



“Working for Your Well-Being”

CCFoPH Newsletter

Fifth Edition – June 2009

Ice Cream Social

Coins for Coos Kids

Coping with H1N1 – A
Local Perspective

CCFOPH Welcomes
Members

Public Health Week
Luncheon Acknowledges
“Super Stars”

Public Health Funding
for 2009/10

Email Options

Thank you Donors

Friends, Fun, and Food – June 13

You are invited to get together with fellow Friends at CCFoPH’s annual Ice Cream Social! Bring yourself, a friend, and your favorite sundae topping to the home of David and Molly Ford on Saturday, June 13th. The event will take place rain or shine and begins at 2:00 pm. A variety of ice cream flavors will be provided and we would appreciate knowing if you plan to attend, so please RSVP at 541-888-6871.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share ideas about how CCFoPH can continue to help keep local public health services strong and available for everyone in Coos County.

The address is 62560 Crown Point Road, Coos Bay. (Go 1.4 miles from the bridge off of Libby Lane and turn right. Call 888-6871 if you get lost.)



Coins for Coos Kids Campaign is Making a Difference



Thanks to a \$500 gift from the “Friends,” Coos County Public Health (CCPH) has been able to continue the *Shots for Tots & Teens* immunization vouchers during May and June of 2009. Money raised through the *Coins for Coos Kids Campaign* and donated to the immunization program prevented cuts that would have been necessary. The *Shots for Tots & Teens* is a program that has been sponsored by Bay Area Rotary since 2002. The Rotarians raise money to provide vouchers to help parents who don’t have health insurance pay for immunizations for their children. The vouchers had run out for the last two months of the fiscal year due to more families needing help than anticipated.

The Coos County Friends of Public Health are grateful for the community support of the *Coins for Coos Kids Campaign*, which has targeted funds for immunizations and the WIC program.

Donations can be mailed to CCFoPH P.O. Box 203, Coos Bay or dropped off at any branch of Umpqua Bank.



Coping with H1N1 – A Local Perspective

by Frances Smith

When it was reported that the new swine flu in Mexico was spreading into the U.S., we at Coos County Public Health quickly realized that Coos County could be drawn into a possible pandemic. It began with a bombardment of email messages from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), describing the numbers and location of cases, description of the disease, testing and treatment protocols, and guidelines for community containment, such as school closure. The CDC recommendations for response were changing daily—and sometimes were different in the afternoon than in the morning. The state public health staff were also emailing and faxing recommendations, and holding daily conference calls with county health departments, while at the same time the newspaper, radio, and TV were asking for the local perspective.

When a North Bend High School student was found to have symptoms that matched the new flu, school districts called with questions. To close or not to close? And there were questions about testing from health care providers, agencies, and the public—How to test? Could we do it? How many to test? When would results be available? And if people were ill here, did the pharmacies have enough antiviral drugs (i.e., Tamiflu and Relenza) on hand? No—we called the pharmacies and learned that almost none was available. And when would we get some of the drugs from the state’s antiviral cache? And how do we distribute the drugs to the pharmacies and clinics so that sick people could be treated? And is it safe to get on an airplane? What kind of masks should we wear for protection? And is it okay for the employee who just returned from a vacation in Mexico to come back to work, even if he isn’t sick? So many questions....



Travelers called the Health Department asking for antiviral medication, face masks and advice in general.

There were two of us to respond to those questions initially, and we both had vacations scheduled. At what point do we pull staff from the WIC program, from restaurant inspections, from contract work for another agency, so that we have more staff to help with a communicable disease outbreak? We did not get to the point that we had to shut down other public health programs so that our limited staff could deal with the H1N1 flu. We coped. We investigated, consulted, gave advice, and distributed medications. We could have done more, if there had been more staff available, and we learned that we have some issues that we need to work on. We have yet to have any confirmed cases of H1N1 in Coos County. But this was an eye-opener of the challenges that we in public health, and our community, will face if next time, a pandemic illness turns out to be a severe and prolonged event.

CCFOPH Welcomes Members

The following individuals, families, and businesses have joined or renewed their memberships since the last CCFoPH newsletter: Patty Barton, Mike Craig, Carla Fellows, Genelle Hanken, Carolyn Jacobson, Mary Kemp, Margie Marshall, Carl Siminow, NancyLee Stewart, Jan Willis, Betty and Eric Albertson, Adam and Rose Colby, Katie and Serge Etienne, Chris and Donna Flammang, Karin and Matthew Kenney, Dale Schlack and Cynthia Sullivan, Rick Staggenborg and Karen Devereaux, Carol Ventegen and Mike Perkins, Jim and Nikki Whitty, Myrtle Point Veterinary Hospital, Crystal Shoji Planning and Development, and Coquille Valley Hospital.

