



Tennessee Public Health Association Newsletter

HEALTHY PEOPLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

CONTENTS

Committee Reports	3	Slate of Officers	6
Focus on Public Health Issues . . .	4	Regional Reports	9

Preparing the Best Game Plan: Tackling Behaviors for Health Improvement

Theme for the 2008 Annual TPHA Meeting

Submitted by: Art Miller, Chair, Program Committee

The TPHA Program Committee continues in setting another informative and educational program for 2008. The theme **“Preparing the Best Game Plan: Tackling Behaviors for Health Improvement”** provides the committee with many opportunities to address health issues in our State.

We will kick off the conference with a former Director of Health of Nashville and Davidson County Public Health Department, Nashville who was hired to become the Chief of Public Health Practice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Atlanta. Stephanie B.C. Bailey, M.D., MSHSA is our opening luncheon speaker. As Chief of Public Health Practice, Dr. Bailey is responsible for assuring the U.S. public health system is strengthened, and CDC provides leadership in building and supporting public health infrastructure; and that CDC provides leadership to improve overall public health system performance. The Office of the Chief of Public Health Practice serves as an advocate, guardian, promoter and conscience of public health practice throughout CDC and in the larger public health community. Her presentation will encompass health care reform and the importance of prevention.

We have five plenary speakers throughout the conference. All will be very informative and interesting to

(Continued on page 2)



President’s Mes- sage- Spring 2008

TPHA President

As frozen tundra thaws and flowers begin to bloom nothing refreshes the mind and soul like the calming ease of a Tennessee Springtime (my next career may be with Hallmark). That is until it dawns on you.....ONLY SIX MONTHS UNTIL TPHA!!!!

It’s hard to believe how quickly the time goes by. It has been four months since we adjourned our last annual conference but we have made good use of the time and have many good things to report.

The Program Committee remains hard at work putting together another informative and educational program for 2008. The theme **“Preparing the Best Game Plan: Tackling Behaviors for Health Improvement”** allows for an agenda that once again covers numerous emerging public health issues. Trying not to steal Art’s thunder I will simply say it will be two and a half days of informative entertainment and entertaining information.

The Arrangements Committee has worked closely with the Fun and Fitness Committee to assure that after hour’s entertainment will be memorable. Could this be the year the New England Patriots of the Fun and Fitness Spirit Stick meet their own New York Giants? We’ll just have to strap on our chinstraps and see.

The Membership Committee has been hard at work forging new collaborations with public health advocates. We are pleased to announce that the Tennessee Coordinated School Health program has joined up with TPHA and the result is over 100 new members of our association. We hope to see many of these new faces in August and expect bigger and more exciting news from this partnership in the future.

Another exciting partnership being forged is with

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1 - Conference Summary)

our members. Dr. Edward Baker currently serves as a Professor and Director of the North Carolina Institute for Public Health, the outreach and service unit of the University of the North Carolina School of Public Health. Previously, he served as Assistant Surgeon General in the U.S. Public Health Service and Director of CDC's Public Health Practice Program Office. In that role, he led major national initiatives to strengthen the public health infrastructure including creation of Public Health Leadership Institutes, the Health Alert Network, and the National Public Health Performance Standards Program. Dr. Baker will be speaking on accreditation of public health services.

Mr. Drew Falkenstein, attorney with the Seattle, Washington Law Firm of Marler Clarke will be speaking on the Intersection of Law and Public Health. Marler Clark is the nation's foremost law firm with a practice dedicated to representing victims of food poisoning.

Day One will conclude with six concurrent sessions ranging in topics from large disease outbreaks by Dr. Susan Gerber, Chief Medical Officer for Chicago Department of Public Health, to a Partnership Panel from Coordinated School Health programs to swimming pool safety by former NASA Engineer Ray Cronise.

Day Two is filled with more informative concurrent sessions with workshops lead by outstanding national professionals in the fields of health literacy, dental programs, immunizations, tobacco, and primary care issues. We have a workshop by Steve Byrum "Health Care Futures" and "Personal Preparedness for our Workforce" by Dr. Susan Speraw. Tennessee Department of Health's Commissioner Susan Cooper will be back as our luncheon speaker on day two to excite and challenge us as health providers, educators, consumers and advocates for public health.

We will conclude on Friday, beginning with the TPHA business meeting. Dr. Baker will be our first speaker with his presentation on accreditation, followed by



our last speaker of the day - Dick Bureson, a former football official in the Southeastern Conference for 25 years who worked a full schedule of top SEC games every year as head referee. Dick has served as Chief Referee and President of the SEC and will speak on Leadership. We have over 20 workshops with excellent presenters. We are sure you will find many of these workshops fit your interest and needs.

In addition to these quality educational opportunities, attendees will be treated to the usual slate of theme-related fun events and entertainment. From the Fun and Fitness competition to great food and dancing, you will be in for the count of a good time. We look forward to another great conference in 2008. Hope to see you there!

(Continued from page 1 - President's Message)

state universities offering degrees germane to public health and the programs we promote. Several of the major universities have expressed an interest in being able to join as an agency and in return be able to send students to the annual conference at no cost to the student. This has caused the Board to take a look at our agency memberships and restructure the entire menu of membership options which will prove mutually beneficial to member agencies and the association.

