

The Pump Handle

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"I had an interview with the Board of Guardians of St. James's parish, on the evening of Thursday, 7th September, and represented the above circumstances to them. In consequence of what I said, the handle of the pump was removed on the following day."

John Snow, 1855

October 2012 Topics

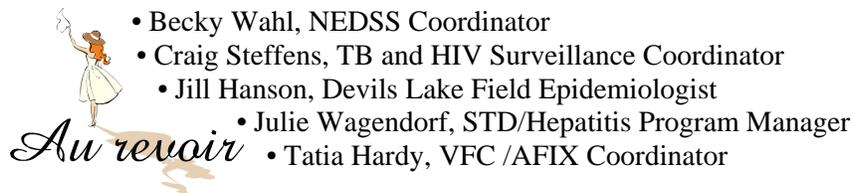
- Out with the Old, In with the New
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What a Difference a Year Makes!

The year 2012 has seen a lot of changes within the Division Disease Control. We have seen personnel leave, new personnel hired, new positions added, and other positions removed. Additionally, programs have been rearranged and field investigation regions have been redefined, so please tune in below to see what has been happening in Disease Control!

Out with the Old, In with the New

This year we said goodbye and best wishes to the following people who have left our division for new opportunities:



- Becky Wahl, NEDSS Coordinator
- Craig Steffens, TB and HIV Surveillance Coordinator
- Jill Hanson, Devils Lake Field Epidemiologist
- Julie Wagendorf, STD/Hepatitis Program Manager
- Tatia Hardy, VFC /AFIX Coordinator

However, with every goodbye we had a new hello, so please help us in welcoming the following new employees to the Division of Disease Control!



Name: Shanna Mills

Title: NEDSS Coordinator/Epidemiologist II

Education Background: Graduated from Bismarck High School and I have my Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the University of Mary, and I am also a Certified Professional Coder with the AAPC.

Past Experience: After graduating college, I worked with an Environmental Lab for a short time before taking a job at Coventry Health Care. I was at Coventry for nearly five years. At Coventry I was a Group Administration Trainer/Business Consultant and also a Senior Employer Services Representative where most of my time was spent doing Business Analyst work with marketing, vendors, actuary, underwriting, provider relations and benefits. I then went to the state at Workforce Safety and Insurance (WSI). I was with WSI for almost four years. I was an Advanced Claims Adjuster II. In this position I worked to adjudicate and medically case manage claims according to Century Code. Most of my time was spent discussing claims with employers, injured employees, legal counsel, vocational consultants and providers. I really wanted to get back into something more in line with my degree and do more Business Analyst type work, so I applied for the position as NEDSS Coordinator with the Department of Health's Division of Disease Control.

Family/Hobbies: I am an only child, so I don't have any brothers or sisters. I married Trent Mills and we have two boys: Joseph (Joey) who is 11 and Jackson (Cycy) who is 9. We enjoy the river and fishing. We also are really busy coaching and watching our boys in basketball, baseball and football. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family and friends just hanging out. I love movies and books, and I have to admit that I am a huge Twilight Saga Dork and Harry Potter Nerd and that is putting it mildly.



Name: Diana Boothe

Title: CDC Public Health Associate

Education Background: B.S. in Biology from Georgia Institute of Technology

Past Experience: I began my work in HIV as an intern at AIDAtlanta, an organization that empowers impoverished HIV-positive individuals through a broad range of services, including counseling and developing interview skills. After college, I continued work with the HIV/AIDS epidemic while teaching science and computer technology in a community in Ghana, West Africa, as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Family/Hobbies: My husband and I just moved to North Dakota in July 2012. Back in Atlanta, we spent most of our free time outdoors, hiking. I am currently working on finding new forms of entertainment that are more suited to the cold and flat plains of North Dakota. Perhaps I will take up snowmobiling or ice skating.



Name: Janna Pastir (Hoisington)

Title: VFC/AFIX Coordinator – Western North Dakota

Education Background: I have a BA in Sociology, a Master of Public Health, and a Certificate in Health Education

Past Experience: I've worked training staff of hospitals on EPIC in New Hampshire, as a Health Unit Coordinator in North Dakota and spent much of my time working with children through preschool, after-school programs, and being a nanny. I love teaching children. My Graduate research was mostly in HIV prevention in minority populations and community programming to prevent and intervene in spread of disease including obesity.

Family/Hobbies: I walk my dog a lot and take him to the park. I love planning...anything. So right now I'm planning my big wedding in New Hampshire, where I'm from. I love cooking, baking, wine tasting, eating maple syrup, watching movies, yoga, zumba (even if I'm bad at it), hiking, camping and reading. I love making homemade presents for people and finding cool new stores to shop at here in Bismarck.



