health care agency
WHAT'S UP
keeping staff informed & current
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LDP celebrates 6th graduating class

The National Association of Counties (NACo) and California State Association of Counties (CSAC) award winning HCA Leadership Development Program (LDP) celebrated its 6th graduating class on January 23, 2011 at the Cal State Fullerton Garden Grove Campus, in partnership with OC Waste and Recycling (OCWR) and OC Public Works (OCPW).

LDP celebrated its largest graduating class to date with a total of 63 graduates – 34 from HCA and 29 from partnering agencies. A total of 53 participants completed Track I of the program and 10 finished Track II – 1 participant graduated from both tracks.

The event began with refreshments and a pre-graduation reception where graduates, supervisors and partner agencies' executive teams had an opportunity to network with each other and celebrate the graduates' success. Following the reception, those in attendance moved into the auditorium for the graduation ceremony.

Graduates were inspired by remarks from the three partner Agencies' Directors and Deputy Directors. Representing HCA, Jeff Nagel spoke of the relevance of learning new skills and holding them much like the precious ring from The Hobbit to be used for strength and "adventures" in leadership in the future. Mike Giancola from OCWR shared his own career development path, taking advantage of the County's trainings opportunities and tuition reimbursement programs and working his way up from entry level jobs at the County to OCWR's executive leadership. Rick LeFeuvre from OCPW celebrated the graduates' accomplishments by

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HCA's Leadership Development Team and Graduates pose for a group photo. Pictured (top row, left to right) are Tom Shaw, Hisham Elmishad, Stephen Lownes, Jennifer Bernsen, Daniel James, Jeff Nagel, Margaret Clarke, Jessica Ayala, Michael Macias, Deborah McGlone and Azahar Lopez. Pictured (bottom row, left to right) are Lisa Bauer, Christine Caudill, Jackie Bernard, Daisy Corona, Lorena Bogarin, Julia Rinaldi El-Abd, Karen Galliher, Teresa Garcia, Tumihn Pham, Juan Bravo, Margie Soto, Haya Farooqui, Wube Abebe, Beatriz Baires, Zinia Arroyo, Cenia Robinson, Michael Williams, Leslie Moffit and Blanca Estela Ortiz. Not pictured are Garrett Bright, Michael Brown, Janette Cervantes, Araceli Garcia-Rocha, Tricia Landquist, Carlos Perez, Salome Tenorio, Tuyet Vuong and Julie Khan.

Community leaders explore ways to combat hunger in OC

A community forum "Waste Not, Want Not," was held on January 11, 2013 at the Costa Mesa Community Center to explore opportunities to combat hunger by recovering potentially usable prepared and perishable foods.

According to the Orange County Food Bank, there are nearly 456,000 people at risk for hunger every month in Orange County and 1 in 5 Orange County children face food insecurity. Requests for emergency assistance have skyrocketed during the economic downturn and product donations to local food banks have decreased during the same period. Simultaneously, Americans discard 40% of their food, valued at $165 billion annually.

Forum participants included County Health Officer Dr. Eric Handler who discussed a project between the UCI School of Public Health and the City of Stanton that involves grad students exploring ways to end hunger in the city and HCA Environmental Health Director Richard Sanchez who provided attendees with legal reference information on donated food.

"Dr. Handler is to be commended for helping to bring together key stakeholders to address hunger in Orange County," said HCA Director Mark Refowitz. "Ending hunger provides a unique opportunity for training individuals in the field of culinary arts who would otherwise be in the soup kitchen lines, while also meeting a critical social need."

Additional forum participants included representatives from food banks, restaurants, grocers, theme parks, sports venues, manufacturers and educational institutions. Organizations currently engaged in recapturing perishable foods shared their success and also discussed the barriers to salvaging perishable foods such as liability, logistics, costs and distribution.

The forum plans to meet once again in three months to move forward in developing a strategic plan in combating hunger by recovering potentially usable prepared and perishable foods. For more information, visit the Orange County Food Bank at www.ocfoodbank.org or the OC Food Access Coalition at www.ocfoodaccess.org.

County Health Officer Dr. Handler discusses a UCI and City of Stanton project that aims to end hunger in the city during a Jan. 11th community forum held at the Costa Mesa Community Center.

"Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going."

—Jim Ryun

Healthcare Fraud – An expensive crime

Did you know that Medicare and Medicaid fraud costs the government billions of dollars each year? Fraud is generally defined as an intentional attempt to receive benefits or unauthorized payments from the payor source (like Medicare or Medicaid).