It is these types of partnerships that allow us to be one of the strongest advocates for public health issues in the nation. No where else has this strength shown more prominently than in the recent successes with tobacco legislation. I am pleased to tell you that 2008 has proven to be another monumental year on this front, as all attempts to weaken the non-smokers protection act have failed.

Now on the housekeeping side, I want to remind you of a few important dates. First, I want to encourage you to attend your regional meetings. Middle, West and East Grand divisions will each host spring meetings on April 18, May 2, and May 30, respectively. Each will be informative and our administration will be in attendance and actively participating in panel discussions. More information will be sent as soon as plans are finalized.

Public Health Week is April 6-12, 2008 and the committee is working hard to push the theme of "Climate Change". Evidence of their efforts should be widespread.

Other dates to mark on your calendars include: June 9, TPHA award nominations are due to Helen Brakebill at Helen.Brakebill@state.tn.us; ads for the conference program and exhibit spaces must be in to Ami Mitchell Ami.Mitchell@state.tn.us by June 23; and poster session abstracts are due to Beth Delaney by April 15 at Susan.Delaney@state.tn.us.

I hope you sense and share my enthusiasm for this organization's mission and for the massive amount of volunteer work that goes into making it run like a well oiled machine.

As always I want to recognize the Board, Section Chairs, Committee Chairs, and TPHA staff that have made these first four months very enjoyable. I look forward to the next six months of hard work and hope to see you all August 27-29 at the Cool Springs Marriott!

TO MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Go to <http://marriott.com/bnacs?groupCode=tpbtpha&app=resvlink>
You will be directed to the property's home page with the code already entered in the appropriate field. Simply enter your arrival date to begin the reservation process. OR

Dial 1-888-403-6772 to call in your reservations. Be sure to ask for the TN Public Health Assn. group rate.

Cancellations for the TN Public Health Assn. Group must be made 2 weeks prior to arrival date.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

TPHA 2008 Poster Session

Submitted by Beth Delaney, Chair, Poster Session

The Tennessee Public Health Association is currently accepting abstracts for poster presentations at the 2008 TPHA Annual Conference, August 27 - 29 at the Cool Springs Conference Center in Franklin. All public health disciplines, including colleges and universities, are encouraged to participate.

Abstracts on all topics related to public health in Tennessee are welcome. Abstracts will be reviewed by the Poster Session Committee, and presenters will be notified of any suggested revisions. All presenters will be notified in writing of the set-up requirements, location, dates, and times of the poster sessions.

You do not need to be a TPHA member to submit an abstract; however, if your poster is accepted for presentation you must become a TPHA member; and register for and attend the annual meeting. Submission of an abstract implies a commitment to present your poster at the annual meeting. As an organization committed to providing quality continuing education activities, TPHA asks that during the poster session, participants distribute a 1-2 page summary of their project; and be available for questions and for discussion with conference attendees.

Abstracts must be typed and submitted in electronic format (Microsoft Word). Use 12-point font, double-spacing, and **250 words or less**. (Note: Word count excludes title, authors, affiliations, and contact information). Please use the spell check and word count features of your word processor to check the text of the proposal before submitting it. Accepted abstracts will be printed in the Conference Program.

Submissions must be e-mailed to Beth Delaney at Susan.Delaney@state.tn.us no later than April 30, 2008. Please contact Beth Delaney by phone at (423) 634-1947 or e-mail at Susan.Delaney@state.tn.us if you have any questions.

AWARDS NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Submitted by Helen Brakebill, Chair, Awards Committee

Do you know someone that deserves recognition for a job well done or for going above and beyond their realm of responsibility? If you do, this is your opportunity to nominate that individual or group for one of the TPHA awards as follows:

R.H. Hutcheson, Sr., MD Award

The Alex B. Shipley, MD Award

Public Health Worker of the Year Award

Public Health Group/Unit/Department Award

PAL (Partners and Leadership) Award

In addition we will recognize our co-workers with service awards for 20, 30, 40 or 50 years in public health. Detail information about the criteria for each award will be in the information distributed by the committee member in your region.

If you have questions please e-mail Helen.Brakebill@state.tn.us or Doris Spain @ dgspain@tnpublichealth.org or the member listed below representing your region.

Helen Brakebill	Chair
Judy Dias	Nashville Metro
Glenda Drum	Mid-Cumberland
Colleen Edgell	Central Office
Robin Gibby	Southeast
Gail Harmon	East Tennessee
Sandy Hayes	Jackson/Madison
Jennifer Johnson	Knox Metro
Kolleen Kolassa	Sullivan Metro
Cathy Maxwell	South Central
Sandy Moore	Upper Cumberland
Kevin Morris	West Tennessee
Lee Ann Moss	Shelby Metro
Lynne Ray	Northeast
Marti Smith	Hamilton County

Nominations for the above mentioned awards should be submitted to:

Helen Brakebill, Chair, TPHA Awards Committee
Southeast Region, 540 McCallie Avenue, Suite 450
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Deadline for award nominations is June 9, 2008

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

Submitted by: Robb Garman, Chair, Scholarship Committee

The TPHA Scholarship is awarded annually to workers in Public Health who desire to advance their knowledge and increase their competence in public health work. It assists those who are pursuing training in programs awarding college credit, continuing education units or certification through a nationally recognized accrediting body or educational institution. Scholarship funds can also be used to purchase books and other needed course materials. This year TPHA will be able to provide \$5,143 in scholarship funds thanks to proceeds earned at last year's Silent Auction held during the annual meeting. There is a maximum of \$1000 available per scholarship.

