



Tennessee Public Health Association Newsletter

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

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“BRIDGING HEALTH ACROSS THE SPAN OF LIFE”
October 31-November 2, 2007

Submitted by: Kevin Morris, Chair
 Program Committee



Dr. Pat Cooper

The Program for the annual meeting is now complete and this one promises to have something for everyone. The opening general session will begin at 11:30 on October 31st. After the welcome and opening remarks, we will hear from Dr. Pat Cooper. Dr. Cooper is a nationally known expert on comprehensive school health.

Dr. Cooper will be followed by Rev. Nick Mezacapa. Father Nick will offer an inspirational message about how we need to invest in ourselves in order to be the best we can be.

The concurrent workshops will run from 3:30 to 4:45. The workshops on day one focus on pre-conceptual health, food-borne outbreaks, diabetes management, child fatality review and lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina. The evening reception will be from 6:30 to 8:00 followed by entertainment from 8:00 to 10:00.

Day two begins with section meetings at 8:00 followed by concurrent workshops from 9:45 to 11:00. Featured topics in the morning workshops include childhood obesity, using public health data, increasing physical activity at the community level, oral rabies vaccine, early onset Group B Strep and exercise strategies for older adults.

Commissioner Cooper will join us for the awards luncheon at 11:30. Governor Bredesen is also an invited guest. Afternoon sessions will be from 2:15 to 3:30 and from 4:00 to 5:15. Workshop topics include ADHD, disease clusters, response to a major animal disaster, immunization updates, power of walking, increasing fruit

and vegetable consumption, hepatitis C, tattoos/body piercing, autism, public health accreditation, implementing smoke-free laws, and type 2 diabetes in adolescents. The evening will be filled with the President’s reception and more fun together.

Friday will begin with the business meeting at 8:30. Dr. Claude Earl Fox will be with us at 10:00 to discuss the challenges facing Public Health in the 21st century.



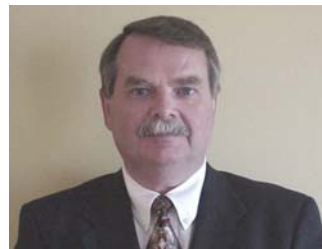
Sam Venable

Sam Venable will speak at 11:00 and promises to send us home with a smile.

David gave me two primary objectives for the annual meeting. First, he asked that we do not repeat any sessions in order to have the broadest possible selection of workshops. Second, he asked that we do everything possible to make sure that the speakers were informative and entertaining, especially the plenary speakers. I am confident that your 2007 Program Committee has achieved these objectives.

You should have already received your conference brochure. The brochure is also available on the TPHA website at www.tnpublichealth.org. Please make plans to be with us Oct 31 – Nov 2 at the Cool Springs Marriott.

President’s Message



**David Brumley,
 DDS, MPH**

This has been a remarkable year to have served as President of TPHA. The year began with our involvement in drafting legislation to create smoke-free workplaces in Tennessee. Our work continued through the legislative session with TPHA taking a

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leadership role in advocating for passage of the legislation. TPHA members answered the call for help by contacting members of the General Assembly to ask for support of this legislation which, I believe to have the most far reaching effect on the health of Tennessee's citizens of any bill signed into law during my career. In addition, we were a part of the coalition which advocated for an increase in the tobacco tax which passed both houses, was signed into law and took effect on July 1.

In March of this year, TPHA sponsored a Pain Management Workshop held at the Williamson County Agricultural Center which was attended by 65 participants. The workshop evaluations were very positive and there were numerous comments asking for additional workshops in the future on various health topics.

On October 3, TPHA will sponsor a Diabetes Workshop with the cost underwritten by Novo Nordisk. The focus of the workshop will be developing the basis for a team approach to treating diabetes. Speakers include James R. Gavin III, MD, PhD, Clinical Professor of Medicine at Emory University and William Polonsky, PhD, CDE, Assistant Clinical Professor in Psychiatry, University of California, both national experts in the field of diabetes. Information on the workshop is available at the TPHA website at: www.tnpublichealth.org.

Each year the American Public Health Association (APHA) presents its 'Award for Excellence' to an individual whose work in his or her APHA Affiliate is regarded as exceptionally meritorious and successful. In past years, the awardees have exhibited significant leadership, innovative initiatives, and effectiveness in their efforts for their Affiliates. One of the nominees for this year's APHA Award for Excellence is TPHA's Executive Director, Doris Spain.

In his letter of support, Governor Phil Bredesen referred to Doris as an invaluable resource and a trusted partner in his efforts to improve the health of all Tennesseans. Governor Bredesen wrote, "Doris was instrumental in negotiating the details of the legislation and keeping the discussion focused squarely on the health and well-being of Tennessee's citizens. She repeatedly visited every member of the General Assembly and garnered overwhelming support for the (Non-Smoker Protection Act) bill. ...I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Doris Spain for this prestigious award." As TPHA President, I extend our Association's sincere appreciation to Doris for her leadership in identifying and monitoring public health issues, implementing legislative strategies, and developing and maintaining our advocacy network.

