



# Tennessee Public Health Association Newsletter

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

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## PUBLIC HEALTH WINS BIG WITH PASSAGE OF SMOKE FREE WORKPLACE LEGISLATION

June 11, 2007, was an historic day in Tennessee when Governor Phil Bredesen signed into law a comprehensive smoke free workplace bill!! It was a day that saw the culmination of many, many hours, days and weeks of work by numerous individuals committed to improving the health status of Tennesseans through the passage of smoke free workplace legislation!

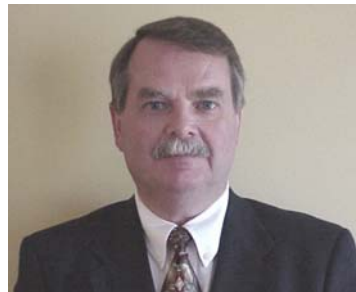
For years, and even as recently as January 2007, we heard, “it couldn't be done.” But on the afternoon of May 31, all of your tireless work, vocal advocacy and proactive passion paid off as Tennessee, one of the nation's top five tobacco producing states, broke its decades-old ties with Big Tobacco and passed a strong workplace smoking ban.

We are thankful to our legislators for their rightful vote to protect the health of such a large number of Tennessee workers. The dangers of secondhand smoke deserve to be in the public policy realm and we are proud that Tennessee now will join more than 23 others states in proactively protecting our citizens.

[Take a moment to thank your legislators for listening and voting to protect the public health of Tennesseans.](#)

As you all well know, by voting for smoke-free workplace protection, the Legislature responded to your call, to the voice of approximately 73 percent of registered Tennessee voters, and to the many organizations that worked to make Smoke-Free Tennessee a reality. TPHA would like to recognize all those organizations, especially CHART, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the Tennessee Medical Association, the AFL-CIO, the Tennessee Primary Care Association and numerous other

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### President's Message – June 2007 Newsletter

Where has all the time gone? Can it be true that time passes quicker as we grow older? It sure seems that way as I complete my 25<sup>th</sup> year in public health.

It doesn't seem that long ago that I was hired as a young dentist who was going to work in public health for only a short time. Twenty-five years later, I'm a public health professional with no regrets regarding the career path I chose.

As president of our Association, I spend time during lunch most every day looking at public health association websites from across the U.S. I also routinely

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## PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Kevin Morris, Chair

Your 2007 Program Committee has been hard at work and it looks like our annual meeting is going to be very special. We are planning 24 different breakout sessions to ensure we have something for everyone. Nationally known speakers and health care experts from across the country will be joining us.

Pat Cooper, EdD, Superintendent of the McComb County School District in Mississippi will share his successful efforts to implement effective school health programs during his keynote titled “Coordinated School Health: Making the Vision the Mission.” A nationally recognized consultant and lecturer on systemic education reform and comprehensive school health and inclusion issues, Dr. Cooper's work in Mississippi has resulted in documented gains in student attendance, test scores and

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public health organizations who made this day possible.

We also owe a special thanks to our Legislative Committee that worked tirelessly under the leadership of Bart Perkey during the 2007 legislative session. Through the work of that Committee, we were able to quickly mobilize our advocacy network to make legislative contacts at crucial times during the session. Committee members who participated in the effort this year include Hugh Barnes, Bob Stolarick, Larry Bowles, Rosemary Cotham, Paul Deepan, Tony Emison, Darrell Holden, Mark Jones, Gary Mayes and Dot Watson. Of course, the greatest appreciation is due Doris Spain for her tireless leadership and negotiation skills in the role of lobbyist for TPHA.

**This is a time of celebration!** And although we are thrilled about the fact that the health of many working Tennesseans will be protected, rest assured we will continue to advocate for all Tennesseans to be under the same protections. Watch for updates throughout the summer and fall regarding implementation plans and the legislative outlook for the next session.

As passed, the major exclusions in this smoke-free legislation include: bars with access to persons 21 and older at all times; private clubs; businesses with three or fewer employees where, at the discretion of the business owner, smoking may be allowed in an enclosed room not accessible to the general public; and establishments with at least one completely open garage type door on one or more sides. The bill in its entirety is available on our web site at [www.tnpublichealth.org](http://www.tnpublichealth.org).

We thank you for your dedication and encouragement and congratulate you for clearing the air in Tennessee!

## President's Message (continued from Page 1)

dig through my TPHA files to refresh my memory regarding specific issues and topics. If there is a common thread that ties public health associations together throughout the decades, it must be discussion about 'current' challenges facing public health and speculation about the future.

Recently I read a public health association president's message from 1949. The topic?... challenges facing public health and speculation about the future. Last year we focused our annual conference on these same topics – challenges and opportunities. The ongoing challenges we face as public health professionals are what keep us going strong, even after 25 years of service to the citizens of Tennessee.

