

VISION NEW MEXICO



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- January 17**.....Environmental Health Committee - Las Cruces
- January 17**.....Doña Ana County Immunization Coalition - Las Cruces
- January 20**.....Substance Abuse Collaborative - Las Cruces
- February 8**.....EP/JZ/LC Binational Health Council Meeting - El Paso
- February 17**.....Columbus/Palomas/Luna County Binational Health Council Meeting - Palomas
- February 21**.....Environmental Health Committee - Las Cruces
- February 21**.....Doña Ana County Immunization Coalition - Las Cruces

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Edited by the NM Outreach Office of the US-Mexico Border Health Commission and the Border Epidemiology & Environmental Health Center, NMSU.

Update on Border Air Monitoring Project

Sonya Andron

The air quality along the U.S.-Mexico border is considered to be one of the most serious environmental health concerns facing our region. The majority of the problems with air quality come in the form of windblown dust particles. Some causes of windblown dust include recently tilled fields, vacant and cleared lots, unpaved roads, and the natural desert. Inhaling this dust can cause headaches, breathing difficulty, damage to lung tissue, as well as aggravating existing lung problems. Additionally, windblown dust reduces visibility on major highways causing a serious traffic hazard.

The Columbus, NM and Puerto Palomas, Chih. communities expressed concerns regarding their air quality to the Environmental Protection Agency Border 2012 Rural Task Force. These concerns prompted the Border Epidemiology and Environmental Health Center and the New Mexico Department of Health Office of Border Health to apply for a grant to study air quality in that area. The grant, funded by the Southwest Consortium for Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP), was awarded in April of 2005. The total award is over \$58,000.

In September Dan Galindo, an air monitor expert from the New Mexico Environment Department, placed one PM10 air quality monitor in each of the Columbus and Puerto Palomas communities. Also, a PM2.5 air quality monitor was placed at a relatively neutral location close to both areas. The monitors have been collecting data, minus a few technical problems, for the last two months. The data that is being collected will help provide baseline information on air quality and pollutants in these rural communities along the border.

Once the data is analyzed remediation can be formulated. Eventually, a plan can be put into place that will help control the sources of windblown dust where possible. The project is the first of its kind in the Columbus and Puerto Palomas area.



Photo courtesy of the Biól. Gerardo Tarín Torres Jefe del Departamento de Manejo Integral de Contaminantes: SEMARNAT Coordinación Regional Juárez.

Rural Frontier Women's Health Coordinating Center for Southern New Mexico

Benjamín Jácquez

A Rural Frontier Women's Health Coordinating Center (RFWHCC), funded by HRSA, will be established at the Southern Area Health Education Center (SoAHEC). SoAHEC and its partners The Wellness Coalition (TWC), and Dona Ana County's La Clinica de Familia (LCDF), as well as other providers in these rural areas have all stated that Women's Health is in their current Strategic Plans and are eager to develop a coordinated system of care that is accessible, culturally appropriate, and tailored to meet the needs of the women in their community.

The proposed RWHCC will integrate and expand the capacity of its partners' systems and services. For instance, the identified partners have all agreed to that it is time to expand the use of their The Community Health Access & Social Service Information System (CHASSIS) and database a web based screening and tracking tool The Wellness Coalition developed during their Health Care Access Project.

The Integrated Health & Social Service Eligibility Screening System will:

- Cut screening and processing time by 70% or more
- Improve community accountability
- Reduce the number of self-pay patients
- Create a healthy community focus

This system will be the used as the RFWHCC's universal women's intake form. The partners have agreed to continue to utilize their team of Community Promotoras as the proposed method of outreach and community communication. This combined with the screening system will address two specific problems that exist in the areas of the medically underserved and economically disadvantaged. One, there is a pervasive need for prevention education at the family level; and two, there is a pressing need for prompt access of financial and transportation resources for low-income patients who require treatment after diagnosis.

A county wide Comprehensive Health care and Transportation Assessment Survey will be implemented in year one through the team of Promotoras who are currently housed in the various provider sites throughout the county region. This will be the human network paired with the technical system creating a web of coordination and connectivity for the project. For more information on this project, please contact Benjamín Jácquez at 646-3441 x 11 or jacquez@nmsu.edu.

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The Border Health Information
and Education Network



¡BIEN!

FREE, RELIABLE HEALTH INFORMATION!!

www.bienhealth.org

Your Gateway to the Best Health
Information on the Internet!

The ¡BIEN! web site is designed to provide the best collection of health information and resources for both health care providers and the public. The 24 members of the ¡BIEN! network include hospitals, health organizations, and public and academic libraries.

By providing valuable web links, it is our intention to assist our users in finding information that may enable them to better understand a broad spectrum of health issues and topics.

