

## Office of Public Health Practice



connect.



learn.



act.

September 2009

# Connections

OPHP Monthly Newsletter

**The OPHP August Monthly Meet-Up** was held at Creations Café located at 337 W. 11th Street, Indianapolis, IN. The luncheon was an opportunity to network with other public health professionals in a relaxing atmosphere. Thank you to all those in attendance!



Jason Doerflein, Marion County Health Department, Department of Water Quality and Hazardous Materials Management, and Jess Trimble, Indiana State Department of Health's Local Health Department Outreach Office.



Left, Ruth Ann Hendrix, Ph.D. student, Kate Nicholson, OPHP Program Manager, Beth Hampshire, ISDH's LHD Outreach Office, and Carolyn Muegge, Bowen Research Center.

This first OPHP meet-up was a huge success. Kate Nicholson, Program Manager, Distance and Continuing Education, Office of Public Health Practice, surveyed attendees to determine the level of interest in future meet-ups and to garner ideas about activities. Most people showed an interest in touring other public health agencies. Some sites that were suggested are the Marion County Health Department; Ruth Lilly Health Education Center, ISDH Labs, and of course, the Office of Public Health Practice. Other sites will be considered, so let us know your interests.

**Future OPHP Meet-Ups:** Due to the welcoming reception of the OPHP meet-ups, future meetings will be planned for the last Friday of the month going forward. Please check the OPHP web site for developing details (<http://www.publichealthconnect.org>). These meet-ups are your opportunity to connect with other public health professionals - Be there!

**Public Health Café: Outbreak Investigation** - Join Dr. Greg Steele, Associate Professor of Epidemiology at IU School of Medicine Department of Public Health, for a review and discussion of investigation strategies during and after outbreaks.

**Date:** September 17, 2009      **Time:** 8:00-9:30 am

**Location:** Office of Public Health Practice, 714 N. Senate Ave., Room 220, Indianapolis  
(Free parking is available next to the building)

**Fee:** Free      **Includes:** Continental breakfast and materials

## **Half Day Seminar: Introduction to Mental Health Issues** -

Gina Eckart, Director of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction at Family and Social Services Administration, will present an overview of mental health issues. She will explain the most common forms of mental illness, including mood and personality disorders. In addition, she will offer suggestions on how to recognize a potential illness, resources available, and ways public health professionals can support those with mental health illnesses.

**Date:** September 24, 2009      **Time:** 9:00 am - Noon

**Location:** Office of Public Health Practice, 714 N. Senate Ave., Room 220, Indianapolis  
(Free parking is available next to the building)

**Fee:** \$30      **Includes:** Continental breakfast, materials, and certificate

For other upcoming events check the OPHP web site (<http://www.publichealthconnect.org>).

**Article of Interest** - With the flu season quickly approaching, the H1N1 virus is a rising concern especially in regards to the availability of a vaccine. Read the CDC's article under Questions & Answers "[2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/public/vaccination_qa_pub.htm)" updated August 28, 2009, for the most current information at [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/public/vaccination\\_qa\\_pub.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/public/vaccination_qa_pub.htm)

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction, has an article titled "[Coping with stress from H1N1](http://www.in.gov/flu/2399.htm)" available on IN.gov at <http://www.in.gov/flu/2399.htm>

If you have an article of general interest to public health professionals, please let us know.

## **Useful Resources & Tools** - A copy of "[Pandemic Influenza Operations Plan](http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/PandemicInfluenzaPlan.pdf),"

The Indiana State Department of Health, Judith A. Monroe, State Health Commissioner, June 2009, can be accessed at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/PandemicInfluenzaPlan.pdf>

The CDC publishes the "[FluView](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/)," a weekly update of current statistics relevant to the H1N1 virus. Access this informative report at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

If you have a favorite resource/tool let us know so that we may share it with other professionals.

E-mail us your articles of interest, useful resources/tools, and comments to [katlnich@iupui.edu](mailto:katlnich@iupui.edu).