More and more we hear stories of individuals and organizations fraudulently billing the government for millions of dollars. To combat fraud and recoup payments, the government has been going after these criminals and since 2008 has recovered more than $10 billion in its anti-fraud efforts. Those who commit fraud can expect fines and prison time. To better illustrate healthcare fraud, here are some examples of what fraud might look like in the workplace:

- Billing for services never performed
- Billing for more expensive services than were actually provided (also known as "upcoding")
- Billing twice for the same medical service
- Dispensing generic drugs but billing for brand name drugs
- Falsifying signatures and other documents related to the provision of medical services

Healthcare workers should always be aware of what constitutes fraud so that it can be reported immediately. If you are aware of any activity you believe to be fraudulent or have questions about fraud, please contact the Office of Compliance immediately at (714) 834-4399. You can read more about healthcare fraud at http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/pages/stopmedi-calfraud.aspx or http://www.stopmedicarefraud.gov/aboutfraud/index.html.

For fun, try these quiz questions to test your knowledge of healthcare fraud.

- Intentionally providing incorrect information on a claim to get a high reimbursement is considered fraudulent. TRUE FALSE
- Only healthcare providers are able to commit healthcare fraud. TRUE FALSE
- If I accidentally omit a piece of information from a client's chart, I have committed fraud. TRUE FALSE
- I am unsure if a client has been given a certain test. I don't want to follow up with the physician so I will document it was done anyway. This is fraudulent. TRUE FALSE
- "I can bill for individual therapy even though I provided group therapy; it does not matter." TRUE FALSE

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LDP Graduating Class
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commending their hard work and thanking them for what they bring back to their Agency.

Following some remarks from CSUF's Dean of Extended Learning Carol Creighton who recognized Track II graduates, the audience had an opportunity to listen to five graduates as they shared the impact of how learning new skills had made a difference in their confidence and performance at work.

Graduating from Track I Margaret Clarke from HCA shared how she has applied the skills she learned in LDP and Cesar Orozco from OCWR described the opportunities he has every day to use the tools he learned in the program. Graduating Track II, Ruby Maldonado from OCPW inspired the audience by sharing her "aha moment" in leadership.

Don Reis from OCWR shared a lively presentation about his leadership journey and how LDP has made him a better leader. From HCA, Julia Rinaldi El-Abd shared how specific classes and content has impacted her everyday work and how the program honors all participants' desire to learn and develop.

After LDP and CSUF certificate awards were given, participants gathered with their respective agencies to pose for a commemorative photo. All in attendance enjoyed an afternoon filled with celebration and positive energy that reminded them that leadership begins from the inside, and we all play important roles in the County of Orange.

For more information about HCA's Leadership Development Program and how you can participate, please visit the website at http://intranet.ochca.com/hr/ttd.

February is American Heart Month

Each year, the American Heart Association designates the month of February as American Heart Month and celebrates the "Go Red for Women" movement – a fight to save women's lives from heart disease. It's also a time for learning about cardiovascular health, risk factors and warning signs of a heart attack or stroke. It is also a good time to look at your lifestyle choices and determine whether you need to make changes for your own heart health.

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is still the No. 1 killer of women, causing 1 in 3 deaths each year and heart disease kills more women than all kinds of cancer combined.

To help get you on the right track, the American Heart Association has designed "Life's Simple 7," which are seven steps on how best to live and keep your heart healthy:

- Get Active
- Eat Better
- Lose Weight
- Stop Smoking
- Control Cholesterol
- Manage Blood Pressure
- Reduce Blood Sugar

These measures have one unique thing in common – any person can make these changes and even modest improvements will make a big difference. Start with one or two.

Help spread the word about the effects of heart disease and encourage others to learn more about the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle. For more information on preventing cardiovascular disease and stroke, visit the American Heart Association website at www.americanheart.org.

MARCH HEALTH OBSERVANCES

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
National Nutrition Month®
Save Your Vision Month
Social Worker Month

Brain Awareness Week 11-17
World Tuberculosis Day 24
American Diabetes Alert Day 27

"Great minds have purposes, others have wishes."
—Washington Irving

Save the Date

Public Health Week 2013

Be sure to mark April 1-7, 2013 on your calendar for Public Health Week. This year's theme "Public Health is ROI: Save Lives, Save Money," highlights the value of prevention and the importance of well-supported public health systems in preventing disease, saving lives and curbing health care spending. Join the movement in championing the work of public health and its significant return on investment (ROI).

For more information, visit the American Public Health Association's National Public Health Week website at www.nphw.org.

Compliance Quiz Answers

Answers:
1-True, 2-False, 3-False, 4-True, 5-False

health care agency WHAT'S UP keeping staff informed & current

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