



Clark County Health District • Public Information Office • 625 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89106 • 385-1291

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clark County Health District presents Public Health Hero Awards

(Las Vegas, Nev., - March 25, 2004) – Each year as part of its Public Health Week celebration the Clark County Health District honors individuals and organizations whose contributions help to promote public health in the community.

This year's recipients were recognized at the Clark County District Board of Health meeting and include:

Moapa Valley Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The Moapa Valley Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has worked with the smaller communities throughout Southern Nevada to develop a well-organized CERT program. This proactive approach prepares these communities to support each other during times of medical emergency and disaster. They meet and hold exercises regularly to practice basic and medical/disaster response, including skills such as CPR, first aid and quarantine and triage. Russ Cameron, Emergency Medical Supervisor for the Clark County Fire Department accepted the award on behalf of the Moapa Valley CERT.

Dr. Philip Hess, M.D.

Doctor's Medical Services/Valley Hospital Emergency Department

Dr. Hess is an excellent example of an astute physician who considers public health during his daily work. His diligence helped to identify the norovirus outbreak currently being investigated by the health district. He supported the district's efforts to collect clinical specimens, a sometimes difficult task when working with the tourist population. Support such as this helps public health officials to identify problems more quickly and respond appropriately to prevent and control illness in both residents and tourists.

Alan Chen

Chinese American Chamber and Chintatown Plaza

Mr. Chen has served as a point of contact and a valuable resource for the health district environmental health division. He has provided input and assisted in getting regulations translated into a variety of Asian dialects. He was a point of contact during the SARS incidents, helping the health district respond to undocumented rumors and setting up a town hall meeting for the community and health district representatives. Alan has been a tremendous resource, helping to open doors and enhance relations with the Chinese American Community.

(more)

Project Upfront

Project Upfront shares vital HIV/AIDS information with the community through trained speakers who are HIV positive. Members of this innovative group share their life experiences in order to educate and affect positive behavior changes in youth and young adults. The positive feedback received from organizations, schools, substance abuse facilities, shelters, medical facilities, detention facilities and other venues who have requested speakers from Project Upfront reinforces the effectiveness of the group. In turn, the speakers feel enriched by the experience of sharing information that may help others avoid exposure to HIV and counter the myths that often stigmatize a person living with HIV/AIDS. Jen Roberts accepted the Public Health Hero Award on behalf of Project Upfront.

“Each year we receive many outstanding nominations from our staff, and this year was no exception,” said Dr. Kwalick, chief health officer for the health district.

“The individuals and organizations we recognized today are true public health heroes and their leadership and commitment to improving the health of our community is commendable,” said Kwalick.

Public Health Week is officially celebrated the week of April 5-9. Health Expo 2004, a joint effort of the Clark County Health District and the Nevada State Health Division, will kick-off the week long celebration on April 3, 2004 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The health fair will take place at the Cox Pavilion on the corner of Tropicana and Swenson. The event will offer free health services including immunizations, HIV testing, vision screening, mammograms, mental health information and much more. For more information about Health Expo call 759-0704.

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