



Health

Terrorism War Pays for New Health Workers

(AP) - Oregon will use its share of new federal bioterrorism money to hire at least 70 public health workers.

The Oregon Department of Human Services said it will use \$6.1 million to improve statewide anti-terror efforts and divide an additional \$6.5 million among county health departments.

Hospitals and health systems will get \$1.5 million to study how ready they are to respond to terror.

The federal funding was created after the Sept. 11 attacks and subsequent anthrax attacks, which raised concern that the nation could not combat the use of disease as a weapon.

State health officer Grant Higginson said his division will hire about 24 new staff members, including several doctors. The state public health lab will be able to hire about six people, buy testing equipment and create an efficient system to get samples from county health departments for testing, he said.

The state also plans to improve communication among

health departments, private doctors and law enforcement groups, link the state's clinical medical labs and make sure officials can quickly inform all state residents, including non-English speakers, about bioterror threats, Higginson said.

Hospitals may face the biggest challenges.

Oregon Health and Sciences University needs to improve its readiness, said Dr. Jerris Hedges, chairman of emergency medicine. OHSU needs better communications with other health officials, better traffic and security plans, more staff training and more units to decontaminate patients.

In general, Oregon hospitals need more decontamination equipment, drugs and antidotes, staff training, and better communications and security plans, said Dr. John Jui of the Oregon Disaster Medical Team.

Hospitals in every region in the state must also create a plan to handle 500 patients at once, Higginson said. That will be tough, because bed space is already at a premium.

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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Legacy to Launch Reading Program

An innovative program that focuses on improving literacy in children is being launched by a local health clinic for children and adolescents.

Legacy Clinic Emanuel will receive \$24,500 over the next four years to launch the Reach Out and Read program, developed by Boston Medical Center specifically for physician and health provider offices.

The program uses volunteer role models to teach parents effective techniques to read to their children at specific developmen-

tal ages.

"Research shows that language and literacy development in early years, is significantly correlated to both school success and reducing the risk of high-risk behaviors in later years," said Sonja Steves, vice president of marketing and community relations for Legacy Health System. "Parents raising children in poverty face a variety of severe stresses and may have limited literacy or knowledge regarding effective ways to develop pre-literacy skills."

Support Group for Alzheimer Sufferers

An Alzheimer's support group, designed to help families cope with caring for a loved one with memory loss, will meet from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 26, in the Marie Smith Center, 4616 N. Albina St.

Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, the newly formed group will meet from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. every fourth Wednesday in the center. There is no charge, and drop-ins are welcome.

Participants in the support group receive emotional support and practical assistance in coping with the problems they

face. The meetings also provide an opportunity for participants with specific concerns to share them with others facing those same concerns. All meetings are confidential.

The group will include those who are personally involved in caregiving at home or those whose loved ones live elsewhere.

For more information, call Nancy McCarthy at 503-281-2113. For information about respite care provided during the support group meetings, call the Marie Smith Center at 503-335-9980.

Immunizations Now Offered at NE Clinic

The Multnomah County Health Department will expand immunization services by offering immunizations at 727 N.E. 24th Ave., between Sandy and Northeast Irving.

Starting July 2, immunizations, TB testing and lead-screening will be offered at the clinic from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

People will be asked for a \$5 donation per person, but no one will be refused service for inability to pay. There are additional charges for some adult vaccines.

"We've added this additional clinic location to help ensure that these preventive services are accessible throughout the county," said Lillian Shirley, health department director.

Seeking African American Families with ADHD Children for a Research Study

ADHD, Ethnicity, and Family Environment

Who is the Principal Investigator?

Judy Kendall, RN, Ph.D.

School of Nursing, Oregon Health Sciences University
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road
Portland, OR 97201
503-494-3890

What is the study about?

This study is about gaining an understanding of what it is like for a family to live with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Virtually no research exists on how African American and Hispanic families experience and manage ADHD, what health needs they may have, and what opportunities they have for receiving these services. The study will involve two meetings, about 2 hours each, at your home or place convenient for you.

Which families are eligible?

- Families with at least one child (age 6-19) with a diagnosis of ADHD.
- Families with at least two people (the ADHD child and one parent). Hopefully both parents and siblings will participate as well.
- Families that are willing to participate in one interview and complete a series of questionnaires.
- Families that speak English or are willing to work through an interpreter.
- Parents that are able to read and write at the 5th grade level or are willing to have the questions read to them.

All information will be held strictly confidential.

There will be no cost to you for participating in the research.

In appreciation of your time and contribution,
Each family will receive \$50 after each meeting for a possible total of \$100.

If interested please call 503-494-4122.

Funded by National Institute of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research

OHSU IRB # 5275

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