

# RC/PIO News & Notes 5-5-2023



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator  
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## News and Notes

Like many other recent editions, we have an overload of pictures, which is great, but only begins to tell the tale of all the great speakers, sessions, and topics of the week. This week's focus is the Georgia Public Health Association annual conference. Thanks to all those who contributed pictures of happenings at the event. If you don't see them here today, they will be worked in later.

## PREP Summit



The 93<sup>rd</sup> Georgia Public Health Association annual conference held at Jekyll Island featured topics ranging for epidemiology to volunteerism, and from communications to the opioid epidemic response. Of course, there were COVID -19 lessons learned throughout the numerous sessions. Events are continuing in the final day today, so we'll likely have more follow up. Which also provides a great opportunity to include more of the tens of dozens of pictures we don't have room to include here. Overall, the event was as educational as it was inspiring.



## ***Radio Promotion Opportunities***



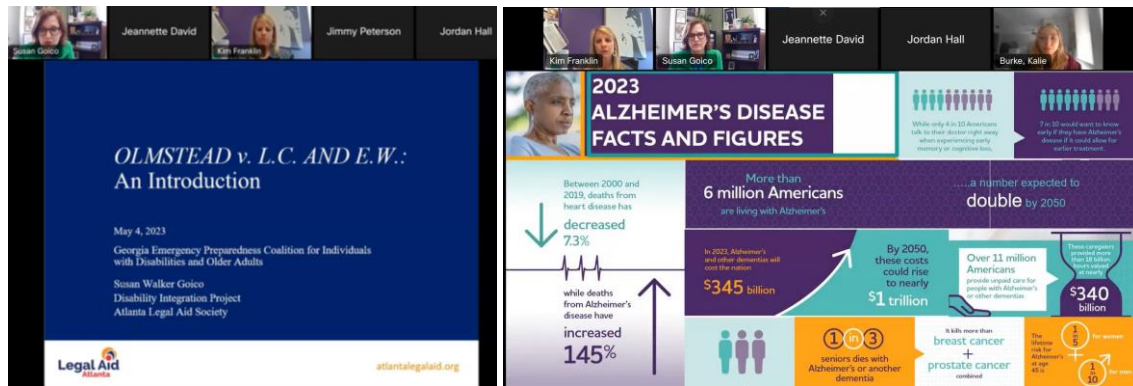
Thanks to Courtney Sheeley for arranging on-air speaking engagements to help promote the work of Public Health. I followed an epidemiology session Thursday morning on WDDQ Talk 92.1 Valdosta with Scott James from the lobby of the Westin in Jekyll Island. On the radio program this morning we are listening to Dr. Chris Rustin.

## ***And...***

One of the most significant highlights of the conference week: the awarding of the Sellers-McCroan Award for 2023. Previous winners include the last three Georgia Commissioners of Public Health. This year the award went to Cobb/Douglas County's Dr. Christopher Gulledge, Savannah Hardin, and Rachel Franklin. These three comprised one of seven funding recipients nationally to enhance testing protocols. Specifically: *Development and Implementation of Protocols to Enhance Identification and Investigation of Unexplained Respiratory Deaths Outside the Healthcare Setting*.



# EP Coalition Meeting



Thanks to Kalie Burke for an update on Thursday's: *Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities & Older Adults* meeting. Speakers were Susan Walker Goico, the director of Atlanta Legal Aid Society's Disability Integration Project, and Kim Franklin, Sr. Manager, Programs & Services, Alzheimer's Association - Georgia Chapter. Susan presented on the Olmstead decision and Kim presented information on dementia, including 2023 statistics and resources available.

## Next Week Preview

There are numerous meetings, webinars, and the monthly State Board of Health meeting next week. Of possible significant note, the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration expires on Thursday.

### About "News & Notes"

"News & Notes" is a weekly communication aimed at risk 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](mailto:Eric.Jens@dph.ga.gov)