And, most of all, I want to thank all of you for your part in making this a very successful year for TPHA. For those of you serving as Committee Chairs and Section Chairs, my heartfelt thanks for your hard work and support in planning this year's meeting. I believe it will be one of the best yet!! And, to all of you, thank you for your support through your membership in TPHA.

Annual Meeting Arrangements A Haunting Experience

Submitted by: Becky Brumley
Chair, Annual Arrangements Committee

The 2007 TPHA annual conference will be filled with activities that will make it a memorable event. Join us Wednesday October 31, 2007 at the TPHA conference for a tour through the Haunted Health Department! Each region will have a room in this Haunted Health Department to display their ultimate public health program nightmare. Each region may participate by selecting a public health program ex: Family Planning, General Environmental Health, Dental, Prenatal, Communicable Disease, Primary Care

- Decorate a curtained room with your idea of your worst public health nightmare
- Regional staff would participate by dressing up and staffing the haunted room
- Other participation would be to tour the Haunted Health Department and vote on the best regional program
- Regions would earn points toward the Spirit Stick in the various categories selected by a panel of judges

Additional information on the specific requirements/needs for the Haunted House will be sent to a TPHA representative in each region.

Enjoy yourself New Orleans style on Thursday night. Our reception will bring the best of the French



The Kadillacs

Quarter and will end with a fun filled night of music and dancing to the Kadillacs. The Kadillacs have performed for countless corporate functions, national and regional conventions, society and charity balls,

and numerous festivals. They will delight and entertain us with a wide selection of music.

Doris G. Spain, Editor

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Articles for the next Newsletter due by
November 29, 2007

GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

All meetings, educational sessions, and special events at the 2007 TPHA Conference will be held at the Cool Springs Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Franklin, Tennessee. 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.

The overflow hotel, Wingate Inn at Cool Springs, located at 1738 Carothers Parkway, is \$89 per night. Reservations can be made by calling the Wingate Inn at (615) 277-8700. Please specify you are attending the TPHA Conference. The deadline for making hotel reservations is October 7, 2007. In order to avoid a penalty, you must notify the hotel at least two weeks in advance of the conference if you have to cancel the reservation.

- The Marriott can be accessed from I-65 South at Exit #68A, East Cool Springs Blvd.
- The Wingate Inn can be accessed from I-65 South at Exit #69 East by following Moores Lane as it curves into Carothers Blvd.

Report of the Southern Health Association

Submitted by : Tammy Burke
TPHA Representative to SHA

Governor Phil Bredesen Honored by SHA

The Southern Health Association is pleased to bestow their 2007 Outstanding Legislator Award to the Honorable Phil Bredesen. Legislators from the eight affiliate states of SHA are nominated for this prestigious award. Nominees for this award must have a proven record of sponsorship and support of beneficial health policies and legislation. Governor Bredesen's record in this regard speaks for itself. Beginning his first term with the challenge of TennCare reform and moving on to create

Cover TN products, Governor Bredesen has remained strong in his support for policies that positively affect the health of Tennesseans. Under his direction, the war on methamphetamine abuse has led to a 50 percent decline in meth labs in Tennessee. In addition, he has focused on raising high school and college graduation rates, boosting the economies of smaller and mid-sized communities, strengthening public education at every level and promoting access to health care and healthier lifestyles for all citizens of Tennessee. But his most monumental accomplishment to date was the success of his efforts in passing comprehensive tobacco legislation in one of the country's top five tobacco producing states. Stating that "No one should have to choose between their personal livelihood and the right to breathe clean air", Governor Bredesen proposed and sustained the effort to pass a comprehensive Smoke Free Workplace bill. In addition, he personally endorsed and fought for a 42 cent tobacco tax increase. The passage of this increase moved Tennessee from number 48 in the nation in tobacco tax to number 36. The tremendous support of Governor Phil Bredesen for advancing public health issues in Tennessee made him an outstanding candidate for this award and a most deserving winner!

University of Memphis Announces MPH Program

Submitted by: Dr. Marian Levy
Director, MPH Program

The University of Memphis is pleased to announce a new Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. The MPH is a 42 credit-hour program which integrates the academic study of public health theory with principles of public health practice in order to improve health outcomes and quality of life for all. Program content encompasses the five core areas of public health: biostatistics, environmental health, epidemiology, health services, and social/behavioral health. Faculty engage in innovative, community-based research to identify best practices, inform public policy, and advocate for the underserved. A Healthcare Interpreter Certificate Program (for bilingual individuals) is also offered.

Courses are taught in the evening to accommodate the needs of working professionals, and students have the flexibility of pursuing their Master's degree on a full or part-time basis. The program has close ties with the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, and we encourage public health practitioners who are interested in obtaining this graduate degree to apply.