To be eligible for consideration, the individual must meet the following three criteria:

- Must have been employed full time in Public Health in Tennessee for three or more years
- Must be a member of TPHA whose dues are

current and who has been a member for at least one year.

- Must have supervisor approval.

The deadline for turning in your application and required paperwork is May 23, 2008. All applications should be mailed to: TPHA Scholarship Committee, c/o Robb L. Garman, 1407 Neutrino Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37129 by the deadline. You may access information regarding the scholarship, including the application, at the TPHA website: <http://www.tnpublichealth.org/scholarships.htm>. You may also contact the Scholarship Chairperson at 615-532-8507 or Robb.Garman@state.tn.us if you have any questions.

FOCUS ON PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

THE GOLD SNEAKER INITIATIVE: Getting a Jump on Childhood Obesity Prevention

Submitted by: Laurie Stanton, MS, RD,
Office of Child Nutrition and Wellness

According to research, health habits are instilled at a young age, with most habits being formed during adolescence. Following adolescence, as we see with adults, habits become much harder to change. If we can instill good habits at an early age, we can address behavioral factors that contribute to overweight and obesity from the beginning.

The Gold Sneaker initiative was developed to enhance policy related to physical activity and nutrition within licensed child care facilities across Tennessee. This project is a collaborative effort among the Department of Health, Department of Human Services and Child Care Resource & Referral. The Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Child Nutrition and Wellness, was awarded funds through a grant from the National Governors Association through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to implement the Gold Sneaker initiative. Policy is primarily focused on physical activity, more frequently referred to as "active play" in this age group. Policies to enact include minimum requirements on physical activity, sedentary activities, breastfeeding, meal time, behaviors and portion sizes.

All licensed facilities within the state are eligible to become a Gold Sneaker facility. Child care facilities that implement the proposed enhanced physical activity and nutrition policies will earn a "Gold Sneaker" award which designates them as a "Gold Sneaker" child care facility. Such designation can be used for marketing purposes for the child care facilities, and local

organizations will encourage parents to select such facilities. Facilities receive recognition with a certificate, decals, stickers and website recognition. Gold Sneaker training sessions have been added to Child Care Resource and Referral's menu of training topics for child care providers, with continuing education offered. Training attendees will receive forms, instructions, checklists, curricula and materials for implementation and recognition in their facilities.

Please help spread the word – to both parents and child care facilities...let's be sure the children in Tennessee grow up in an environment supportive of healthy habits!

For more information on the Gold Sneaker initiative, including the specific policies, check out:
<http://health.state.tn.us/goldsneaker.htm>

CHANGING DIABETES STATE BY STATE:

Empowering Patients and Providers

Submitted by: Laura Harris, RD, Mid Cumberland Region

Target Audience:

The target audience for this activity is physicians, nurses, and dietitians interested in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with type 2 diabetes.

Educational Objectives:

Upon completing this activity, the participant should be able to:

Recognize the state of diabetes and diabetes care in the United States

Utilize the American Diabetes Association's Standards of Care to help improve your patient's quality of life and long-term prognosis

Explain the challenges of and need for behavior modification in both patients and providers

Implement a team approach to the treatment of diabetes to enhance patient care and reduce the potential for adverse long-term complications

<http://www.cecity.com/ce-bin/owa/eact?a=7202>

This program was presented in Nashville, TN, last October. If you were not able to attend you have another opportunity to receive the education hours. Logon to the above website at your convenience to obtain your free CEs.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF TPHA MEMBERS

Submitted by Ami Mitchell, Regional Director, South Central Region

As we were exiting the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center after the 2007 Conference, Doris Spain asked if I would mind contacting the faculty from our state's institutions of higher learning with programs that prepare public health professionals to gauge their interest in participation in TPHA. I have maintained a close relationship with my alma mater and have been serving as an adjunct faculty member there for several years so Doris knows I have a soft spot for students. I thought it would be a very beneficial endeavor for our Association to seek increased participation on the part of public health students, and I held the belief that our Association has many benefits to offer students and faculty. So, it was with great anticipation that I began seeking contact information and approaching schools on behalf of the TPHA membership.

What I did not anticipate is the enthusiasm with which the faculty and students have responded! The opportunity for students to meet professionals in their chosen field, and attend and participate in our annual conference has been very well received. Almost immediately every school we contacted replied with wonderful suggestions on what TPHA could do to facilitate increased involvement.

The suggestions have been shared with the Board of Directors and in most cases we are trying our best to respond favorably to them.

