



Tennessee Public Health Association Newsletter

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

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Annual Conference Wrap-up

*“Charting the Course for Public Health in Tennessee:
 New Challenges, New Opportunities”*

November 1-3, 2006

Submitted by: Glenn Czarnecki, Program Co-Chair

Well, another year is in the books and I think those of you who were able to attend this year’s annual conference will agree it was another tremendously successful event. There are so many highlights that one feels slightly remiss mentioning them for fear of leaving something out, but from the Suzuki Players to the Pandemic Flu panel that closed the conference, it was three days of educational, thought-provoking fellowship.

Our conference began with the Page High School Jr. ROTC Color Guard presenting colors and a patriotic medley leading into the National Anthem by our own, Valerie Lee and Robert Goff. Attendees were then treated to the soothing string sounds of the Blair School of Music’s Suzuki Players.

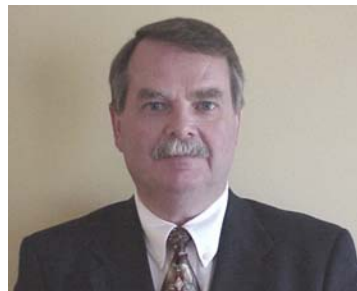
Dr. Vincent Covello, risk communication expert, gave the keynote address and taught us how to effectively communicate in a time of crisis using his 27-9-3 formula and other research based approaches. Wednesday afternoon then offered six highly educational workshops on topics ranging from the Strategic National Stockpile to fluoridation. Day One culminated with the recruitment fair reception and displays of true talent from many of our regional and local health department staff.

After opening with section meetings, Day Two again offered a total of 19 concurrent sessions exploring such topics as infant mortality, diabetes, methamphetamines, primary care, wellness and a lot more. All sessions were well attended demonstrating how this year’s conference truly offered something of pertinent interest to all attendees. The Annual Awards Luncheon recognized public health award winners from across the state and was punctu-

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President’s Message

*David Brumley
 TPHA President*



Many of us grew up in small towns where the local newspaper was published once or twice a week. The local community news of events and social gatherings had a prominent place in the newspaper and provided weekly updates regarding friends and acquaintances. Many times at the end of the article, the description of the get-together was summarized by saying ‘and a good time was enjoyed by all.’

This statement holds true for those of us who attended the 2006 TPHA Annual Conference at Cool Springs in November. I think we all agree that it was another outstanding meeting. The hard work of many TPHA members during this past year was apparent throughout the conference. Three plenary sessions and 25 workshops provided many opportunities to learn from experts from across the U.S. The evening receptions and events gave us a chance to socialize with friends who we see only occasionally.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to President Barbara Medlin and all her committee chairs for giving conference attendees excellent educational sessions, networking opportunities, and memorable social events. Barbara’s commitment to TPHA does not end with the passing of the president’s gavel. As immediate past president, Barbara will again be hard at work this coming year providing leadership for strategic planning, legislative activities, and resolutions.

Want to become more active in your Association this coming year? Many opportunities exist for members to work on a wide variety of committees. It takes a lot of people to get the work of the Association done each year.

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ated by a rousing address by Commissioner Kenneth Robinson who recognized the contributions of all of public health in the last year. Day Two closed with the Fun and Fitness Dance contest and the perennial favorites Syndicate of Soul.

The final day started with the annual business meeting including the presentation of service awards, passage of several newly crafted resolutions, and the swearing in of the new President, Dr. David Brumley. The conference concluded with an auspicious panel of Pandemic Flu experts, Drs. William Schaffner, Helen Keipp Talbot and Ron Wilson who discussed the latest in vaccine research, what is being done to monitor wild birds, and once again how we can better communicate in a crisis situation. After the awarding of numerous door prizes, all returned home weary, but full of new incite and enthusiasm.

Special thanks are in order for the entire Program Committee who, through their hard work and dedication, made this conference one to remember for all attendees. Barbara Medlin did an outstanding job this year as TPHA President and her leadership guided the process from planning to implementation. The Arrangements Committee with Rick Long and Annette Haley allowed the event to go off without a hitch. Lastly, Doris Spain, as always, worked tirelessly to see that all aspects of the conference demonstrated the level of professionalism that she exudes.