In 1977, TPHA sponsored a conference celebrating 100 years of organized public health in Tennessee. In Commissioner Fowinkle's introduction to the conference, he associated public health's long tradition of service and achievements to awareness of the past, present, and future,

and our willingness to confront challenges and accept change. In his closing remarks to conference attendees, Dr. Fowinkle stated, "I am confident that the kind of determination, dedication, and loyalty that has achieved such great progress in public health... will enable us to confront the challenges ahead and maximize the opportunities within those challenges to improve the health of the people we serve." Spoken 30 years ago, his remarks ring as true today as then. Our opportunities to make a difference in the public's health are born out of challenges and changes.

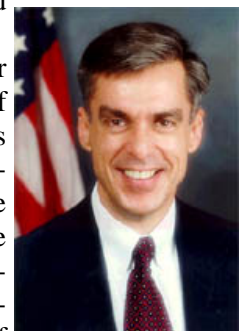
The annual conferences sponsored by TPHA reflect a continuing commitment to one of our Association's primary missions... to provide quality educational opportunities for Tennessee's public health workforce and other health professionals involved in assuring the health of all Tennesseans. I invite you to join me at this year's educational conference – *Bridging Health Across the Span of Life* – to be held at the Cool Springs Conference Center in Franklin on Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, 2007. Mark your calendars and plan to attend our seventh annual meeting at Cool Springs. Seven years... where has all the time gone?

## Program Committee Report (continued from Page 1)

teacher productivity as well as reducing dropout suspension and expulsion rates. According to Dr Cooper, "Simply providing access to education will not solve anybody's problems if the nation's schools are overwhelmed. We must work together to take action for the children's nutrition, fitness and overall health to create healthy, safe supportive schools where teachers can teach and children can learn."

Father Nick Mezacapa has inspired audiences across the country with his unique and unforgettable presentations. Father Nick draws upon his experiences as a teacher, coach, priest, husband and father. He has served as the rector of the Calvary Episcopal Church right across from the Mayo Clinic for the past 16 years. Nick's style weaves captivating personal life experiences with the refreshing and inspiring message he has to share about survival and spirituality. Be prepared to think and laugh.

Dr. Claude Fox is the former Administrator of HRSA and is one of the leading Public Health policymakers in the country. A Board certified pediatrician, Dr. Fox has served as State Health Officer in Alabama and as the Deputy State Health Officer in Mississippi. Among his affiliations and activities have been President of ASTHO, President of the National Association of Maternal and Child Health/Crippled Children's Services Directors,



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Co-Chair of The Governor's Task on Infant Mortality in Alabama and Co-Chair of the Alabama Legislative Advisory Commission on AIDS. He also served on the Executive Committee of the National Academy for State Health Policy and is Chair of the Healthy People 2010 Steering Committee and the Nutrition Policy Board for the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Get ready to learn and be entertained by some of the most dynamic speakers and most qualified health professionals in the country. This meeting is going to be special.

## BARRY W. MOORE APPOINTED TO STATE COMMISSION

Governor Phil Bredesen appointed Barry W. Moore to a four-year term on the newly created "West Tennessee Seismic Safety Commission". Barry is one of 12 commissioners selected who will serve as the "emergency health services" representative. He was selected based on his "individual characteristics and professional qualifications". The appointees include a variety of other professional fields, including architecture, insurance and public utilities.

This is Tennessee's first commission dedicated to dealing with earthquake hazards, which will include reviewing building codes, disaster preparations and public education efforts. Memphis and Shelby County and all of West Tennessee are highly vulnerable to an earthquake disaster because of its proximity to the New Madrid fault zone.

Public Health is fortunate to have representation on such a task force because as Barry states, "it's not all about buildings and bridges". Once a severe earthquake occurs, the focus will immediately shift to public health and how well we are able to respond and coordinate the sudden surge for patients requiring medical and healthcare attention.

Fortunately, the state has invested millions of dollars strengthening the public health emergency preparedness infrastructure, making us all better prepared to respond and assist one another in the event of a catastrophic disaster such as an earthquake. Such activities reflect public health's proactive role in earthquake preparedness, something that needs to be shared more extensively with government, business and industries alike.

Barry is the Manager and Emergency Response Coordinator for the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department's Office of Emergency Preparedness. He also serves as this year's TPHA Nominations Committee Chairman. In 2002, he received the TPHA "Public Health Worker of the Year" award for his efforts in bioterrorism planning.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### POSTER SESSION COMMITTEE - CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submitted by: Evelyn Edwards, Chair

The Poster Session Committee is currently accepting abstracts for poster presentations at the 2007 TPHA Annual Conference. All public health disciplines are encouraged to participate.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the Poster Session Committee, and presenters will be notified of the Committee's suggested revisions, if any. 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. Accepted abstracts will be printed in the conference brochure.

Submissions must be e-mailed to Evelyn Edwards at [edwards@cafes.net](mailto:edwards@cafes.net) no later than July 31, 2007. Final selection of abstracts and notification of presenters will be made by August 18, 2007.

### AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Submitted by: Gail Harmon, Chair

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 for one of the TPHA awards. We are currently seeking nominations for the following awards:

#### **R.H. Hutcheson, Sr., MD Award**

- Award is considered the highest award given by TPHA

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- Nominee has made outstanding contributions to public health
- Must have been a member of TPHA for 5 years and be an active member of the Association in the year in which they are nominated

### **The Alex B. Shipley, MD Award**

- Presented to an employee of a regional or local health department
- Made outstanding contributions in the field of public health
- Has a commitment to the values of public health that have been demonstrated by their significant involvement in and contributions to their community
- Must have been a member of TPHA for 5 years and be an active member of the Association in the year in which they are nominated

### **Public Health Worker of the Year Award**

- Presented to a person in the field of public health who, during the past three (3) years has provided outstanding service to the field
- Must be in full-time employment in the field
- Hold Active or Life Membership in the Association

### **Public Health Group/Unit/Department Award**

- Presented to a group, unit or department that has made an outstanding contribution to public health

### **PAL (Partners and Leadership) Award**

- Presented to a non-public health professional, group or organization
- Made a significant contribution on behalf of public health, that is extra ordinary and would set an example for others

Nominations for the above mentioned awards should be submitted to Gail Harmon, Chairperson, TPHA Awards Committee, East Tennessee Region, 1522 Cherokee Trail, Knoxville, TN 37920. **Deadline for award nominations is August 31, 2007.**

Also, anyone who has been in public health for 20, 30, 40 or 50 years and has been a member of TPHA for at least 5 years is asked to notify the TPHA Office. Recipients of the public health service awards will also be recognized at the annual meeting.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Submitted by: Katie Garman, Chair

The time for our annual meeting is fast approaching. At this time, we have 885 active members (those who have renewed for 2007), 195 life members and numerous members who were members in 2006 but have not renewed for 2007. Please keep in mind, the waived slots are allocated to the regions by the number of active members in that region. If you have not renewed, please go to the TPHA website ([www.tnpublichealth.org](http://www.tnpublichealth.org)) as soon as possible to get an application and return this along with your renewal fee plus the \$5.00 late fee. **You will not want to miss this years conference.**

## **TENNESSEE WAS PREPARED FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK**

Submitted by: Lucia Vining, Co-Chair

Tennessee celebrated National Public Health Week 2007 (April 2 – 8) by getting prepared! As in years past, the Tennessee Department of Health partnered with the Tennessee Public Health Association to provide resources in celebration of National Public Health Week.

This year's theme was: "Take the First Step: Preparedness and Public Health Threats, Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation's Vulnerable Populations". Regions across the state were encouraged to plan activities based on the following "sub-themes":

- Monday: Addressing the Unique Needs of Families
- Tuesday: Addressing Chronic Health Care Needs
- Wednesday: Addressing the Unique Needs of Hourly-Wage Workers and Employers
- Thursday: Addressing the Unique Needs of Schools Serving Children (K-12)

Each day during National Public Health Week, various Emergency Response personnel were featured on the Department of Health Intranet. A list of "Tips for Emergencies" was also posted, and included information for home emergencies as well as emergencies while traveling. The State Public Health Week Committee also provided regions with on-line resources such as a Family Disaster Plan, Personal Workplace Disaster Supply List, and even tips for caring for pets in an emergency!

To help regions in their planning efforts, TPHA also provided a list of resources and client handouts, including handouts for families and children in English and various other languages. In addition, TPHA purchased two "Ready-To-Go" Emergency Kits from the American Red Cross for each health region across the

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state. These kits were provided for use with Community Health Councils and other groups to help demonstrate what items should be included when creating an “emergency kit”.

For more information about preparedness resources provided by TPHA, contact Doris Spain ([dgspain@tnpublichealth.org](mailto:dgspain@tnpublichealth.org)) or Lucia Vining ([lucia.vining@state.tn.us](mailto:lucia.vining@state.tn.us)).

Special thanks to all Regional Emergency Response Coordinators and members of the State National Public Health Week Planning Committee for helping make this week a great success!

## WANTED: Hot Public Health Topics

Submitted by: Tammy Burke, Resolutions Comm. Chair

The Resolutions Committee is in the process of developing resolutions on subjects that our membership believes to be pressing public health issues. Historically, the Association has developed resolutions around important and timely public health issues. Some recent examples include support for Smoke Free Tennessee and Fluoridated Public Water Systems. These resolutions and others can be found on our web-site. You are encouraged to send ideas for topics for resolutions to Tammy Burke, Resolution Committee Chair at [Tammyb@hamiltontn.gov](mailto:Tammyb@hamiltontn.gov) or 423-209-8218. Deadline for these topics is July 2, 2007.

## Report of the Southern Health Association

Submitted by: Tammy Burke, SHA Rep

The 2007 Annual SHA Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Georgia Public Health Association. It will be at the Savannah Riverfront Marriott, September 4 – 7, 2007. SHA will sponsor two events. Dr. Stephanie Bailey will be a keynote speaker and SHA will also host a multi-state panel on pandemic flu preparedness efforts. More information can be found at [www.southernhealth.net](http://www.southernhealth.net) and [www.gapha.org](http://www.gapha.org)

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Articles for the next Newsletter due by  
August 24, 2007

## REGIONAL REPORTS

### Memphis-Shelby County



Nancy Flint, School Nurse, Starts a Parade

April 20, 2007, marked the day that the students and staff at Chimneyrock Elementary School (a Shelby County School) arrived at Disneyland after a very long walk! Nancy Flint, RN, NCSN, the Memphis and Shelby County School Nurse assigned to Chimneyrock, led them on this “walk”.

