



ABC NEWSLETTER

CURRENT EVENTS AND TRENDS IN BLOOD SERVICES

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2022 #10

March 18, 2022

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Please Note: The ABC Newsletter will not be published on Mar. 25th. We will resume regular publication on April 1st. Thank you for your continued interest.

Blood Donor Iron Stores — The Icelandic Experience

Iron depletion in blood donors has long been discussed in the blood community. While a lack of consensus exists in the U.S. as to the best approach, if any, to address the potential risks of iron depletion in blood donors, a particular focus has been on the loss of iron stores in young donors, especially females. Researchers in Iceland recently performed a study that “retrospectively analy[zed] data on iron stores in new and active whole blood donors (WBD) over a 23-year period” from 1997-2019 with a goal to “determine the prevalence of iron deficiency (ID) and an[e]mia and to identify risk factors for ID in [the] blood donor base.”

The investigators explained how the data collected from their research could potentially assist in the development of blood donation policies or iron supplementation strategies. Their study describes how the national blood collection service in Iceland routinely “measured serum ferritin (SF)” in new blood donors since 1996 and “intermittently” measuring SF in active WBD. The authors noted that while a “uniform SF testing strategy for active WBD was not applied over the 20-year study period, SF testing was in general encouraged following every five whole blood donations or when donor Hb values were decreasing. Donors with low SF are informed, temporarily deferred (for a minimum of 6 months followed by repeat SF testing before resuming donations) and advised to take iron supplements.” Close to 33,000 individuals were included in the study population (22,042 males and 10,868 females) with 26,221 being new donors (16,307 males and 9,914 females), and 29,017 being whole blood donors (19,608 males and 9,409 females).

The researchers stated that in the new donor cohort, males had “considerably higher SF than females. Median SF was also higher for male WBD, both before SF testing policy change in 2018 and after policy change. The increase in median SF levels after policy change was significant for both female (22.0 vs. 25.7 µg/L, $p < 0.001$) and male WBD (43.0 vs. 45.2 µg/L, $p < 0.001$.” WB donations from donors with ID made up 11.5 percent of WB donations “while 14.6 percent of donors had ID at some point in their donation history. ID was more common among WBD than new donors and among females than males. The frequency of ID increased from 8.0 percent to 9.4 percent for males and from 23.2 percent to 25.7 percent for female WB donors after the SF testing policy change when all WB donors were tested. However, the proportion of individual donations from donors with SF <15 µg/L decreased from 6.4 percent to 4.0 percent for males and from 18.9 percent to 14.1

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Blood Donor Iron Stores (continued from page 1)

percent for females when the two periods were compared... As expected, more female than male WB donors had iron deficiency anemia (IDA), defined as an[e]mia with SF <15 µg/L (3.7 percent vs. 1.2 percent, $p < 0.001$.)”

The authors explained that Iceland revised its SF testing policy in 2017 and implemented universal SF testing of WBD “at each donation and elevation of the SF threshold for WB donors (from 8 to 10 µg/L in January 2018)... The prevalence of an[e]mia in new donors was almost five-fold higher in females than males, probably reflecting a high prevalence of an[e]mia in females in the population.” They concluded that “[n]ot all donors replenish their iron stores between donations and may develop iron deficiency and even an[e]mia if not properly managed. This nationwide study shows that ID in WB donors is relatively common but monitoring of SF levels improves donor management. Studies on blood donors are important tools to map the frequency of and describe risk factors for donation-related ID and IDA. Furthermore, results of such studies may help blood centers optimi[z]e strategies for monitoring and supplementing iron in blood donors.” Limitations of the study include the absence of data on donor deferrals and iron supplementation, and the use of “SF as the sole marker for tissue iron stores.”

