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Lee County

## Interview with a County Employee

My interview was with Sandra C. Boyd, Health Education Supervisor, Community Health Education & Promotion (CHEP) Division, within the Lee County Health Department. Her primary roles include providing information and education, to facilitate behavior change with Lee County residents with an emphasis on high risk populations. The CHEP division assesses the community's health needs, program needs, including the assessment of needs and the development of program components; budget management for the division; implement programs and policy change; provide direct health education services; administer programs; and evaluate programs.

To accomplish the numerous tasks, she spends much of her time in meetings, planning and developing programs, writing grants, completing reports, responding to request, responding to emails, and returning phone calls.

Mrs. Boyd's passion has always been to help people. She shared that even in elementary school helping others was something she has always enjoyed. She was inspired to become a Health Educator because she wanted to make a difference in people's lives. She describes a Health Educator as being a person who gives advice about choices to be made. A Health Educator continues to study and practice skills to make lives healthier and more productive.

I asked Mrs. Boyd if she ever considered switching professions and why? She said that she has never considered changing careers. She also shared that working in Health Education for the past 27 years has been very rewarding and over the years, she has had the opportunity to see many changes in the lives of people. She stated "behavior change is a process that occurs over time and to be able to see these changes evolve is what makes her career so rewarding."

I asked Mrs. Boyd what personal characteristics are required for someone to be successful in her job. She easily replied that it takes a special person who has a love for people, someone who is passionate about what they do, and has untiring patience's.

Concluding the interview I asked Mrs. Boyd what are the biggest challenges in her job? She shared that decreased funding for programs that are essential for the community, loss of staff due to state and federal funding, and having to do more with fewer resources. She also shared that each day is challenging but the reward is working in a community that has a strong volunteer base that is always willing to assist and support the efforts of community health education.

After the interview I was very grateful Mrs. Boyd took the time out of her busy schedule to assist me with this project. It is easy to talk about something being boring, because you don't know what it is about, but once you begin asking questions you become more interested in that subject. I have had the opportunity to volunteer at the Health Department with Mrs. Boyd. Now I understand that her job is a lot more difficult than it seems.