

# ***Tennessee Public Health Association***

## ***State of Officers***

### ***2009-2010***

#### **President-Elect**

Robert Goff - Emergency Response Coordinator, Southeast  
Paula Masters - Regional Health Promotion Coordinator, Northeast

#### **Vice President**

##### **West**

Karen Codjoe, M. D. - Health Officer, West TN Regional Office  
Donna Lewis, RN - TB Program, West TN Regional Office

##### **Middle**

Karen Lynn – Emergency Response Coordinator, Upper Cumberland Regional Office  
Vincent Pinkney – Central Office

##### **East**

Cathy Cowart – Manager, Health Promotion and Wellness Section, Hamilton County  
Mickey Roberts – County Director, Blount County

#### **Board of Directors**

##### **West TN**

Ruby Black – Director of Nursing Program, UT Martin  
Nancy Deere – Coordinator, Coordinated School Health Program, Dyer County  
Matt McDaniel – Regional Hospital Coordinator, West TN Regional Office  
Jill Mount RN – MCH Coordinator, West TN Regional Office

*(Information on each candidate begins on page 2)*

## CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT



Robert Goff is the Emergency Response Coordinator for the Southeast Regional Office and has served in the position since November 2004. Robert moved to the Southeast Regional Office from the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department, where he served as Volunteer Coordinator. He was instrumental in establishing Public Health emergency preparedness practices still being utilized across the state. Prior to his career in public health, Robert was a Community Development Coordinator for the American Red Cross where he was responsible for the coordination of all Red Cross activities across three counties. Robert currently serves on the Medical Reserve Corps Rural Workgroup, based in the Office of the Surgeon General, promoting public health planning and preparedness in rural areas across the country. He has shared his experiences in developing public health preparedness plans in several cities across the U.S., including national conferences and even at the request of the CDC.

Robert earned his BS at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. In May 2009 he will receive a graduate certificate in Public Health Leadership from the University of Tennessee at Memphis and will continue in his pursuit of an MPH at East Tennessee State University in spring of 2010.

Since his employment with the State of Tennessee, Robert has been very active in TPHA. He established the Emergency Preparedness Section, which was established during the 2005 conference, and served as the first chairperson. He has served as a Board Representative, a member of the Program Committee, chair of a Program Subcommittee, and on the Awards Committee. Most recently he served as chairperson of

the 2008 Fun & Fitness Committee and is the 2009 Fun & Fitness Committee chairperson.

Robert resides in Chattanooga with his wife, Melissa, and three children, Garrett, Sophia, and Annabelle. He enjoys trying to keep up with his kids, singing, and cheering on the Pittsburgh Steelers.



Paula Masters has been with the Department of Health for five years and joined the Tennessee Public Health Association during her first few months on the job. She began her career as a Public Health Educator in Washington County where she and a colleague received the TPHA Group of the Year Award in 2007 for their BMI project in the Johnson City School System. She has been with the Northeast Regional Health Office since 2007 working as Regional Health Promotion Coordinator. For the past five years Paula has served on many committees for TPHA, including the Awards Committee, Silent Auction Committee, and Fun and Fitness Committee. Her enthusiasm for TPHA is evident once you meet her, and she recruits new members wherever she goes.

Paula is a 2008 graduate of the Tennessee Workforce Consortium and will complete her Masters Degree in Public Health with a concentration in Healthcare Administration in August of 2009. She recently received the Outstanding Student of the Year Award by the Department of Health Administration at ETSU for her graduate academic achievements. She is an active member for the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network in the Northeast Region and has served on many other regional committees and boards. Whether she is promoting healthy lifestyles as "Health Woman" or

servicing as a guest speaker for regional conferences, Paula's dedication and passion for Public Health is obvious in her health promotion efforts.

Paula currently lives in Johnson City with her husband, Chris, and dog, Isabelle. She attends Tri-Cities Baptist Church and enjoys raising funds for Breast Cancer research during the yearly Susan Komen Foundation 5K in Kingsport. She is also a very enthusiastic advocate for organ donation.

## CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT - WEST



Dr. Karen Codjoe MD, MPH is a native of Memphis, TN. Dr. Codjoe received her undergraduate degree from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, her medical degree from University of Tennessee Health Science Center and Master's in Public Health degree from The Ohio State University. Following a Pediatric Residency at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin, Texas, Dr. Codjoe held the positions of Director of Ambulatory Pediatric at St. Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown, Ohio, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine and was a member of the City of Youngstown Board of Health. She is board certified in pediatrics and board eligible in preventive medicine.

Dr. Codjoe practiced primary care pediatrics with the Jackson Clinic for 5 years. At the West Tennessee Regional Health Office, Dr. Codjoe is Health Officer for Fayette, Gibson, and Hardeman counties, Director of Maternal & Child Health, Coordinator of the Breastfeeding Program and Operations Manager for

the Regional Strategic Stockpile. As a certified Child Care Health consultant, Dr. Codjoe serves on Tennessee's Child Care Resource and Referral Team and is part of the Tennessee Early Childhood Comprehensive Care Committee.