We can't wait until next year and know that under the guidance of David Brumley, it will be better still. See you then!

Report of the Nominations and Elections Committee

Carter Garner, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee announced the following elections results at the business meeting held Friday, November 3rd.

President-Elect	Glenn Czarnecki
Vice President/East	Beth Rader
Vice President/Middle	Lorraine MacDonald
Vice President/West	Beverly Ferguson
Board Rep/Middle	Melissa Blair
	Rick Johnson

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Articles for the next Newsletter due by
February 23, 2007

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If you are willing to be a committee member, please contact me, the committee chair, or Doris Spain, our Executive Director. The committee chairs for this year are listed in this newsletter. Remember, the more you put into your Association, the more you will get out of it!

In the past year we have created three new membership sections – Emergency Preparedness, Case Management, and Epidemiology & Biostatistics. This year we will have nine ‘first-time’ committee chairs in addition to the 10 seasoned veterans who have chaired committees in the past. TPHA continues to grow in membership and diversity, and with this growth comes enthusiasm, ability, and commitment. TPHA ‘old timers’ realize there are a lot of new faces in the Association (316 new members in 2006!) with many from organizations outside the health department.

It's hard to believe this was our sixth conference at Cool Springs in Franklin. The years seem to pass quickly. Once again next year, from October 31st through November 2nd, we will return to Cool Springs for our 2007 TPHA Conference. Kevin Morris, Program Committee Chair, and his committee will start with sharpened pencils and a clean sheet of paper to plan next year's conference. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend what promises to be another outstanding conference.

As I complete my 25th year working in public health, I am proud to be associated with so many dedicated public health employees who serve the needs of the citizens of Tennessee. I have no doubt that this coming year will be the most rewarding of my career. I am honored that you have confidence in me to serve as President of our Association.



Changing of the Guard - President Barbara Medlin passes the gavel to incoming President David Brumley.



As his first official action President David Brumley presents Barbara Medlin with a plaque in appreciation of her year as TPHA President.

Public Health Awards Presented at Annual Conference

Patti Harden Receives TPHA's Most Prestigious Award



Patti Harden, Nursing Director for the Southwest portion of the West Tennessee Region is the 2006 recipient of the R. H. Hutcheson, Sr., MD Award. This award is named in honor of Dr. Hutcheson who

served as the Commissioner of Public Health for many years and was instrumental in establishing the Tennessee Public Health Association. The award recognizes an individual for a distinguished career in public health.

Patti Harden has more than 33 years of service to Public Health and this Association. Her career began in the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department in 1973. After eight months as a PHN in a poor inner city district, she enrolled in the pediatric nurse practitioner program. Next, she found herself delivering primary care services to indigent children in rural Fayette County. She remembers this as some of her most enjoyable years in public health. In 1976, she became Nursing Director for the Southwest Region. She has served three regional directors and several health officers in the past 30 years. Her friends and co-workers use words like smart, dependable, dedicated, fair and passionate to describe her. She is an absolute tireless advocate for public health nurses. She has served in virtually every leadership position in this Association and has spent her life promoting the accomplishments of others. She is everything a public health nurse should be and TPHA is proud to recognize Patti for her tremendous contributions to public health in Tennessee.

Alex B. Shipley Award Presented to Marilyn Barnes

The Alex B. Shipley Award is named in honor of a man who served as Health Director of the East Tennessee Grand Division for many years. The award is presented to an employee of a regional or local health department who has made outstanding contributions in the field of public health over a period of years.

Marilyn Barnes, Public Health Director for Lake, Dyer, Crockett and Obion Counties, is the 2006 recipient

of the Alex B. Shipley, MD, Award. Marilyn is a true public health professional. Those that work with her adore her but they have the utmost respect for her as an administrator and a leader. Now supervising the construction of a third new facility in two years, her ability to work with local governments and difficult contractors to get things done



has become legendary. A tireless advocate for children and the underserved, she was the first county director in West Tennessee to hire bilingual staff. She led a team that implemented "open access" appointment systems throughout the West TN Region. She is also

a tremendous role model having recently received her graduate certificate in Epidemiology from UT. Her efforts have contributed greatly to building local health department infrastructure in Tennessee so it is most appropriate that we honor her with the Shipley Award.