For more information, log on to www.bienhealth.org or contact Tracy Duran at tracyd@nmsu.edu.

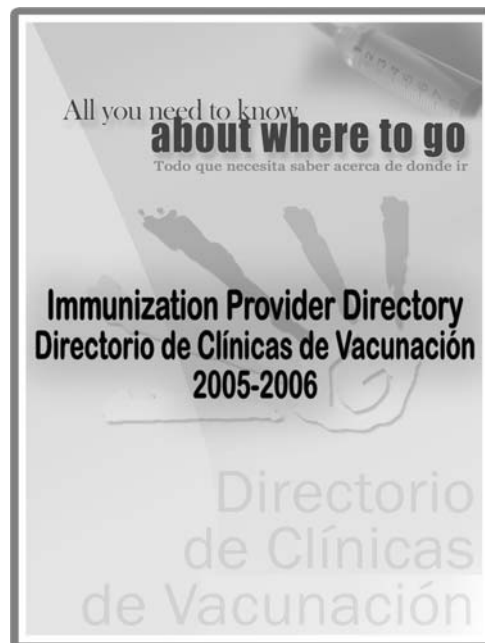
Doña Ana County Immunization Coalition Develops an Immunization Provider Directory

The Doña Ana County Immunization Coalition (DACIC) created an immunization provider directory for Doña Ana County residents. This guide enables the community to better access immunization resources for infants/children, adolescents, and adults in Doña Ana County. The guide consists of immunization providers in the county that elected to be placed in this reference.

The DACIC would like to thank all who contributed to the development of this guide. The guide was developed, compiled, and edited by the project team of the DACIC resource guide subcommittee, New Mexico State University Nursing Students, the Border Epidemiology and Environmental Health Center, and the New Mexico Outreach Office, U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission.

Funding was received from the Health Resources and Services Administration and the New Mexico Immunization Coalition to print copies of the guide. For more information about the resource guide or

to request a copy of the guide, contact Debby Hanus, RN at (505) 528-5104. The directory is available online at <http://www.nmsu.edu/~bec/dacic.htm>.



HCAP Award goes to CAA of Southern New Mexico

Andrea Daumueller

Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico, Inc. (CAA-SNM) was one of 33 agencies nationwide that was awarded a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Healthy Communities Access Program (HCAP) grant. The total amount of the grant award is \$1,029,105. This grant was written by the Doña Ana County Access to Care group which is a subcommittee of the Doña Ana County Health and Human Services Alliance.

This grant award will be used to create a management information system (MIS) in Doña Ana County connecting health providers and patients to a payment source. The function of the system is to determine patient eligibility for health programs throughout the county.

A portion of the grant will also be used to develop an outreach program on four identified chronic diseases. This program will enable community outreach workers to inform county residents about

chronic illnesses and identify individuals who may be suffering from these diseases.

In addition to the HCAP grant, CAA-SNM administers eight core programs that help address the immediate and long-term needs of those living in poverty in southern New Mexico. For more information on this or other programs within CAA-SNM, please contact Stacey Cox, Executive Director at 505-527-8799.





Border Binational Health Week

October 10-16, 2005

Celebration in the Border

October 10 - 16, 2005 represented the second annual Border Binational Health Week. Throughout the United States-Mexico border region many agencies planned and coordinated binational health events to help increase the health of our border population. Many organizations applied for funding specifically to promote health for Border Binational Health Week. A total of 21 grant proposals were accepted for funding by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).



Above: Bea Martinez from the Texas Department of State Health Services plays musical chairs with a young boy from Sunland Park, New Mexico during a health fair.

The Doña Ana County Immunization Coalition sponsored several events to include a Fall Jubilee, a Grand Rounds Luncheon and Influenza Shot Promotion Workshops. The Fall Jubilee was held in conjunction with the Memorial Medical Center Influenza Shot Clinic. Over 4500 influenza vaccines were administered that day. The Grand Rounds Luncheon was held in Las Cruces with over 75 participants in attendance. A national speaker from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Judy Schmidt, spoke on behalf of the low rates of health care worker influenza vaccination rates while encouraging vaccination. Memorial Medical Center sponsored free influenza vaccinations for all attendees as well as provided the facility for the event. MountainView Regional Medical Center sponsored the meal for all attendees. Doña Ana County Immunization Coalition members provided on-site workshops at Long Term Care Facilities in the county. The purpose of these workshops was to provide staff with the facts about influenza and the importance of receiving a vaccination to protect themselves and their patients.

Members of the Otero County Public Health Office in partnership with the Otero County Community Health Council and Otero PATH, Inc. participated in the 'Families in Action for Health' Health



Staff from La Clinica de Familia in Chaparral, NM along with Dr. Elizabeth Duke (Back Row 4th from right), Dr. Williams (Back row 3rd from right) and Dr. Robles-Linares (right).