Citation: Gestsdottir, E., Magnusson, M. K., Lund, S.H., *et al.* [Monitoring iron stores in Icelandic blood donors from 1997 through 2019](#). *Transfusion Medicine*. 2022. ♦

HHS ASH Addresses ABC Members at 60th ABC Annual Meeting



The U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Admiral Rachel L. Levine, MD joined members of America’s Blood Centers (ABC) in Arlington, Va. on March 8th during the 60th ABC Annual Meeting. Admiral Levine stressed the importance of prioritizing blood donation and working with ABC, its members, and the national blood community in finding solutions to challenges facing the blood community including the disruption of blood center operations and collections brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, blood shortages, workforce and supply chain challenges, and motivating the next generation

of blood donors. She also addressed some of the work that her office and other federal officials and agencies have undertaken to support the blood community including a national blood and plasma awareness campaign. Admiral Levine concluded by expressing thanks ABC members and the national blood community for their collaboration and ongoing work ensuring the availability of the nation’s blood supply. ♦

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ABC advocates for and advances policies that promote the role of independent blood centers in providing life-saving blood products and recognize the continuous need for a safe and robust blood supply. ABC exists to advocate for laws and regulations recognizing the essential role that independent blood centers play in the health care system; promote partnerships, policies and programs that increase awareness about the need for blood donation; and serve as a thought-leader in the advancement of evidence-based medical and scientific solutions related to health and safety.

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Jeff Gohringer Joins ABC

America's Blood Centers (ABC) recently named Jeff Gohringer as the Director of Strategic Communications and National Partnerships. In this role, he will oversee the development of integrated public action and advocacy campaigns that drive significant shifts in how stakeholders view, understand, and support blood donation, while maximizing engagement with strategic partners and the public to promote blood donation. Mr. Gohringer has more than 15 years of government and non-profit experience. He has worked in the U.S. Senate during the passage of landmark legislation including the Affordable Care Act. As communications director and strategic advisor for the U.S. House Committee on Rules, Mr. Gohringer messaged virtually every piece of legislation that came to the House Floor. He also helped develop and implement historic rules changes enabling proxy voting and remote committee work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Gohringer has also worked at the League of Conservation Voters developing successful media strategies where investments totaled close to \$50 million. He earned his bachelor's degree in Communications and Journalism from St. John Fisher College. He can be reached at jgohringer@americasblood.org. ♦



Blood Community Responds to RFI for National Health Security Strategy

America's Blood Centers (ABC), the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (AABB), and the American Red Cross submitted recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Dawn O'Connell in response to a request for information (RFI) for the 2023-26 National Health Security Strategy. The organizations stated that the "National Health Security Strategy should address current challenges that jeopardize the nation's blood supply by adopting and implementing the recommendations made at the September 25, 2020 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability (ACBTSA), which identify opportunities to improve the nation's blood safety and availability during public health emergencies. The blood community also suggested recommendations on blood donor engagement and retention, workforce shortages, and preparedness and response infrastructure. The complete set of recommendations can be found on the ABC [website](#).

(Source: Blood Community [Response](#) to National Health Security Strategy RFI, 3/9/22) ♦

WORD IN WASHINGTON

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee passed the Prepare for and Respond to Existing Viruses, Emerging New Threats, and Pandemics (PREVENT Pandemics) Act. The pandemic preparedness bill includes a specific section on "coordination and collaboration regarding the blood supply," which America's Blood Centers has advocated for along with other blood community stakeholders. It states that the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) "shall ensure coordination and collaboration between relevant Federal departments and agencies related to the safety and availability of the blood supply, including HHS, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Health Resources and Services Administration; the Department of Defense; and the Department of Veterans Affairs." The HHS Secretary shall also "consult and communicate with private stakeholders, including blood collection establishments, health care providers, accreditation organizations, researchers, and patients, regarding issues related to the safety and availability of the blood supply." The bill now awaits a vote from the full Senate.

(Source: [Senate Bill 3799](#), 3/15/22) ♦



America's Blood Centers®
It's About *Life*.

INSIDE ABC

The programs and services described in the Inside ABC section are available to ABC member blood centers and their staff only, unless otherwise specified.

