

Immunization Initiatives: Lessons Learned

During the 2014-2015 school year, the CSS Outcomes and Evaluations team piloted a middle school immunization program in four middle schools in Ward 8. We identified a cohort 654 students who were due or overdue for at least one of the routine pre-teen vaccines (Tdap, MCV, or HPV). Parents of these students were sent information about the vaccines and were encouraged either to get the vaccine from their medical home or give consent for their child to receive the vaccines at school through the Children's National mobile van. After a valiant effort by the school nurses and nurse managers, 33 students received vaccines on the mobile van, including 21 doses of Tdap, 18 doses of MCV, and 31 doses of HPV. The students who received vaccines on the mobile van were generally receptive, cooperative, and happy to get their "I'm Immunized—Preventing the Preventable" stickers. They went home with reminders about when their next vaccines were due and \$5 grocery store gift cards.

To determine how many students from the original cohort received the vaccines they needed between January and June, including those who got vaccines elsewhere, we reviewed the registry records of the original cohort. Altogether, we found that as of June 16, 150 (23 percent) of the original 654 students received at least one of the pre-teen vaccines they had needed in January. These 150 students received 58 doses of Tdap, 58 doses of MCV, and 135 doses of HPV vaccine, for a total of 251 doses of the recommended pre-teen vaccines.

This experience suggests that the mobile van is not a quick-cure for poor immunization compliance with recommended pre-teen vaccines. Therefore, future immunization educational outreach efforts should focus on encouraging immunization through the medical home. We believe that raising community awareness about immunizations through education about the recommended vaccines when children become due might be more effective than waiting until after they are overdue to recall them. You can look forward to receiving a supply of "Birthday Card" reminders to give to students turning 4 and 11 during the coming school year, as well as some incentives to give students who bring in their updated shot records. Be sure to include vaccine promotion in your back-to-school encounters with families and continue to work with your school administrators using automated phone calls to remind parents when vaccines are due or overdue.

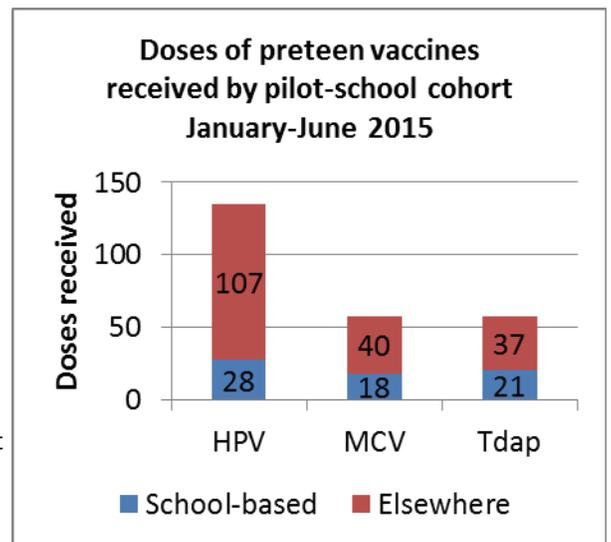
Janet Gingold, MD, MPH

July Health Observances

Cord Blood Awareness Month

Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

World Hepatitis Day (July 28th)



Farewell to Mary Allen-Rochester, Case Manager

Mary Allen-Rochester, RN, MA, CHPC.Ed, recently retired after over 46 years in nursing. She began her career in 1967 as a Nursing Assistant at Georgetown University Hospital. While working there, she also attended nursing school to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. In 1969, she joined Children's National Health System and worked in the nursery before working in several other departments including the ICU, burn unit, and primary care.

Once becoming a registered nurse, Allen-Rochester worked mostly in the Emergency Department before becoming a Clinical Manager for eight years. For the next five years after, she worked in the DC Kids Foster program.

She joined Children's School Services in December 2009 and provided case management support to wards 2, 3, and 8. We truly appreciate all of her hard work and wish her a happy, healthy, and peaceful retirement.



Left to right– Barbara Freeman, Case Manager, Mary Allen-Rochester, Case Manager, and Alicia Littlejohn at Rochester's retirement party

The Virginia Lee Lintott Summer Institute for Learning is coming soon!

Believe it or not, the annual Children's School Services Summer Nurse Institute is only weeks away. The CSS leadership team is looking forward to welcoming our public and public charter school nurses to this education event. This year's theme is "School Nurses: Focusing on Child-Centered Care." The Kellogg Conference Center at Gallaudet University, will again accommodate the CSS staff, leadership team, and this year's noteworthy speakers from Monday, August 10 through Wednesday, August 12, 2015. Please mark this date on your calendars as this year's planning committee finalizes the details for the Virginia Lintott Summer Institute for Learning.