Joan Carter Named as Recipient of Public Health Worker of the Year Award

Joan Carter, Nursing Supervisor for Lincoln and Moore Counties was presented with the 2006 Public Health



Worker of the Year Award which recognizes an individual in the field of public health who, during the past three years, has provided outstanding service to the field.

Joan is a very special lady and a true public health professional.

She coordinated a community-wide effort to take care of a Honduran immigrant who had contracted TB. She made twice weekly home visits to this non-English speaking

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patient who had a number of other serious health problems. Learning of her new patient's desire to return home, she raised the money necessary for the trip.

Even after the personal hardship of her mother's funeral, the next morning in fact, she met her patient at the health department at 2:00 AM to drive him to the airport. Once at the airport, they learned that the gentleman did not have the proper documentation to enter Honduras. So, she took him back home and spent the next two weeks solving the documentation problem before driving him back to the airport. This is just one example of how this lady goes "Above and Beyond" for her patients. She is a wonderful person and an incredible public health nurse and truly deserving of our recognition as Public Health Worker of the Year.

2006 Public Health Group Award Presented to Campbell County Health Department

Campbell County Health Department is the recipient of the 2006 Public Health Group of the Year Award, which is presented to a local, regional or state public health group that has made an outstanding contribution to public health.



This year's recipient has had a busy year. It began last summer with a Hepatitis A outbreak in Campbell County. Local

health department staff worked non-stop investigating the outbreak. They worked weekends to interview clients and controls and then began a vaccination campaign. Mass clinics were held for all children ages 2-5. In addition, all licensed daycare staff and clients were vaccinated. In all, more than 6,000 children, teachers and staff at 14 schools were vaccinated. This was a tremendous team effort by an incredibly dedicated group of people.

Vanessa Watkins Receives the TPHA Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to a Tennessee Public Health Association Member who has made outstanding contributions to the Association over a period of several years. This year's recipient is Vanessa Watkins. Vanessa has served on a variety of Committees including

Membership, Program, Annual Meeting Arrangements, Poster Session, Exhibits, and for the past three years, she has chaired the Registration Committee. Vanessa has done



an outstanding job of organizing the registration information to make it readily accessible when questions arise. Logging in over 800 meeting participants takes a tremendous amount of time and energy and she has handled this job with a smile and a "can do" attitude. She has performed these tasks in addition to taking on a new role as County Director of Robertson and Cheatham Counties.

In addition, last year, Vanessa was elected Vice President for Middle Tennessee and was responsible for the 2006 Middle Tennessee Meeting which had an excellent program in June.

Thank you, Vanessa, for all of your contributions to the Association!

Pickett County Health Council Recipient of PAL Group Award

The PAL Award is presented each year to a non-public health professional, group, or organization which has made a significant contribution on behalf of public health that is extraordinary and would set an example for others.

This year's recipient is the Pickett County Health Council - an extremely active community health council in one of the smallest counties in Tennessee. During the past year, the Pickett County Health Council worked with Re-



mote Area Medical and 75 volunteers to conduct a two-day dental and eye clinic. Nearly 300 dental exams and 175 eye exams were completed resulting in almost

\$50,000 in care. The Council also continued its tradition of sponsoring a Mock DUI project before the junior/senior prom.

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Local law enforcement has praised the results of this model project.

The Council also conducted a “Drug Free and Safety Day” focusing on grades 5-8. This is a huge project involving most every agency in the county. The Council also successfully lobbied to change the contents of snack machines at the elementary school. The Council sponsors health fairs and health screening events on a routine basis. From the support letters, this is a health council that is doing it the right way and making a difference!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

GOLD
Sanofi Pasteur

SILVER
GlaxoSmithKline
LeBonheur Children’s Medical Center
Tobacco Use Prevention and Control
Program, TN Department of Health

BRONZE
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee

PATRON
Infiltrator Systems
Tennessee Hospital Association

And the Winner Is...