As you may recall from your college days, and I know I remember from mine, students tend to make up in enthusiasm and energy what they may lack in finances. So, the first suggestion from almost every institution was to provide students a way to attend the conference without having to come up with the registration fee. As you read in Glenn's President's Message, new agency memberships are being formulated so if a school chooses to join the Association at a higher level, more students will be able to attend the conference. This will help to ensure that we have several students and faculty attending our conference and also will build lasting partnerships with the schools.

In my communications with students and teachers over the past few months, I have come to look very forward to having these folks join us in membership. They have expressed great interest in participating in poster sessions, section meetings, competitions, and taking advantage of all the great networking opportunities available through the Tennessee Public Health Association.

So next August, be on the lookout for new members and first time conference attendees from Middle Tennessee State University; East Tennessee State University; University of Tennessee, Knoxville; University of Tennessee, Martin; University of Tennessee, Chattanooga; and, the University of Memphis. I think

being part of our Association will greatly enhance these folks' public health education.

NEWS FROM SOUTHERN HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Join us for The SHA 2008 Annual Conference

Submitted by Tammy Burke, SHA Rep

This year we will meet with the Arkansas Public Health Association, May 7 – 9, 2008 at the Austin Hotel in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The theme of the meeting is "A Matter of Time, to Prepare Ourselves and Our Communities, to Promote Healthy Living, to Eliminate Health Disparities...The Time is Now". SHA will sponsor two plenary sessions. Kristine M. Gebbie, DrPH, RN, Columbia University will present the opening session. She will present information on Succession Planning for Public Health. Following her presentation, there will be a multi-state panel who will address steps that various states have taken on succession planning. Stephanie B. Coursey Bailey, MD, MS, Chief of the Office of Public Health Practice at CDC is the Public Health Leadership speaker. **Check out the Arkansas Public Health Association's web site for registration information at www.arkpublichealth.org.**

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by Debbie Johnson, Chair, Nominations & Elections Committee

We are pleased to present the following slate of nominees for the Membership's consideration:

President Elect - Middle Tennessee

Bart Perkey
Chris Freeman

Vice President - East Tennessee

Kolleen Kolassa
Charles Turner

Vice President - Middle Tennessee

Debbie Broadway
Pam Isom

Vice President - West Tennessee

Lanora Bryant
Laura Weaver

Board of Directors - Middle Tennessee

Dr. Bill Paul
Frances Reece
Evelyn Vaillencourt
Dot Watson

(Continued from page 5)

Ballots will be mailed at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The ballots may be returned to the TPHA office by mail or they may be dropped in a ballot box provided at the registration desk until 3:00 PM on the second day of the Annual Meeting.

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT



Chris Freeman is Director of Community Health and Wellness for the Mid-Cumberland Region. Chris has twenty plus years of public health experience which also includes serving as Director of the Tennessee STD/HIV program. He is a 2006 graduate of the Southeast Public Health Leadership Institute. Chris is known for his excellent speaking and organizational skills.

Chris has provided outstanding service and dedication to the Tennessee Public Health Association. He served as vice president for Middle Tennessee in 2004. He has also served on the Board of Directors, Arrangements Committee, Exhibits Committee, Resolutions Committee, Audit Committee, and Fun & Fitness Committee.



Bart Perkey is Director of Health Services Access at Metro Public Health Department - Nashville where he has been employed since 1992. He is responsible for the three Preventive Health Centers, Downtown Clinic for the Homeless, Nursing Services, Nutrition Services, Pharmacy Services, Behavioral Health Services, Ryan White HIV/AIDS Services, Cancer Screening Services, and Health Care Access. He created (along with other key community leaders) the Safety Net Consortium of Middle Tennessee which developed and operates the award winning Bridges to Care program. He serves on the Nashville Homelessness Commission.

For the past three years, Bart has served as the TPHA representative to the American Public Health Association, chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, and as a member of the Public Policy Committee and the Board of Directors.

Bart enjoys medical mission work and has made nine trips to Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua during the last seven years. He also serves as a Stephen Minister and Bible teacher at Brentwood United Methodist Church. He is a member of the Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee Advisory Board.

He is married to Dr. Christine Perkey, a music professor at Tennessee State University, and has three children: Katrina, a computer programmer with Humana in Louisville who is expecting her first child in August; Angela who graduates from William and Mary in May; and Ginny who will complete her freshman year at American University in May.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT EAST TENNESSEE



Kolleen Kolassa has been in Public health for 15 years as a staff RN and Clinical Services Supervisor. She has been on the membership committee and nominations committee for TPHA. She also serves on the Public Health Nurse Practice Committee.

Kolleen graduated from ETSU with a BSN in nursing. She and her husband Jon have a daughter at UT and another attending next year. She enjoys being able to make a difference in her community through her public health service.



Charles Turner is the County Director for Campbell, Claiborne and Union County Health Departments. He began his public service work in 1993 as a Case manager. In his 15 years of service with the State of Tennessee he has held the positions of Health Council Coordinator, Director of Assessment and Planning for the Southeast Region, and Emergency Response Coordinator for the East Tennessee Region.

