VCPH names new deputy health officer

Ventura County Public Health is pleased to announce that Patricia D. Almaguer Auchard, MD, has been appointed Deputy Health Officer/Medical Director of Children’s Medical Services and Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health. Dr. Patty, as she is called, dreamed of becoming a physician ever since she was a little girl. She started off giving “shots” to her teddy bears and went on to graduate from the UCLA School of Medicine. Wanting to see all that she could before entering the medical community, she chose to complete her pediatric residency at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Dr. Patty has worked in various clinical settings over the last 14 years, including VCMC affiliated clinics. She started two breastfeeding medicine clinics, first at a VCMC affiliated clinic and later at one of the Community Memorial Hospital Centers for Family Health.

Dr. Patty spent the last six years supporting Tri-Counties Regional Center (TCRC) as one of their medical consultants at their Oxnard and Santa Barbara field offices. Through this work, Dr. Patty found her mission, to serve children with special health care needs and adults with developmental disabilities and to advocate for their health rights. Her special interests include early identification of developmental disabilities and mental health conditions. She will continue to support TCRC while she expands her role in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment for all children in Ventura County.

Dr. Patty enjoys being a mom and has often said that being her son Darwin’s mom has made her a far better person as well as a doctor. She has found her passion for playing sports through raising Darwin, and on her best day, can throw a mean spiral. Dr. Patty also has three fur babies (dogs), Arcee, 5 years old, Chip, 4 years old, and Bowie, 3 months old, who walk her around her neighborhood!

Dr. Patty is excited to be a part of the Ventura County Health Care Agency once again.

**SAVE THE DATES! CHDP Noontime Training Calendar**

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<th>November</th>
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<td>No training</td>
<td>No training</td>
<td>Foster Care Update</td>
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County aims to be healthiest county in the nation by 2030

Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) aspires to have Ventura County become the healthiest county in the nation by 2030. In a 2016 report covering data from 2010 to 2016, Ventura County ranked eighth out of 57 counties in California for health outcomes and sixteenth for health factors such as children living in poverty and access to exercise opportunities. In keeping with the vision of becoming the healthiest county in the nation, VCPH recently launched a campaign (#HealthyVC2030) to promote overall health and well-being with the following message:

**LEAD to inspire others. WALK to stay active. TALK to ensure a healthy future.**

“We want to inspire leaders to implement policies that make the healthy choice the easy choice in their communities. We want to encourage residents to be physically active,” said Rigoberto Vargas, Public Health Director. “And finally, we hope to support opportunities for talking, reading, and singing to children 0-3 years during their most important years of development.”

The **Lead, Walk, Talk** campaign kicked off on October 3, 2016, with a *Walk the Farms* community challenge. Residents from all over Ventura County entered the 18-day, 7,000 step per day walking competition. These participants walked their regular, neighborhood routes, while entering their steps online. The online competition traced an imaginary loop (roughly 60 miles long) around seven of Ventura County's farms. *Walk the Farms* was a fun, educational way to encourage physical activity throughout the county.

The *Walk the Farms* community challenge is the first of several upcoming challenges to promote physical activity among Ventura County residents. VCPH is currently working with the Ventura County Office of Education to plan an interscholastic walking challenge beginning in January of 2017. Register at **Walk to Stay Active** (https://hminvc.walkertracker.com/) to receive details of upcoming challenges.

90 percent of brain development occurs between birth through five years of age. VCPH wants to ensure a healthy future for all children by encouraging community members to take every opportunity to communicate with young children to stimulate their minds and ultimately improve their health.

In October, VCPH hosted its first monthly reading event for participants in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program at the 2500 South C Street location in Oxnard. Staff from the office of County Supervisor Zaragoza read books in English and Spanish to children and their parents as they waited for their WIC appointments. Each of the families received free books and information on library resources. Learn about future reading events and watch live broadcasts and video on the **VCHCA Facebook page** (https://www.facebook.com/VCHCA/).
Body Mass Index Percentile for children and teens ages 2 through 20

- Using weight and length, calculate BMI value, record and plot on the growth chart.
- You may determine BMI percentile for an individual child by estimating the percentile from the plotted growth chart or reading the result from an online calculator or an electronic health record (EHR). Software programs or electronic records may return results to one or two decimals.
- If you are using an EHR, round the result to a whole number between 1 and 99. On the PM 160, record only the BMI percentile. Do not record decimals.
- If the number is less than 10, enter a leading zero. For example, if the BMI percentile is 5, enter 0.5.
- If the result in the EHR is < 1, enter 0.1.
- If the result in the EHR is > 1, enter 99.
- If the BMI percentile is in the underweight, overweight or obese range, the provider enters the follow-up code in the Problem Suspected column and the abnormal weight diagnosis and associated referrals in the Comments box.

For example, a 4 year old boy is seen for his CHDP exam. When the weight and height are entered, the EHR returns a BMI value of 18.5 and a BMI percentile of 97.8. Round 97.8 up to 98 and enter 98 on the PM 160 as shown below:

The provider identifies this child as being in the “obese” weight category, checks whether the problem suspected is a new or known condition and enters the applicable follow-up code and the diagnosis (obese) in the Comments/Problems box. See sample to the right.

- Enter the appropriate diagnosis code for the identified weight status problem in designated spaces below the routine referral check boxes.
- If the BMI-for-age is in the normal range, leave these sections blank.