
TALWD NEWS

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TALWD NEWS

January 2019



2018 TALWD Board Members

President - Darlene Irwin

Secretary - Nikki Morrow

Treasurer - Benny Jasso

Vice President (Org. & Develop.) - Eileen Mendoza

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Past Presidents' Council - Tecora Smith

Newsletter Reporter - Jolene Norbert-Harrell

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Business & Finance - Margaret Payton

Legislative - Carolyn Operacz

Marketing - Janette Sepeda

Membership - Amanda Brogdon

Nutrition Education - Kathleen Oliver

Breastfeeding - Karen Gibson

Client Services - Jammie Wright

Local Agency Administration - Krystal Seger

Technology Task Force - Bertha Amaya

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES

Central: Annette Phinney

Alt: Bertha Amaya

Panhandle: Margaret Payton

Alt: Eileen Mendoza

Western: Margaret Payton

Alt: Bertha Amaya

Northern: Michelle Cummings

Alt: Jannette Sepeda

Gulf Coast: Zahra Koopaei

Alt: Jolene Norbert-Harrell

Southwestern: Mandi Wilcox

Alt: Kristen Parr

Easter Kristi Kilgore

Alt: Scherry Barnes

Southern: Meliza Garcia

Alt: Dalia Aguilar

"Championship Habits"



On October 3, 2018, the City of Dallas WIC Program celebrated the essence of our mission and service. Our training day was held at the Studio Movie Grill and was packed with meaningful excitement! We kicked off our celebration with the “Values of Service” training delivered by Sonya Batts, a City Training Specialist. Sonya illustrated that valuing service is not just about what we do but equally about WHY we serve. The WHY fuels the purpose and ultimately determines the quality of service. It’s the root of our service tree.

After a delicious luncheon, we were treated to a special presentation by Dr. Adolph Brown with amazing and refreshing surprises around every corner. He gripped our hearts with his testimony about his humble beginnings and the impact that the WIC Program had made in his life story. The image planted or refreshed in our hearts was that each child we serve could be the next Adolph Brown, President of the United States, or a wonderful parent. We get to be a part of the journey for these women, infants, and children and is our WHY.

Submitted By:
Alli Borrego,
LA 07 Senior Training Supervisor

Temple Christmas Parade



The Bell County Public Health District WIC Program participated in the Temple Christmas Parade this year for the first time. The parade occurs the first Monday of December and actually sets up right outside our building near downtown Temple. The parade lasts about an hour and travels down one of our main streets where there are hundreds of spectators. The parade is also televised on one of our local news stations and each parade entry is announced and their services summarized for the spectators and news station. The staff were very excited and motivated to participate. We had several family members walking with us and their kids. The staff wanted to dress up as the foods that are offered by the WIC Program to highlight the benefits of WIC and healthy eating. Staff got very creative and were super enthusiastic during the parade walk. We can't wait to do it again next year!

Submitted By:
Nikki Morrow, BS, IBCLC, RLC
LA 31 WIC Director

Rose City Retreat: 2018 Annual Meeting

In Early November, WIC Directors from all parts of the state arrived in Tyler, Texas for the 2018 TALWD Annual Meeting. On the evening of November 4th, WIC Directors came together for the Meet and Greet and Networking Social at the Holiday Inn-Tyler. We were treated to delicious hors d'oeuvres and spirits as we mingled, caught up and meet new Directors. This was also an opportunity to sign up for the TALWD Committees.

On the morning of November 5th, a chartered bus departed for Pine Cove-The Bluffs on Lake Palestine. We were welcomed by Tecora Smith, WIC Director and George Roberts, CEO of NET Health. Next, WIC Directors participated in a forward-thinking leadership training led by Mr. Brian Brandt CEO of Core Insights. Mr. Brandt provided the top 20 concepts/ways Creating the Team Culture You Always Wanted. The ones that stuck out to me the most are: #14-define your culture, #11-Host an Annual Retreat, and #4-Understand Uniqueness. These three concepts focus on people and I feel that this is often the root of conflict in the workplace. Mr. Brandt asked us which concept challenged the most and I mine was #17-Involve others early. This was difficult for me because sometimes getting input too early has backfired. Many decisions that I have to make involve many factors that are often confidential. Although, I am making an effort to get more input from staff on those decisions that can be shared, delegated and are not confidential. Then we broke up into several groups and focused on what things each of us had in common and how we also have different perspectives. This was a fun activity and definitely something that we could incorporate in a staff training.