Charles holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Lee University and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Tennessee. He is a 1997 graduate of the Tennessee Public Health Leadership Class and a 2003 graduate of the UNC- Southeast Public Health Leadership Institute.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Charles has been an active member in the Tennessee Public Health Association (TPHA) and Rural Health Association of Tennessee (RHAT) since 1995. As a member of RHAT, he has served as Chair of the Conference Technical Committee, as Conference Vice-Chair, Conference Chair, and as a member of the Board of Directors holding positions of Secretary and Treasurer. As a member of TPHA, he has served on the TPHA Conference Committee, Membership Committee, Policy Resolutions Committee, and is currently Chair of the Constitution and By-laws Committee.

Charles resides in Clinton with his wife, Dana, and 2 year old son, Porter. The family is active in church and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT MIDDLE TENNESSEE



Debbie Broadway

currently serves as Public Health County Director for Coffee, Lincoln, and Moore Counties. Debbie has worked for the Department since 1975, starting as a WIC Field Representative in the eastern counties of the South Central Region. Her positions have also included Assistant Regional WIC Director, District Office Supervisor, and County Director for Bedford.

Debbie has a Bachelor of Science Degree from MTSU in Business Education and Office Management. She served as TPHA's Vice-President for Middle Tennessee in 2001, and has participated on several committees for the annual conference. In her role as County Director, she has been very involved in numerous committees for various agencies in her area.

On a personal note, Debbie has three daughters, ages 23, 20 and 11 years, who are her proudest accomplishments. Debbie enjoys working with people and being able to promote public health activities in her personal life as well as the workplace. She would like to thank the TPHA Nominating Committee for their honor of her nomination as one of the candidates for Middle Tennessee Vice President.



Pam Isom is county director for Warren, White and Cannon Counties in the Upper Cumberland Region. She has 12 years of public health experience. This has ranged from clinic nurse, nursing supervisor, district

nursing supervisor to her current county director position.

Pam is a 2002 graduate of the Southeast Public Health Leadership Institute. She completed a certificate of epidemiology program in 2006. She is currently completing her masters in public health administration.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT WEST TENNESSEE



Lanora (Norrie) Bryant

DDS, started her public health career in February, 1978, with the Northeast Tennessee Regional Health Department. She worked as a clinical dentist in most of the upper east county local health departments. She was

appointed Regional Dental Director in June, 1995 and remained in that position until relocating to the Jackson-Madison County Regional Health Department in October, 2002. In Jackson she serves as the Dental Director, School Nurse Program Supervisor, and the Public Information Officer.

Norrie has been an active member of TPHA since joining in 1979 and has enjoyed serving on various committees as well as representing the dental section for two terms on the Board. Norrie has two grown children and is now able to devote time to volunteering as a Girl Scout leader and fundraising for the American Cancer Society. She also serves on the executive committee of the Seventh District Dental Society, and on the School and Adolescent Oral Health Workgroup with the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors. She has always been a strong supporter of TPHA, recognizing the value it brings to each public health employee.



Laura Weaver, a Hardin County resident, graduated from the University of North Alabama in 1996 with a Bachelor's degree in Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Foods and Nutrition along with a minor in Business

Administration. She received her Masters in Business Administration from Union University in March of this year. Laura has over ten years experience working in public health as a WIC nutritionist with the past three years as the Public Health Educator for both Hardin and Decatur Counties.

Candidates for Board Representative Middle Tennessee



Dr. William Steven Paul

is the Director of Health, Metro Nashville Public Health Department. He started his Nashville career as Director of Health on July 9, 2007.

Dr. Paul has a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from Stanford University, an MD from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, and a Master in Public Health from the University of Illinois School of Public Health. He completed internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases, and completed a public health fellowship as an Epidemic Intelligence Services officer in the Division of Vector Borne Infectious Diseases for the CDC.

Prior to accepting the top public health leadership role for Nashville, Dr. Paul served for nearly 15 years at the Chicago Department of Public Health, most recently as Deputy Commissioner for Epidemiology and Disease.

Dr. Paul has published several articles in peer-reviewed publications and presented at a number of conferences. He is a recipient of a U.S. Public Health Service Unit Citation and Public Health Service Achievement Award, among other honors and awards.

Dr. Paul believes strongly that public health needs to be rooted in science and evidence and also in excellence in management and community engagement. He aims to build both staff and community strengths and capacity to address public health problems. He is comfortable working with a broad and diverse workforce and community on the multifaceted issues of public health.

He and his wife Tanya live in Nashville and have three children.



Frances Reece

is county director for DeKalb, Smith and Macon Counties in the Upper Cumberland Region. Frances has over 20 years of public health experience which also includes service with laboratory services and the West and Mid-Cumberland Regions.

Frances is an active, dedicated member of the Tennessee Public Health Association. She has served on

the program and registration committees.



Evelyn Vaillencourt is originally from Clarksville TN. She attended Austin Peay State University where she received her BS ('93) and MS ('97). She began her career in public health as a Volunteer at Montgomery County WIC as a Peer Breast-feeding Counselor. She became a full-time

Public Health Educator in January 1998 in Montgomery and Stewart Counties. In 2002, her family was transferred to Fort Walton Beach, Florida, where she worked with the West Florida Area Health Education Center in Continuing Education, planning meetings, lunch and learns and conferences. In 2004, Ms. Vaillencourt returned home as the Public Health County Director in Stewart County. She lives in Palmyra TN, with lovely husband (Alan), three beautiful teenage children (Alicia 17, Sara 15, and Alan Jr. 14), dog (Molly Border Collie) and Elvis (cat).