For more information, please contact Dr. Marian Levy, Director of the MPH Program [telephone (901) 678-4515; email mlevy@memphis.edu] or visit the program

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website <http://cas.memphis.edu/pubh/> Applications are currently being accepted for the Spring semester.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Katie Garman, Chair
Scholarship Committee

The TPHA Scholarship is awarded annually to worker(s) in Public Health who desire to advance their knowledge and increase their competence. It assists those who are pursuing training in a variety of settings in Public Health. This year the quality and excellent qualifications of the applicants made the committee's awarding of the scholarship very difficult. We applaud everyone that applied and encourage you to apply again next year.

It is with great pleasure to announce that the following individuals are recipients of 2007 Scholarship Awards from the Tennessee Public Health Association: Nancy Day, East Tennessee Region; Gail Harmon, East Tennessee Region; and Tamara Grayson, Chattanooga-Hamilton County.

POSTER SESSION COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Evelyn Edwards, Chair
Poster Session Committee

There are 29 abstracts submitted for the Poster Session for the 2007 meeting, including several submissions by students. After review, all are suitable for presentation with some minor editorial changes and there is adequate space available. Presenters have been notified of guidelines about set-up, viewing, and take down times. Presenters must join TPHA and register for the meeting. All presenters will be given appreciation plaques.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Jennifer Kozlica, Chair
Continuing Education Committee

Continuing education credit has been requested for conference attendees in the following professions: physicians, dentists, nurses, nutritionists, certified health education specialists, dental hygienists, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, pharmacists and environmentalists.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Mike Garrett, DDS, Chair
Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws

The following proposed changes to the TPHA Constitution and Bylaws have been approved by the Board of Directors and will be voted on at the Association's business meeting on Friday, November 2, 2007 during the annual meeting.

Constitution Article III. Mission Statement

Current:

To exercise leadership in health policy development;
To promote and protect the health of all Tennesseans;
To foster professional development and a sense of unity among members.

Proposed:

To exercise leadership in health policy development;
To promote, protect, and improve the health of those living in, working in, and visiting Tennessee; To foster professional development and a sense of unity among members.

Bylaws Article V. Section 2a (first sentence)

Current:

The Program Committee shall consist of the section chairmen or their designees and two members from the Board of Directors appointed by the President, with a Chairman and Co-chairman which may come from the above group but not limited to that group.

Proposed:

The Program Committee shall consist of a core group comprised of the TPHA President, President-elect, Executive Director, and Program Committee Chair. The core group will select one representative from each discipline that offers continuing education credit annually, as well as other members who would make the committee as diversified and knowledgeable as possible.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Tammy Burke, Chair
Resolutions Committee

The following resolutions have been approved by the Board of Directors and will be presented for adoption to the general membership at the TPHA business meeting

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on the morning of Friday, November 2, 2007. Questions or comments should be directed to Tammy Burke, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department at TammyB@mail.HamiltonTn.gov.

RESOLUTION in support of CDC's Recommendations to Improve Preconception Health and Health Care

WHEREAS, preconception care is recognized as a critical component of health care for women of reproductive age and can greatly influence good birth outcomes and overall maternal health¹, and

WHEREAS, preconception care should be an essential part of primary and preventive care, addressing medication use, nutritional status, screening for genetic disorders, communicable diseases, tobacco and drug use and domestic violence², and

WHEREAS, maternal and child health outcomes such as maternal and infant mortality, preterm births and low birth weight babies, are often used as indicators of the overall status of health in a population, and

WHEREAS, Tennessee ranks 43rd in the nation in infant mortality, 42nd in the nation in low birth weight infants and 46th in the nation in preterm birth rates³, and

WHEREAS, early prenatal care has been found to increase desired birth outcomes with the national goal for the year 2010 being for 90 percent of all births to have prenatal care beginning in the first trimester⁴, and

WHEREAS, only 68.8 percent of women in Tennessee report beginning prenatal care in the first trimester⁵, and

WHEREAS, smoking has been shown to lead to cardiovascular disease, lung disease, premature birth and low birth weight babies, and

WHEREAS, 19.4 percent of Tennessee mothers report having smoked while pregnant, and 24.4 percent of all Tennessee women aged 18 years and older report they are current smokers⁵, and,

WHEREAS, mortality from invasive cervical cancer can be reduced with the use of a Pap test, with the 2010 National objective being that 90 percent of women to have received a Pap test within the preceding year⁴, and

WHEREAS, only 21.5 percent of Tennessee women report having a Pap test within the preceding year⁵, and

WHEREAS, for many of the above indices, non-white Tennessee women and their babies are affected to a much greater extent than their white counterparts⁵, and

WHEREAS, in 2006 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) established ten recommendations to improve preconception health which are aimed at achieving four goals²:

- 1) to improve the knowledge and attitudes and behaviors of men and women related to preconception health
- 2) assure that all women of childbearing age receive preconception care services
- 3) reduce risks indicated by previous adverse pregnancy outcomes for the mother and her future children
- 4) reduce disparities in adverse pregnancy outcomes

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tennessee Public Health Association supports CDC's recommended strategies to improve preconception health and also supports legislative actions which contribute to the implementation of these strategies and urges members of the Tennessee General Assembly to carefully consider legislation that would promote these strategies and urges health care providers in Tennessee to provide appropriate preconception health services to all women of child bearing age.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Commissioner of Health, members of the Tennessee General Assembly, the Tennessee Medical Association, the Tennessee Primary Care Association, the Tennessee Section of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and that a copy of this resolution is distributed to all members of the Association.

References:

1. Maternal and Child Health Journal. 1997; Vol. 1, no. 1 (ISSN: 1092-7875)
2. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. CDC. 2006; Vol. 55, no. RR-6
3. Kids Count Special Report. Anna B. Casey Foundation. 2004
4. Healthy People 2010 Report. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 2000; Vol. 1
5. The Health of Tennessee's Women. Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Policy, Planning and Assessment, Division of Health Statistics. 2005

RESOLUTION

Regarding Sleeping Practices and Risk of SIDS

WHEREAS, current evidence suggests that bed-sharing should be avoided because it may lead to compromise of the infants' airway, because the infant may be suffocated by soft or loose bedding or a sleeping adult, and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics (2005) recommends room-sharing as an intervention to enhance breastfeeding but advises that once a feeding is complete, the infant should be placed for sleep in a separate bassinet or safety-approved crib.¹

WHEREAS, co-sleeping may cause overheating to occur and co-sleeping on a couch or sofa is associated with an unusually high risk for SIDS and should be avoided, and

WHEREAS, a study of 102 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) deaths using a retrospective review of medical examiner autopsy reports showed that co-sleeping was a risk factor for SIDS, and

WHEREAS of the 102 SIDS deaths, 67 (65.7%) were not in a crib, 63 (61.8%) were prone, and 48 (47.1%) were co-sleeping and only 8 (7.8%) infants had slept alone, in a crib or bassinet, and on their back or side,² and

WHEREAS, bed-sharing is associated with an increased risk of SIDS for infants <11 weeks of age and couch sharing resulted in the largest risk of SIDS (OR 66.9, 95% CI 2.8, 1597).³

WHEREAS, of 46 SIDS infants who bedshared during their last sleep, 40 (87%) were found in the parents' bed and sharing a bed when <11 weeks.³

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tennessee Public Health Association urges the Tennessee Department of Health to provide more public information and education on co-sleeping risks for the infant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be provided to the members of the Tennessee General Assembly, and Tennessee County Mayors and that a copy of this resolution is distributed to all members of the Association.

1. <http://www.emedicine.com/ped/topic2171.htm>
2. *J Forensic Sci.* 2005; 50(1):147-51 (ISSN: 0022-1198)
3. *J Pediatr.* 2005; 147(1):32-7 (ISSN: 0022-3476)

FOCUS ON PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

Public Health Dentistry in Tennessee – The First 25 Years (1928-1953)

Submitted by David Brumley, DDS, MPH

In 1977, the Tennessee Public Health Association sponsored a Centennial Celebration for 100 years of public health in our state. A decade earlier in 1967, the Tennessee State Dental Association (now the Tennessee Dental Association) sponsored an annual conference that reflected on the accomplishments of a century of organized dentistry in Tennessee. Each organization published a detailed history of activities, events, accomplishments, and milestones for the first hundred years. It is from these publications that I draw information about the early years of public health dentistry in Tennessee.

The first evidence of any dental public health program in Tennessee was the employment of Dr. J. C. McGuffin as a dentist by the Kingsport School System from July 1928 until July 1929. He organized a school dental health program that consisted of inspections of students and services to indigent children, and later in his career, was elected president of the Tennessee State Dental Association.

The first official dental representation in public health in Tennessee came in 1935 when Dr. Oren A. Oliver was appointed as an advisory member of the Tennessee Public Health Council. With Dr. Oliver's appointment, plans were instituted to organize the Dental Hygiene Service in the Tennessee Department of Public Health. In 1936, Dr. Philip E. Blackerby, Jr. was appointed director, and Dr. Carl L. Sebelius became assistant director. Tennessee was one of the first states in the U.S. to formally organize a statewide dental public health program.

In 1937, a tentative statewide program plan was developed by the Dental Hygiene Service with representatives of the Tennessee State Dental Association and the U.S. Public Health Service. The first organized dental public health program of the Dental Hygiene Service was conducted with the Gibson County Board of Health and Board of Education. The second program was conducted in Sullivan County later that year.