Before lunch we were led in a wellness break to release any tension and get us in retreat mode! That afternoon, we were led by Pine Cove Staff for several team building activities and group therapy. Activities included archery, barnyard swing, canoeing, zip line and two activities that involved us being blindfolded. The goals of these activities were to reinforce the importance of effective communication. Many of us found ourselves laughing and reflecting on how we "thought" we were communicating to our partner just fine, but realizing that sometimes our perception is not reality.

Later that evening, after we had freshened up, WIC Directors were treated to dinner, arts and music at The Grove. After a splendid dinner, we hung out while the dining room was transformed to a painting class. In line with the theme and what Tyler is known for, we were provided instructions to paint a Rose, while sipping wine. After the class, a DJ spun some tunes so we can loosen up a bit more. We danced to "Ride that Train" and the "Bunny Hop" just to name a few.

Rose City Retreat cont'd

On Tuesday morning, we began the day with the Vendor Exhibits and Breakfast. Also, the TALWD Business Board Meeting was conducted and Annual Awards Luncheon. Anita Ramos with the State WIC Program was the recipient of the Art Fuston Customer Service Award. WIC Directors all agreed that Anita has been tremendous throughout the TXIN transition.

That afternoon the Business meeting continued until the end of the day. Later that evening there were two options for the Social: Kiepersol Winery or Outdoor Shopping at the Mall. I attended the Kiepersol Winery, where Directors were treated to a Winery Tour and tasting and Dinner. This event proved to be very enjoyable and a neat learning experience for all.

Later that night, some of us took part in Karaoke Night back at the hotel. Lots of laughs, indeed.

On Wednesday, the State WIC Staff provided updates. This proved to be a meaningful meeting. Bertha Amaya, LA 33 WIC Director spoke on behalf of WIC Directors in the most eloquent way to detail the hardships that LAs are experiencing with the TXIN system. She also requested a meeting between WIC Directors and Edgar Curtis, State WIC Director, to further discuss our concerns. Several WIC Directors also spoke about the real effects the TXIN system is having on customer service, the staff and WIC Clients. Edgar graciously agreed to continue guaranteed participation through January 2019. We are hopeful that a resolution to the major system issues are resolved. That afternoon the Business meeting continued until the end of the day. That evening there were 2 options for the Social- Kiepersol Winery or the Outdoor Shopping at the Mall. I attended the Kiepersol Winery, where Directors were treated to a Winery Tour and tasting and Dinner. This event proved to be very enjoyable and a neat learning experience for all.

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Rose City Retreat cont'd

The day ended with the TALWD Board Transitional Meeting which included the passing of the baton to Bertha Amaya, representative for the Western Region, who will be responsible for the planning of next year's Annual Meeting.

Very special thanks to the Eastern Region for a wonderful, relaxing Annual Meeting. Here are a few comments from various WIC Directors about the conference that summarizes it perfectly.

"The activities created the opportunity for me to interact with more directors. I always love coming to TALWD, and this year was very special. Thanks for creating a great conference. I am looking forward to next year's!"

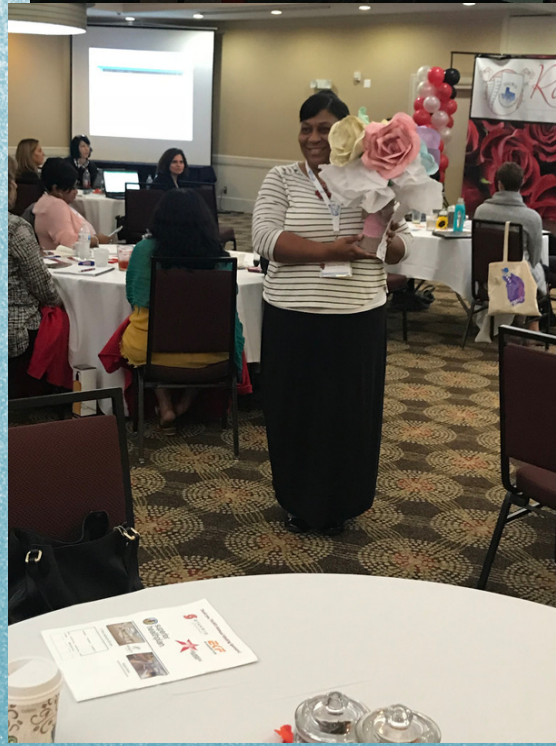
"Tecora, you and your team took good care of us! It was truly a Retreat? Thank you all!"

