

HEALTH MATTERS

CINCINNATI HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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“We Know Health Matters”

Laura Randall and Jerrie Kumalah discuss Collective Impact on Health on this month’s “We Know Health Matters”, CHD’s show on Citicable, Time Warner Ch. 23.

Playback Times

Mon	9, 11 a.m.
Wed	5 p.m.
Thur	2 p.m.
Fri	9 a.m.
Sun	3 p.m.

Heartfelt Tidbits, a blog for refugees



Heartfelt Tidbits launched a new blog for refugee and immigrant stories from Cincinnati, www.heartfelttidbits.com. Stories, video, pictures, recipes, guest writing, and education on the blog create a way for the Cincinnati community to engage with and welcome refugees and immigrants. The blog also provides a place for refugee and immigrants to share their difficult – and often triumphant – journey of leaving their home countries and finding a new home in Cincinnati.

Since 2008, 34,000 refugees have resettled in Cincinnati from many countries, such as Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Congo, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Vietnam. That number keeps growing, as each week secondary migrants (relocating refugees) move here from other cities, in part because our city is known for being a welcoming place.

Heartfelt Tidbits invites you to welcome Cincinnati’s newest neighbors! Visit and read the new blog, share with friends and family at home and in gathering places, and contact Heartfelt Tidbits if you have story ideas or questions.

FREE HEALTH FAIR!

CHD invites you to celebrate National Public Health Week!

Saturday, April 2, 1 - 3 p.m.
Washington Park

For more details visit us online:
www.cincinnati-oh.gov/health



Findings published from local botulism outbreak

In February, CHD Epidemiologist Patrick Burke, MPH, was published in CDC’s *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*.



The report, *Outbreak of Foodborne Botulism Associated with Improperly Jarred Pesto*, discussed the outbreak of foodborne botulism due to improperly jarred pesto. Two patients, one in California and the other in Ohio, were observed in July 2014 and it was determined the pesto consumed by both patients was the cause.

Dr. Steven Englender, Director, CHD Center for Public Health Preparedness, coauthored the report. To view the publishing visit <http://1.usa.gov/1TEygz0>.

CHD KICK OFF
Friday, March 18


artswave

March: National Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month! Sponsored by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Nutrition Month focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing positive eating habits.

This year's theme, *Savor the Flavor of Eating Right*, encourages everyone to take the time and enjoy food traditions, and appreciate the pleasures, flavors and social experiences that food adds in our lives. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/1TtmKWw>.



CHD Employee Spotlight

Congratulations to CHD's Angela Robinson and the Outreach and Enrollment (O&E) team, recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Outreach Award by the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers (OACHC).

Ms. Robinson was selected to accept the award based on her individual performance as an outstanding O&E Specialist. Since arriving in her role in November 2013, her team has signed up approximately 4,000 individuals for Marketplace or Medicaid coverage.



The team also provides basic education to clients with questions, changes in plans and renewals, with a return rate of over 90%. Again, congratulations to Angela Robinson and the O&E team!

A Look Behind the Counter

New Five-Star Quality Rating System Introduced

Improving patient care through quality measures involves coordination of care with the patient, pharmacy and provider.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has implemented a five-star rating system, with five stars being the highest. The Quality Rating System measures how well Medicare Advantage plans (Part C, or MA), Medicare Advantage plans with Part D coverage (MA-PD plans), and stand-alone Medicare Part D plans (PDP) are performing.

For patients, star ratings provide a way to compare performances among several plans. Incentives are given to plans with higher ratings, such as bonus payments or year-round open enrollment. Plans with a consistently low rating will be dropped.

Plans can assess how their network pharmacies meet medication management measures by reviewing claims. This allows them to issue their own ratings to pharmacies and evaluate which ones are better at meeting CMS-defined quality measures. Some measures include an annual Comprehensive Medication Review, appropriate use of high risk medications and patient experience in getting a needed medication.

Health plans can rework their preferred networks to include only pharmacies with high ratings and send medication therapy management (MTM) cases only to pharmacies that show good patient outcomes. Your pharmacy will play an important role in helping providers and patients meet their goals. For more information, visit www.cms.gov