Dot Watson, BA, BSN,

MA, is a Registered Nurse who retired from active practice in January 2007. Her last six years were spent as a full-time volunteer in helping to establish Partners for Healing, a free primary care clinic which has as its patients the working uninsured of Coffee and Moore Counties.

Because of her work with the clinic, she was selected to appear on the "Live with Regis & Kelly" television show in 2006 to receive \$80,000 worth of equipment for the clinic. This was part of the "Mom's Dream Come True" contest.

Dot has been active with the Coffee County Health Council since its inception, serves as Vice-Chair and represents it on the South Central Regional Health Council. As a member of TPHA, she serves on the Legislative Policy Committee and the Public Policy Committee. She has also received the TPHA Partnership & Leadership Award for her work with Partners for Healing. She, in addition, serves in many capacities in her community as a member of the Board of Trustees of Harton Regional Medical Center, the Partners for Healing Board of Directors, the Coffee County Board of Health, the Medical Home Health Professional Advisory Committee, and the Coffee County Literacy Council. She has received numerous awards such as the Tullahoma Volunteer of the Year, 2002, given by

Tullahoma Kiwanis Club, Outstanding Professional Woman of the Year, 2004, given by the Tullahoma Business & Professional Women, Humanitarian of the Year, 2004, given by the Tullahoma Lion's Club, a State Excellence in Community Service Award, 2006, given by the Tennessee Daughters of the American Revolution, was given the first annual Nursing Alumni Achievement Award, 2006, by Salve Regina University in Newport, RI, and received a Distinguished Achievement Award, 2007, from Transylvania University in Lexington, KY.

Dot is quick to answer that her favorite nursing job was that of Public Health Nurse while living in Fairfax County, VA. It was there that she learned to find innumerable resources for her patients, which has also been beneficial to the patients at Partners for Healing. She is currently working on a Health Literacy Project as a collaborative project between the Coffee County Health Council and the Coffee County Literacy Council.

REGIONAL REPORTS

JACKSON-MADISON COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH OFFICE

submitted by Shanna Shearon, Epidemiologist

Tornadoes swept through Madison County, TN at the height of Super Tuesday Primary voting on the evening of February 5, 2008, leaving a path of destruction through many rural communities as well as urban North Jackson. Jackson Madison County Regional Health Department's (JMCRHD) Emergency Response Section and other government agencies continuously monitor severe weather situations and began weather preparation 24 hours in advance of the approaching system. Within minutes of the tornado having passed, JMCRHD had the foresight and capability to deploy numerous medical teams consisting of nurses, physicians, and medically trained volunteers to the heaviest effected areas, most notably Union University.

JMCRHD is the lead agency for Emergency Support Function (ESF)-six, Shelter and Mass Care, as well as, ESF-eight, Public Health and Medical Services. We effectively located, staffed, and coordinated the shelter site for Madison County residents. The site cared for 100+ patients throughout the period of operation, 36 of which were elderly assisted living patients, all within the span of ninety minutes from notification of tornado touchdown.

There are always areas of improvement associated with any type of disaster response, but overall we were extremely efficient and affective during this event. We are persistently preparing for future situations and working tirelessly at perfecting our response for future activations. Some lessons learned from this disaster include communication improvements, additional training for entire staff, risk communication/rumor control and additional equipment needs.

We could not have performed so successfully without the help of many community partners and are extremely proud of our staff which never ceases to exceed expectations. Please feel free to contact our Emergency Response Section at 731-423-3020 for additional information or questions concerning our response efforts.

Sadly we announce the retirement of Gene Jobe, RN, who has spent 34 years serving the public health of Madison County. A reception was held in her honor on January 30th. Gene retired as our Child Health Supervisor and will be sorely missed. She truly embodied what a public health nurse should be. Kay Kirk, RN, has taken over as our new Child Health Supervisor.

We also are pleased to announce new additions to our staff at JMCRHD. Barbara Goodman is our new Family Planning Nurse Practitioner. Barbara was previously employed at Jackson State Community College where she was a professor in the Nursing Program. She is a great addition to our JMCRHD family!

Randall Roby is our new Emergency Response Manager as of November, 2007. Randall joins our staff with ten years of emergency management experience, five years of that being his prior position at Memphis-Shelby County Emergency Management Association (EMA) where he served as Chief of Planning. He has worked numerous disasters including tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, terrorist attacks, hazardous materials incidents, evacuations and wildfires. His goal for the Emergency Response section is to become a fully accredited emergency management program.

NORTHEAST TN REGION -

On February 23rd and 24th, the annual Remote Area Medical Clinic was held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Greeneville. The Remote Area Medical Clinic is a joint effort by the Greene County Health Department, Laughlin Health Care Foundation, Knoxville based Remote Area Medical, and a host of local dental and vision professionals along with hundreds of volunteers. It is made possible each year by funds from the Blanche W. Grady Community Service Award Endowment, a fund within the Laughlin Health Care Foundation. This clinic is one of the largest free health-care events in the community to provide direct services. Jackie Neas, RN, Nursing Supervisor at the Greene CHD and Betty Weemes, Director of the Laughlin Health Care Foundation are leading organizers of the event.