Name: Lindsey Watson

Title: Fargo Field Epidemiologist

Education Background: I received my bachelor's degree in Nutrition/Dietetics from Dominican University and my Master of Public Health degree from Northern Illinois University.

Past Experience: I worked with a nutrition focused program called KidShape during my undergrad, and interned at Fargo Cass Public Health (in the Health Promotion Department) as part of my MPH requirement.

Family/Hobbies: Despite our physical distance, I'm still very close with my family. My parents and extended family live in Chicago (where I'm originally from) and my brother lives in L.A. I have two awesome/adorable dogs (a Boxer and a Beagle/Boston Terrier mix). I enjoy the great outdoors (hiking, kayaking, etc.) and I love to travel!



Name: Gordona Cokrljic

Title: Ryan White Coordinator

Education Background: Bachelor's Degree in Biology from University of Mary.

Past Experience: I worked as a CNA at Medcenter One (now Sanford Health) hospital prior to working here.

Family/Hobbies: I was born in Bosnia, and moved to the United States in 2000 at the age of 15. I have a younger brother Ilija. I love to travel, preferably overseas. My favorite place to visit is Split, Croatia. Check it out if you like beautiful clean beaches and a cheap stay. I also love to garden and cook. I'm an O.K. tennis player, but I do enjoy it very much. In the wintertime I love to snowboard.



Name: Amy Schwartz

Title: Immunization Surveillance Coordinator

Education Background: B.S. in Microbiology from Iowa State University and an MPH in epidemiology from Tulane University.

Past Experience: I worked in a few plant pathology labs during undergrad and I also did surveillance for the Emerald Ash Borer one summer. During graduate school I worked on a research study dealing with Chronic Kidney Disease and risk factors. I was in the Peace Corps for seven months in Guyana, South America, and I worked a little bit with the statistics for Malaria, Typhoid, and Dengue Fever.

Family/Hobbies: Most of my family lives in Texas, but my parents used to live in North Dakota. I enjoy traveling, reading, and seeing live music. I also really like fishing, hiking and camping, I plan on trying ice fishing soon.



On the Move!

Not only have we had people leave the division and new people start, but the following people have moved to new positions or taken on new roles within our Division.

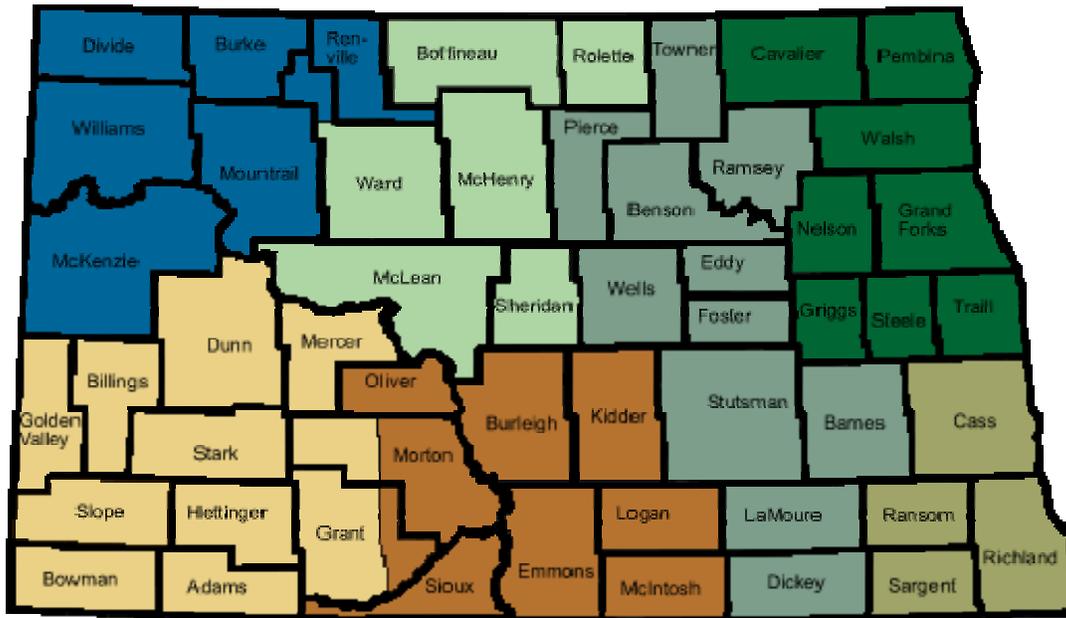
- Abbi Pierce, VFC/AFIX Project Manager (previously the Immunization Surveillance Coordinator)
- Stacy Lovelace, VFC/AFIX Coordinator – Eastern North Dakota (previously the Fargo Field Epidemiologist)
- Dee Pritschet, TB/HIV Surveillance Coordinator (previously HIV/Hepatitis C Program Assistant)
- Sarah Weninger, STD/HCV Program Coordinator (previously HCV and Foodborne Surveillance Epidemiologist)
- Alicia Lepp, Vector-borne and Foodborne Surveillance Coordinator (previously Surveillance Epidemiologist)
- Krissie Guerard, STD/HIV/Hepatitis/TB Program Manager (previously HIV/TB Program Manager)
- Gerry Haag, Field Staff Supervisor/Dickinson Field Epidemiologist (previously Dickinson Field Epidemiologist).



