

June 5, 2019

Father Figures Health Fair part of new ASTHO initiative

MOBILE, Alabama — The Mobile County Health Department recently entered into an agreement to collaborate with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). The group is the national nonprofit organization representing public health agencies in the United States, the U.S. Territories and the District of Columbia, along with the more than 100,000 health care professionals employed at these agencies.

One of several events planned to coincide with this ASTHO initiative is the Father Figures Health Fair. It is set for Saturday, June 8, at the Dearborn YMCA located at 321 North Warren Street in Downtown Mobile from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Some of the activities planned include:

- Free testing on the Mobile Medical Unit will include Blood Pressure screenings and Sexual Transmitted Infection (STI) screenings.
- Behavioral Health staff will be present to share educational materials and discuss therapeutic approaches.
- Staff from Community Prevention Services will be present to discuss their many projects. This will include the Fatherhood Initiative, a community-based program that is designed to remove the barriers to be an effective parent through evidence-based practices and partnerships with various organizations.
- Family Health staff will be onsite to discuss with patients the ASTHO initiative.
- Lighthouse 628 and Christian Benevolent Funeral Home are serving as sponsors. Organizers said individuals who undergo screenings will be eligible for a door prize. Lighthouse 628 will also be serving food.

MCHD and Family Health staff members will appear on WGOK-AM (Gospel 900) on Friday, June 7, at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the event.

ASTHO has supplied blood pressure monitors that are stationed at the Keeler Memorial Building in Downtown Mobile. These are available to the public to check their blood pressure. MCHD encourages all patients to be actively involved in their own care plans.

Additionally, part of the ASTHO initiative is to make sure patients are well versed in the risks of hypertension. MCHD has educational materials available through the ASTHO program that provide to patients for their resource and reference.