Of the 186 patients seen through the RAM clinic, 83 patients received dental procedures totaling \$45,225.00. One hundred-three participants were given visual examinations that were completed in the offices of local ophthalmologists and optometrists prior to the clinic. Frame selection and fittings were then offered over the course of the clinic week-end. The vision exams and glasses provided were valued at \$15,450.00. The combined value of dental and vision services provided

(Continued from page 9)

totaled \$66,000.00.

106 volunteers assisted with the clinic including staff from the Greene County Health Department, Laughlin Memorial Hospital and the Laughlin Health Care Foundation.. Second Harvest Food Bank of Gray donated a package of free food along with other personal items to each participant.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION -

The Maury County Health Department in Columbia began in January providing basic dental care for TennCare and uninsured children and emergency dental care for uninsured adults. The addition of the Maury County dental program brings to three the number of such programs in the region, with both Lincoln and Lewis County also participating. All three dental clinics accept eligible clients from any county in the region, with fees based on family size and income. Since oral health is a vital component of overall health, and the health department has always focused on prevention, we are pleased to offer this vital service as an integral part of the statewide provider network for dental services.

Commissioner Susan Cooper spoke at the Partners for Healing health fair and luncheon on March 14 in Tullahoma. Commissioner Cooper encouraged everyone to commit to a lifestyle of good nutrition and physical fitness, including visiting the GetFitTN website to utilize the fitness tracker and other helpful tools.

Partners for Healing is a non-profit medical clinic for the working uninsured in Coffee County. The clinic has received Health Access funding to secure the services of a psychotherapist who provides follow-up mental health and counseling services.

UPPER CUMBERLAND REGION -

Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Health staff teamed up to provide training for the region's daycare and Head Start workers. Six sessions were held in counties around the region. While the main focus was to educate about pandemic influenza planning, the training allowed the opportunity to also educate about other infectious diseases which occur in child care settings. MRSA, E. coli and other food borne diseases, proper hand washing, cough etiquette, health department services, and food preparation safety were topics of discussion. Trainees received posters about cough etiquette and hand washing to display in their facilities, pandemic flu checklists to assist with personal and day care planning, 2008 immunization recommendations, and other educational tools. There were 249 who attended which included seventy-seven day care agencies, seventeen head start agencies, and DHS licensure staff who granted training hours to the workers who attended. Along with positive comments received about the training, we have received several reports that the

information shared is being utilized in the agencies.

WEST TENNESSEE REGION -

The Get Fit Tennessee Team, along with Commissioner of Health Susan R. Cooper, M.S.N., R.N., shared the Get Fit message with over 200 students at Trimble Elementary on Feb. 29 in Dyer County. The hallways of the historic school were lined with posters and welcome cards colored by the students to welcome the Commissioner and the Get Fit Tennessee Team. Upon conclusion of the nearly 60-minute presentation, which included Tennessee House Representative Phillip Pinion, each student received a Get Fit Tennessee jump rope.

Continuing its Dyer County Tour, the Get Fit Tennessee team visited Dyersburg Middle School, where over 900 students gathered for the assembly in the school's gym. Mayor Richard Hall was present at the school and was recruited to join Team Tennessee. Commissioner Cooper led a spirited presentation for the packed house, including nutrition trivia games and student interaction. The afternoon's event was highlighted when Commissioner Cooper challenged students and teachers alike to the "Cha Cha Slide". The effort, which brought all 900-plus kids to their feet with applause and cheers, was an example of how physical activity comes in simple forms.

At both stops in Dyer County, Commissioner Cooper provided information on the new, interactive Fitness Tracker available exclusively online at [www . G e t F i t T N . c o m](http://www.GetFitTN.com) .

The Gibson County Health Educator participated in the ninth annual Fathers Fair on March 6, 2008. As part of the event, the Health Educator presented a program entitled: "Keeping the Door of Communication Open; Don't Forget to Talk to Your Child About.....". There were approximately 300 participants.

Preparations are underway for the Henry County annual Teen Summit to be held at Grove High School. There will be approximately 400 students who will participate in a day-long event addressing teen pregnancy, STD's, tobacco, suicide and violence.

U.T. Martin's Tri-County Wellness program is underway in Weakley, Obion and Gibson counties. The primary goal of this Health Access funded initiative is to address type II diabetes and to bridge the gap in services available for diabetes management in this area. Although the initiative is new, it is being well received by the community.

SOUTHEAST TN REGION-

The Southeast Tennessee Regional Medical Reserve Corps, based in the Southeast Regional Office, has been hard at work developing relationships with Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) units across the region. Bob Crane, the Regional MRC Coordinator, has held training sessions with nearly every HOSA group in

the ten-county region to describe the MRC and how the students could be involved. Sheila Carlton, Tennessee's HOSA Coordinator, has used the Southeast Tennessee Regional MRC as an example across the state for getting HOSA involved in response to a public health emergency. HOSA students could help in point of dispensing (POD) sites by distributing educational information or providing other non-medical assistance. It's also a good way for the students to serve their communities while learning more about the work of public health. Bob has been able to register nearly 500 new volunteers through this venture and was asked to conduct a workshop on the MRC during Tennessee's HOSA Leadership Conference in March.