For the second consecutive year, the winner of the “coveted spirit stick” is the Chattanooga Hamilton County Health Department. (photo shows Christy Smith, Fun and Fitness Committee member from Chattanooga Hamilton County Health Department, accepting the award from the Committee Chair) They secured the award through a team effort, scoring a nearly perfect 19 of 20 possible points for participation, spirit, skill and creativity.

Judge Andy Core had his work cut out for him, though, with 11 teams and 184 line dancers. Dance instructors, Meleisha Edwards and Aleathea Little, likewise had their work cut out for them in teaching some of us the Cha Cha Slide!



Teams, ranging in size from 4 to 30 members, demonstrated their creativity in how they identified themselves with unique headgear, including hand made Tiki masks and Parrot Head caps. While teams may have varied somewhat in their skill level, a high level of enthusiasm and spirit was demonstrated by all participants. The TPHA version of “So You Think You Can Dance” proved that we can, and that fun and fitness can go together!!

Public Health Service Awards

40 Year Awards



President Barbara Medlin presents a 40-year plaque to Dick Swiggart, West Tennessee Region.

Two additional TPHA members were recognized for 40 years of service, but were unable to be present at the business meeting. They are: Martha Brown, Northeast Tennessee Region and Sarah Doyle, East Tennessee Region.

30 Year Awards

Sixteen TPHA members were recognized for 30 years of service to public health: Debbie Johnson, Suellen Joyner, Patti Harden, Debbie McKeehan, Beverly Gott, Mary Ruth McGhee, Martha Hammond, Judy Holden, Brenda Greene, Joey Prichard, Carla Starnes, Nancy Foshee, Kim Villegas, Carolyn Blair, Mike Blazer and Pat Jowers.

20 Year Awards



President
Barbara
Medlin pre-
sents 20 year
service
awards to
Debbie
Broadway,
Debbie
Palmer,
Shirley

Pruitt, Judy Carson and Tammy Burke. Not pictured were:
Karen Guinn, Diana Kreider, David Rash, Verginia Laws,
Carla Coley and Teena King.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Individual Membership

Active Members	1190 (Includes 316 new)
Life Members	187
Total	1377

Agency Membership 122

Eligible for Life Membership in 2006

Cherry McCree
Patti Harden
Lynne Lee
Judy Holden
Pat Jowers

Individuals Who Recruited Most New Members

Lolita Bryson 9 new members
Terry Nayman 9 new members

Individuals Who Have Earned Free Membership Through Recruiting at Least Five New Members

Ami Mitchell
Beverly Ferguson
Leilani Spence
Marcella Henry
Vanessa Watkins

Winner of Rotating Trophy for Region with Greatest In- crease in Membership

Sullivan County Health Department with an 82%
increase including 11 new members

Regions with 100 Percent Membership

Once again, all 95 counties and 13 regional offices
renewed their agency memberships!

RESOLUTIONS Passed at the Annual Meeting

The following resolutions were adopted by TPHA at the
annual meeting on November 3, 2006.

Smoke Free Tennessee
Preemption of Local Tobacco Laws
Mouthguard Resolution
Concussion Recognition Resolution
Fluoridation of Public Water Systems

The resolutions in their entirety may be viewed at our web
site: www.tpha.info.

RESOLUTIONS IN MEMORY OF TPHA MEM- BERS WHO DIED DURING THE PAST YEAR

Van Knotts, County Director for Putnam and Jackson
County Health Departments, died on September 10, 2006

James O. Newman, retired Assistant Director, Dental
Health Services, died on August 19, 2006.

Edna McCauley, retired District Clerical Supervisor for
Dickson, Houston and Humphrey County Health Depart-
ments, died July 5, 2006.

Poe Diehl, retired principal secretary with the Chattanooga-
Hamilton County Health Department died September 14,
2005.

