

DOH-RO 5 Conducts NBS Training of Trainers

The Department of Health–Regional Office (DOH-RO) 5, in coordination with Newborn Screening Center–National Institutes of Health (NSC-NIH), conducted the Newborn Screening (NBS) Training of Trainers in Legazpi City on March 22-23, 2016.

The training capacitated the pool of trainers at the provincial level with knowledge and skills on the proper implementation of the NBS program and in conducting NBS training programs in different provinces of Bicol region.

The said training was attended by NBS coordinators and point persons from the provincial health offices, provincial DOH offices, and DOH retained hospitals. Academic partners from Bicol University College of Nursing, City College of Naga, and Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges were also present. The overall number of trainees was 28.

Regional NBS Coordinators Twinkle Jean Pulmano Lorilla and Joseph Steven Fenol facilitated the two-day training.

Joanna Abigail Decano-Terrado, resource person from NSC-NIH, led a comprehensive discussion of the NBS background and flow of operations. Dr. Marive Flores, NBS Continuity Clinic Follow-up Head, explained the nature and management of NBS panel of disorders for the regular six tests and Expanded NBS.

The unsatisfactory and unfit data for Region 5 was also presented to encourage participants to take measures to prevent accumulation of unsatisfactory and unfit samples and



Dr. Marive A. Flores, NBS Continuity Clinic Follow-up Head, explained the nature and management of NBS panel of disorders for the regular six tests and Expanded NBS.

prevent delay in the screening and treatment of patients.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rita Mae C. Ang, Head of DOH-RO 5 Family Health Cluster, and Dave Isidore Plopinio, NBS Program Manager, laid down the guidelines for organizing, conducting, and designing training sessions.

The training included a heel prick method demonstration at the Pedia Conference Room of the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH), Legazpi City. Leila Benito, NBS Nurse Coordinator of BRTTH, assisted the DOH-RO 5 NBS Coordinators in facilitating the return demonstration.

Participants visited the NBS Continuity Clinic at the Out-Patient Department of BRTTH. Mary Joy Manamtam, the NBS Continuity Clinic Nurse, oriented the participants regarding the operations of the Continuity Clinic, including collection of samples for confirmatory testing and client consultation and follow-up.

Participants to the Training of Trainers are certified once they have successfully passed all the requirements using the rating sheet for NBS training of DOH-RO 5. Participants must attain a total average score of at least 85%, broken down as follows: at least 80% equivalent score for Post Test (30% overall rating); at least 90% score for Actual Heel Prick Method Demonstration (30% of overall rating), and at least 85% score on actual conduct of NBS Training (40% of overall rating). Participants must retake and pass the components in which they have attained scores below the passing mark. *TJPLorilla*



Participants undergo an actual heel prick test at the Pedia Conference Room of the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH), Legazpi City.

NSC-Visayas, DOH-RO 6 Form New NBS Team

Since January of this year, Newborn Screening Center (NSC)–Visayas has been working closely with a new NBS Team from the Department of Health–Regional Office (DOH-RO) 6.

Grace C. Panes and Florence P. Osano, both Project Development Officers, make up the team from DOH-RO 6,

which is still led by Dr. Renilyn Reyes, Head of the Family Health and Nutrition Cluster.

Together with NSC-Visayas, the NBS team of DOH-RO 6 visited 10 newborn screening facilities for an in-depth evaluation of each facility's program implementation.

In addition, NBS practitioners from each facility were introduced to the new reporting form created by DOH so that data on NBS and immunization can be properly documented and reported.

Visits to facilities in Iloilo City, Bacolod City, and Antique province have already been lined up for May and June 2016. Through these facility visits, the NBS team hopes to build stronger rapport with NBS practitioners and assist them in identifying their most pressing NBS concerns.

NSC-Visayas Holds Expanded NBS in Southern Leyte



Top: The new NBS Team NSC-Visayas and DOH-RO 6. Bottom: The NBS Team in one of their facility visits in the region.

