



Georgia Department of Education

Georgia School Nurse NEWS

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EDUCATING GEORGIA'S FUTURE

JANUARY 2017



JANUARY NATIONAL HEALTH OBSERVANCES

- ⇒ [Cervical Health Awareness Month](#)
- ⇒ [National Birth Defects Prevention Month](#)
- ⇒ [National Glaucoma Awareness Month](#)
- ⇒ [National Radon Action Month](#)
- ⇒ [National Stalking Awareness Month](#)
- ⇒ [National Winter Sports TBI Awareness Month](#)
- ⇒ [Thyroid Awareness Month](#)
- ⇒ [Folic Acid Awareness Week \(8 - 14\)](#)
- ⇒ [National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week \(23 - 29\)](#)
- *** [Cervical Health Awareness Month Toolkit](#)



The articles and hyperlinks to external websites appearing in the School Nurse News are intended to be informational and do not represent an endorsement by the Georgia Department of Education. (GaDOE).

DEFINITION OF SCHOOL NURSING

School nursing, a specialized practice of public health nursing, protects and promotes student health, facilitates normal development, and advances academic success. School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders that bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potentials. **Approved by the NASN**



UPCOMING SCHOOL NURSE WORKSHOPS

- ⇒ **Youth Mental Health First Aid**
January 9, 2017 from 8am-4pm at the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Tullie Office Park Learning Center (less than 5 remaining spots). More dates will be added in the near future.
- ⇒ **Regional School Nurse Updates...**
February 3, 2017 from 12:00pm-3:30pm at the Newton College and Career Academy Lecture Hall.
- February 8, 2017** from 9:00am-12:00pm at Pioneer RESA in Cleveland, Georgia
- March 31, 2017** Social Circle (location and time TBA)
- May 24, 2017** Winterville (location and time TBA)

AROUND THE STATE



Mamie Coker, Lead Nurse for Hall County Schools recently trained and ran the Silver Comet Marathon that was held in October. She chose to run this marathon to advocate for and bring awareness to School Nurses and students across our state that suffer from chronic illnesses.

Mamie created a Facebook page entitled School Nurse Runs for: _____. With each post, she shared what her motivation was for running 26.2 miles. I wanted to share some of the reasons she listed as motivation for completing this marathon.

Mamie Coker, School Nurse Runs for: students who deal with health challenges every day but do not allow it to interfere with their success at school, all those who have been touched by or suffer from cancer and to hope for a cure, the 23 students in Hall County Schools currently diagnosed with cancer and the school nurses that take care of them each day, students who battle asthma, first responders who respond to schools when there are emergencies, children who are diagnosed with diabetes, awareness for “Sudden Cardiac Arrest Month” and “Hands Only” CPR, mental strength and perseverance.

Thank you Mamie for your dedication to your students and to all School Nurses! You are an inspiration to all who know you!

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Funding Opportunity** At 1:00-2:00 p.m. CST on January 5, 2017, there will be a pre-application teleconference call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funding opportunity RFA-CE-17-002, [Development and Evaluation of Sports Concussion Prevention Strategies](#). To access the call, dial (855) 644-0229 and enter Conference ID 8636049#. Applications are due February 16, 2017.
- ⇒ **Research Grants for Preventing Violence** Funding opportunity RFA-CE-17-003, [Research Grants for Preventing Violence and Violence-Related Injury](#) (R01) was announced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Letters of Intent are due January 23 and applications are due March 10, 2017. The pre-application teleconference, which is described on page 4 of the funding announcement, will be at 1:00-2:00 p.m. CST on January 12, 2017.
- ⇒ **Safe Places to Play Grants** The U.S. Soccer Foundation offers [Safe Place to Play](#) grants through a rolling process to support field-building initiatives (e.g., synthetic turf, lighting). Letters of Intent (LOI) are due by January 27 and applications by February 3, 2017.

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS

School Nurse Tobacco-Free Schools Taskforce Conference Call:

February 27th 3:00pm-4:00pm

Please contact Sara Kroening

(sara.kroening@dph.ga.gov) for more information!