Mrs. Flint is an experienced school nurse who is acutely aware of the increase in numbers of children who are overweight and also the number of children being diagnosed with diabetes. She became aware of the Blue-Cross Blue Shield WalkingWorks for Schools program at a Tennessee Association of School Nurses convention last year and began encouraging all classes to walk for a few minutes each day. Walking is an activity that virtually everyone can do, and is a good way to introduce or maintain daily physical activity habits.

This year, Nurse Nancy and the school set a goal of “Walking to Disneyland,” and calculated that 20 minutes of walking time by an elementary child equaled one mile walked. Most classes (and their teachers) walked at least 5 minutes each day, indoors or out. 36,300 minutes later (the equivalent of 1815 miles), the entire school celebrated their “arrival” at Disneyland by parading around the school ground with an escort by Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Students, staff and parent volunteers all wore mouse ears and marched to M-I-C-K-E-Y M-O-U-S-E.



Chimneyrock Principal Patti Russell with Mickey and Minnie Mouse

Nancy Flint and the MSCHD School Health program practice school nursing under the umbrella of the Coordinated School Health Model, which includes health, nutrition and physical activity education as well as health services, parent and community involvement, psychosocial health, a healthy school environment and staff health promotion. Nurse Nancy consistently contributes a great deal of health promotion and health education to her schools, as well as providing hands-on care to students. The Health Department is proud of her un-flagging efforts for good health.

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## Southeast Region - Healthy Horizons Day Camp

The Polk County Health Council has held the Healthy Horizons Day Camp for the last four years for all the fourth grade students in Polk County. The U.T. Extension Office is the lead agency in this event but the entire Health Council works together to make the day camp happen. Along with the U.T. Extension Office, the Southeast Regional Office, Polk County Health Department, Benton Family Health Care Center, Sky Ridge Medical Center, Tennessee Nutrition Consumer Education Program (TNCEP), Horizon Milling, and local churches and volunteers are among the many community partners working together to make Healthy Horizons happen.

The day camp is designed to teach fourth grade students about healthy eating and physical activity and give them a first-hand opportunity to experience both. Over four years ago, Polk County teachers, 4-H leaders, and TNCEP leaders began to notice that students were overweight and didn't have good health habits. As a result, they came up with the idea of a day camp where students could learn about the benefits of changing their habits and have fun at the same time. Fourth grade was chosen because that is an important decision-making time in a child's life and a time that children still listen to adults.

The camp is held at Camp McCroy in the Cherokee National Forest. The children rotate through a series of classes which are all held outdoors. Activity sessions include getting to try out Tai Chi, aerobic dance, relay races, and an inflatable obstacle course. Other classes include a discussion on nutrition and exercise, fruit bingo, nutrition board games, My Pyramid, learning about sugar, and a taste-test session. A healthy lunch and all the water you can drink are also included for the children at no charge.

Since parents often chaperone school field trips, there are also sessions for the parents as well as the teachers. A local chef teaches a class called "Cooking with Clyde" on how to make many kid-favorite foods healthy and how to include more fruits and vegetables in the diet. There are additional sessions for parents and teachers on how to help their children become healthier. Parents and teachers also receive a free lunch.

Adults from the Health Council and older 4-H students supervise each session for the children so that the teachers and parents can participate in the adult sessions. Some of the teachers have stated that this is the only field trip where they allow other people to supervise their children and they are 100% comfortable with the people who are watching their children. Because the teachers and parents feel comfortable, the Health Council has a valuable opportunity to reach the adults who choose the family's food and determine the family's exercise habits.

The day before the camp, a labor-intensive day of chopping mounds of fruits and vegetables for the children to taste, carrying out camp mattresses for children to sit on, and setting up tents takes place. Health Council members show up early on camp day to make sure everything is set up and ready to go and, along with the 4-H volunteers, take everything down and clean up after the event.

Healthy Horizons just finished its fourth year on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Health Council plans to continue this opportunity to reach children and their parents in a fun, interactive method.

## Hamilton CHD Hosts Youth Health Conference

Submitted by Kaye Greer

Sponsored by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department's **TENNderCare Outreach Program** and the Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Department, the first annual Youth Health Conference was held at New Monumental Baptist Church on March 17, with approximately 500 youth between the ages of 13 and 20 in attendance. The conference may become a model for similar events across the state, according to Tennessee Commissioner of Health Susan Cooper.

Some of the teens came for an opportunity to meet NFL stars but all the participants were informed of a holistic approach to improving children's health in Tennessee. "Our motto is to protect the health of the citizens, promote the health of citizens and improve the health of citizens," the Commissioner said.