Teresa Hines from the Border Area Health Education Center (left) receives a certificate of appreciation from Consul Colmenares (right) for her participation in BBHW activities.

United States-Mexico Celebration



Fair. Otero County hosted the 'You Have the Power to Take Control of Your Health' Family Day-community health fair on October 15, 2005 at the Otero County Boys & Girls Club. Despite the weather, 585 families attended this event. A variety of local entities such as the Alamogordo Breakfast Lions Club and the Ben Archer Health Clinic were on hand to provide free health screenings. The Fair promoted children's fitness type activities such as the Walk Otero Youth Walk with every youth participate receiving a free pedometer. After the event, the children's physical activity promotion items such as children's pedometers, hula-hoops, jump ropes and balls were donated to the Alamogordo HELP Head Start Center and Sunrise Elementary School in Chaparral, NM. The Alamogordo Department of Safety along with members of the Otero County Safe Kids Chapter conducted a car seat clinic. They inspected 29 car seats and replaced 18 defective seats.



Above: Dr. Elizabeth Duke, Administrator for the Health Resources and Services Administration (left middle) receives a gift of appreciation from Dr. Frank Crespin, Medical Director, LCDF (left), County Commissioner Kent Evans (right middle), and Silvia Sierra, Director of Health and Human Services for Doña Ana County (right) for her support of BBHW.

Overall, BBHW 2005 was very successful and the activities that occurred not only promoted the health of our border population but strengthened the partnerships of our border community agencies. Congratulations on the second successful implementation of Border Binational Health Week.

*Families in Action for Health
Familias en Acción por la Salud*

October 10-16, 2005

Congratulations to those Who Received BBHW Funding

A total of 21 grant proposals sent to the Health Resources and Services Administration for Border Binational Health Week financial support were awarded for funding in the United States-Mexico Border Region. This funding made many of the wonderful events in our border region a success.

New Mexico Awardees

- ◆ Colonias Development Council - Sarah Peterson (505) 647-2744
- ◆ Doña Ana County Immunization Coalition - Debby Hanus (505) 528-5104
 - ◆ Otero P.A.T.H. - Al Hodges (505) 437-2460
- ◆ Presbyterian Medical Services of Deming - Kristin Kuhlmann (505) 546-4663

2006 Border Health Lifetime Achievement Award/Premio Anual a la Trayectoria en Salud Fronteriza 2006

The **New Mexico Border Health Council** announces this opportunity to recognize the contributions to border health made by residents of New Mexico, other United States and Mexico border-states or other persons not residents of these states.

The Border Health Council is accepting nominations for the **2006 Border Health Lifetime Achievement Award**. The annual selections are limited to no more than two persons from New Mexico and no more than two non-residents of New Mexico. It is not necessary that the person nominated be currently employed or be affiliated with any border organization or institution. Posthumous nominations will also be accepted.

Persons will be selected for their lifetime contribution to the improvement in the health of border populations. Border health may include public health or health care, health issues advocacy, social, physical or mental health, health promotion or education, or community environmental health.

The **Border Health Lifetime Achievement Award** is intended to recognize those persons that have devoted a minimum of ten years to border health and whose service has had a significant impact to the long-term health status improvement of border populations.

The nominations will be reviewed and the selections made by the Executive Committee of the New Mexico Border Health Council in conjunction with the New Mexico Office of Border Health. The Council will retain the option not to make any selections. Persons serving as members of the Border Health Council are not eligible to be nominated.

The persons selected will be recognized during the **Annual Border Health Council Awards Luncheon** scheduled for **Friday, April 21, 2005** in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

The nominations may be submitted by e-mail to Ms. Lisa Miranda at lmiranda@nmsu.edu or by regular mail to Chair, Border Health Council, P.O. Box

El **Consejo de Salud Fronteriza de Nuevo México (CSFNM)** tiene el honor de anunciar esta oportunidad para reconocer a residentes de Nuevo México y a otras personas por su trayectoria y trabajo en pro de la salud de la población fronteriza de México-Estados Unidos.

El CSFNM está aceptando nominaciones para el **Premio a la Trayectoria en Salud Fronteriza para el año 2006** (Border Health Lifetime Achievement Award). Este reconocimiento anual se limita a un máximo de dos personas de Nuevo México y dos personas no residentes de Nuevo México. No es necesario que los nominados estén actualmente laborando o afiliados con alguna institución, incluso se aceptan candidatos póstumos.

Las personas serán seleccionadas por su contribución al mejoramiento de la salud y bienestar de la población fronteriza de Nuevo México, así como de la población fronteriza en otros estados. Su trayectoria puede ser en salud pública, atención a la salud, políticas de salud y/o sociales, salud mental, promoción y educación para la salud, o salud ambiental.

