

Newsletter Highlights

- ✘ Meet our new Chief
- ✘ HIV Testing Day Events
- ✘ OHPC is recruiting...
- ✘ Find out what's new at the OSDH

HIV/STD NEWS

VOLUME THREE ISSUE TWO
JUNE 2008



BRIEF FROM THE CHIEF

Jan Fox, M.P.H., RN, Chief, HIV/STD



Greetings! I am very excited to be writing my first "Brief" as the new Chief of the HIV/STD Service. I look forward to facing the challenges ahead and working closely with all of the Oklahoma State Department of Health's (OSDH) partners in addressing issues related to HIV, STDs and Viral Hepatitis.

June 27th is National HIV Testing Day with a theme of "Take Control of your Health and your Life – Get Tested for HIV". Throughout the month of June, organizations across Oklahoma will be participating in activities that are designed to bring awareness of the importance of early detection.

As of December 31, 2006, there were approximately 4,286 Oklahomans living with HIV/AIDS. There are probably many more that are infected, but are unaware of their infection. Persons who are unaware of their status are not receiving

treatment and may unknowingly be spreading the virus to others. By getting tested for HIV, these persons can begin to protect their health and the health of their partners. Persons, who are at risk for HIV infection, but test negative, can begin to take steps to ensure that they stay uninfected.

New HIV infections continue to occur each year, while persons are living longer with HIV. Therefore, the prevalence of HIV infection is growing. Racial disparities exist at alarming rates. When you look at the statistics surrounding HIV/AIDS in Oklahoma, you might be overwhelmed or you might be moved to act. I believe it is time to act. What can an individual do to help? Here are a few ideas:

*Learn more about the impact of HIV/AIDS in Oklahoma and in your community.

One place to start is
<http://www.health.ok.gov>

*Learn more about racial disparities related to HIV infection by visiting
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5505a1.htm>.

*Help someone living with HIV/AIDS by being a friend to them

*Help end the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS

*Organize a community meeting. Invite business leaders, faith leaders, healthcare professionals, political leaders, neighbors and friends

*Protect yourself against HIV infection

*Get tested for HIV

*If you are infected with HIV, seek medical care and support

References:

¹Spotlight: National HIV Testing Day – June 27th. CDC. (2008). Retrieved May 27, 2008, from [Spotlight: National HIV Testing Day | CDC HIV/AIDS](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5505a1.htm).

²National HIV Testing Day Fact Sheet. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2008) Retrieved May 27, 2008, from http://www.hhs.gov/aidsawarenessdays/factsheets/docs/hiv-aids_us_fact_sheet.pdf.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JUNE

OKC Pride Weekend events will be held June 20 through 22. The AIDS Care Fund in collaboration with Red Rock North, Guiding Right, Inc., R.A.I.N., The Native American AIDS Coalition, Planned Parenthood, The Latino Community Development Agency, OU Infectious Disease Institute, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) will be offering free and confidential onsite testing. It will be offered at Angles parking lot, 2117 N.W. 39th, and at Memorial Park, intersection of N.W. 36th street and North Classen Blvd. For more information, contact Sunshine Schillings at (405) 408-4013.

R.A.I.N. will be hosting their Second Annual Ice Cream Social on June 27th to encourage awareness and testing. Also, on June 27 through 29, they are inviting everyone to participate in their softball tournament sponsored by New York Life. For details log on to www.rainoklahoma.org. or contact Julie Lovegrove at (405) 232-2437

Guiding Right, Inc. will recognize HIV Testing Day by offering free and confidential testing at the following locations:

- June 21 – Bora Bora Club, 2415 N. Walker, Oklahoma City from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m.
- June 26 – Grenadier Night Club, 4502 N.E. 23rd Street, Oklahoma City from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
- June 27th – Carwash, N.E. 23rd and MLK Avenue, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- June 27th – Carwash, 301 Wilshire Boulevard, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

For additional information, call Nina Johnson at (405) 733-0771

H.O.P.E. will kick off National HIV Testing Day on June 27th by offering free rapid HIV tests in their clinic located at 3540 E. 31st Street in Tulsa from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. On June 28th, H.O.P.E. will be in Owen Park, 560 N. Maybelle Avenue in Tulsa, giving out information on HIV Testing. A picnic will be held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, contact Kate Neary-Pounds at (918) 749-8378.