Heisman Trophy winner and former all-pro running back with the Tennessee Titans, Eddie George heads the Governor's GetFitTN campaign to bring awareness of how better choices lead to better health and quality of life. Mr. George was the keynote speaker along with Commissioner Cooper.

In addition to the keynote speakers there were 15 breakout sessions dealing with topics selected by the Rec Department's core youth leaders. Some of the topics addressed were Alcohol Abuse, Exercise, Peer Pressure, Teen Pregnancy, and Youth Medical Issues. Parents of the teens also attended some of the sessions. Also, Dr. Ternae Jordan, Sr. addressed the subject of gang violence with all of the attendees. His son was shot in a drive-by shooting.

TENNderCare, the state program for federally mandated periodic health screenings for children from birth to age 21, is operated by local health departments. The purpose of the conference was to reach adolescents and to empower them to make changes in their health. "Promoting a healthier lifestyle and having annual checkups — this is our best defense for preventing illness and promoting a healthier life," said Brad Blair, a TENNderCare Outreach health educator for the Health Department.

The Hamilton County TENNderCare Program is

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continuing its partnership with the Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Department to see that all adolescents participating in the rec programs are current with their EPSD&T checkups. The Community Health Centers and the Health Department's Clinical Services Department will also be partners in this endeavor.

BlueCross Blue Shield was the corporate sponsor of the event.

### West Tennessee



The new \$1.8 million Dyer County Health Department has reached completion and is now open for business. It features 11 clinic rooms, three labs, a conference room and a children's waiting room with murals featuring hand-painted nursery rhymes. The 11,346 square foot building is about 1,000 square feet larger than the old building, thus making it is the largest health department in rural West Tennessee.

Further expansion can be seen in West Tennessee at the Gibson, Tipton and McNairy counties health departments. Each of these facilities has received safety net funding; Gibson County has received \$20,000, as well as, additional funding to add approximately 1350 sq. ft. to the existing Humboldt facility. Tipton County received \$110,300 safety net funding to be used toward expansion of its clinic and McNairy County received \$77,300 to purchase a new space for its clinics. New offices in addition to clinical space will help tremendously with the efficiency of the county's programs.

The Henry County WIC Nutritionist, Nancy Melton, submitted the artwork of Mason, a local 8 year-old WIC recipient to the National WIC Association's WIC calendar art competition. Mason was one of the runner-up winners to have his artwork featured in the calendar that will be distributed nationwide. The National WIC Association received 500+ entries from more than 60 agencies.

The Community Services Staff and the "Get Fit" Coordinator were able to attend Governor Bredesen's Town Hall meeting concerning his "Education First" campaign at the Jackson Madison County Public Library. Attendees were present to show support for the proposed tobacco tax for Tennessee.

The second annual Minority Health Summit was held at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson, TN. Speakers included Dr. Wesley C McClure, president of Lane College, and local cardiologist, Dr. Lewis Cunningham.

### Mid Cumberland Region

Congratulations to Mid-Cumberland's Brenda McClanahan on her selection as the 2007 winner of the *Tennessean's* "Salute to Nurses" Community Outreach

Award! The award is given each year as part of a tribute



Commissioner Cooper and  
Brenda McClanahan

to nursing professionals during National Nurses Week.

Brenda began her career as a public health nurse 35 years ago in Sullivan County. She has held various positions serving as a family planning nurse practitioner in Metro Davidson and in William-

son County, and later becoming the nursing supervisor in Williamson and Cheatham Counties. Brenda currently serves as Director of Nursing for the Mid-Cumberland Region, a position she has held for the past seven years. Brenda oversees the activities of approximately 110 public health nurses with 300,000 patient encounters per year.

In addition to Brenda's 'every day' duties, she organized a group of nurses who traveled from Middle Tennessee to Florida when the hurricanes hit in 2004. When victims of hurricane Katrina came from New Orleans, she met them getting off the planes and assisted them in getting their immediate and long-term medical needs met. She has taken flu vaccine to bedridden patients at their homes who would have otherwise gone without.

Brenda was chosen from 110 local nurses nominated by friends, peers and family members, and was one of five finalists for the award. Her coworkers in the Mid-Cumberland Regional Office were asked to submit information for her nomination. The following is an excerpt of what they have to say about Brenda and her service:

*"Her leadership ability has enabled her to serve as both mentor and friend to numerous nurses. As a patient advocate, her goal is to continually improve the patient care delivery process helping both patients and staff. Brenda still feels as passionate about the nursing profession as she did when she began. Her mission is to introduce quality nurses to public health and help them catch the passion. Brenda's belief is that it isn't just about the money you make....it is about the feeling of knowing that you truly make a difference in s o m e o n e ' s l i f e ."*

### East Tennessee Region

**Campbell County Health Council** held its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Health Fair May 2-4, 2007. The Health Fair was a huge success with all nine elementary schools participating. The Campbell County Health Department, local agencies and businesses set up booths that focused on healthy habits. Health screenings for eye problems, scoliosis, and Body Mass Index were done; the Campbell County Health Department recorded 672 BMI's. ETSU is working with the Campbell County Coordinated School

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Health Director to analyze the data, which will be used in the county wide health needs assessment.