Personnel from active and newly registered NSF in Southern Leyte participate in the NBS orientation in Maasin City.

To promote expanded newborn screening (NBS) and provide important updates on new NBS protocols, Newborn Screening Center (NSC)–Visayas, in partnership with the Department of Health–Regional Office 8, conducted the NBS Program Updates and Orientation on Expanded NBS in Maasin City, Southern Leyte, on March 22, 2016.

The activity gathered personnel from active and newly registered newborn screening facilities (NSFs) in Southern Leyte. By bringing the venue closer to the participants—a mixture of doctors, nurses, and midwives—NSC-Visayas helped ensure a near-perfect attendance.

The orientation focused on the essentials of Expanded NBS, including the disorders being screened, their basic pathophysiology, and treatment regimens. Emphasis was also given to NSFs' offering of both routine and Expanded NBS to patients, so that clients could make decisions based on accurate and reliable information on NBS.

Proper collection of samples and the guidelines on how to properly send out samples to the NSC-Visayas laboratory were also discussed to help curb the rising rate of unsatisfactory samples in the province.



DOH-RO 9 Holds Series of Meetings and Reviews

The Department of Health–Regional Office (DOH-RO) 9 conducted a series of Newborn Screening (NBS) Cluster Meetings and Program Implementation Reviews in Zamboanga Peninsula to keep healthcare workers and implementers attuned with the updates on the NBS program.



Participants from Zamboanga del Sur with NSC-Mindanao Team and DOH-RO 9 NBS Team

The series began on April 19, 2016, in Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte, with 43 participants and continued on April 20 in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur, with 45 participants; April 21 in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, with 19 participants; and April 22 in Zamboanga City, with 35 participants including NBS coordinators from Isabela City.

each provinces and the region to the participants composed of doctors, nurses, medical technologists, and midwives.

Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez, Unit Head of Newborn Screening Center–Mindanao, and Nerissa Gutierrez, DOH-RO9 Program Manager, presented the performance of all NBS facilities in

Meanwhile, Redmond Genito Sousa, NBS Continuity Clinic Nurse at Zamboanga City Medical Center, gave an orientation on the protocols of long-term care for confirmed cases. Issues and concerns encountered on program implementation were also discussed. *ITomas*

IPHO-Maguindanao Holds ENBS Training



Participants and facilitators of IPHO Maguindanao's ENBS Orientation and Training.

The Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO)–Maguindanao, together with Newborn Screening Center (NSC)–Mindanao, organized an orientation on Expanded Newborn Screening (ENBS) for health service providers at Marco Polo, Davao City, on April 26-28, 2016.

integrate ENBS in existing NBS programs.

Dr. Geraldine Macapeges, Technical Chief of IPHO-Maguindanao, and Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Unit Head of NSC-Mindanao, were the guest speakers.

Attended by 51 participants composed of doctors, technical staff, and health workers, the three-day training featured lectures on ENBS, the disorders in the panel, the roles of health workers in the program, and how to implement and

Also part of the training was the proper collection, handling, and shipping of NBS and ENBS samples and the heel prick practicum which was held at Southern Philippines Medical Center. *HBiruar*

DOH-RO 1 Capacitates Health Workers at Grassroots Level



Marie Kris Lacuata, Regional Nurse Coordinator, supervises heel prick demonstration organized by DOH-RO 1.

The Department of Health–Regional Office (DOH-RO) 1 conducted on-site newborn screening (NBS) trainings at Quirino RHU in Ilocos Sur, Bugallon RHU, and Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation in Pangasinan on March 10-11 and April 12-15, 2016, respectively.

A total of 83 participants participated in the training, which included proper implementation of RA 9288, NBS disorders, administrative mechanics of NSC-CL, expanded NBS, and continuity clinics' roles and functions. The heel prick method demonstration and return demonstration were also conducted onsite. *ADoctolero*

Dr. Ronia Aragon, NBS Program Manager, spearheaded the activities.