RESOLUTIONS HONORING PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS WHO RETIRED DURING THE PAST YEAR

Jane Bowman, Office Manager, Union County, retired
October, 2005 with 24 years of service

Nina Brimer, Nurse, Jefferson County, retired November,
2005 with 31 years of service

Clara Hairrell, Project TEACH Program Director, East TN
Regional Office, retired October, 2005 with 30 yrs. service

Arlene Dunn, Nurse Practitioner, Cocke County, retired
June, 2006 with 31 years service

Sandi Henderlight, CSS Program Director, East TN Re-
gional Office, retired December, 2005 with 30 yrs. service

Glenda Masters, County Director, Cocke County, retired
June, 2006, with 31 years of service

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Alta Huffaker, Nursing Administrator-Clinical Quality, Knox County Health Department, retired December 30, 2006 with 40 years service

Shelby Broyles, Public Health Nurse, Jackson-Madison County Health Department, retired June, 2006 with 32 years service

Barbara Medlin, Director of Nursing, Jackson-Madison County Health Department, retired October 17, 2006 with 32 years service

Diane Smith Emison, State Clerical Consultant, Bureau of Health Services Administration, retired January, 2005 with 34 years of service

Robert Hammond, Director of Fiscal Services, Bureau of Health Services Administration, retired December 31, 2005 with 28 years of service

Rick Cochran, Director of Environmental Health Services, retired in June, 2002 after 31 years of service

Pat Jowers, Regional Director, Upper Cumberland Region, retired January, 2005 with 27 years of service

Gail Brown, Director of Quality Management, Sullivan County Health Department, retired in June, 2006 with 28 years of service

Rosemary Cotham, retired from State service on June 30, 2005. She was actively involved in public health service for 38 ½ years. Her first thirty years were spent at the Shelby County Health Department and the last eight as County Director in the West Tennessee Region.

FOCUS ON PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

RHIOs and Community Health

Submitted by: Tim Aldrich, PhD, MPH and Brian Martin, PhD, MBA, East Tennessee State University

With the rising of the national Public Health Information Network [PHIN] in 2002, there has been a proliferation of regional health information organizations [RHIOs]. Largely these consortia of hospitals and medical clinics have been organized around a consolidated electronic medical record system. The primary incentive [in addition to federal or state efforts] has been the search for advances in the quality of clinical care and outcomes through improved medical data exchange between facilities.

In a similar vein, the governor's statewide initiative for health data linkage has drawn heavily on leadership from the three RHIOs active in Tennessee. In the near future, model projects and prototype health data linkages are planned to occur across our state. This article poses to inform local public health department personnel about the operation of RHIOs and to provide a bit of perspective of the manner for their linkage with health department activities.

The CDC has established four national 'Centers of Excellence' for public health informatics that are model systems for the RHIO health department partnership. These centers are all in metropolitan areas [e.g., Boston, Seattle, Salt Lake City, and New York]. The local Tennessee RHIO and data linkage efforts are a mission unto itself. Incongruously, as Tennessee is often a 'tail end' state with many national criteria (e.g., ranked 48th), we are a national leader for these RHIO applications.

In Northeast Tennessee, the local RHIO is named CareSpark [not an acronym]. It has been in existence for several years and is well along in developing its data policies and analysis plans. Leisa Jenkins is the Executive Director of CareSpark, and more information may be found on the organization's website (<http://www.carespark.com>). One aspect of planning has been the requisite reporting from RHIOs to local health departments, a linkage that is specified under federal guidelines and the PHIN guidance documents.

To develop CareSpark data resources expressly to form a data link to local health departments, the CareSpark Outcomes and Evaluation Committee established a Public Health Working Group. Mark McCalman from the Sullivan Metro Health Dept. and Paige Lucas from the Virginia Health Department provided a consistent linkage between the health department and CareSpark data originators.

The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists first established a set of 'community health status indicators' in 1998. With the Healthy People 2010 guidelines, there are a variety of metrics for defining improvements and quality aims for health status for distinct population groups or health endpoints, e.g., obesity. These were both sources for guidance to the Public Health Working Group at CareSpark.

With this first endeavor to establish criteria to monitor for evidence of impacts with community-wide health status indicators, a wide variety was considered. Examples of those chosen were: vaccinations, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and preventive measures for premature mortality.