**Claiborne County Health Department**, The Senior Resource Network and Claiborne County Hospital came together to host the first annual Claiborne County Health Fair on May 4. A total of 32 vendors were represented at the fair, all geared in the health care field and/or planning one's health and financial future. Approximately 200 people attended. The health department provided information on Family Planning, EPST&T, Lead Blood, WIC, STD, TenderCare and Prevention of Teen Pregnancy, and free Td immunizations shots were offered.



Linda Nelms, Health Educator

**Hamblen County Health Department** partnered with the Tennessee Minority Health and Community Development Coalition, Inc.; the East Tennessee Regional Health Office and the Faith-Based Initiative to sponsor a Pastor's Health Forum on May 10 in Morristown. Representatives of five African American Churches were present to discuss the elimination of health disparities within the African American community in Hamblen County. Focus group discussion centered on HIV/AIDS, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity in children and adults, educating parents on serving healthy meals and encouraging their children to exercise.

### South Central Region

Suellen Joyner, Regional Director for the South Central Region for the past twelve years, will retire from the Department of Health on June 30. A long time, active member of TPHA, Suellen has been an ardent supporter of the Association since 1983, serving in capacities as varied as Nominations and Elections Chair, Program Committee, Fun and Fitness Chair, Long Term Planning Committee and President of the Association in 1998. Her outstanding service in many areas of TPHA participation and leadership is reflective of her overall career, which has included a wide range of responsibilities and contributions to public service.

A graduate of Auburn University, Suellen came to the Department of Health in 1983, having already worked extensively in the fields of alcohol and drug abuse and state planning in both Georgia and Tennessee. She served on the Governor's Select Committee on Health Care Cost Containment, directed policy planning for the Department of Health and the Bureau of Health Services, and directed MCH services before her appointment in 1995 as Regional Health Director.

The South Central Region has accomplished much under Joyner's leadership, including the renovation of several health departments, building five new health

departments, and program, staffing and service innovations too numerous to mention.

After thirty years of public service with the state of Tennessee, Suellen Joyner is looking forward to a well-deserved retirement. However, those who know her well know that her energy and commitment to excellence will continue to define her life no matter where she is or what she does. The South Central Region is a better place for having had Suellen's leadership for the past twelve years. GOOD LUCK, SUELLEN!

March 16 was "Go PINK for Cathy" Day in South Central. Staff throughout the region wore pink in recognition of breast cancer awareness day and to give support to Cathy Maxwell, Office Supervisor for Giles County Health Department in Pulaski. Cathy found a thickening in her



breast in late February, had two surgeries in March, and is currently undergoing chemotherapy. Her courageous spirit and commitment to raise awareness about this disease have been an inspiration to all who know her.

In Cathy's words, "Not only were you wearing pink for me, but for yourselves. It is important to YOU and your families to do monthly breast self exams, have regular clinical breast exams and mammograms, when indicated. As public health professionals, we must all be diligent in promoting the Tennessee Breast and Cervical Screening Program. It is the program that can SAVE LIVES."

### Upper Cumberland Region

William David Link retired on April 19 with 39 years of public health service. David served as the region's Public Health Representative Supervisor. During his 39 years he worked in each of the region's 14 counties and the CEDS Programs. Spending more time with grandchildren is what David was looking forward to the most.

Suzan Hiatt, District Nursing Supervisor for the Cumberland & Fentress County Health Departments retired on May 11. Suzan served as a registered nurse for over thirty years with the State of Tennessee with more than fifteen of those years with Public Health. To quote Suzan, "I'm not retired, I'm just changing gears." She plans more time with grandchildren and to brush-p her quilting skills

In observance of National Minority Health Month, the Smith County Health Council and the Smith and Macon County Health Departments sponsored the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Riddleton Health Fair on April 28, 2007, at Williams Chapel Church. This collaborative event with the Nat'l Kidney Foundation of Middle TN offered free health screenings for individuals at risk of kidney disease. The target population was individuals with high blood pressure or diabetes or a family member with either condition.

## Northeast Region

All staff of the Northeast Region will complete the Computer 101 training being provided by Donna Freeman, IRSS II and Janet Pickel, Personnel Officer during June, 2007. Three hundred fifty-seven (357) public health employees in the region out of 377 (95%) have completed the one-day, intensive basic computer course which covers security issues; NOVELL Operating System; Groupwise Use; backing up files; proper use and care of computer equipment and software.

The Northeast Regional Emergency Preparedness Staff participated in a District I Homeland Security Fullscale Exercise on Thursday, May 31, at the Appalachian Fair Grounds, in Gray, Tennessee. Fred Adams, Regional Director and David Kirschke, M.D. will be representing Public Health in the Emergency Operations Center at the site along with several other Northeast Regional Health Office employees, who will function as evaluators and observers.

The Northeast Tennessee Region's Preventive Dental Program headed by Dr. Alicia Cade and Gary Range report that all 32 targeted schools in the Northeast Region have been completed during the 2006-2007 school year. The Preventive Dental Program has met or exceeded the schools targeted under the Free and Reduced Lunches Program for the last three years.