The Southeast TENNderCare group has been either planning or participating in many events, including Career Days, Hispanic Health Fairs, and Tobacco Free Sports Events, to name a few. This spring, they are looking forward to participating in a Family Fun Festival in Marion County, the Montegale Nutrition Adventure events in Grundy and Marion counties, Incredible Baby Showers in both Franklin and Grundy counties, as well as four upcoming Health Rocks Health Fairs, that will be accomplished before the end of April, 2008. The Southeast TENNderCare program is very pleased to employ a great bunch of lay health workers who exhibit a dedication to the program that is beyond imagination. The State's goal is an 80% EPSDT screening rate. The latest EPSDT screening ratio reported to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by TennCare in May, 2007 was 77%, which speaks volumes for the hard work being done by all.

In most of the Southeast region, the Tobacco Endowment money was distributed to counties with the target of increasing the number of environmental and policy changes that prevent youth initiation of tobacco use. Coordinated school health programs, health councils, health departments as well as 4-H programs have all partnered in this collaborative effort.

Several counties are promoting community awareness by purchasing billboards advertising anti-tobacco messages created by students. Poster winners receive monetary prizes or saving bonds. In Bledsoe, the grand prize winner had her poster displayed on a billboard in Pikeville for four months. In Grundy Co. the winners from each school will have their posters turned into placemats which will be distributed at various restaurants throughout the county. In McMinn Co. the Junior Health Council wrote an anti-tobacco play, entitled Not So Snow White and the Seven Dwarves and made costumes and a set. They have performed it for 6th through 8th grade students in McMinn County Schools and plan to share the storyline with other counties.

MID CUMBERLAND

On January 25, Cheatham County kicked off the "Journey to Better Health" program with an assembly at Cheatham Middle School. The day's festivities included

appearances by the Get Fit TN Team, Mayor Bill Orange, Representative Phillip Johnson, Biggest Loser participant David Griffin, and a special musical performance by **Big Kenny** from the Country superstar duo Big & Rich. Big Kenny was accompanied by members of their group, 'Muzikmafia.'

The "Journey to Better Health" program is a 12 week program that was created and sponsored by the Cheatham County Health Council. The Council selected 13 children based on their BMI's from Cheatham Middle School to participate in the program. The purpose of the program is to encourage the students to choose a path to a healthier lifestyle. *Curves* and *Snap Fitness* in Ashland City have opened their facilities on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for mandatory workouts. These workouts are free for the children and parents. Also, each Monday a representative from one of the fitness centers leads the children in a mandatory workout after school. Each Friday, the children weigh in with the school nurse so their progress can be monitored weekly. Throughout the program, monthly round-up sessions are held that focus on body image, self-esteem, nutrition and respect. At the end of the program, a wrap-up party will be scheduled with yet another special guest appearance!!

Kick Butts Day is a national event that calls attention to the dangers of tobacco use and secondhand smoke. Project 1200 is the Kick Butts Day effort to raise awareness of the 1200 people that die each day due to tobacco use in this country! Robertson County Health Department challenged the community to donate used shoes of all kinds. They were then displayed on the gym floor at Springfield Middle School to visibly demonstrate how big that number really is! With the non-smokers protection act that was passed last fall in Tennessee, hopefully this number will decrease for our state and for the country overall!

In February the Wilson County Health Department began an adult dental pilot initiative. The initiative began as a collaboration between the Mid-Cumberland Region, the Wilson County Health Department and the Brooks House, a homeless shelter for women and women with children. Numerous dental hygienists, dental assistants and dentists from Wilson County have enrolled as 'volunteers' to participate in this program. The 'adult volunteer' clinic operates within the Wilson County Health Department which houses three operatories. Although the Brooks House has supplied the majority of the initial patients seen, the clinic will also be available for all eligible adults. Referrals will be made from within the Wilson County Health Department as well. Services are provided and charges applied based on a sliding fee scale according to health department guidelines. Eligible adults are those with no dental insurance, who live below 250% of poverty, and are residents of Wilson County. Currently, the initiative is offered one Friday per month.

Tennessee Public Health Association
 P. O. Box 210147
 Nashville, TN 37221

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 18

**Middle TN Grand Division Meeting
 "Spring Training"**

William County Agricultural Center
 Franklin, TN

May 2

**West TN Grand Division Meeting
 "Get Into The Game For A Healthier You"**

UT Agriculture Education Center
 Jackson, TN

May 30

East TN Grand Division Meeting

River Terrace
 Gatlinburg, TN

May 7-9, 2008

Southern Health Association Meeting

Austin Hotel
 Hot Springs, Arkansas

August 27-29, 2008

**Tennessee Public Health Association
 "Preparing the Best Game Plan:
 Tackling Behaviors for Health
 Improvement"**

Cool Springs Marriott
 Franklin, TN