"It was an amazing meeting. I think you just may have set the new high standard to meet."

"A big thank you to you and your staff for a great conference and for all the fun pictures. It was truly delightful sharing time with everyone."



Submitted By:
Jolene Norbert-Harrell RD, LD, LA 48
WIC Director





Fellow WIC Directors Retire

Lee Ann McDaniel, LA, 46

Lee Ann was born on the Texas Gulf Coast, the 6th and final child of Grady and Mary Kate Rasco. Lee Ann was a very shy yet also inquisitive and talented. She learned to read by age four and quickly proved to be a star student. Lee Ann always made her education a priority and graduated as Valedictorian of the GHS Class of 1982. Then went on to graduate with honors from the now, University of North Texas and from Sam Houston State University (post graduate studies).

Despite a diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in 2004, Lee Ann didn't let that hinder her and was able to continue working in the WIC Program even though she was eligible to retire.



Lee Ann devoted 30 combined years of her life to the WIC families of Brazoria, Longview, Stafford and Pearland. She became the WIC Director for Brazoria County in October 2000. Lee Ann served on the TALWD Board for several years and served more recently as the Nutrition Education Committee Chair.

Lee Ann's future plans include a relaxed lifestyle with more opportunities to spend greater amounts of time with her beloved family. She and Dustin, her son, have made plans to take the short excursion to San Antonio and Central Texas on his days off. She also plans to enjoy more of her hobby, baking. A few Gulf Coast WIC Directors celebrated Lee Ann's retirement in September in Houston. She was also celebrated by her coworkers at a separate event amongst friends and family. Wishing you well in your new adventures, Lee Ann. Bon voyage!

Submitted By:
Jolene Norbert-Harrell RD, LD, LA 48
WIC Director

Fellow WIC Directors Retire cont'd

Tina Horkey, LA 42

For the many long years Tina has worked for the Williamson County WIC, employees know her to be caring, friendly and a team player. Through major transitions from EBT to TXIN, Tina has always been there to help around the various clinics ensuring that both clients and staff have what they need through the transition process.

A mother and grandmother (Fondly called "Granny"), Tina brings so much love and compassion to the table. Because of her heart for WIC, she moved her retirement date forward to ensure that everyone gets settled in. A quote reads like this "People spend too much time looking for more, instead of appreciating what they already have." Tina, on behalf of your WIC ladies, thank you for your leadership and service. Thank you for making WIC better and leaving WIC better than it used to be. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!



Written By:
Olaide Owokoniran, BS
WIC Nutritionist, LA 42

Mobile Health Villages in Harris County

Harris County is the largest county in Texas and includes the City of Houston and unincorporated areas of Harris County. It sprawls across 1700 miles and is larger than the state of Rhode Island. When Hurricane Harvey hit Houston in August 2017, its effects were tremendous and in some areas, the effects are still evident to this day.

The original plan was to host a pre-launch event where the press and community would be invited to see and learn about the new fleet of Mobile Units. However, plans changed and the units were deployed as a direct response to Harvey. From a span of September through early November 2017, the Mobile fleet in a sense reintroduced Harris County Public Health to the community. The Mobile Units included a variety of services including, but not limited to Flu Vaccines, Children's Dental Services, Wellness Screenings, Pet vaccinations and microchipping, tour of the mosquito unit and insect repellent, kids play zone, virtual reality, free fruits and vegetables from the Mobile Market, WIC Services and Children's vaccines!

The fleet visited various areas of unincorporated Harris County over the next 2 ½ months notifying the community via social media, press release and tv media. It was a great experience and staff instant gratification from being able to help those in need post Harvey.

This year, the Harris County Public Health department hosted the Mobile Health Village concept in each of the four precincts in Harris County and will continue this in 2019. Not only does it provide the department a chance to bring the services out to the community, but it also allows staff to learn more about what other departments are doing and gain some Public Health pride along the way.

Submitted By:

Jolene Norbert-Harrell RD, LD, LA 48
WIC Director

Mobile Health Villages cont'd



Submitted By:
Jolene Norbert-Harrell RD, LD, LA 48
WIC Director



Wishing Everyone A...

.HAPPY.

New Year