

TB Awareness Training Seminar Held at Training Academy

Some 100 participants from around the state were present at the Training Academy on June 7-8 2016 for a training seminar entitled “Arresting Tuberculosis: Best Practices for Controlling TB in Corrections.” The seminar was co-sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Corrections’ Health Services Division in cooperation with the Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center based at the University of Florida.

Melanie Davis, Director of Laboratory Services for SCDC, said attendees included representatives from the Horry County Sheriff’s Department, detention centers in Anderson, Clarendon, Kershaw, York, Greenville and Spartanburg counties, the Department of Juvenile Justice and many more. All participants earned several hours of valuable credit.

Experts say over two million people are incarcerated in some form of correctional facility in the United States. Because tuberculosis is a contagious disease spread through the air, congregate settings such as correctional facilities are an important place for halting the spread of this disease quickly. Unfortunately, TB mimics many other diseases. Its signs and symptoms of fever, cough, night sweats, weight and appetite loss, chest pain and hemoptysis can mirror HIV/AIDS, cancer, the flu, and other diseases. Recognition of TB is therefore important to limiting its spread throughout facilities and the community. This seminar covered a wide range of subjects with that goal in mind.

This was the first such TB awareness seminar at SCDC in several years and involved some 24 agency staffers. Melanie Davis says she believes seminars like these are very important in fostering ongoing partnerships between state and local agencies. “These intensive workshops ensure continuity of care and the ability to recognize symptoms to keep staff and the public safe and healthy.”





(L-R) Melanie Davis, Director of SCDC Lab Services; Ellen Murray, Training Specialist/Nurse Consultant, Southeastern National TB Center; Roscia Hardee, Nurse Consultant, TB Division, SC DHEC.