Thank you, SheAnne Allen, for 11 Years of TB service!

TB Controller accepts new position within Department of Health

It is with heavy hearts that the State TB Program says goodbye to their long-time leader and friend, SheAnne Allen. SheAnne is transitioning from State TB Controller/Program Manager to her new position as Vaccine Section Manager at the Department of Health’s Office of Immunization and Child Profile on January 17, 2017. SheAnne has helped the State TB Program build a reputation for excellent customer service, technical assistance, and collaboration. We wish SheAnne the best on her next professional endeavor and strive to continue her legacy of TB Program excellence!

Acting TB Controller/Manager Operations Coordinator, Sherry Carlson has been appointed acting TB Controller/Program Manager. Sherry has nearly 10 years experience working in the TB Program and has extensive knowledge of all aspects of the program. We appreciate her taking on this additional role during the transition. To contact Sherry directly, email sherry.carlson@doh.wa.gov, or by phone, 360-236-3528.

TB Career Highlights
SheAnne started her career with the State TB Program in 2005, as a TB Education Promotion Consultant. She worked in this role for 6 years and was responsible for genotyping, grant and budget activities, organizing the State TB Educational Conference, and leading various state and national workgroups.

In 2011, SheAnne was promoted to the TB Controller/Program Manager position. Under SheAnne’s leadership, the TB Program became recognized nationally as a leader for innovative strategies to eliminate or prevent TB in Washington State. SheAnne championed TB projects such as:

* Re-vamping the Cohort/Medical Review process to provide feedback on current caseloads rather than retrospective reviews.

* Providing “report cards” on county level data, for local health jurisdictions (LHJs), to monitor progress towards TB performance indicators.

* Promoting Secure File Transfer (SFT) to efficiently and securely exchange patient information with LHJs, labs, and other health partners.

* Encouraging Video DOT (directly observed therapy) use and resources to expand TB case management capacity.

* Offering high quality TB education such as the Annual State TB Educational Conference, summer TB intensives, county-level trainings, World TB Day activities, and more.

* Providing LHJs access to first line treatment for TB disease at no cost.

*Initiating TB Project ECHO®; a collaborative model of medical education and mentoring that empowers clinicians and public health professionals to provide specialized TB care via a telehealth network.

Fostering TB Partnerships
SheAnne is probably best known for her ability to build relationships and with LHJs and other TB partners, in Washington State and nationally. She

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TB Program’s annual customer satisfaction survey goes online!

For the first time, the Annual State TB Program Customer Satisfaction Survey was offered online. The survey was sent out in November, 2 weeks after the Annual State TB Educational Conference, and distributed to over 500 TB partners.

Results of the survey highlight that our partners feel the information they received from our program was clear and understandable. The TB Program was particularly pleased with the continued perception that State TB Program staff are friendly and polite.

Areas for our program to continue working on are providing information in a timely manner and providing information or services our partners’ need, which are currently a focus of a LEAN project within our program. Overall satisfaction remained the same over last year.

We thank all of our partners who participated in this year’s survey, as the feedback helps us improve our services to you. If you have questions or suggestions about the survey, please email justina.novak@doh.wa.gov, or call 360-236-3728.

TB education featured at Somali Health Board’s annual health fair

On November 19, staff from Washington State Department of Health’s (DOH) Office of Communicable Disease Epidemiology Refugee Health and Tuberculosis Program joined forces to share health information at the Somali Health Board’s 4th Annual Health Fair.

Participating in this fun community event gave staff the opportunity to share information and answer questions about lead contamination, emergency preparedness, immunizations, and tuberculosis (TB). In addition, the WashYourHandsingTon stickers were very popular with the children attending.

TB information shared included patient educational materials about TB infection, developed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. These materials feature recognizable images and convey key messages in English and 17 other languages.

Links to these translated patient materials and others resources can be found on DOH’s TB in Specific Populations webpage.
Get to know Cathy Lisle

What is your educational background?
I have completed hundreds of hours of workshops and college courses in microbiology, parasitology, molecular biology and related subjects, with 40 plus years experience in Environmental and Clinical Microbiology.