March ABC Blood Bulletin Now Available

ABC's Scientific, Medical, and Technical (SMT) Publications Committee has published the March 2022 Issue of the [Blood Bulletin](#), titled "Blood Shortages — How Hospitals Can Help." The article was written by Debra Smith, MD, PhD, Associate Medical Director at Oklahoma Blood Institute; Nanci Fredrich, RN, BSN, MM, Transfusion Safety & Blood Management Officer at Versiti; Kirsten Alcorn, MD, Co-Chief Medical Officer at Bloodworks Northwest; Samantha Ngamsuntikul, MD, Associate Medical Director at South Texas Blood & Tissue Center, a subsidiary of BioBridge Global; Nancy Van Buren, MD, Medical Director at Innovative Blood Resources, a division of New York Blood Center. Contributors included Louis Katz, MD, Chief Medical Officer at ImpactLife; Richard Gammon, MD, Medical Director at OneBlood; Claudia Cohn, MD, PhD, Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Minnesota. The [Blood Bulletin](#) is reviewed and edited by ABC's SMT Publications Committee. ABC publishes the *Blood Bulletin* for use by member blood centers in their educational programs as a value-added service for hospital customers. Please contact [Member Services](#) for trouble accessing the publication.

Please note: The MS Word version may not display properly for users with older versions of MS Word. For those individuals, we recommend viewing and using the PDF version of this publication instead.

(Source: MCN 22-031, 3/4/22) 💧

Register for the ABC Technical and Quality Workshop

[Registration](#) is now open for the 2022 ABC Technical and Quality Workshop in Louisville, Ky. The workshop will take place April 5-7, 2022 and will be held in conjunction with the Blood Centers of America, Inc. (BCA) IRL workshop April 4-5, 2022 (which will be open to all attendees including non-BCA members). The program is [available](#) and the workshop will include blood component updates, inventory management strategies, staff training/competency assessment challenges, work from home strategies, supply chain issues, process improvement case studies, risk-based decision making, cybersecurity, and blood industry hot topics. Many sessions will feature roundtable discussions. Please contact ABC Director of Quality and Regulatory Services [Toni Mattoch, M.A., MT\(ASCP\), SH, SBB](#) with questions.

(Source: MCN 22-017, 1/28/22) 💧

Technical & Quality Workshop
April 4-7, 2022
Louisville, KY

Featuring Inventory Management,
Component Manufacturing, Laboratory
Operations, and Quality Systems.



REGULATORY NEWS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [published](#) a draft guidance this week titled “**Considerations for the Development of Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T Cell Products.**” The draft guidance “provides CAR T cell-specific recommendations regarding chemistry, manufacturing, and control (CMC), pharmacology and toxicology, and clinical study design. Recommendations specific to autologous or allogeneic CAR T cell products are noted...This guidance also provides recommendations for analytical comparability studies for CAR T cell products.” The new draft guidance references the January 2020 [Guidance](#) for Industry: Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Control (CMC) Information for Human Gene Therapy Investigational New Drug Applications (INDs), for existing recommendations regarding the collection, handling and testing of cellular starting material. The ABC HCT/P Regulatory Review Committee will review the guidance and discuss opportunities for input. Please contact ABC Director of Regulatory Affairs [Jill Mastin](#) with questions.

(Source: FDA Draft [Guidance](#), 3/16/22) 💧

IN MEMORIAM

[Leslie Vogt-Sydnor](#) passed away on February 4th. She was 84. Ms. Vogt-Sydnor served as executive director of the Richmond Metropolitan Blood Service (which later became Virginia Blood Services, where she was named president and chief executive officer). According to her obituary she played an integral role in the success of the organization. “Her tireless leadership was instrumental in overcoming blood supply shortages throughout the metropolitan area, turning Virginia Blood Services into a leading blood collection program within the U.S.” She was also “appointed by then-Governor Doug Wilder to the Virginia Board of Medicine. [S]he always found time to be engaged in her community by serving on several executive boards and being an active member of Leadership Metro and the Richmond First Club. Ms. Vogt-Sydnor was a charter member of the Warsaw Women, a diverse group of like-minded, fierce, executive-level women who met to collaborate, share experiences and network in a supportive environment...Charitable contributions in honor of her can be made online at the Richmond Education Foundation website to support the William Fox Elementary School fundraising efforts.”