Pangasinan Students Get Acquainted with NBS

Public and private colleges and universities in Pangasinan participated in the orientation and seminar on newborn screening (NBS) conducted by the Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health (VYLH) at the Nenas Garden Bed and Breakfast, Bonuan, Pangasinan, on March 18, 2016.

Lyceum Northwestern University, University of Pangasinan, Pangasinan State University, Colegio de Dagupan, and Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation.

Dr. Florencio Dizon, Newborn Screening Center–Central Luzon (NSC-CL) Unit Head, welcomed the some 45 students and department heads from University of Luzon,

VYLH North and Central Luzon Representatives, Regional NBS Coordinators, and NBS Continuity Clinic staff facilitated the programs, which included orientation on VYLH, folic acid supplementation, NBS panel of disorders, Rare Disease Act of the Philippines, and the Expanded Newborn Screening. *ADoctolero*



VOLUNTEER YOUTH LEADERS FOR HEALTH

VYLH Philippines Welcomes Batch Kabilin



VYLH Philippines welcomes Batch Kabilin, pictured here in their cultural attire, during the Western Visayas Regional Camp in Bacolod City on April 9-10, 2016. Batch Kabilin is composed of participants from Negros Occidental and Panay Island provinces.

The Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health (VYLH) Philippines welcomed Batch Kabilin, the newest batch of the Network's volunteer youth leaders, during the Western Visayas Regional Camp held at Bacolod Pavilion Hotel on April 9-10, 2016.

Kabilin is the Cebuano word for heritage and legacy.

Themed "Revolutionizing Health Promotion through Youth Participation," the two-day camp introduced the participants to the organization and prepared them to be part of VYLH Philippines.

A total of 39 youth volunteers were qualified for the camp, 16 of whom came from Negros Occidental and 23 from Panay Island provinces.

Previous batches—Pioneer, I3, K4, and Hiraya—took part in the conduct of the camp and welcomed the new batch in keeping with the tradition of promoting camaraderie among generations of volunteer youth leaders.

Guest speakers include Dr. Renilyn Reyes who discussed updates on NBS and DOH programs, Val Peter Bilonies who talked about youth, volunteerism, and NYC programs, Yugie Caroline Demegillo on newborn screening, and Aster Lynn Sur on pre-conception health and birth defect surveillance. Dr. Camille Potato, who is also a pioneer volunteer of the VYLH, gave a lecture on folic acid and its importance in the prevention

of neural tube defects, and the orphan disorders advocacy of the network.

Part of the camp's teambuilding activity was participation in different workshop stations which required cooperation, patience, and teamwork—all of which are important factors in the success of an organization.

Commitment ritual was held, wherein each volunteer pledged to uphold the principles of VYLH. In the activity, the volunteer youth leaders were reminded that being a volunteer entails a lot of positivity and selflessness. Previous volunteers also wrote letters to the new set of volunteers to inspire them on their journey as members of VYLH Philippines. A candle-lighting activity was done to symbolize passion in building a healthier nation through the Network's advocacies.

During the second day of the camp, senior volunteer youth leaders served as lecturers. VYLH Philippines National President Christian Emmanuel Enriquez discussed the role of the youth in health issues, while National Secretary Zaphire Zamudio tackled social media and the Filipino youth volunteer. Visayas Cluster Coordinator John Paul Oira facilitated the seminar-workshop on action plan construction and youth mobilization.

The lectures were followed by the regional planning

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MINDANAO NEWS BRIEFS

DOH-RO 10 Holds NBS Refresher Course

The Department of Health—Regional Office (DOH-RO) 10 conducted a refresher course for newborn screening (NBS) coordinators of selected newborn screening facilities (NSFs) at Pearlmont Inn, Cagayan de Oro City, on April 15, 2016.

The course addressed the high unsatisfactory results and other contributing factors and discussed strategies in handling common issues and concerns in program implementation.