The Greene County Health Dept joined with over 100 dedicated volunteers to provide free care for 190 low-income individuals at the annual free adult dental and vision clinic. This clinic was sponsored by the Laughlin Health Care Foundation, the Greene County Health Dept., Remote Area Medical (RAM), and a host of community volunteers which also included local visual and dental professionals from Greene County. Approximately 200 food packages were given out to the participants which was furnished by 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Bank.

On Wednesday, March 21, 2007 the TB Elimination Staff hosted an open house of the NETRO TB Clinic from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Local physicians and their staff were invited to the event in honor of World TB Day. Festivities included clinic tours, refreshments, and door prizes.



In 2006, 279 cases of active TB were reported in Tennessee. Of those 279 cases, 5 were from the NETN region. To date in 2007, there have been 5 cases of active TB reported in NETN.



## Report of the East TN Grand Division Meeting

The East Grand Division held its spring meeting on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> in Pigeon Forge. The turnout for the day was great considering we were in competition with other large meetings that many in our department were already scheduled to attend. Approximate attendance was 125.

Our meeting began with a welcome to all from our President Elect, Glenn Czarnecki. Doris Spain provided the audience with the latest information concerning the smoke-free legislation. We were also fortunate to hear Mr. Jimmy Edge, Personnel Manager, Old Mill Square in Pigeon Forge tell about the companies road (somewhat rocky at times!) to implementing a smoke-free workplace, not only for the restaurant, but the entire complex...and this meant employees also. He shared with us the tools and benefits the employees had access to if they chose to quit the habit altogether. He informed us, as an ex-smoker himself, he knew how hard the habit was to break!

Theresa Lindsey, Assistant Commissioner provided a power point presentation on some impressive numbers and accomplishments our department has seen in the last year. As she prepares to retire, she expressed a thank-you to the Public Health employees she has had the privilege to work with through her career in the department. Before leaving the podium, she introduced our new Assistant Commissioner, Dr. Cathy Taylor.

The rest of the morning activities included 2 speakers from ETSU: Bruce Behringer who spoke on diabetes and the problems we see in the Appalachian region with the disease and Dr. Randall Wykoff, who compared rates of specific diseases with those of the United States and some foreign nations. Both were informative and interesting presentations.

The afternoon was truly delightful with presentations from each region in the *Showcase of Innovative Community Health Activities*. Topics of some of the activities taking place in the regions included a youth conference, TENNderCare activities, Kids in Motion, faith-based programs, performance excellence, and ways to make it a safe summer for kids. The evaluations overwhelmingly requested the showcase again next year. We do learn from our peers!

Before the anticipated awarding of door prizes, we were inspired, energized and certainly entertained by Russell Cliche from the Chattanooga/Hamilton County Health Department. The gist of his message was to move more, sleep more, eat more fruits and vegetables and drink more water in order to "live well and love life"! His presentation was the perfect way to end the day.

## FOCUS ON PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

### 2007 FARM BILL

Tennessee, and indeed the entire nation, is currently facing a growing public health crisis: childhood obesity. Obesity rates among children have skyrocketed during the last ten years, and although there are many causes, there is no doubt that poor nutrition has played a significant role.

**The Farm Bill and Child Nutrition** - The U.S. Farm Bill, which was first authorized in 1949, is a collection of legislation and policies related to agriculture production, food distribution, and hunger. The Farm Bill traditionally focuses on agricultural issues; however, the 2007 version provides a unique opportunity to improve the health of the nation's children.

The primary nutrition priorities include the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program and the Department of Defense Fresh Program—programs that would help children in Tennessee and the nation by increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables through school nutrition programs. Advocates for the nutrition provisions include both agricultural and public health organizations, including the American Public Health Association.

**Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program** - The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program provides fresh fruit and vegetable snacks for children in participating schools. This program, which was piloted in the 2002 Farm Bill, has been successful not only in providing fresh produce for schools, but also in improving the overall dietary habits of participating students. At this time, only eleven states participate in this program—and Tennessee is not one of them. The provisions requested in the 2007 Farm Bill would provide mandatory funding of \$300 million per year, expanding the program to a minimum of 100 schools in each of the fifty U.S. states.

**DOD Fresh Program** - The Department of Defense Fresh Program (better known as “DOD Fresh”) is the primary method for schools across the nation to access fresh fruits and vegetables for the school lunch program. The provisions in the 2007 Farm Bill call for increased funding for the DOD Fresh Program, thus increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables for school lunches. Tennessee's schools currently use the DOD Fresh Program—and expansion of these funds would help to increase the amount of fresh produce available for children in schools across our state.

**Get Involved!** As the 2007 Farm Bill is developed, it is critically important that Members of Congress hear from their constituents. Currently, both Lincoln Davis (D-TN) and David Davis (R-TN) serve on

committees that are critical in crafting and supporting the nutrition portion of the Farm Bill.