(Source: Leslie Vogt-Sydnor [Obituary](#), 3/13/22) 💧

PEOPLE

Doug Morton has been [named](#) chief executive officer (CEO) of San Diego Blood Bank. Mr. Morton had previously served as interim CEO. His career at the blood bank spans more than 21 years as he initially joined the organization as the director of Information Technology, later being promoted to chief operating officer in 2005. Throughout his career he has “overseen the core operations of the organization, including collections, hospital services, information technology, nursing and community wellness, marketing, and recruitment. Under his leadership, San Diego Blood Bank has continued to see steady growth in collections, expanded community outreach and a strengthening of our hospital partnerships,” according to a news release from San Diego Blood Bank. “I have been privileged to work with the amazing staff and donors at



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PEOPLE (continued from page 5)

the San Diego Blood Bank for the last 21 years. I am honored to have the opportunity to continue our life saving mission in this new role.”

(Source: San Diego Blood Bank [News Release](#), 3/13/22)



Chelsea Sheppard, MD recently joined LifeShare Blood Center. According to an announcement from the organization, she “will oversee Cellular, Molecular, and IRL services.” Dr. Sheppard previously worked at Virginia Blood Services and “brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in transfusion medicine, molecular techniques and applications, and cellular therapy activities” to her new role. She “attended St. Louis University School of Medicine and is Board Certified in Clinical Pathology.” Upon completing her medical degree, “she was both a Transfusion Medicine Fellow and Clinical Pathology Chief Resident at Emory University School of Medicine.”

(Source: LifeShare Blood Center Announcement, 3/10/22) 💧

MEMBER NEWS

[The Blood Emergency Readiness Corps](#) (BERC) recently [added](#) **Stanford Blood Center** (SBC). “We’re so fortunate and excited to have Stanford Blood Center as a partner in our emergency reserve program,” said Nelson Hellwig, MBA chief executive officer of the Alliance for Community Transfusion Services (ACTS), and administrator of the BERC program, in a news release. “SBC’s tradition of community service through providing lifesaving blood products and other services will now help strengthen our national safety net in these critical times of need.” Stanford Blood Center Chief Operating Officer Dan Gross added in the news release, “[b]lood centers across the nation have faced widespread shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic, even more so in recent months. We have worked diligently to avoid blood shortages in our region, but we know the demand for blood can spike at any minute. We’re thrilled to join forces with BERC because we know the only way to prepare for mass trauma situations is to ensure enough blood is set aside and ready immediately in case a disaster strikes here at home or somewhere else across the country.”

(Source: Stanford Blood Center [News Release](#), 3/10/22) 💧

GLOBAL NEWS

The World Health Organization (WHO) is coordinating aid to Ukrainian Health Services. As a part of these efforts, the WHO has outlined a list of medical supplies that include information specific to blood, blood components, or related devices and reagents. Blood centers interested in more information can contact hqoslquality@who.int.

(Source: WHO Announcement, 3/9/22) 💧



CALENDAR

Note to subscribers: Submissions for a free listing in this calendar (published weekly) are welcome. Send information to newsletter@americasblood.org. (For a more detailed announcement in the weekly "Meetings" section of the newsletter, please include program information.)

2022

April 4-7. **ABC Technical and Quality Workshop, Louisville, Ky.** Registration is [open](#). More information available [here](#).

April 12-13. **17th Annual FDA and the Changing Paradigm for HCT/P Regulation, Cambridge Md.** Registration is [open](#). More information available [here](#).

May 10-12. **2022 ADRP Conference, Phoenix, Ariz.** Registration is [open](#). More information available [here](#).

