

**UPCOMING
EVENTS
March Potluck**

This month's potluck will be on the 18th in the large group room from 12-1pm. TLC will be providing pizza and salad!



Brooke McKenzie

Paula Wagner

Mariah Zur

Anna Flamm

Trista Lubert

Giving Joy Project

Hate carrying change around? Donate it to the Giving Joy Project now through March 17, 2016. TLC has a jar that needs filled! Please donate all change to Misty!

Developmental Trainings

Available Onsite

Friday, March 18, 2016

1-2pm: Narcan

2-3pm: 12 Steps

Next Staff Meeting

April 13, 2016 at 8:30 am

DO YOU KNOW..

What is skittling?

*Submit your answer to **Jess** by phone ext. 259, email or in person. First one with the answer receives a prize!

**THERE IS NO
ELEVATOR
TO SUCCESS.
YOU HAVE TO
TAKE THE
STAIRS**

Stepping It Up

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 5

BY: JESSICA PUGH

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

A new state-run prescription drug monitoring program created to help curb the opioid abuse epidemic should be operating by August, Health Secretary Karen Murphy, Ph.D., told lawmakers Tuesday.

The monitoring program, authorized under a 2014 state law signed by former Gov. Tom Corbett, is intended to stop people addicted to opioid painkillers from shopping among doctors to get prescriptions filled and provide them with treatment instead.

The department recently awarded a \$1.5 million, three-year contract to Appriss, a Kentucky-based firm specializing in this field, to operate the program and has hired top staff to oversee it.

She fielded questions about the department's priorities during budget hearings before the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Also appearing at the House hearing was Gary Tennis, secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs.

The monitoring program is based on an electronic database that will maintain a record of a range of controlled substances, including morphine, diazepam and Robitussin AC, that are prescribed and dispensed in Pennsylvania.

Once the database is operating, health care professionals writing prescriptions that contain controlled substances will be required to submit that information within 72 hours. Other professionals can check the database to

determine if a patient has received other prescriptions.

The abuse of prescription painkillers is seen as contributing to an epidemic of heroin-related deaths in Pennsylvania. A report issued recently by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania calls for better coordination of treatment and recovery services for heroin addicts.

Pennsylvania needs more beds so heroin addicts can receive long-term treatment to aid recovery, said Mr. Tennis. Treatment programs lasting two weeks or a month are not effective, he added.



Just A Reminder...

- ◆ Please remember that when discussing patients to be aware of the audience around you to respect confidentiality. While in common areas (copier, hallways, waiting room) be considerate to our patients by not discussing their information.
- ◆ While at the copier, do remember that offices are near and employees are trying to work. Be respectful by keeping your voice down. If you need to have a conversation with someone please go to the break room where you are able to close door to keep from distracting others.
- ◆ Due to the refrigerator filling up quickly with lunches, only put what needs to be cool in the fridge. Entire lunchboxes do not need to go in.
- ◆ Remember to cover any food put into the microwave. If you do make a mess, please clean up after yourself.
- ◆ When printing off papers, remove them from the copier as soon as you get a chance. Papers have been piling up.