As these metrics were discussed by the Public Health Working Group, our criteria were focused on their sensitivity to CareSpark quality control efforts, and the presence of referent data and benchmarks. These variables were chosen for their likelihood of reflecting facility-based initiatives aimed at improving patient care and clinical out-

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comes. For these variables, national surveys like the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, or National Health Interview Survey, or regional reporting systems were regarded as providing a point of comparisons for measures from the CareSpark data stream.

A series of 'future' metrics were also discussed; for example, specific prescriptions and their actually being filled by the patients. Such monitoring would require the inclusion of pharmacy data, a linkage that CareSpark is pursuing.

We urge readers to learn more about RHIOs and their own regional contacts. The automation of health records and the national initiatives for health data linkage are paths of progress that will intersect with all of our professional lives in the near future.

Summit Meeting Focuses on Barge Emissions

Submitted by: Joan Carr, Assistant PIO
Memphis/Shelby County Health Department

The Memphis and Shelby County Health Department hosted a summit meeting in Memphis on October 19, 2006 to discuss pollution emissions from barges that transport materials on the Mississippi River and the nation's other waterways. This brought together pollution control experts from several states, representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Coast Guard officials and representatives of the barge industry.

The gathering was organized after Health Department air pollution control staff reviewed preliminary results of an aerial survey conducted in Memphis and Shelby County June 27th to 29th, 2006, which used an infrared camera mounted on a helicopter to detect emissions that can lead to the formation of ground-level ozone. The study, which was funded by the EPA, found a surprisingly high level of volatile organic compound emissions from barges on the Mississippi River. The results were similar to emissions found to be leaking from barges on a previous aerial survey in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

"Many barges are carrying a lot of fuels and solvents. If not managed properly, those barges could have excess emissions in amounts significant enough to have an impact on the area's ozone attainment status with the EPA federal ozone air quality standard," says Bob Rogers, Manager of the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department's Pollution Control Program. "This is the first meeting ever held that I know of to address a source of air pollutants that has apparently been overlooked."

Rogers says the October 19th meeting was a success in that it initiated a discussion of barge emissions and the environmental issues surrounding barge traffic that could eventually have an impact nationwide.

Greetings from the 134th APHA Annual Meeting

Submitted by: Bart Perkey, TPHA ARGC

The American Public Health Association is the oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the world, representing more than 50,000 members. TPHA is an affiliate member of APHA and sends an official representative to the Governing Council which meets during the APHA annual meeting.

As the newly elected TPHA Affiliate Representative to the Governing Council (ARGC), I had the pleasure of attending the APHA annual meeting and representing you on the Governing Council when it met in Boston, November 4–8. The Governing Council includes representatives from Affiliated Associations (primarily state public health associations), Sections (e.g., Epidemiology), the officers of the Association, and members of the Executive Board. Altogether there are some 250 voting members.

The Governing Council held three sessions during this year's annual meeting. The three most important actions of the Council this year were the establishment of the theme for the 2008 annual meeting, the election of officers, and the adoption of official APHA policy on important issues of public health. Adopting policies is always the most time consuming, controversial, and in many ways, the "heart" of each year's Governing Council session.

This year APHA adopted 22 new policies in four categories: health disparities, environmental and occupational health, access to care, and public health infrastructure. Among these were policies on preparing for pandemic influenza, abstinence only education policies, and opposition to continuation of the war in Iraq, to site three examples.

I also attended meetings of the Committee on Affiliates. This group is composed of Executive Directors and ARGCS of state associations. APHA is focused on strengthening state associations. It recently received a \$6 million dollar grant from the Kellogg Foundation for that purpose.

You will be pleased to know that TPHA is one of the largest and most financially stable state associations. Nevertheless, we may stand to benefit from strengthening our relationship with APHA. For example, we know there are many Tennessee members of APHA that are not also members of TPHA. We could use their expertise and energy in our own public health advocacy efforts.

During this next year we will be working with APHA on the completion of a needs assessment. This could lead to receipt of funds to TPHA to strengthen our efforts in public policy advocacy.