Project development officers from the Newborn Screening Center—Mindanao discussed the performance of each facility, particularly screening age and transit time of samples. They



NSFC personnel listen to one of the lectures in the NBS refresher course in Cagayan de Oro City.

also provided updates on the Expanded NBS.

The course was attended by 30 medical coordinators, nurses, medical technologists, and midwives. *GBSamante*

NSC-Mindanao Participates in FDS in Davao City

The Newborn Screening Center (NSC)—Mindanao, in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, participated in a series of Family Development Sessions (FDS) in various communities in Davao City for the month of March.

The NSC-Mindanao staff, composed of Ronald Aguilar, Perly Bermudez, Amerah Matuan, and Apple Dowannie Tadlas, served as the resource speakers in various FDS that covered 38 barangays in Davao City's Districts 1 to 3. Each barangay has 100-250 participants, who are all beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

The NSC-Mindanao staff discussed not only the importance of the newborn screening program but also maternal-health-related programs beneficial to mothers and pregnant women, which are in line with the celebration of the National Women's Month with the theme "Kapakanan ni Juana, Isama sa Agenda!"

Besides newborn screening, NSC-Mindanao staff promoted advocacy campaigns such as birth defects awareness, folic acid supplementation, pre-natal healthcare, and the importance of breastfeeding and immunization.

FDS are conducted to ensure that the beneficiaries of 4Ps would meet the conditions of the poverty alleviation program. Beneficiaries are required to attend the FDS once a month for them to comply with the program goals of providing better information on family planning, responsible parenthood, and gender sensitivity. *ADTadlas*

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VYLH Philippines Welcomes . . . from p. 6

session and the plenary presentation of provincial plans, where the participants came up with different activities for each province.

The camp ended with cultural presentations of the facilitators and the new volunteer youth leaders. The facilitators opened the VYLH Philippines Social's and Talent Expo as they danced to the tune of Ang Sarap Maging Pilipino. The participants also showcased the festivals in their respective provinces. *LAlmendral*

VYLH Philippines is a network of pro-active, service-oriented, empowering, and visionary leaders equipped with knowledge and skills in mobilizing the youth toward a healthy Philippines. It was formally established in 2009 through the collaboration of the Institute of Human Genetics of the National Institutes Health—University of the Philippines Manila, Department of Health, and the UPLB Genetics Society, a student organization of the University of the Philippines Los Baños. Since then, the network has trained more than 600 volunteer youth leaders coming from almost 200 youth organizations from various parts of the country.



The lectures and workshops during the Western Visayas Regional Camp

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Number of Babies Screened
as of April 2016

8,056,715



NSC-Mindanao staff Apple Tadlas shares a selfie with Lumad children during one of the family development sessions.

NSC-Mindanao Joins 4Ps Convergence Caravan

The balancing act of a habal-habal ride, a four-hour-long uphill trek, a horseback ride, and the scorching heat of summer could not hold back Amerah Matuan and Apple Dowannie Tadlas, Newborn Screening Center (NSC)—Mindanao staff, from tagging along in the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Convergence Caravan" in Davao City on April 12-15, 2016.

The caravan, a program by the Department of Social Welfare and Development—Region 11, aims to present the stories of the 4Ps beneficiaries and mobilize the support of other partner agencies and institutions to bring basic social and health services to Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA).

Matuan and Tadlas brought with them NBS information, education, and

communication (IEC) materials including brochures, posters, and NBS filter cards.

They stressed the importance of health programs such as newborn screening, folic acid supplementation, and birth defects campaign to 4Ps beneficiaries during the week-long caravan.

After their lecture, the NSC-Mindanao staff gave free NBS to two newborns, courtesy of the Department of Health—Regional Office 11.

The Convergence Caravan, which was themed "Abante Serbisyo sa Distrito Tres," was participated by the Lumad and residents of Sitio Pegalongan, Brgy. Malamba, Davao City. *ADTadlas*