A cooperative dental program designed to provide treatment by private dentists to elementary school-age children of low-income families was started in 1937. The program was financed by the Tennessee Department of Public Health matching local funds at an hourly rate. During its first year of operation, 138 dentists provided dental treatment to more than 25,000 children from 1,947 schools in 51 counties.

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In 1937, Dr. Blackerby identified a need for continuing education for dentists and established a post-graduate dental seminar program which was co-sponsored annually by the Tennessee Department of Public Health and Tennessee State Dental Association. Beginning at three training centers and increasing to six, this was a first in the U.S. No other state had attempted such a comprehensive program to update dentists on children's dental care. In 1942, Dr. Blackerby resigned from the Dental Hygiene Service to accept a faculty appointment at the University of Louisville, and Dr. Sebelius was appointed director.

In the mid-1940s, the Tennessee Department of Public Health produced an animated color film titled *Winky the Watchman*. It had its premiere showing at the Belle Meade Theater in Nashville. During the next several decades, the film was viewed by millions of school children throughout the United States.

The U.S. Children's Bureau (now in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services) and Meharry Medical School began a project in 1947 to incorporate dental health services into Meharry's Department of Pediatrics. In 1948, the U.S. Children's Bureau established postgraduate courses in children's dentistry at the University of Tennessee School of Dentistry.

During 1947, Congress appropriated \$1 million to advance the concept of topical applications of sodium fluoride as a means of preventing tooth decay. The Tennessee Department of Public Health partnered with the U.S. Public Health Service and the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department to begin a research program in the use of fluoride to prevent tooth decay. A demonstration team of one dentist, two dental hygienists, and a secretary was assigned to Tennessee for 1947-1948.

In March 1951, Milan became the first town in the state to fluoridate its water supply. Milan formally adopted fluoridation before this preventive and control measure was officially endorsed by the U.S. Public Health Service or the American Dental Association. In December 1951, the board of trustees of the Tennessee State Medical Association went on record at its semiannual meeting approving fluoridation of public water supplies. The Tennessee Congress of Parents and Teachers endorsed fluoridation in April 1952, and the Tennessee Public Health Association formally endorsed it later that same year.

In 1952, three 'plastic' teams were organized in Tennessee to provide consultation and clinical services to the Crippled Children's Service of the Tennessee Department of Public Health in treatment of children with cleft lips and/or palates or other dentofacial disfigurements. These teams, headquartered in Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville were composed of consultants and clinicians in plastic surgery, pediatrics, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, and speech therapy.

Dr. R. H. Hutcheson, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Public Health, created the

Division of Dental Health on July 1, 1953, and Dr. Sebelius was named director. The Division was granted legislative authority and received state appropriations of \$300,000 for operation during the next two-year period. The World Health Organization awarded a fellowship to Dr. Sebelius in recognition of his many years of work in Tennessee's dental public health program. Dr. Sebelius later accepted a position with the American Dental Association and was succeeded by Dr. A. H. Trithart.

Next year marks the 80th anniversary from the time when Dr. McGuffin first went to the Kingsport schools to provide school-based dental services. He and the other early public health dentists had numerous pioneering accomplishments no longer known to us by first-hand accounts, but now recorded only in the written word. Their innovation, leadership, and commitment have set the standard throughout eight decades of dental public health programs in Tennessee.

REGIONAL REPORTS

EAST TENNESSEE



After 12 years as the Regional Director of the East Region, Dr. Paul Erwin resigned August 10, to accept a position at the University of Tennessee. In his absence Commissioner Cooper appointed Sandy Halford, BSN, RN, as the Interim Regional Director, and Dr. Tara Sturdivant as the Interim Regional Medical Director. Sandy has more than 27 years of public health experience with the Department of Health serving most recently as the Assistant Regional Director. Dr. Sturdivant has served as the Primary Care Director since 2005 and prior to that she served as the Medical Director for the Interfaith Health Clinic in Knoxville and Director of Primary Care Services for Knox County Health Department.

This month the Blount County Health Department has re-engineered a system for diabetics in primary care clinic; this includes the establishment of a self-service, self management clinic for diabetics. Under the leadership of Dr. Mark Durand, Blount County Public Health Officer and Primary Care Physician, new items implemented include the following: - *Devotion of 1/2 day per week to clinic, Located in primary care clinic waiting room, 5 stations (glucose control, weight/nutrition, physical activity, heart and vascular, feet) which patients rotate through, in any order, clearly defined patient assessment procedures*

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and learning objectives attached to each station, explicit feedback to clients with regard to their prevention-related parameters in the form of a "report card", assessment of readiness-to-change stage (from Prochaska & DiClemente) and formulation of explicit self-management plans based on prevention-related targets and readiness to change, explicit evaluation indicators and plan.

Other Community partners currently include University of Tennessee, Knoxville School of Nursing, Nurse Practitioner Program. The launch date for the clinic was August 8.

