



Check out the following websites:

www.wvoehp.org

www.wvcancer.org

www.wvhpcd.org

www.wvasthma.org

www.wvdiabetes.org

www.wvomh.org

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OEHP Connection

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

SPOTLIGHT ON THE DIVISION OF HEALTH PROMOTION AND CHRONIC DISEASE

At one time the Division was referred to as Health Education. As the name implies, we were mostly about getting health messages out and our offices were filled with brochures, pamphlets, 16mm films, and filmstrips. On the small staff were a Division Director, a secretary, a fiscal person, a health educator, a writer, a graphic artist, a videographer, and a photographer. The Division even had a darkroom and a film library!

How times have changed! Today we can still provide some educational materials in limited quantities, but we often buy them rather than produce them ourselves. And when we deal with media we now have access to the resources of a first class public relations firm that produces messages for television, radio, billboards and even web sites for the programs in this Division.

Today we have major categorical grants from the federal government, along with some Preventive Health Block Grant funds and state appropriated monies. The Programs now include Comprehensive Cancer, Asthma Education and Prevention, Diabetes Prevention and Control, Cardiovascular Health, Arthritis and Osteoporosis, Injury Prevention, Community Health Promotion, Healthy People 2010, WISEWOMAN and the Office of Healthy Lifestyles.

While health messages are still an important component of our work, there is great emphasis today on policy and environment. We work to encourage changes in policy and environment that lead to healthier behaviors. As someone recently said, we help "to make the healthy choice the easy choice," or at least easier than before.

We help to build coalitions in West Virginia that address asthma, cancer, injury and other areas. This effort, along with the change in emphasis toward policy and environment, relies heavily on the excellent examples that were set earlier in the area of tobacco prevention.

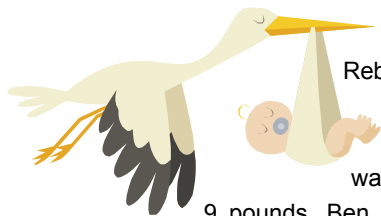
A significant step for West Virginia was the placement of a CDC-sponsored Prevention Research Center (PRC) in the state. Since its inception in 1994, the PRC has worked closely with public health in helping to identify best practices, evaluate programs and provide training.



West Virginia Division of
**Health Promotion
AND
Chronic Disease**
Department of Health and Human Resources

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THE STORK IS AT IT AGAIN!



Andrew Neely and his wife Rebecca welcomed a new baby boy into the world on October 19th. Benjamin Edward Neely was 22 inches long and weighed 9 pounds. Ben is Andrew's second child, and his big sister Laura couldn't be more excited about him. Andrew is a Programmer with the Office of Vital Registration in the Health Statistics Center.



Baby Ben and his big sister Laura

Coming Next Quarter

Spotlight on the Division of Tobacco Prevention

More Fun Facts

Meet Your Administration

And More!

PLEASE WELCOME...

Rita Merrifield joined the Fiscal Unit in OEHP in October. She comes to us from the Public Service Commission with over 16 years of service in State Government.

Rita has a husband, two daughters, two dogs and three cats. If that doesn't keep her busy enough she is expecting her first grandbaby in April, if not sooner.

When she's not crunching numbers you might find her with some yarn and a crochet hook creating a handmade masterpiece. **Welcome Rita!**

THE PROOF IS IN THE NUMBERS

Governor Joe Manchin along with the Division of Tobacco Prevention held a press conference on November 17, 2007 to launch a new Smoke-Free Pregnancy media campaign.

The campaign was designed to encourage pregnant mothers to quit smoking by calling the WV Quitline for cessation help. The numbers are in for the first six weeks of the seven month long campaign.

There were 2,355 calls to the quitline, with 500 West Virginians enrolling for services. Forty-eight percent of these enrollees were media referrals and an astounding ten percent of the Medicaid enrollees were pregnant women!

Congratulations to everyone involved, keep up the good work!

FUN FACTS

Did you know...

- Over half of the bones in your body are located in your hands and feet.
- There are about 9,000 taste buds on your tongue.
- Smoking causes wrinkles by interfering with the body's ability to renew skin, therefore causing premature aging.
- You cannot tickle yourself. The cerebellum, a region in the back of your brain, warns the rest of your brain when you are attempting to tickle yourself.
- On average, a person spends about 122 days out of a year sleeping.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The OEHP Event Planning Committee is working on an organized day for the children of employees (ages 7 -in second grade - to 18 years old) who come to work with a parent on "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work" day.

This year it is being held on Thursday, April 24, 2008. Some suggestions that have been put forth are: a trip to the Office of Laboratory Services, let them look up their own birth certificate in the vault on the first floor, go to the Farmer's Market, play a "Jeopardy" game on health issues, etc. Depending on the age groups represented that day, we will split up the children into a younger group and an older one. Our goal is to get our children out of the cubicles and learn a little about what Public Health is all about as a career and how it affects their lives.



We will be finalizing the agenda at our next meeting at the end of January. More information (via e-mail) about the event will be sent out later and to try and get a count of the number of kids who might participate. If you have suggestions for this day or would like to help, please contact your representative on the committee.

OEHP Event Planning Committee Representatives

DSDC - Brenda Grigsby, David Henzler, Stephanie Moore

HPCD - Peggy Adams, Mike Harman

DTP - Debbie Hall

HSC - Amy Wenmoth, Brandy Byrnside

Admin. - Paula Legge

SPOTLIGHT ON HPCD

Another development was the establishment of programs in the state that led to a Masters in Public Health or a Masters in Community Health Education. Over the years several of the Division's professional staff have been hired from these programs.

Each year this Division coordinates the Bureau for Public Health's Community Based Initiative (CBI) grants which provide funding to local organizations for the purpose of improving health. Over the years grants have been provided to communities across the state for projects in areas like nutrition, physical activity, injury and osteoporosis.

As a condition of continuing to receive state funding local health departments must complete periodic community health assessments. This Division provides technical assistance to county health departments and communities in completing this important work.

Finally, while earlier efforts were largely directed toward primary prevention, this Division has also moved into the area of disease state management and has supported the development of clinic registries.

The Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease has come a long way over the years and is looking forward to continuing its established partnerships and expanding to new ones.

MEET YOUR ADMINISTRATION



Meet **Paula Legge**, Administrative Secretary for OEHP. She has been with DHHR for seven years. She has been with the State for almost nine years.

Paula grew up in Dunbar and graduated from Morris

Harvey College with a degree in sociology and psychology. She spent most of her career in social work before moving to the State.

Paula is an avid reader who loves everything from the classics like Jane Eyre to new releases. Last summer she completed the entire Harry Potter series from book 1 to book 7, one right after the other. She just loves books.

Having many talents, Paula also writes, having completed one book she has yet to publish. She is a highly sought after organist who has played at many churches, weddings and special events in our area.

Paula has three grown children and lives in Lincoln County with her husband, dog and three cats. She and her husband built their solar heated and environmentally friendly house themselves long before it was popular to be green.