Contact your representatives NOW to support the nutrition provisions outlined in the 2007 Farm Bill! If you aren't sure who your representatives are, just go to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) to find your Congressional representatives, and to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) to find out who your senators are. Sample letters of support for the 2007 Farm Bill, which can be sent via email or U.S. Mail, are available at the United Fresh Produce Association website at [www.unitedfresh.org](http://www.unitedfresh.org).

By contacting your representatives about the 2007 Farm Bill, you can make a difference and help improve the health of children and families across Tennessee. To learn more about HR1600 and the 2007 U.S. Farm Bill, visit the United States Department of Agriculture website at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov), or the United Fresh Produce Association website at [www.unitedfresh.org](http://www.unitedfresh.org) (click on “Public Policy Resource Center”). Get involved today to help make sure that children across Tennessee will have access to fruits and vegetables in their school meals!

## TPHA HAS A NEW WEB SITE

**[WWW.TNPUBLICHEALTH.ORG](http://WWW.TNPUBLICHEALTH.ORG)**

**Please check out the site and give us your comments and suggestions on how we can improve the site and make it more beneficial to our members.**

## HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Hotel reservations for the annual meeting are available by contacting the Cool Springs Marriott at (615) 261-6100. Rates are \$105 single or double. Be sure to tell the hotel you are with TPHA. Deadline for reservations is October 7, 2007. Individual cancellations must be made more than 10 days prior to arrival. After this time, attendees will be charged for the first night of their reservation or forfeit their individual deposits. If you must cancel after October 7, please contact Doris Spain directly at (615) 646-3805. She will try to substitute another member in the room in order to avoid penalties.

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by Barry Moore, Chair

We are pleased to present the following slate of nominees for the membership's consideration. A complete bio and photo of each nominee will be included with the ballot which will be mailed in September.

### President Elect - West Tennessee

**Dr. Robert Stolarick** - Administrator for Assessment and Planning, Memphis/Shelby County Health Dept. and Administrator of Ambulatory Care Planning at the Regional Medical Center

**Sharyn Thompson** - Director of West Tennessee Pediatrics, LeBonheur Children's Medical Center

### Vice President - West Tennessee

**Dr. Shane Rasner**, Dental Director, Fayette County Health Department, West TN Region

**LeeAnn Neal**, Office Manager, Crockett County Health Department, West TN Region

### Vice President - Middle Tennessee

**Mark Houser**, Environmental Supervisor, Upper Cumberland Region

**Evelyn Edwards**, Dental Hygienist, Coffee County, South Central Region

### Vice President - East Tennessee

**Dr. Alisa Cade**, Regional Dental Director, Northeast Region

**Melissa Davis**, WIC Vendor Representative, East Tennessee Region

### Board Representatives - East Tennessee

**Jeannie Bentley**, County Director, McMinn, Rhea and Bledsoe County Health Departments, Southeast TN Region

**Howard Roddy**, Vice President of Advocacy & Healthy Communities, Memorial Health Care System, Chattanooga, TN

**Marti Smith**, Director of Administrative Services, Chattanooga/Hamilton County Health Department

**Dr. Tim Aldrich**, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, East Tennessee State Univ.

**The TPHA Office is in need of a 1978 and a 1992 TPHA Annual Conference Program. If you know of someone who might have a copy that we could place in our library of programs, please contact Doris Spain at [dgspain@tnpublichealth.org](mailto:dgspain@tnpublichealth.org).**

## A Tribute to Elizabeth Lovell, PHN

We were saddened to learn of the death of Elizabeth Lovell on May 28, 2007. Mrs. Lovell was a Public Health Nurse and the first female president of the Tennessee Public Health Association.

Mrs. Lovell began her public health career in 1939 in Sumner County and worked there for 10 years. She then became the Director of Nursing at the Williamson County Health Department where she remained for 27 years. She also worked for three years as Assistant Director of Nursing, Supervisory Training for the State Department of Health. After 40 years of dedicated service to others, she retired from nursing in 1979.

Mrs. Lovell graduated from Jackson High School and received degrees in nursing from Vanderbilt University and Columbia University in New York. She was a recipient of the Williamson County "Legends Award," and for years served as a presenter of the "Helping Hand" Award given by the Chamber of Commerce.

Her memoirs "Home Visiting in Tennessee by Public Health Nurses," were published in 1983. She also authored the book "Four Little Boys."

An article which appeared in the "Tennessean" a few days prior to her death quoted her son as saying, "When you were out in the field and there was no doctor, you had to make the call. Nobody had cell phones. Many people didn't have telephones. She would have to make a lot of key decisions on the spot." He went on to say, "Mama's life was spent serving others." Such is the life of a good public health nurse.

For those of us who were fortunate to have known Elizabeth Lovell, we will miss her, her love of life, and her dedication and service to public health.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### **Southern Health Association Annual Meeting**

September 4-7, 2007

Savannah Marriott Riverfront Hotel

Savannah, GA

### **TPHA Annual Meeting**

October 31-November 2, 2007

**"Bridging Health Across the Span of Life"**

Cool Springs Marriott , Franklin, TN

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