



"Working for Your Well-Being!"

CCFoPH Newsletter

Thirteenth Edition – July 2011



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Tobacco Free County Fair
Volunteer Opportunity

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Welcome New Members

Coos County Friends of Public Health, Coos County Public Health Department, both Family & Community Health and 4-H program areas of OSU Extension Service, and other community groups will be helping with a tobacco free fair booth at the Coos County Fair, July 26 through July 30th. 4H members and other volunteers will use PDAs (personal digital assistants) to survey fair goers on their opinions of tobacco use at the fair. The survey, which has been conducted at the Oregon State Fair and several county fairs in Oregon, will be available on laptops at the booth as well.

If there are any members of CCFoPH who would enjoy being a part of this effort of working toward a tobacco free fair policy, please call **Elissa Wells**, 4H Youth Development Agent at the OSU Extension Office, **541-572-5263 ext 293** or email:

Elissa.wells@oregonstate.edu

Elissa will be doing scheduling for staffing the booth. This is a great opportunity to help create environments that make the healthy choice the easy choice and help to decrease the tremendous burden of tobacco use in our county. Fair admission will be provided to people volunteering a minimum of three hours helping with the booth and survey.



Coos County

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

Volunteers Building Stronger, Healthier, & Prepared Communities

In 2010, the Coos County Public Health Department received a grant from the Hospital Preparedness Program to start a local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The MRC is a nationwide organization that was started in response to the September 11th attacks. During this event thousands of volunteers showed up to assist, but they could not be effectively utilized because there was no system in place to indentify them, verify their credentials, or offer liability coverage. In response to this, the MRC was started in 2002. It is made up of Public Health and Medical Professionals who use their skills and knowledge to volunteer during an emergency. Today in the United States there are 944 units with over 200,000 volunteers, including 14 units here in Oregon.

MRC volunteers can fill roles in the following activities: medication/vaccine dispensing sites, special needs shelters, comfort/first aid stations, alternate care sites, pandemic flu planning, strategic national stockpile planning, and many more that support public health initiatives throughout Coos County.

The Coos County Unit is looking for licensed healthcare professionals, such as Nurses, Doctors, Emergency Services Personnel, Pharmacists, Public Health Professionals, Dentists, Physician Assistants, Behavioral Health Providers, and Epidemiologists. Our MRC Unit also accepts non licensed professionals who would be willing to volunteer as support staff.



If you are interested in joining the Coos County Unit please sign up online at:

<https://serv-or.org/VolunteerMobilizer/>

Or contact the unit coordinator for an application. The Local MRC Unit Coordinator is Michelle Wyatt who can be reached at 541-756-2020 x 514, or at mwyatt@co.coos.or.us.

The Coos County MRC falls under the local Citizen Corps Chapter and is based out of the Coos County Public Health Department. If you would like to learn more about the MRC visit:

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/HomePage>.



4th Annual Public Health Week

Recognition Luncheon

By Frances Smith

Thank you to the community members who joined with the Coos County Friends of Public Health and emcee, Tim Novotny of KCBY, to celebrate Public Health Week on April 7th. Individuals who have made outstanding contributions to public health programs or projects in Coos County were awarded special recognition as *Superstars*:

- ★ **Judy McMakin**, Director of the Coos County Commission on Children and Families, for her support for early childhood programs at the Health Department, including Healthy Start and Parents As Teachers;
- ★ **Barbara Eakley**, volunteer for the Bandon Community Health Center, for her development of a cook book to raise funds to provide health care;
- ★ **Astrid Diepenbroeck**, a dental hygienist who taught pregnant women and children in the Health Department's WIC program about the importance of caring for their teeth, and who has provided services in the *Ready to Smile* program for school age children;
- ★ **Pat Ciccarelli** and **Carla Fellows** of South Coast Head Start, a program of Oregon Coast Community Action, for their efforts in bringing Early Head Start to Coos County, serving pregnant women, infants and young children;
- ★ **Jennifer Stephens**, for her advocacy for smoke free parks in Coos Bay, and **Jeff McKeown**, former Mayor of Coos Bay, for facilitating a smoke free ordinance process and casting the deciding vote to make Mingus Park smoke free;
- ★ And the **trustees of the Coquille Tribal Community Fund**, who were represented by **Julia Willis**, the Tribal fund administrator, for their generous support over the last 3 years to help people in need through services at Coos County Public Health, including reproductive health, immunizations, and parenting education.



These special people have influenced and had a positive effect on the lives of many, and they are deserving of our gratitude for their efforts to make Coos County a healthier place.



The 1st Annual “A Healthier Coos County” Event

By Lindi Quinn, CCFoPH Education Chair

This spring the Coos County Public Health Department, along with support from the CCFoPH and the Northwest Health Foundation, hosted a series of forums which culminated in the “A Healthier Coos County” summit held on May 12th at Black Market Gourmet. The vision of this ongoing project is to improve the health and quality of life of the people who live, work, play and learn in Coos County.