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CHECK IT OUT

Navigating through the maze of health and human services can be very frustrating for people in need. In an effort to make it easier for people to find what they need, HeartLine launched 2-1-1 services to simplify the connection to programs and services that help. 2-1-1 is a free and confidential call that connects over 1.2 million people in Central Oklahoma to information when they need it most. 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day. [2-1-1 Oklahoma.org](http://2-1-1.Oklahoma.org)

Web Series Premieres at the End of the Month

CDC and the Public Health Training Network will offer the six-part web series, A Call to Action for Leaders: The Crisis of HIV/AIDS among African Americans, available online beginning June 30, 2008. This series is designed to 1) increase awareness of HIV/AIDS in African American communities; 2) highlight innovative, sustainable, and collaborative actions taken by leaders in places where African Americans live, work, play, learn, and worship; and 3) provide links to available resources. David Satcher, (former Director of CDC and the 16th Surgeon General of the United States) will serve as senior host of the web series.

The series will be available at <http://www2a.cdc.gov/phtn>. Parts 1-3 can be viewed beginning June 30, and parts 4-6 can be viewed beginning November 30, 2008. A free DVD of this series can be ordered by telephone (800-458-5231) after June 30 (parts 1-3) and after November 30 (parts 1-6).

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OHPC NEWS



The HIV/STD Service of the Oklahoma State Department of Health is soliciting applications for the Oklahoma HIV Planning Council (OHPC).

The OHPC strives to have a membership that represents communities that are infected and/or affected by HIV. The OHPC consists of twenty-five voting members as follows:

- A minimum of 5 persons shall be persons living with HIV
- 5 representatives from HIV Prevention
- 5 representatives from HIV Treatment & Care
- 10 at-large members

Members At-Large are selected to achieve Parity, Inclusion, and Representation on the OHPC. Members of the OHPC are elected for a one-year term. The OHPC term is January through December of each year (if your term begins mid-term, you must reapply for the next year). Vacancies are filled as needed from qualified applicants.

The OHPC meets every other month, and completes HIV Prevention and Care planning tasks through committees and group process. Becoming an OHPC member requires a commitment to attendance and participation at OHPC meetings, as well as participation on at least one OHPC committee. The OHPC is an open meeting process, and welcomes attendance and input from the public.

The OHPC is currently recruiting to fill membership vacancies in the following areas (ranked by need):

- 1 African American Males (HIV infected and/or Male Who Has Sex with Males (MSM); Community Member)
- 2 African American Females (HIV infected and/or at High Risk for HIV infection; Community Member)
- 3 Hispanic Male or Females (HIV infected and/or MSM, or at High Risk for HIV infection; Community Member)
- 4 Hispanic Community Representative (who works with those with HIV infection and/or HIV Prevention)

To obtain a membership application, contact: Sally Bouse-Pittser, MPH, CHES (405) 271-9444 ext. 56621

SallyB@health.ok.gov

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WHERE TO GET HELP FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

2-1-1

2-1-1 is a FREE 24-hour telephone number that connects Oklahomans with important community services 365 days per year.

918 area code:

Oklahoma State University, Center for Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine - (OSU-COM) Health Care Center, Tulsa (918) 382-5058

405 and 580 area codes:

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, College of Medicine, Infectious Disease Institute, Oklahoma City (405) 271-6434

DHS (Department of Human Services) has AIDS Care Coordinators who help people with HIV/AIDS:

Tulsa and eastern Oklahoma:

(800) 734-7516 or TTY (918) 581-2146

Oklahoma City, north central, and northwest Oklahoma:

(800) 884-1572 or TTY (405) 271-5816

Case management, applications for medications, and other services are available through Ryan White Part B and other resources.