June 4-8. **37th Annual International Congress of ISBT, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.** More information available [here](#).

Aug. 2-4. **ABC Summer Summit and Medical Directors Workshop, Minneapolis, Minn.** More information coming [soon](#).

Sept. 21-22. **28th IPFA/ Paul-Ehrlich-Institut[e] (PEI) International Workshop, Porto, Portugal.** More information coming soon.

Oct. 1-4. **Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla.** More information available [here](#).

2023

Mar. 6-8. **ABC Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.** More information coming soon.

May 9-11. **2023 ADRP Conference.** More information coming soon. 💧

Upcoming ABC Webinars – Do Not Miss Out!

- **SMT Journal Club Webinar** – March 29th from 3-4 PM ET. More available to ABC Members in MCN 22-030.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified advertisements, including notices of positions available and wanted, are published free of charge for a maximum of three weeks per position per calendar year for ABC institutional members. There are charges for non-members: \$139 per placement for *ABC Newsletter* subscribers and \$279 for non-subscribers. A six (6) percent processing fee will be applied to all credit card payments. Notices ordinarily are limited to 150 words. To place an ad, e-mail: newsletter@americasblood.org

POSITIONS

Medical Technologist - IRL Lab. LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is currently seeking a skilled individual for a **Medical Technologist** position in our Immunohematology Reference Laboratory (IRL) in **Gainesville, FL**. This position is responsible for performing and interpreting clinical laboratory tests that require the exercise of independent judgment. This is a full-time position. Starting salary range is \$27.00 - \$32.40 an hour. Shift differential may apply. LifeSouth offers a competitive benefits package and great career development opportunities. Background check and drug

test required. Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer/DFWP/Tobacco Free. **Applicants should apply here:** <https://lifesouth.csod.com/ux/ats/career-site/5/home/requisition/2697?c=lifesouth>

Medical Technologist - Special Testing. LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is currently seeking a skilled individual for a **Medical Technologist** position in our Special Testing Laboratory in **Gainesville, FL**. This position is responsible for performing and interpreting

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POSITIONS (continued from page 7)

clinical laboratory tests that require the exercise of independent judgment. This lab covers diverse testing methodologies in the areas of flow cytometry, molecular biology, coagulation, hematology, cellular therapies, histocompatibility, and serology. This is a full-time position. Starting salary range is \$27.00 - \$32.40 an hour. Shift differential may apply. LifeSouth offers a competitive benefits package and great career development opportunities. Background check and drug test required. Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer/DFWP/Tobacco Free. **Applicants should apply here:** <https://lifesouth.csod.com/ux/ats/career-site/5/home/requisition/2698?c=lifesouth>

Vice President of Business Intelligence. The National Blood Collaborative (NBC) is now interviewing for the full-time position Vice President of Business Intelligence. This position reports directly to the Board of Directors and relocation is not required. NBC is owned by eight independent blood centers and was created in 2012 focusing on unique revenue opportunities including resource sharing and cellular therapy. <https://www.nationalbloodcollaborative.org/>. This position is responsible for directing and controlling the planning, development and implementation of sales strategies, marketing communications and public relations functions for the Collaborative. Experience obtaining new customers (blood products and related cellular materials) is required. Position will also assist individual members in obtaining new business when requested and will oversee development and implementation of support materials. This position requires a bachelor's degree – master's preferred. National Blood Collaborative (NBC) pays a competitive starting wage and full benefits package including paid holidays, health, dental and life insurance, paid time off and an employer contributed retirement plan. If you meet the above qualifications and would like to work for a company that impacts our industry, please email your resume to egolemi@thebloodcenter.org. Only resumes with salary requirements will be considered. Resumes submitted are held in strict confidence. EOE/AEE