She is an active member of the Miles V. Lusk Medical Society, Secretary for Region III of the National Medical Association, and immediate past president of The Volunteer State Medical Association. She is a member of New St. Luke MBC and teaches the youngest members of the Youth Nurture Program. Dr. Codjoe earned the Advanced Communicator Bronze and Advanced Leader Bronze award from Toastmaster's International. She is the immediate past president of the local Daybreak Toastmasters Club and enjoys their 6:45 a.m. weekly meeting. Dr. Codjoe, an avid reader, is a member and past secretary of the 113 year old Joseph E. Martin Shakespeare Circle. She also enjoys yoga which she has practiced for several years and is a certified Reiki practitioner.

Dr. Codjoe is the proud mother of 3 (a set of twins) adult children and the delighted grandmother of 2 year old twin boys.



Ddonna Lewis presently works in the Communicable Disease section at the West Tennessee Regional Office as a TB nurse. Having graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1975 with an associate degree in Nursing, her work experience started with 2 1/2 years at a small hospital. In late 1977, she entered public health in a pilot project which consisted of Child Health and Development and later prenatal home visiting programs. These programs were loaded with information and home environment situations that helped her to be able to understand "the patient's perspective." "We often forget what the patient has to deal with at home; upon

becoming a general staff nurse in 1981, I tapped into those home visiting experiences which made me more compassionate and a better advocate for the patient.” In 1992, Donna was honored to assume the duty of nurse supervisor at the Henderson County Health Department. She describes this as one of the most challenging yet rewarding jobs she has encountered. “Believing in local health and what it can do for the community was such an awesome feeling.” In 1999, Donna transferred to the regional office where she served as Maternal and Child Health Coordinator for one year. In yearning for direct patient service once again, her last change was made to the Communicable Disease Section at the Regional Office. The last 9 years, she worked in the TB/EPI position with most recent focus in the Tuberculosis program. “I feel so fortunate to have taken these many paths in public health. I just wish I’d written down all the laughable things that have happened.”

Donna has been married 34 years to Jimmy. They have two sons who each found a wonderful wife. At the end of this year, each son will have their first child. This will make 2009 a remarkable time! In early 2011, Donna will be eligible for full retirement. “In these last couple years of my public health career, I want to soak in all of the experience and memories that I can.”

**CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT - MIDDLE**



I graduated from Tennessee Technological University in 1982 with a BSN and from Vanderbilt University in 1988 with a MSN, in the specialty of Family Nurse Practitioner. I have worked for the Tennessee Department of Health in the Upper Cumberland Region for 26 years in a variety of roles

at both the county and regional level. I have served as a Health Educator, Prenatal and Family Planning Administrator, County Director of Macon and Jackson County Health Departments, and after completing my graduate degree, as the county public health nurse in Clay County. Currently and for the past 3 1/2 years, I have served as the Emergency Response Coordinator in the Upper Cumberland Region. In the past, I have had the opportunity to serve as chair of the APN Practice Committee and represent that group on the Medical Services Evaluation Committee. While working in Clay County, I served as Chair of the Health Council (a past winner of the TPHA PAL award) and worked with both the Child Abuse Review Team and the Foster Care Review Board, and continue to serve on the Governing Board of Cumberland River Hospital. I belong to the Tennessee Nurse’s Association and Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing Honor Society, as well as TPHA.

As a member of TPHA, I have had the opportunity to serve as Chair-elect and Chair of the Nursing Section, Chair of the Resolutions Sub-committee and Chair-Elect of the Emergency Preparedness Section. Currently, I am honored to be serving as Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Section. I believe that TPHA affords its members the opportunity to network and learn about issues that are pertinent to our mission to promote and protect the health of Tennesseans. I also believe that being an active member of TPHA allows you to make friends all across the state and enriches one’s public health career.



Vincent Pinkney, both a young public health professional and an earnest advocate for the health and livelihood of Tennesseans, has had the pleasure of working on behalf of the State of Tennessee for the past three years. Following receiving his Bachelor’s of Arts from the University of Virginia,

Vincent Pinkney joined the effort to promote and improve the health outcomes of those living, working, and visiting Tennessee and is currently earning his Master's in Business Administration with a Concentration in Healthcare Economics at Tennessee State University. To date, Vincent Pinkney has worked in various health related capacities including serving as a legislative liaison for various divisions and programs within the Department of Health, assisting with grant procurement and implementation, coordinating Tennessee's Primary Care and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Healthcare Safety Net, promoting health disparities initiatives, serving on the 2008 Peer Review Panel for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as assisting with the administration of local health services. Vincent is looking forward to the opportunity to serve this prestigious organization in any capacity and is eager to promote the voice and vision of Middle Tennessee's employees and communities regarding our leading public health issues.

## CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT - EAST



Cathy P. Cowart is currently the Program Manager for the Health Promotion and Wellness Section at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department (CHCHD). Cathy attended her first TPHA Conference as a senior Community Health student at East Tennessee State University in 1981. Later that year, she began her public health career at the Southeast Regional Health Office as a Public Health Educator. She continued her career as an administrator over various programs including the Healthy Children Initiative, Public Affairs, Infant Follow-up and many others. In 1990, she moved to the CHCHD to assume the role of Program Manager for Health Promotion and Wellness. Cathy earned her Masters of Public Administration Degree from

U.T.-Chattanooga in 1991. So that she would have more flexibility to meet her family needs, she taught school for several years and then returned to the CHCHD in 2005. For the past 4 years, Cathy has been designated as the contact person and coordinator for TPHA activities at CHCHD. She has also been on the Planning Committee for the East Tennessee TPHA meeting for 4 years.

Cathy and her husband, Jim, have two daughters. Angela recently graduated from ETSU and will attend Medical School in the fall. Erica recently graduated from Notre Dame High School and will attend and play volleyball at UTC. Cathy and her family enjoy cruises and other types of vacations – and make it a point to spend at least one week a year together “away from it all”!



Micky has worked in Public Health for twenty-four years either in the State of Georgia or Tennessee. He has worked for the Knox County Health Department and currently serves as the County Health Director for Blount County in the East Region. He has been a member of the Tennessee Public Health Association since 1998 during this time Micky has served on numerous TPHA committees and currently serves on the CEU committee and Chairs the Management and Administration section.

Micky attended Vanderbilt University, where he received Masters in Clinical & Research Ethics at the Center for Clinical and Research Ethics with the Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Divinity School. During this time he served as Health Educator with the Vanderbilt AIDS Project with a focus upon corporate and business site prevention. He completed his undergraduate work attending the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Currently he is completing the Tennessee

Workforce Development Consortium Certificate program in Applied Epi and looks to Graduate in August. He has served as Adjunct Instructor and/or Preceptor for University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Emory University, Decatur, GA - Rollins School of Public Health, and the University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

He has presented at National, State, and local conferences including: CDC & ASSTPHEE, APHA, NACCHO, SOPHE, SEPHLI, the Disney Institute's Business Program on Service Quality and the Lawton Chiles Center as Principal Investigator for the East Tennessee Friendly Access Program. He is a Certified Health Education Specialist and serves on the Governor's Council for Suicide Prevention. He and his wife Susan have two children, David and Laura.

## CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ruby Black, RN, MSN has over 20 years of experience as a nursing educator with the University of Tennessee at Martin. She teaches community health and foundations classes. She has worked closely with area health departments, support agencies and serves on health related and community boards. Ruby is president of TNA District 10, which consists of 7 northwest counties, vice president of the Tennessee Nurses Foundation Board of Trustees and serves on the Heart Disease and Stroke Program Advisory Council. She is a member of the Weakley County Health Council and the Diabetes Coalition. Ruby represented Weakley County on the Northwest Regional Health Council, served on the TPHA Legislative Policy Committee. After merger of the northern and southern counties, she served as vice chair of the West Tennessee Health Council. Other community activities include

completion of Leadership Weakley County, Citizens Police Academy, and board member for Hope of Martin Community Development Corporation.



Nancy Deere is a native of Dyer County. For five years she served as the Food Service Supervisor for the Dyer County School System. She was with the Dyer County Health Department as the Commodity Supplemental Feeding Program (CSFP) Nutrition Educator for four years. She was the Public Health Educator in various West Tennessee counties for 13 years (Dyer, Lake, Obion, and Crockett Co.) For two years she was the TN Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program coordinator (TAPPP). She served as the Community Service Director for TDH West TN Region for two years. Since 2007 she has been the coordinator of Coordinated School Health for the Dyersburg City School System. Her passion is promoting health for people of all ages.



Matt is the Regional Hospital Coordinator for the West Tennessee Regional Health Department, which includes 16 hospitals over 19 counties. Before this, he worked as a Public Health Outreach Coordinator with MSCHD's TENnderCARE Program. Matt attended the University of Memphis, where he received a B. S. Exercise Science and a M.S. in Health Promotion. He is currently attending ETSU,

where he is working toward a MPH. Matt and his lovely wife Amanda, have two wonderful children, R i l e y      a n d      C e c i l y .



Graduate of UTM – Associates Degree in Nursing in 1990

#### Employment

1990-1991 – Volunteer Community Hospital in OB, in Martin.

1991-2000 - Staff Nurse - Weakley County Health Dept.

2000-2003 - Nursing Supervisor – Weakley County Health Dept.

2004-Present - MCH Coordinator – West Region – North Counties

Member of TPHA since 1993.

Married to Larry Mount for 27 years. Two daughters: Jennifer 24, Whitney 18