918 area code:

Tulsa C.A.R.E.S. (918) 834-4194 or (800) 474-4872

405 and 580 area codes:

RAIN, Inc., Oklahoma City (405) 232-2437 or (800) 285-CARE (2273)

RAIN, Inc., Lawton (580) 353-7900

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PREVENTION/TRAINING

The HIV Prevention & Training section of the HIV/STD Service offers training in several HIV/AIDS/STD related topics. Trainings throughout the year include:

[Online HIV 101](#)
[HIV Counseling and Testing](#)
[HIV/STD Risk Reduction Counseling](#)
[Bridging Theory and Practice](#)
[STD 101](#)

For a complete list of course descriptions and dates, contact:

Raymond Dallas, MPH
Coordinator, Prevention, Capacity Building & Training
(405) 271-9444 ext. 56619 or RaymondD@health.ok.gov

The training staff can prepare and present HIV/AIDS/STD presentations and trainings based on request and trainer availability. To request a presentation or training, contact:

Sally Bouse-Pittser, MPH, CHES
Manager, HIV Prevention and Training
(405) 271-9444 ext. 56621 or SallyB@health.ok.gov

For online HIV 101 training, contact:

Raymond Dallas, MPH
Coordinator, Prevention, Capacity Building & Training
(405) 271-9444 ext. 56619 or RaymondD@health.ok.gov

To join an email list that alerts community partners about HIV/AIDS/STD related trainings, updates and events, contact:

Amani M. Smiley, MHR
HIV/STD Prevention Training Specialist
(405) 271-9444 ext. 56626 or
AmaniL@health.ok.gov

Larry G. Shockley, MPH, CHES
HIV/STD Health Educator
(405) 271-9444 ext. 56620
Larrys@health.ok.gov

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NEWS AT A GLANCE



African Americans consist of 8% of Oklahoma's population but account for 24% of HIV infections and 21% total AIDS cases. African Americans with AIDS are more likely than other racial groups to die soon following diagnosis. This is often due to late testing and lack of awareness of care and treatment options. The Oklahoma State Department of Health's HIV/STD Service, in collaboration with the AIDS Care Fund, will be working with African American faith leaders and churches to develop programs to increase HIV/AIDS awareness in their communities. As part of an HIV/AIDS awareness event at their church, fans with statistics, awareness messages and HIV test site information will be distributed.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health's HIV/STD Service and the congressional Black Caucus has joined together to produce three different Public Service Announcements (PSAs) focusing on prevention and awareness messages in Oklahoma's African-American population. To hear, check out local radio stations in both Tulsa and Oklahoma and surrounding areas.

Also, packets of resource information and HIV/AIDS educational materials will be sent to local African-American churches in Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties to reinforce the importance of HIV testing and early detection. The packets will also contain a letter signed by Mike Shelton, State Representative, and James M. Crutcher, MD, M.P.H., Oklahoma Secretary of Health and Commissioner of the State Department of Health. Please contact Amani Smiley at amanil@health.ok.gov or call (405) 271-4636 to ensure that your church receives the packets.



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INFORMATION CORNER

Free live and archived coverage of events on various subjects, such as [Medicare](#), [Medicaid](#), [prescription drugs](#), [health information technology](#), [HIV/AIDS](#), [minority health](#) and more is available from [Kaisernetwork.org HealthCast](#). Go to <http://www.kaisernetwork.org/>

For information about HIV/AIDS or STDS go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/> or <http://www.cdc.gov/std/>

To go directly to the HIV/STD Service section of the OSDH web site, simply type <http://hivstd.health.ok.gov> into your Internet browser. The HIV/STD Service plans many updates and more information available via the web site.

A new HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet is available in the HIV/STD Service section, and can be found by clicking the HIV/STD Statistics toolbar on the left side of the web page.

Come by and meet our new intern, **Makhosini A. Mamba**. He is a Fulbright Scholar from Swaziland, Africa, attending The OU College of Public Health. He is located in Room 612 and will be here until the end of July.

The OSDH, HIV/STD Service offices will be closed July 4 and September 1 for a state recognized holidays.

HIV/STD Service Staff Changes

New Staff:

- Stephanie McKnight, DIS, Oklahoma County



Promotions:

- Jan Fox, Chief, HIV/STD Service
- Olivia Scott, APO, Contract Monitoring



Congratulations:

- Larry Shockley, MPH, CHES
Earned his Certification as a Health Education Specialist

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HIV/STD Service Chief
Director, Division of Surveillance and Care Delivery
Director, Division of Prevention and Intervention
Production

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