

Health Director's Report

August, 2016

- Rebecca and I are working with an MPA student to conduct a county-wide mental health gap analysis for ages 0-25. The results of this gap analysis will be presented to the BOCC in late November/early December as they begin their strategic planning for next year. The goal is to help them understand where the gaps in services are and provide recommendations on how to address those challenges. We will share those results with you at the November meeting.
- We hosted the 4th annual UNC PHield Trip for public health students this month. Donna and her folks did another great job making public health real and of course the condom relay was a hit.
- A collaborative group of people from the Health Department, Family Success Alliance, Head Start, Orange County Schools and other agencies spent a few hours at Gateway Village one Saturday morning, sharing information about programs and services available to residents. We also shared information about an upcoming training on renters' rights and responsibilities. We met a lot of really earnest and caring people and plan to do this on a regular basis.
- I attended the reception in honor of the new Executive Director of Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, Dr. Laura Gerald. Dr. Gerald was the State Health Director for several years and she will do a fabulous job at the Trust.
- Last week with the North Carolina Public Health Association's annual meeting. Orange County well represented...we had speakers (Andrea, Robin, Stacy, Colleen), posters (Robin) and plenty of attendees. We also brought home multiple awards: 1) Andrea Mullholland won two awards, the Public Health All-Star award and the best Oral Presentation at the Academic and Practice Based Research (APBR) Section; 2) Robin won the award for best speed-round presentation again for the APBR Section; 3) and the Health Department's Healthy Homes Program won the GlaxoSmithKline Child Health Recognition Award. This award comes with a \$5,000 prize which Coby, Alan and LaToya will use to purchase more supplies for the program.
- I joined Dr. Chelminski at a presentation to the Kenan trust. I presented on the most effective ways to engage and work with rural, underserved communities. It was a great experience and quite a fancy location...☺
- Coby and I have been asked to give a presentation about the Family Success Alliance to the joint meeting with the BOCC and the two Boards of Education next week. We have also been asked to give separate presentations to each of the three Boards in the next couple of months. This is a great opportunity to spread the word about the great work of the Family Success Alliance and to enlist collaborators.
- I moderated a panel at a statewide dental access collaborative today. There was a lot of energy and enthusiasm regarding ways to increase dental access to underserved areas in the state. Did you know that in the 100 counties in NC only 18 counties have a Health Department dental clinic that sees both children and adults? Much work needs to be done and I am proud of the resources here in Orange County.