What is your current position?
Lab Tech 4 at the State Public Health Lab (PHL).

How long have you worked in TB?
Going on 29 years at the Public Health Lab and 26 years in TB.

What do you like best about your job?
I like all aspects of the work done in the TB Lab. I find it interesting to following active cases, paying attention to smear / culture conversions. I also enjoy susceptibility testing. It goes without saying, but our PHL TB Team makes coming to work every day enjoyable.

What are your hobbies/interests?
Bicycling, hiking, sailing, gym classes, gardening, stained glass, and playing with my energetic labradoodle, Molly.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
Retired and in good health to pursue hobbies and interests. Relaxing on a warm beach would be great too.

What is your favorite TB topic?
I find Epidemiology and case studies very interesting.

SAVE THE DATE...World TB Day is on March 24

Each year, World TB Day (WTBD) is observed on March 24, to raise awareness of Tuberculosis and its impact on health, both locally and globally.

The WTBD committee is made up of representatives from the State TB Program, IDRI (Infectious Disease Research Institute), Center for Infectious Disease Research, the State Refugee Health Program, TB Photovoice, RESULTS, Firland Northwest Tuberculosis Center, and several other contributors.

Details are still being finalized but planned WTBD activities include:

*Treating TB Infection* webinar on Monday, March 27 from 12:30-1:30 PM, targeting primary care providers but open to all!

*WTBD event in Seattle, sometime in March, targeting college students who are interested in global health or majoring in related fields. The event objectives are to educate students about the problem of tuberculosis and share information about careers in the field of global health and infectious diseases.

*Coordinated WTBD social media campaign to engage TB partners in raising public awareness about TB.

We will share details of these exciting events soon and encourage you to participate and/or share information about the events with your community partners.

If you have questions about any of these events, please email heidi.iyall@doh.wa.gov, or call 360-236-3436.
Helpful resources

Webinar: 2016 ATS/CDC/IDSA Treatment Of Drug-Susceptible Tuberculosis Guidelines, Caveats and Controversies
February 3, 2017, 11:00-12:30 p.m. PST
This webinar will discuss implementation of the guidelines from programs and real world examples, facilitated by experts in the field. Registration deadline is January 27!

World TB Day resources
The CDC offers information and graphics to promote World TB Day on March 24. Share details about the outreach activities planned for your community.

Economic cost savings of TB control efforts
This publication illustrates the societal and economic value of concerted action and targeted public health funding towards TB control and prevention in the U.S.

Webinar: The Interface of Molecular and Growth-Based Drug Susceptibility Testing
January 25, 2017, 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. PST
This webinar will discuss how to put together results from both conventional growth-based and molecular methods of TB drug susceptibility testing (including conflicting or contradictory results) to request further testing and/or design optimal treatment regimens for TB patients. Registration deadline is January 19!

Medscape video promotes TB infection testing and treatment
Philip LoBue, MD, discusses the new U.S. Preventative Task Force recommendation for TB infection testing. This video is a great way to share information with private healthcare providers on the importance of TB infection testing and treatment.

Update to Clinical Guidelines for Diagnosis of TB in Adults and Children
The newly released CDC/ATS/IDSA's TB diagnostic guidelines provide recommendations on the diagnosis of TB infection, pulmonary TB, and extrapulmonary TB in adult and children. See the full guidelines.

Upcoming events

21st Annual Conference of The Union
February 22-25, 2017
This year’s conference in Vancouver, BC, Canada will bring together colleagues from around North America to learn and share the latest clinical, scientific, and programmatic topics on tuberculosis. Register online.

Difficult Dilemmas and Cutting Edge Solutions: Advanced Topics in TB
March 8, 2017, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. PST
The Curry International TB Center/UCSF is conducting a one-day training that will cover topics such as:
- What’s new in TB clinical trials?
- Short-course treatment regimen with MDR-TB.
- Therapeutic drug monitoring: practical questions and answers.
- Updates in TB infection control (tentative). Training application deadline is February 3.

Washington State TB case counts as of December (2016 preliminary)