The Coos County Public Health Department staff hosted the forums, gathering ideas from participants on how together we can create healthier environments. A few ideas surfaced in all of the forums including: walking and biking infrastructures, community and school gardens, expanded Farmer’s markets, local publication of community activities and worksite wellness programs.

A diverse group of community leaders attended the May 12th summit, including City Councilors & Mayors, a County Commissioner, business leaders, health care providers, school board members, and more many. The speakers included Dr. Tracy Muday who shared local stories and statistics, Dr. Deborah Cohen who challenged us to think about implementing policies to change the marketing of food in order to reverse the epidemic of obesity in our country, and Dr. Mel Kohn, Director and State Health Officer for the Oregon Public Health Division, who promoted the concept of putting health options within the reach of all members of our community. Participants were given a complimentary copy of the highly respected book coauthored by Drs. Cohen and Farley, “Prescription for a Healthy Nation.”

The conversation continues with a focus of researching and promoting worksite wellness plans for local businesses. Together we inspired our community to action. Together we are creating A Healthier Coos County!

A Special Thank You to...

Bay Area Hospital, the Northwest Health Foundation, and the Coos County
Friends of Public Health for their support.

We are in the process of updating the CCFoPH website with information gathered and presented at the forums and summit. To learn what your fellow community members considered important, and view PowerPoint presentations from, and videos of the Summit please visit www.ccfoph.org next month.

October “Purses for Nurses” Planning Committee

We are looking for CCFoPH members to participate on a planning and implementation committee for this year’s October “Purses for Nurses Auction”. If you are interested in helping, please email CCFoPH@gmail.com

Join Us on facebook

The Coos County Friends
of Public Health
(CCFoPH) is registered as
a “cause” on face book.

Funding for Public Health

By Frances Smith

It's that time of year when budgets are finalized as we prepare for the fiscal year starting July 1st. Local health departments are funded by taxes and grants—mostly federal, but also from state and local governments. Also, special grants from foundations, individual donations, and fees help to pay for public health services. As we all are aware, funding for many government services has been reduced. Austerity is not new to Coos County Public Health, as we have continued with the directive from the Board of Commissioners from several years ago, which is to provide only programs mandated by law, unless the program could be self supporting without additional county funds.

During this state legislative session, we were especially concerned that reductions in funding for several of the basic public health services, which are mandated by state law, were on the state's budget cut list—including immunizations, family planning, and communicable disease investigation. Fortunately, most of the state dollars which go to support local public health services were not cut, but added back into the state budget in the final weeks of the legislative session.

At the local scene, the Coos County budget was approved with \$165,750 for public health, or about 6.50% of the total public health budget of \$2.532M. Because the federal and state money is not sufficient to cover the mandated family planning (Title X) services, \$35,000 of the county general fund for public health was designated for this program. Even with the County's contribution, additional grants and donations will be needed to assure that women who are below the poverty level can receive these essential services. A big thank-you goes to the Oregon legislators and those Coos County Commissioners who recognize the importance of contributing to these public health prevention services. Thanks also to the CCFoPH members and donors who have contributed their time and money to support local public health!

The federal budget is still under consideration by Congress, and funding levels for some local public health programs is uncertain. So far, we have been told to expect an 11% cut in emergency preparedness funds. This program helps us to fulfill our responsibilities for responding to disease outbreaks, such as a flu pandemic, or the worst case scenario of earthquake and tsunami. The U.S. House of Representatives voted to cut hundreds of millions from the federal WIC program. What will the U.S. Senate do with this budget? One would think it would be a priority to provide nutritious foods and education to low income pregnant women and babies. The nutrition that babies get at this critical time in their lives can affect their brain development-- and health--for the rest of their lives. That's a pretty important investment for our country's future. (In Coos County, over half of all the pregnant women are enrolled in the WIC program--over 3,000 participants, including babies and children up to age 5 years of age.) So stay tuned to what is happening to the federal budget....

Kudos for the Organizers of the Forums and Summit for "A Healthier Coos County"

By Angie Webster, CCFoPH President

Coos County Public Health and the Friends of Public Health are so fortunate to have amazing and talented individuals working for the public's health! We have recently concluded the first phase of the project "A Healthier Coos County", and four individuals deserve to be recognized for their extraordinary efforts and teamwork for a successful event! Kudos to Lindi Quinn, Stephen Brown, Jennifer Stephens, and Michelle Wyatt! Over 2 months, they organized several community forums and the Healthier Coos County Summit, which hosted several well-known speakers. These events brought together community leaders and provided an opportunity for education and conversation. Please congratulate them on a job well-done!

Coos County Friends of Public Health

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Board Members

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Membership Chair	Connie Bunnell	Ex-officio members	Frances Smith and Sherrill Lorenzo

Contact Information: ccfoph@gmail.com, 541-404-6762 or 541-756-2020 x 543

Welcome New Members

April Armstrong, Jan Delimont, Jeff & Caddy McKeown, Bob Main,

Angela Nettles, Hugh Tyson, Carol Yardley