

### Karen's Corner



As a state agency comprised of more than 6,000 employees, it is important to remember that each bureau, office and individual is vital to our mission. As a team, we connect and communicate in order to improve our efficiency and achieve our goals. This DHHR principle of solidarity was recently demonstrated at an event hosted by one of our behavioral health facilities.

On September 5, staff from William R. Sharpe Jr. Hospital travelled from Weston to Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Hospital in Huntington, where nursing staff shared successful initiatives, policies and practices at a luncheon. This was an important learning opportunity for both hospitals as tours were given and ideas were exchanged. It is this commitment to improvement that enables collaboration and opportunity for progress.

As we strive for improvement agency-wide, remember this Stephen Covey quote: "People who are truly effective have the humility and reverence to recognize their own perceptual limitations and to appreciate the rich resources available through interaction with the hearts and minds of other human beings."

We can all learn from each other and I have great confidence in the DHHR team, which includes all of you in our vast network. We come to this field to make a better West Virginia, to fill the needs that are unmet, to care for those who need assistance or a helping hand, and to provide safety for our citizens. Together, we can achieve our goal of a healthier West Virginia.

### DHHR Purchasing Office Globally Recognized for Excellence



Front Row: Kimberlie Debolt, Jo Bess, Mary Farley, Susie Teel  
Back Row: Bryan Rosen, Roberta Wagner, David Darr, Donna McCormick, Robert Price

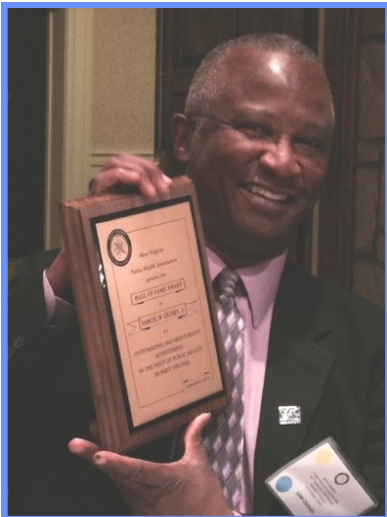
A team of employees in the Department's Purchasing Office has earned an impressive accolade: they are the first West Virginia state agency to reach 100% certification through the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC). The UPPCC is an international governing body that has certified more than 10,000 professionals around the world as Certified Public Purchasing Officers (CPPO) or Certified Professional Public Buyers (CPPB). Certification by UPPCC requires staff members

to meet established criteria consisting of public purchasing experience, education/training and successful completion of a rigorous examination. In addition to being West Virginia's leader in this arena, the DHHR Purchasing Office is only 1 of 171 agencies worldwide holding UPPCC Agency Certification status.

"I am extremely proud of this outstanding accomplishment by our Purchasing Office team and Director Bryan Rosen," said Cabinet Secretary Karen L. Bowling. "These employees exemplify our commitment to professionalism and excellence."

The designation of CPPO and CPPB demonstrate an individual's high standard and competency with government procurement and the ability to obtain maximum value for the taxpayer's dollar.

## Crosby Latest Inductee to Public Health Hall of Fame



Samuel "Sam" Crosby Jr.

Samuel "Sam" Crosby Jr. is the newest inductee of the West Virginia Public Health Association (WVPHA) Hall of Fame. Crosby received the honor Thursday, September 18, at Olgebay Resort in Wheeling during the WVPHA Annual Conference.

Crosby has worked in public health for 35 years and currently serves as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Senior Public Health Advisor for Immunization Services in the Bureau for Public Health's Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services. Prior to his appointment in 2000, he was a program manager for the West Virginia Immunization Program and a CDC public health advisor.

Crosby is a member of WVPHA, founding member of the West Virginia Immunization Network and the Immunization Advisory Committee, board member of the State Health Education Council (SHEC) and a 2011 recipient of the SHEC Lifetime Achievement Award. He is also on the WV Symphony Board of Directors and has performed in several musicals.

"DHHR would like to congratulate Sam for this prestigious award and thank him for his many years of service to the Department and to the State of West Virginia," said Cabinet Secretary Karen L. Bowling.

## Get Swabbed and Save a Life



Delete Blood Cancer representative Amanda Hill tests BMS pharmacist Vicki Cunningham

Each year more than 130,000 Americans are diagnosed with a serious blood disease. Only 30% have a matching donor in their families. The other 70% of those patients rely on hope to find a stranger match using the national registry. Sounds easy enough, right? Unfortunately, only 2% of the population is on the national registry, making it harder for many patients to find a donor, get treatment and continue on with life.

Bone marrow transplants (BMT) are most commonly used in the treatment of leukemia and lymphoma. It is most effective when the cancer is in remission. Bone marrow is the soft, sponge-like material found in the bones. Cancer treatments are there to help rid patients of cancer, but also damage or even destroy their needed healthy bone marrow. Healthy bone marrow is needed in chemotherapy and radiation so the patient's blood cells can carry oxygen, fight infection and prevent bleeding. BMT restores the bone mar-

row's ability to do these things.

When searching for a bone marrow match, doctors most often use transplanted stem cells that match the patient's own stem cells as closely as possible to avoid potential side effects. The bone marrow is removed from the donor and given to the patient through an IV infusion. Not everyone on the registry will get matched and be asked to donate. But if a doctor does contact you, it means they have picked you as the best match to possibly improve someone's life. The donor does not receive pay for their donation, but their costs are covered; such as traveling, lost wages and lodging expenses. The patients' costs vary depending on the type of transplant, but can range in the six figures. Foundations and organizations have been set up to help the patients and their families in this time of need with financial support.

On Friday August 15, the Bureau for Medical Services hosted a swab party in hopes someone might match Cary Johnson, the husband of Kelley Johnson, Health and Human Resource Program Manager. Cary is currently battling Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). Recently he has fallen out of remission and is undergoing treatment to reestablish remission and hopefully get a BMT. If you cannot be a donor due to restrictions or just feel like helping in a different form, financial donations are always more than appreciated. The swabbing process is painless and the test is free. A simple, quick swipe could be the answer to saving someone's life. Please visit [deletebloodcancer.org](http://deletebloodcancer.org) to learn more.