Plans for sustainability of this pilot program will include linking externally to the Blount County Community Health Initiative Diabetes Program's outreach components if this project is funded.

Once again, the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program has been a big hit at the Hamblen County Health Department. This is the fourth consecutive year for this USDA program to be offered to Senior Citizens in Hamblen County who are 60 years of age or older, and who meet required income guidelines. Participants receive vouchers for the months of July and August to purchase at no charge to them Tennessee grown fruits and vegetables from participating Farmer's Market vendors in Hamblen County. To date, approximately 1,000 Seniors have benefited from this valuable program. It has proven to be a great way to provide a service to this segment of our population, and get the nutrition message out to "Eat more fruits and vegetables!"

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE



Amanda McElyea, Nursing Supervisor with the Washington County Health Department, was one of 25 area residents honored as a "2007 Health Care Hero" for Northeast Tennessee. Amanda was nominated for the award by her peers and the patients she has worked with over her thirty-five year nursing career. Announcement of Amanda's award was published in the Business Journal of Tri-Cities Tennessee/Virginia.

Amanda, who has worked for 33 years as a public health nurse, has first hand experience and knows all too well, how difficult serving the public can be. Assuring the provision of nursing services to the citizens of Washington County has been Amanda's primary job, but she takes great pleasure in teaching new nurses as well as providing patient education to the patients she serves. Amanda also works at the Mountain State Health Alliance Ask-A-Nurse Program (job she has held for nearly 13 years). Amanda is a certified Red Cross instructor who teaches other health care professionals and volunteers how to serve during a time of crisis. Amanda's classes have reached hundreds of medical students, nurses, volunteers and patients in the Tri-Cities and other areas of the state. The Northeast Region

is proud to have Amanda as one of the region's senior Nursing Supervisors and long-time member of the Tenn. Public Health Association.



Gary Range

Gary Range, Director of the Unicoi County Health Dept. and Program Administrator for the Northeast Regional Dental Program has announced his retirement effective August 30, 2007. Gary worked for many years in the Communicable and Environmental Disease Program as a Field Representative with the HIV/AIDS Program and has been a faithful member of the Tenn. Public Health Association. Northeast Region wishes Gary all the best as he plans to spend his time hunting and working on his golf game.

MID CUMBERLAND REGION MCR Undergoes Leadership Change

Rick Long who has served the Mid-Cumberland Region as Regional Director for the past 12 years has been promoted to the Department's central office as the Director of Regional and Local Health, a newly created position within the Bureau of Health Services. In his new role, Rick will work directly with the leadership of the 13 public health regions to ensure the coordinated delivery of community-based public health services statewide. With Rick's extensive experience and broad-based knowledge, he will serve as a valuable link between central office and regional and local health. The Mid-Cumberland Region will miss Rick tremendously, but is grateful for the support he will continue to provide them as well as to each region in the state in his new role!

Replacing Rick as Regional Director is Annette Haley who has served as Rick Long's Assistant Director for the past 12 years. "The Mid-Cumberland Region has been extremely fortunate to have had Rick's leadership over the past several years. I look forward to serving in this new capacity and continuing the good work that Rick has begun," says Haley.

Trousdale and Wilson Counties Begin Pilot

On Monday, August 27 the Trousdale and Wilson County Health Departments kicked off the Smoking Cessation Pilot for the state. As patients present to each of the health departments for clinical services, they are asked questions regarding their tobacco use. Depending on the answers given, counseling as well as cessation medications may be provided. Lessons learned during this pilot phase will assist each county as the initiative is implemented statewide.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Vision Planning in the Southeast Region

This summer various leaders within the Tennessee Department of Health's Southeast Region began a Vision Planning process, the purpose of which was to create a road map for the future improvement of the organization. Three, day-long sessions have been held where open communication was encouraged and allowed equitable participation by all attendees, regardless of rank or title.

This process recognized from the beginning that the Southeast Region already does some things very well. Other programs and activities need attention, however, the process considers that there are basic principles that span everything we do that, if applied correctly, would improve all aspects of the organization, from top to bottom. The process is not an attempt to target specific programs, individuals, or counties; rather it is designed to create an environment of improvement that, if successful, should permeate through the entire region.

The process itself was designed to occur in three phases.