Let me conclude by saying "thanks" for giving me the opportunity to represent TPHA at the APHA Governing Council. I learned much about public health advocacy and look forward to putting this new knowledge to work in our advocacy efforts in Tennessee.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Hamilton County's Dawn Ford named Marshall Fellows for 2007

Dawn Ford, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department, is among 55 Americans chosen for the 2007 Marshall Fellows. The Marshall Memorial Fellowship award provides emerging leaders, ages 28-40, with three weeks of travel to 5 or 6 European cities to explore domestic and international policy.

Dawn will be studying European planning for avian influenza and environmental protection policy in the Fall of 2007, and hopes to share what she learns with Hamilton County. "I would like to have interactions with government counterparts in public health, emergency preparedness, and environmental protection so that I can bring back new perspectives to share with my colleagues," said Ms. Ford.

Dawn Ford was born in rural Western Kentucky, and earned degrees from Western Kentucky University (B.S. in Biology) and Miami University (M.S. in Botany). She came to Chattanooga in 1997 for a faculty position at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. With a desire to work in local government, Ms. Ford came to the Health Department as an Environmental Scientist in 2004. In 2006, she was promoted to Emergency Response Coordinator and now manages the Emergency Preparedness program. Ms. Ford lives in Soddy Daisy with her family. She is married to Robert Lathrop and has two children, Nathan (4) and Nicholas (1).

East TN Region - For October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the East Tennessee Region raised over \$3,000 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer Research. Pat Wheeler, Regional Coordinator for the Tennessee Breast and Cervical Care Program organized a "Hats for the Cure" fund raiser. For a \$5.00 donation, participants could wear their favorite or most unique hat on Friday, October 13, 2006. Approximately 150 staff members in the counties and RO participated. Taking top honors for the most unusual hat was Marianne Sharp who wore her dog hat. Included in the fund raising was the Region's participation in the annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. The East Tennessee Region won a trophy for 2nd Place for Government Businesses participation. 55 employees registered for the Race. This was the largest number to participate in the Race's ten year history. Pat is to be commended for her work in this fund raising.

In **Blount County**, the Maryville Housing Authority sponsored a "Back to School Bash" for children living in the housing authority. More than 75 children attended

the event.

In **Hamblen County**, the Hamblen County Home Team has formed a partnership with the National Fitness Center to pilot an after-school exercise program for fourth graders in two elementary schools. The program began operations in October and will run through March, 2007. Health Star Physicians awarded the group a small grant for the program. The **Loudon County** Health Improvement Council continues to expand their Imagination Library program. Currently, almost 1,000 children, ages birth to five, enjoy receiving an age-appropriate book in the mail each month. The members of the **Roane County** Anti-Drug Coalition sponsored an event to bring together families and friends who lost a child or loved one to a drug overdose. A memorial wall for photos of those lost to drug abuse was provided, and the ceremony ended with a candlelight vigil. In **Sevier County**, Promise/Parenting Task Force sponsored an event at three local libraries in Sevier County. A total of 100 children and 40 parents attended the events.

Knox County Health Department Leading by Example...Smoke-Free Campus By Karen Pershing

On November 1, 2006-KCHD instituted a new Tobacco Free Environment policy. Under this new policy, the use of tobacco or tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff) will be prohibited on health department premises and in Knox County vehicles under the jurisdiction of the health department. This policy applies to all employees as well as KCHD visitors.

Knox County Health Department is dedicated to providing air that is free from the harmful chemical by-products of second hand tobacco smoke, which has been scientifically proven to increase risk of heart disease and lung cancer in non-smokers who are involuntarily exposed. Additionally, as a public health facility, Knox County is committed to setting an appropriate example as a public health facility by promoting healthy behaviors while discouraging unhealthy ones.

In preparation for the November 1st policy implementation, smoking cessation classes were offered to KCHD employees as well as free nicotine replacement patches for those desiring to quit. Mark Jones, Director of the health department, began meeting with employees who use tobacco products in August to discuss the transition and to express his support for cessation efforts. "The health department should be a role model for our patients/clients and the community as a whole," stated Jones. "We can't very well expect other businesses or organizations in Knox County to take a stand if we aren't willing to do it ourselves."