Medical Laboratory Technologist (MLT). The Blood Bank of Alaska (BBAK) is seeking a MLT to join our team in Anchorage, Alaska. This position will be responsible for providing broad support and technical assistance in the product QC laboratory working under the direction of the Laboratory Services Director. Performing necessary duties for day-to-day operations in the product QC laboratory. Assisting management team with compliance related activities as qualified and other support duties as assigned. Working as a team player with other members of the product QC laboratory. Demonstrating ownership and accountability for product QC laboratory activities. Minimum: Bachelor's degree in biological science or associate's degree with MLT certification. Previous work

experience in a blood bank/donor center laboratory preferred. MT/CLS or MLT or equivalent certification preferred. We are committed to providing our employees with the support they need. At BBAK we offer an attractive benefit package that includes: Medical, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance, Health Savings Plan, Paid Time Off, 401 K with matching and short Term & Long-Term Disability coverage. View the complete job description at www.BloodBankofAlaska.org. If interested, please contact or HR Director for additional information at MCannon@bbak.org.

Registered Nurse. LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is currently seeking experienced professionals to join our team as **Registered Nurses in Gainesville, FL, and Jacksonville, FL.** This position is responsible for traveling to hospitals to perform therapeutic apheresis procedures. Nurses will only care for one patient at a time and will work alongside hospital nurses and physicians to complete procedures. Nurses will also spend time at the LifeSouth office to coordinate upcoming apheresis procedures and organize necessary documentation. Training: Don't let a lack of apheresis experience stop you from applying! No previous apheresis experience is required. If hired, you will be given sufficient on-the-job training to learn the specialized skills this position requires. Training for this position will be conducted during regular business hours. This is a full-time position. Starting salary range is \$67,500 - \$74,250 annually plus travel and on-call bonus. Background check and drug test required. Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer/DFWP/Tobacco Free. Applicants should apply [here](#) for the Gainesville, FL location. Applicants should apply [here](#) for the Jacksonville, FL location.

Laboratory Director. We have a wonderful opening for a Laboratory Director position within the Cell Therapy Program at Bloodworks Northwest. The incumbent in this role will provide leadership, management, oversight, and subject matter expertise of all operational, technical, and scientific aspects of the Cell Therapy Program, including Cord Blood Services (CBS), Cell Processing Laboratory (CPL), and Advanced Cell Processing (ACP). This role ensures that all laboratory and technical policies, processes, and procedures as well as quality programs meet the highest organizational and departmental expectations, as well as being compliant with applicable laws, regulations, and standards (for example, FDA, CLIA, AABB, FACT, CAP, NMDP and others). The incumbent will provide direction for securing new business opportunities, maximizing revenue, and maintaining and supporting the customer base of the Cell Therapy Program. This role will require minimal supervision but works in close collaboration with departmental

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POSITIONS (continued from page 8)

leadership/management team. To apply and review full posting, click [here](#).

Director of Operations. The Director of Operations at LIFELINE Blood Services partners with the CEO to develop and execute sound financial and operational plans to ensure the continued growth of the business and provide safe blood products to the communities we serve. In addition to the financial and operational role, the incumbent will also lead Fleet and Facilities, Information Technology, Human Resources, Supply Chain Management, Donor Diversity and Inclusion, and Customer Experience. Education: Bachelor's degree required/master's degree preferred, and five years of operations experience preferred. Excellent benefits including medical, dental, and life insurance, paid time off, extended illness benefit, Sam's Club membership, 401(k) with match, and tuition reimbursement. LIFELINE is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We are committed to the policy of equal employment opportunity in recruitment, hiring, career advancement, and all other employment practices. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, protected veteran status, or status as a qualified individual with disability. Pre-employment drug-testing is required. Please click [here](#) to apply.

Specialist in Blood Banking Students. LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, Inc. is accepting applications for our accredited online SBB training program, class of 2022-2023. Please visit <https://www.lifesouth.org/specialist-in-blood-banking-certificate-program/> for eligibility, other application details, and application forms. The application period ends on April 15th, 2022. Starting date for the 12-month program is June 13, 2023. If interested, please contact Bill Martinez for additional information, gamartinez@lifesouth.org. ♦