TALK WITH ME BABY

Talk With Me Baby (TWMB) is an initiative (and curriculum) aimed at increasing the quality and quantity of words spoken to children (target age birth through age 3 years) in order to impact their educational and health outcomes. This is called **language nutrition**. This is a collaborative effort between CHOA, DPH, DOE, Get Georgia Reading, Marcus Autism Center, United Way, Emory and Atlanta Speech School.

Studies have demonstrated that a 30 million word gap exists between children of lower SES homes vs. higher SES homes by age 3 and that the most influential factor is in fact the number of words spoken to the baby and not the parents' educational background, ability to read, income, or native language.

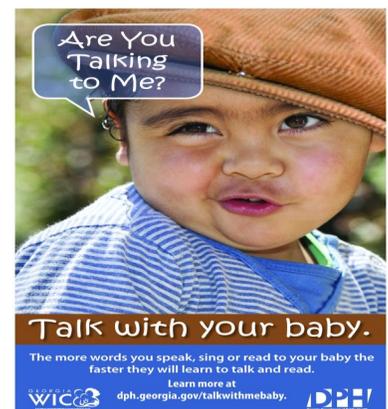
Many studies indicate the direct link between education and health outcomes and specifically looking at the shift occurring in third grade when children are expected to transition from learning to read, to reading to learn.

I have been certified as a Talk With Me Baby trainer (Krista Lowe is in the process of becoming certified as well). I do know that Dr. Wall and Dr. McGiboney, of the Georgia Department Of Education, have expressed interest in training school nurses to become coaches as well. The role of the TWMB coach is to educate and empower parents and families to increase the quality and quantity of words (language nutrition) spoken to all of their children and all children that they encounter.

Although the typical school nurse does not have much interaction with children in the birth through age 3 range, this is still a meaningful program for school nurses for several reasons. Most school kids have siblings (often in the birth to age 3 range) plus, many kids make it all the way to school age and miss out on the opportunity to be exposed to meaningful language nutrition, and this is certainly evident in Georgia's 3rd grade reading proficiency statistics.

Please contact **Sara Kroening** (sara.kroening@dph.ga.gov) if you are interested in hosting a TWMB training in your area.

Also, please see the TWMB website for more information and a ton more than a provided here (watch videos on this site too!). <http://www.talkwithmebaby.org/>



YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

The **Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)** obtains information from a random sample of public high school students about the prevalence and age of initiation of various health risk behaviors such as tobacco use, physical activity, eating habits, alcohol and drug use, and behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence. This survey is performed every other year and will be done this Spring 2017. Letters of support have been written from the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health, the Georgia PTA, and the Georgia Association of School Nurses. This survey effort is distinct from other health surveys students are taking as the results from the YRBS are comparable to other states as well as nationally.

Below are a few key points involving the YRBS:

- The statewide burden of student visits to school nurses is poorly understood. The Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Department of Public Health are relying on YRBS data to better understand this burden and to better target school policies and programs.
- The Governor's SHAPE initiative relies on YRBS data to assess adolescent physical activity.
- Almost 20 Healthy People 2020 objectives rely on the YRBS data. These measures allow us to compare the health of Georgia's adolescents to other states and nationally.
- Student absenteeism due to chronic illnesses, such as asthma and diabetes, is not well understood. The Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Department of Public Health are relying on YRBS data to fill this knowledge gap.
- The programs that assist, or assisted, schools striving to be tobacco-free and ongoing efforts to reduce tobacco use rely on this data.
- Programs aiming to reduce injurious behavior like texting and driving, helmet use, seatbelt use, drinking and driving among Georgia's adolescents rely on this data to better target their efforts.
- Suicide and bullying prevention programs rely on this data to help prevent such terrible outcomes.
- Statewide stroke prevention efforts currently have no data on whether adolescents understand the signs and symptoms of strokes or what to do if they believe someone is having a stroke. The YRBS is the tool they are relying on to know this and to intervene appropriately.
- The social determinants of health are poorly understood for Georgia's adolescents, such as hunger, discretionary income, housing status, sleep deprivation. The YRBS is the tool being relied on to provide this data.
- Georgia programs pertaining to cancer from behaviors beginning in adolescence are waiting on initial data so that they know who and where to target their efforts.

For more information about the YRBS please contact:

Michael Bryan, MPH at michael.bryan@dph.ga.gov or (404) 657-2578

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