- The first phase involved developing our vision. Our mission was clear, and was the basis from which we began. Creating a vision from this mission involved painting a picture of what the agencies future will look like. Over the course of three day-long sessions the region's management staff, coined for this process as the Vision Planning Group (VPG), looked at all aspects of our operations and crafted this picture. A Vision Document has been drafted.
- Phase two now begins and will involve communicating the proposed vision to the staff and soliciting their input. In the coming months management staff will present the draft document, and gather input from all staff and other interested parties through local staff meetings, trainings and other gatherings. Additional action steps will be added to those already contained in the document. Some action steps will be able to be addressed immediately, others over time. Regardless, a timeline must be developed and tied to each action to assure all proposed improvements come to fruition within an acceptable time frame. After giving the staff adequate time to absorb and discuss the goals, objectives and action steps and provide feedback, the VPG will then reconvene to attach a timeline to each proposed step.
- Phase three will launch the Vision into action. Selling the goals and concepts included in the document will be the job of the VPG, on down

through program managers, supervisors and general staff. Even selling it to the community will be necessary especially as it involves the work of health councils, and other community collaborations. Quarterly meetings of the VPG will be necessary to follow the progress of the Goals, Objectives and Action Steps. If progress toward the goals is not occurring, revisions may have to be made. Anticipated results, listed in the document, from both administration and those stated by VPG members will also be revisited to see, as we progress, whether these are being adequately met.

Over time our vision may change. However, this process and the resulting document can change with it. Moreover, creating a vision, that has the support and buy-in of all staff within our region, can and will change the way we operate and should result in marked improvement throughout the Southeast Region.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Ami Mitchell has been appointed Regional Director for the South Central Region. Ami formerly served as County Director for the Bedford, Marshall and Giles county health departments. Ami's background also includes work with health promotion, community development and emergency response programs for the region. She succeeds Suellen Joyner, who retired in June after a distinguished career in public health with more than 30 years of service.

The region has seen two more of its nurses move to the Bureau of Health Services in Nashville in the past few months. Kathy Shearon, formerly Regional Quality Management Coordinator, has accepted the position of Quality Management Director for the Bureau. She joins Diana Richardson, former nursing supervisor for Hickman, Lewis and Perry counties, who transferred to the Bureau recently as Nurse Consultant. Carol Williams, former nursing supervisor for Marshall and Giles counties, transferred to the Bureau in 2006 as Assistant Director of Nursing, joining Deborah Hardin, formerly Regional Nursing Director, who became the Director of Nursing in 2006.

The new Maury County Health Department facility is now a reality! August 29 was the first day of operation at the new site, which is located on Hampshire Pike, just past the Highway 43 interchange. The 27,000 square foot building includes 15 exam and five counseling rooms, a large patient waiting area, valuable conference and storage space, and state-of-the-art pharmacy and lab facilities. In addition to basic health department services, the facility provides primary care for uninsured adults, dental care for children, regional specialty clinics and general

environmental health services, with approximately 50 health department staff.

MEMPHIS-SHELBY REGION

A Distinguished Career Comes to an End



After a successful career, Chuck Millstein, Manager of the Memphis-Shelby County Public Health Laboratory is retiring. His professional appointments have been extensive: working as a clinical laboratory manager in several states including Colorado, Alabama, Texas, Arkansas and Mississippi. He served his country with distinction and honor for 28 years as an Army officer, both active duty and reserve, receiving two Army Meritorious Service Medals and five Army Commendation Medals. The past 15 years he worked for the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department and the Tennessee Department of Health, Laboratory Services.

Chuck's exceptional leadership and technical expertise have insured the clinical and environmental laboratories he leaves behind are modern, state of the art facilities and the technical personnel are highly trained analysts ready to meet future challenges and demands. Within the past four years he established the Shelby County Regional Sentinel Laboratory Disaster Council which includes 33 hospitals in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas and obtained over half a million dollars in equipment.

Chuck received a bachelor's degree from Millsaps College, Medical Technology training from Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and an MBA from Florida Institute of Technology. He is licensed by the Tennessee Department of Health as a Medical Laboratory Supervisor-General and the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) as a Medical Technologist, MT (ASCP). He is married to Barbara, a retired lab manager with 30 years of service to the Memphis Mental Health Institute and Tennessee Department of Health. They have three adult children and seven grandchildren.

UPPER CUMBERLAND REGION

Macon County Health Department Staff did tobacco presentations to County students during TARS WARS Week. A Macon county student, Brock Rutan,

won 1st place in Tennessee's TAR WARS Poster contest and 2nd place in the National Level. This was the first time a Tennessee student has placed in the nation contest. Two other Macon County students placed in the state contest earning 3rd place and Honorable Mention. Shown is Brock with his winning poster. Commissioner Susan Cooper served as a judge along with Snowbird, Representatives Gary Odom, Joey Hensley, and Ann Hollingsworth.



The "GetFit" Smith County Fitness Festival and kickoff was on July 21. Carthage was the first official stop on the GetFitTN tour across the state to promote fitness and Nutrition. Health Department staff and members of the Smith County Health Council organized the event to help the community begin a physical fitness and nutrition program and to make healthier lifestyle choices. Commissioner Cooper joined local officials to welcome participants and encourage them to stay motivated as they begin taking steps toward improving their health.

The 26-week fitness and nutrition program will include weekly themed walks, before and after health screenings, and nutritional educational programs. The festival featured booths with healthy tips and information from community organizations and the Department of Health.