El propósito del **Premio a la Trayectoria en Salud Fronteriza** es reconocer a aquellas personas que han dedicado su vida (un mínimo de 10 años) al mejoramiento de la salud fronteriza y sus contribuciones deben haber impactado a largo plazo el estado de salud de los residentes de la frontera México-Estados Unidos.

Las nominaciones al premio serán revisadas por el Comité Ejecutivo del CSFNM, quien seleccionará al o los ganadores; el premio puede declararse desierto. Las personas seleccionadas serán reconocidas durante la **Comida Anual de Premiación del CSFNM** programada para el **viernes 21 de Abril del 2006** en Las Cruces, NM.

Las nominaciones deberán ser sometidas mediante una carta explicando por que el candidato debe ser reconocido, destacando sus logros y actividades y anexando una copia del curriculum vitae del

(See Award/Premio on page 8)

Regional Youth Summit on Methamphetamines

Naomi Fahrenkrug

The Regional Youth Summit on Methamphetamine, held in Las Cruces on Saturday October 22nd, was a huge success. Strong collaboration from the private sector as well as other community based organizations, brought additional resources to the event.

The *Southwest Regional Substance Abuse Collaborative* took the lead in coordinating the event, through the efforts of Naomi Fahrenkrug, Community Health Coordinator with the Dept of Health, Office of Border Health. The City of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, Families & Youth, Inc. Children, Youth and Families, the Northern DAC Action for Youth, Las Cruces Public Schools, the Rotary Club, Magic 105 Radio, Wal-Mart, Fiesta Foods and Domino's Pizza each assisted or contributed to the event along with a very committed planning committee.

The event took place at Sierra Middle School with full cooperation from school administration and the Safe and Drug Free Schools program. The Assistant principal came out on Saturday morning to make sure we had everything that we needed and he stayed until we were organized and ready for the youth to arrive.

After the welcome statements from Senator Garcia and the Drug Czar, six inmates from the La Tuna Federal Correctional Facility, spoke to the entire group about the bad choices of friends and drugs that got them into prison. The inmates, presented in jumpsuits, shackles and handcuffs, were still serving time and were accompanied by prison guards who lead them into the facility in leg irons. The Youth were greatly impacted by their strong messages.

The NM State Police, Frank Musintano gave a presentation on a typical Meth Lab, Las Cruces Police Officer, Tim McCarson talked about how Meth affects the body and Leah Tolley, a DOH nurse from Lordsburg, explained the effects of Meth on the brain.

Over 100 youth were trained to be Peer Educators, each receiving a Certificate of Completion, business cards, a manual and a DVD, giving them the tools to spread the message of "Meth is Death." Thirty parents and adult mentors attended as well as the New Mexico Drug Czar, Herman Silva and a Doña

Ana County State Senator, Mary Jane Garcia. Regional attendance came from as far away as Hidalgo, Socorro, and El Paso counties, all of whom are members of the Southwest Regional Substance Abuse Collaborative.

All of the Summit presentations were professionally filmed for the production of the DVD. The DVD was given to the youth who attended the Summit under the guidance of the agencies that sponsored them. They will go back to their communities and be spoke persons to other youth organizations, school classrooms and family groups about the dangers of Meth. This type of Summit, training-the-youth trainer, will double and triple our sphere of influence in Southern New Mexico. By using youth to teach other youth, we help each community fight the battle against methamphetamines and other illegal drug use.

For more information on the Southwest Regional Substance Abuse Collaborative please contact Naomi Fahrenkrug at (505) 528-5151 or naomi.fahrenkrug@state.nm.us.



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Mobile Clinic Clerk

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Administrator

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Medicaid Eligibility Specialist

Lillian Lopez

Secretary

Award/Premio cont. from page 6/ Sigue de la página 6

30001, Dept. 3BEC, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001.

Please attach a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae or other relevant information and submit nominations in time to be received by **March 17, 2006**.

candidato. Las nominaciones deben ser enviadas a Lisa Miranda, lmiranda@nmsu.edu o Chair, Border Health Council, P.O. Box 30001, Dept. 3BEC, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001.

Fecha límite para recibir nominaciones: **17 de marzo de 2006**.

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Officers of the New Mexico Border Health Council

Chairperson

Linda Macias-Miller
Executive Director
Luna County Healthy Start
Deming, New Mexico

Secretary

Robert Monsivaiz
Chief, Fire Department
City of Sunland Park
Sunland Park, New Mexico

Funding for this newsletter by the New Mexico Department of Health and the New Mexico Outreach Office of the U.S. - Mexico Border Health Commission