Who you gonna call?

Another big change that has occurred within the division is the field epidemiologist regions. At the beginning of this year, we had eight field epidemiologists that investigated infectious diseases in multiple counties. As of November 1, 2012, we now have seven field epidemiologists and most of the regions have seen some changes.

Please see the map below and the field epidemiologist responsible for your area. If you have questions or concerns about infectious diseases in your area, contact your area Field Epidemiologist at the number listed below or call the Disease Control N.D. toll-free number at 800.472.2180.



Area	Epidemiologist	Phone
Blue	Lacy Oyloe	774.6405
Green	Linda Larson	838.3340
Grey	Jennifer Schmidt	252.1325
Dark Green	Shawn McBride	787.8130
Light Green	Lindsey Watson	241.1386
Orange	Jane Wolforth	328.9760
Yellow	Gerry Haag	483.0171



Wait? Huh? Who's doing what now?

The last change within the division is the rearranging of the programs. At the beginning of this year, we had five programs: Epidemiology and Surveillance Program, Field Epidemiology and Case Investigations, Immunization Program, HIV/TB Program, and the STD/Hepatitis/Enterics Program. In June 2012, the STD and Hepatitis Program merged with the HIV/TB Program to form one program, and the enterics portion of the program was merged with the Epidemiology and Surveillance Program.

With all the changes, it can be difficult to remember who to call about what, so below you will find an overview of the division, the programs and the people working in those programs.

Disease Control Division Director: [Kirby Kruger](#)
State Epidemiologist/Assistant Director: [Tracy Miller](#), MPH

- o **Epidemiology and Surveillance Program:**
 - Program Manager – [Michelle Feist](#)

- Influenza and Syndromic Surveillance Coordinator – [Lindsey VanderBusch](#)
- Vector-borne and Foodborne Surveillance Coordinator – [Alicia Lepp](#)
- Disease Reporting and Electronic Data Management Coordinator – [Shanna Mills](#)
- Healthcare-Associated Infection Coordinator – [Faye Salzer](#)
- **Field Epidemiology and Case Investigation:**
 - Supervisor/Dickinson Field Epidemiologist – [Gerald Haag](#)
 - Bismarck Field Epidemiologist – [Jane Wolforth](#), MPH
 - Fargo Field Epidemiologist – [Lindsey Watson](#), MPH
 - Grand Forks Field Epidemiologist – [Shawn McBride](#)
 - Jamestown Field Epidemiologist – [Jennifer Schmidt](#), MS
 - Minot Field Epidemiologist – [Linda Larson](#)
 - Williston Field Epidemiologist – [Lacy Oyloe](#)
- **HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis Program:**
 - Program Manager – [Krissie Guerard](#), MS
 - STD/HCV Program Coordinator – [Sarah Weninger](#)
 - HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program Coordinator/TB Controller – [Dee Pritschet](#)
 - HIV Prevention Program Coordinator – [Shannon Jahner](#)
 - Ryan White Coordinator – [Gordana Cokrlc](#)
- **Immunization Program:**
 - Program Manager – [Molly Howell](#), MPH
 - Immunization Surveillance Coordinator – [Amy Schwartz](#), MPH
 - Sentinel Site Coordinator – [Mary Woinarowicz](#), MA
 - **Vaccines For Children Project Manager** – [Abbi Pierce](#), MPH
 - VFC Coordinator – [Janna Hoisington](#), MPH
 - VFC Coordinator – [Stacy Lovelace](#)

For further information, you can call the Disease Control ND Toll-Free line at 800.472.2180 or the direct line 701.328.2378. You can also visit our website at www.ndhealth.gov/disease.

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Tracy Miller and Kirby Kruger. For questions, suggestions or inquiries, or to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Sarah Weninger of the Division of Disease Control, at 701.328.2366 or by e-mail at sweninger@nd.gov.

The pump handle picture in the title was obtained from the website www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html.



Terry Dwelle, MD, MPHTM, State Health Officer
 Kirby Kruger, Director, Division of Disease Control; Chief Medical Services Section
 Tracy K. Miller, MPH, State Epidemiologist