Participants took a brief walk through town to a local park where they enjoyed fitness activities while awaiting the arrival of News Channel 5 helicopter and reporter Phil Jones.

The Health and Education Celebration, for DeKalb County was held August 6, "on the square" for parents and children. Along with the County School Superintendent Mark Willoughby, Commissioner Cooper helped kick-off the event by encouraging citizens to start the school year off right by committing to improve their health and fitness.

The Health and Education Celebration featured booths with healthy information for children and adults presented by community partners, including DeKalb County Health Department and Health Council. The High School band performed in conjunction with the event. Over 1500 children attended the event.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Jeff Crosier to our staff as a Primary Care Physician. He is working in the

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(Continued from page 10)

Putnam, Overton, and Fentress County Clinics. Dr. Crosier is an Internal Medicine Specialist and a Gastroenterologist who has been in private practice in Cookeville. He exemplifies our philosophy to hire competent, local experienced physicians with skills that enhance our capabilities of providing quality primary and specialty care. We now have internists, family and general practitioners on our regional staff and the ability to obtain pulmonology, gynecology, surgery and gastroenterology consults internally within our own staff.

WEST TENNESSEE REGION



In June, friends and co-workers gathered at West Tennessee Regional Office to honor retiring Regional Director, Anthony Harden. With over 36 years of service, his accomplishments are many, but Tony is most proud of his sixteen building projects. He has served in virtually every leadership position in this

Association including; President, West Tennessee Vice-President, R. H. Hutcheson, Sr., MD Award, Alex B. Shipley, MD Award and the "Best Klinger" award for the M*A*S*H* competition. He was presented with a money tree, U.S. flag and scrapbook. He plans to travel, hunt and his newest hobby is trap/skeet shooting. Most of all, he misses the people he worked with and still visits frequently.

The Grand Opening of the new Dyer County Health Department, Sarah Rice Miller Health Center in Dyersburg, TN provided the community an opportunity to see the new facility. Dignitaries attending included: Commissioner of Health Susan Cooper, Representative Craig Fitzhugh, Representative Phillip Pinion, Karen Boyer, President of Dyersburg State Community College, County Mayor Richard Hill, City Mayor John Holden, Regional Director Anthony Harden, County Director Marilyn Barnes and other County Directors. 250 guests toured the new health department, which features 11 clinic rooms, three labs, a conference room and children's waiting room. The \$1.8 million, state of the art facility is the largest health department in rural West Tennessee.

Commissioner of Health Susan Cooper appointed Marilyn Barnes Director of the West Tennessee Region. No stranger to public health, she assumes the new position after serving as director of health departments in Lake,

Obion, Dyer and Crockett counties. Marilyn is a dedicated public health professional who has devoted her time and talents to serving the people of West Tennessee. A resident of Ridgley, she is a graduate of Union University in Jackson and the Southeast Public Health Leadership Institute. She recently received her graduate certificate in Epidemiology from UT and is currently pursuing a Masters of Public Health at East Tennessee State University. Her rich experience includes supervising the construction of three new public health facilities, implementing "open access" appointment systems throughout the West TN Region and serving as a tireless advocate for children and the underserved. In 2006, she was honored with the Alex B. Shipley Award for her outstanding contributions to public health. Barnes succeeds Tony Harden, who retired in June with more than 36 years of service.

Commissioner of Health Susan Cooper and her staff have been frequent visitors to the region. "Back to School bashes" hosted by local school systems have provided the perfect venue to introduce parents, faculty and students to GetFit TN. Heather Newman, Executive Assistant to Commissioner Cooper, and her staff provided the GetFit TN interactive video game for the events. The GetFit TN initiative was launched in October 2006 by Governor Bredesen. It is a statewide awareness program to address the rising epidemic of Type 2 diabetes and risk factors that lead to diabetes, like obesity. The initiative is aimed at educating both adults and children that Type 2 diabetes can be delayed or even prevented with modest lifestyle changes like increasing physical activity and a healthier diet. The Family Resource Center in Henry County sponsored an event with 300 students attending to get school supplies. State Senator Roy Herron was a special guest at the Henry County and the Weakley county event. In Weakley County Commissioner Cooper participated in a Community Advisory Board sponsored event at Shepherd's Field Community Center with 450 students/adults attending. "Ciggy Butts" made a special appearance. In Hardeman County, the NAACP sponsored an event for 150 students/adults at Bolivar Middle School. Zeta Phi Beta and Delta Sigma Theta sororities donated back-packs and school supplies. Commissioner Cooper and State Senator Johnny Shaw were special guests.

TPHA HAS A NEW WEB SITE

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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.

Tennessee Public Health Association
P. O. Box 210147
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TPHA ANNUAL MEETING

October 31 - November 2, 2007

**“Bridging Health
Across the Span of Life”**

Cool Springs Marriott, Franklin, TN

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

Nov 3 - 7, 2007

“Politics, Policy & Public Health”

Washington, D.C.