcome new deputy commissioner for youth and families Dr. Jacquelyn Duval-Harvey to the Department. She will be responsible for the divisions of school health, youth violence prevention, and maternal and child health. I look forward to some strategic planning in the first six months of the year, which will help define broad health for Baltimore. Please stay warm and take care of your heart this Feb-

ruary -- it's heart health month.

Work Out Wednesdays

Every Wednesday at noon, BCHD employees meet in the Executive Office ready for a 20 minute walk along one of two routes: Inner Harbor or Mount Vernon.



Employee Spotlight Environmental Health Division

The Environmental Health Division spotlights Harold Edmond! Mr. Edmond is a Senior Pest Control Worker with Vector Control. He represents the best qualities in a civil servant that must deal with the public on a daily basis.

The work of a PCW is difficult and performed in a physical environment that is hazardous. The work of a PCW requires that the individual inspect more than 4,000 sites per year through neighborhoods in Baltimore city. Mr. Edmond has demonstrated an ability to interface with the public in a calm and professional manner at all times. He is able to work with individuals and the public from any socio-economic background. He has not had

any violations of operational policy. Mr. Edmond has proven to be extremely flexible regarding task assignment, workload capacity and the willingness to advise and help training new PCW trainees. He cooperates extremely well with co-workers and supervision. He has excellent skills in inspection and baiting documentation. Mr. Edmond has superior communication skills that has proven beneficial to the program when dealing with dissatisfied customers. He is an effective troubleshooter regarding citizen complaint resolution.



February is American Heart Month. Visit www.americanheart.org for healthy living tips and to learn how you can help fight Heart Disease.

Community Health Survey

Lead by Chief Epidemiologist Caroline Fichtenberg, the Health Department is putting together a Request for Proposals to carry out its first telephone survey on community health. Although Baltimore City participates every year in the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, putting together our own survey in-

strument will allow us to focus on specific health issues and populations not targeted by the national survey. The results of the survey will be used to inform program planning and policy development. In addition, the survey may be repeated every 2-3 years in order to track the city's progress on key health indicators.

Meet the New Deputy Commissioner for Youth and Families: Dr. Jacquelyn Duval-Harvey

The Baltimore City Health Department is pleased to welcome Jacquelyn Duval-Harvey, Ph.D. as the new Deputy Commissioner for Youth and Families.

Dr. Duval-Harvey joins the Health Department after serving as Director for the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Community Programs. In this position, she provided leadership through administrative oversight and grant management for all community based programs serving children and adolescents. In previous appointments, she has occupied the position of Staff Psychologist at the Metropolitan Hospital Center. She also served as the Psychiatric Therapist in the Johns Hopkins Hospital school based program, where she provided school-based services to elementary aged students and families.

In her new position, Dr. Duval-Harvey will be responsible for the Department's strategy and programs related to children and youth. She will oversee the Divisions of School Health, Maternal and Child Health, and Youth Violence Prevention.

Gunther von Hagens' BODY WORLDS 2: The Original Exhibition of Real Human Bodies comes to the Maryland Science Center! Be sure to look for your \$2 off coupon to be included with your next paycheck.

As of February 1, 2008, bars and restaurants in the state of Maryland are smokefree! For information on resources available to smokers, please call the Baltimore City Health Department at (410) 396-4398.

Legislative Update



The 2008 legislative session is underway in the Maryland General Assembly. On Thursday, February 7th, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on HB768. This legislation was introduced at the request of BCHD and the Mayor's office to expand our access to children's records. The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee has scheduled a hearing on their bill, SB607, for February 19th.

For more information, please see the bill link below:
<http://mlis.state.md.us/2008RS/bills/>

[hb/hb0768f.pdf](http://mlis.state.md.us/2008RS/bills/hb/hb0768f.pdf)

This Thursday, February 14th, the House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on HB622. Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Duval Harvey, will testify in support of this legislation, which would set up a pilot program on evidence-based practices for delinquent youth. These practices include multisystemic therapy (MST).

For more information, please see the bill link below:
<http://mlis.state.md.us/2008RS/bills/hb/hb0622f.pdf>

"LOVE YOUR HEART" POSTER CONTEST 2008

Purpose: The Love Your Heart Poster Contest will provide the opportunity for young people to demonstrate their awareness of the important of healthy habits that help reduce the risk for heart disease. Examples of healthy habits are eating a balanced diet, exercising regularly, avoiding tobacco use and reducing salt intake.

Eligibility: Students currently enrolled in Baltimore City Public Schools, Kindergarten through 12th Grade, are eligible to enter the contest.

Deadline: Entries must be given to the school contact by April 11, 2008. Announcement of winning entries will be made in May, 2008. Contact Francine Childs, Assistant Commissioner of School Health at (410) 395-4522.

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