Public Health Week Luncheon Acknowledges “Super Stars.”



During the Public Health Week Recognition Luncheon in April, about 70 Friends and guests gathered to honor six “Super Stars” who have made outstanding contributions to public health programs or projects.

- **Rita Hoover, R.N.** for diabetes education through Bay Area Hospital classes, and for her work with the South Coast Diabetes Association;
- **Jim Wathen**, CEO of Southern Coos Hospital, for being the first hospital in Coos County to implement a smoke-free campus and setting an example to the community for healthy, smoke-free environments;
- **Angie Webster, R.N.** school nurse in the Coos Bay School District, and Melissa Grimes, R.N. student nurse through the OHSU School of Nursing Program, at the Southwestern Oregon Community College campus--for improving dental health in grade school children in Coos Bay schools, with help from dental professionals, the state’s dental sealant program, and the Tooth Taxi;
- **Kelley Rowe**, Health Resource Center Director at North Bend Medical Center (NBMC), for providing health education at NBMC, and also outreach to the community through Body Walk and the Elder Resource Fair, and her work with health coalitions.
- **Kathy Cooley, R.N.** , Health Department nurse manager, for mentoring a student nurse in the OHSU Nursing program (SOCC campus), in addition to her work supervising the public health clinic and home visiting services, including the Healthy Start parent education program.

Local Public Health Funding for 2009/10

As of this writing, Coos County Public Health does not have an approved budget for next fiscal year, which starts July 1st. The Health Department is asking the County to reissue the loan from county general funds that will “float” our expenses for staff and services until federal and state money arrives.

The County has been waiting to hear about the status of the state’s general fund budget, which helps to fund local health departments. The budget for the Department of Human Services – Health Services has passed out of the joint Ways & Means Human Services Subcommittee. In the latest version of the DHS budget, local public health departments have been spared some severe cuts which have been on the table, such as for immunizations, the Babies First! home visitation program, and the HIV/STD/TB program. However, cuts that are projected to happen include a reduction in the WIC farmer’s market coupons for 2010 and a reduction in the number of free lab tests for communicable diseases that the state lab does for local health departments. (This would be a cost shift to us.) Another state agency, the Oregon Commission on Children & Families, is projecting a 21% cut in local funding for the Healthy Start parent education program, which will reduce our services for 1st time parents.

As for the federally funded programs, our health department will receive a 15% reduction for public health preparedness (unless the federal government sends some additional funding for pandemic influenza preparation). Family Planning Title X funding for Coos County Public Health is being reduced 19%, and the breast and cervical cancer prevention program, by 70%. One bright spot is that federal stimulus funding for the WIC program has allowed us to increase services for an additional 90 participants.

Any cuts in public health programs directly affect individuals, families and the health of our community as a whole. We are hopeful that other cuts in funding will not materialize for public health services, and we are cognizant of the loss of services in many other government programs that will affect some of the most vulnerable families in our county and state.



Coos County Friends of Public Health
P.O. Box 203
Coos Bay, OR 97420

EMAIL OPTION



You may choose to receive your CCFoPH quarterly newsletter electronically and conserve resources! To request the electronic version of this newsletter, send an email to ccfoph@gmail.com. Give us your name, email address, and phone number. Calls will be made to verify email addresses that are returned as *delivery failures*. Enjoy the email version of this newsletter with color! Remember all you have to do is click print to put it on paper.

CCFoPH Board Members

President – Molly Ford

Vice President – Carla McKelvey

Secretary – Renee Menkins

Treasurer-Debbie Webb

Advocacy Chair – Maria Wartnik

Development Chair – Dale Schlack

Education Chair – Vacant

Membership Chair – Connie Bunnell

Ex-officio members – Frances Smith, Sherrill Lorenzo

Contact Information: ccfoph@gmail.com, 541-888-6871 or 541-756-2020 x 543

Thank you most recent donors! Katie and Serge Etienne, Rick Staggenborg and Karen Devereaux, NancyLee Stewart, Jan Willis, and Nikki Whitty.