See you there!

Cindy Tollini, MS, BSN, RN, Professional Development Specialist
Shawn Hickey-Higgins, MSN, RN, NCSN, CHES, Professional Development Specialist

NASN School Nurse of the Year

Patricia Tolson, RN, BSN, was recognized as the "District of Columbia School Nurse of the Year" at the 47th Annual National Association of School Nurses Annual Conference. Tolson has gone above and beyond in her practice and demonstrates not only excellence but compassion and commitment to those she serves.

Keep up the great work, Nurse Tolson!



Michele Kuhn, RN, DC School Nurses Association President, Patricia Tolson, RN, BSN, Awardee, and Liz Chau, RN, NASN Director

Bike Safety Program at Drew ES

On June 8, 2015, Sally Wilson, RN, shared a bike safety presentation to third through fifth grade students at Drew ES. Wilson works as the Education, Prevention, and Outreach Coordinator at Children's National Health System. After the presentation, each student received a helmet fitting and free helmet. The students stated that they learned the importance of wearing a helmet and bike safety rules and realized that they did not have to sacrifice their safety while having fun!



Drew ES student after the bike safety presentation



Sally Wilson, RN with Rose Moore, RN, BSN, School Nurse

Rose Moore, RN, BSN
School Nurse— Drew ES

An Earth Day Celebration of Energy

April 22nd was Earth Day, and Lafayette Elementary decided to celebrate the **energy** we consume and the **energy** we burn by holding a Wellness Night of nutrition and fitness. From 6:30 to 8:30 pm, all families were invited to join Chef Tony Brown from Macon Bistro for cooking demonstrations. We ate charred greens, grilled shrimp, and other delectables. Parents Vallery Phillips and Laura Nelms provided gardening and nutrition information from the FDA and DC Farm Cooperative along with handouts of seed packets and fresh rosemary and sage plants. They shared information about Lafayette's own garden plans for the future, and we showcased our brand new Hydroponic Tower Garden for use next year while the school undergoes renovation. Nurse Cockrell made fresh fruit and vegetable smoothies in the colors of the rainbow for all to try, which augmented our March National Nutrition Month/Colors of the Rainbow Challenge. And last but not least, the Physical Education teachers supervised fitness games in the gym.

More than 60 people of all ages attended, and the evening was a lot of fun!

Chris Cockrell, RN, BSN
School Nurse— Lafayette ES

Kudos!

Duworwu Kpadeh, RN, BSN, school nurse at Imagine Hope Community Charter School, received a rave review from the parent of a child who had a couple of health challenges last school year. The child's mother wrote a heartfelt letter of appreciation to the faculty and staff at the school and highlighted the school nurse's practice by saying, "Thank you Nurse Kpadeh for always reminding me to bring in and collect [my child's] medication, caring for him when he was ill, and for sitting outside with the teachers on Field Day to ensure that each child would be taken care of in the event of an emergency."

Thank you Nurse Kpadeh, and keep up the good work!!

Chrystal Young-Johnson, RN, BS
Nurse Manager– Ward 4

Smile Center Dental Group Visits Savoy ES

The Smile Center Mobile Dental Clinic visited Savoy ES during the first two weeks of June and provided onsite X-rays, dental examinations, cleanings, fluoride, fillings, sealants, and extractions to the children at the school. Their goal is "to provide dental care in community settings such as schools as an effective and proven way to reduce the burden of oral diseases." Schools benefit from reduced absenteeism, parent appreciation, and improved student learning. Dentists benefit because the school-based program provides them a channel for reaching kids who otherwise would not make it into their practice despite needing treatment.



Katrena N. Clark, BSN, RN
School Nurse– Savoy ES

The DOH Immunization Awards Dinner

The Department of Health Immunization Awards Dinner was held on Wednesday, June 3rd at the Kellogg Conference Center at Gallaudet University. The dinner honors schools and nurses who have excelled in their immunization efforts. Rose Moore, RN, BSN, school nurse at Drew ES, received a 100 percent compliance certificate for her school and a \$25.00 Target gift card. Selinda Boyd-Graham, RN-BC, BSN, school nurse at Randle Highlands ES, received a 95 percent compliance certificate for Randle Highlands, a 100 percent compliance certificate for Aiton ES, and a \$25.00 Target gift card. Katrena Clark, RN, BSN, received a 95 percent compliance certificate for Savoy ES.

Katrena N. Clark, RN, BSN
School Nurse– Savoy ES



(L-R) Nancy Ejoma Rodriguez, Immunization Program Manager with Katrina Clark, RN, BSN

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