



RC/PIO News & Notes |

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A Weekly Update from **Eric Jens, Risk Communicator** – Georgia Department of Public Health
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News & Notes

Highlights this week include, EPR meetings, AI, and Mental Health Day at the Capitol.

Mental Health Day at the Capitol

Wednesday was Mental Health Day at the Capitol, highlighting the recent progress in developing resources and services to help Georgians overcome mental health challenges. The day's activities also helped call attention to the need to make these services more accessible. Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Commissioner Kevin Tanner said the Mental Health Parity law helped normalize the conversation of mental health, but too many are still being turned away and denied access.



Hundreds gathered at the Georgia Freight Depot in the morning before taking their mental health message to the capitol in the afternoon. They heard testimonials from several with lived experience, and inspirational messages from Department of Community Health Commissioner Dean Burke, Department of Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper, NFL Defensive Tackle Andre Fluellen, and others. The Georgia 988 Crisis and Access Line was utilized more than 350,000

times within the last year. Dawn Peel, Director, Office of Crisis Coordination Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, says while they are not happy that that many people needed help, they are happy that people know where to turn when they do.



State DPH EPR monthly meeting

The February state DPH EPR meeting on Tuesday featured budget updates and a walk through of how to complete proposed annual projects in The Knack. Austin Speers showed the group how the information is organized and how it works in cooperative efforts. Prior to a Communication update, there was a moment of recognition for Melanie Wood (*pic left*) and LaKieva Williams (*pic right*) for 20 and 15 years of service respectively.

Medical Information and AI

Here's an insightful article featured in the National Public Information Coalition weekly News Highlights. It almost appears we may be close to a time when Artificial Intelligence will be in charge of monitoring itself:

Medical Misinformation More Likely to Fool AI if Source Appears Legitimate, Study Shows

A recent study highlights that artificial intelligence (AI) tools are more likely to share incorrect medical information when it appears to come from authoritative sources, such as doctors' notes, compared with social media content. Researchers tested multiple AI models using clinical scenarios, hospital discharge summaries with inserted errors, and common health myths.

Findings show AI "believed" nearly half of fabricated recommendations in realistic medical notes, while only 9% of social media misinformation was propagated. The study underscores the need for built-in safeguards in AI systems to verify medical claims, especially as AI becomes increasingly integrated into patient care and clinical workflows. Read more from Reuters [here](#).

Next Week Preview

The Georgia Public Health Association executive board meets Monday morning at 10:00. There are additional meetings next week to help prepare for FIFA World Cup events in Atlanta that begin in less than four months.

About "News & Notes"

"News & Notes" is a weekly communication aimed at risk communicators and public information officers within Georgia's 18 public health districts. The goal of the communication is to increase preparedness through the exchange of information about significant events, training and other planned activities. Some information herein may be considered FYUO or For Your Use Only. Please be judicious when forwarding. For questions, comments or to submit information for inclusion, contact Eric Jens at Eric.Jens@dph.ga.gov.

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