South Central Region - The South Central Regional Office has added several new staff recently. Dorothy Altrogge, formerly an RN with the Maury CHD, has joined

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the regional staff as Coordinator for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Sandy, also an RN who came from the Maury County Health Department, is now Nurse Consultant for the Emergency Response program. Kay Gordon is our new Switchboard Operator/Receptionist, and Sheila Neely is the CSS Billing Clerk. Pam Browning came from the Bedford County Health Department to serve as Regional Nursing Director. In-house transfers include Susan Copeland, who has joined the regional clinic staff, and Peggy Michonski has moved over to serve as Administrative Assistant for personnel and primary care.

South Central has taken advantage of the state course entitled, "Happiness 101," not once, but twice! Staff who have participated report that it is very beneficial and lots of fun!

Flu season is in full swing; perhaps "sporadic swing" would be more descriptive. Most clinics are eagerly awaiting the NEXT SHIPMENT, an event that we are told will be forthcoming...on into early winter. We are strongly promoting flu shots for all, with assurances that December and even January are not too late for protection.

Southeast Region - Thanks to two innovative nurse consultants in the Southeast Region, medical providers all over the region will have a very visible and convenient reminder concerning reportable diseases. Marsha Rogers and Deb Solomon wanted to make it easier for medical providers to access the required information regarding reportable diseases. They considered how most of us look at our calendars on a daily basis and came up with an idea for using a calendar as a reminder about reportable diseases.

Marsha and Deb developed a calendar featuring a relevant disease as well as other health and safety information for each month. For example, the summer months might feature information on water-borne illnesses due to the increase in swimming and boating or on Lyme disease due to the increase in camping and hiking. The back of the calendar has a list of reportable diseases and a reporting form. A secure fax number is listed on each page. If, when faced with a reportable disease, a medical provider cannot locate the correct reporting form, they can simply copy the form available as the last page of the calendar.

The calendar was a team effort involving Marsha, Deb, and Margie Neville, all with the Emergency Response program. Deb and Marsha did the research and obtained permission for the artwork, Marsha put the calendar together and did the legwork for getting it printed, and Margie offered technical assistance with the layout and format. A prototype of the calendar was made available to a limited number of regional medical providers and central office staff this year and their reaction was very positive. One of the infection control nurses in a local hospital described the calendar as being "an in-service on its own." Marsha put together a proposal for permission to print in color and, in

2007, a full-color version of the calendar will be distributed to 500 medical providers in the Southeast Region. Now the only challenge is what to put in next year's calendar because we definitely want to continue this innovative approach to informing medical providers and reminding them about reportable diseases.

The Southeast Region also made the tobacco quit line very visible when it came out in August. The regional office is on the fourth floor of the state office building in Chattanooga. The Community Development staff made large letters and numbers (1-800-QUIT-NOW) to put in the fourth floor windows. The letters and numbers were so large that each letter or number took up an entire window. Behind each letter and number there was a string of clear lights. This made the sign very visible both day and night. There was also a party to kick off the quit line. The "entry fee" for the party was an article of Tennessee Volunteers paraphernalia with the theme "Volunteer to Quit." The Vols items raised from the party will be given to tobacco users in the Southeast region who pledge to quit smoking and are successful in doing so.

Upper Cumberland Region - suffered a great loss with the sudden passing of Edward "Van" Knotts on September 10, 2006. Van began his career with state government as an Auditor in 1975. He went on to become the Regional Accountant, and for the past 16 years he served as a District County Director. Over the years he served as County Director in Putnam, Jackson, DeKalb, White, and Pickett Counties. Van Knotts will be missed in the Upper Cumberland Region.

Congratulations to Upper Cumberland award recipients: Pickett Co. Health Council-- PAL Award (TPHA Partners & Leadership Award); Gerane Benkarski -Nursing Excellence for Direct Nursing Service; Debbie Hoy -Nursing Excellence in Administration and Supervision. Environmental Section: Donald Page - Lynn B. Heard Award for Environmentalist of the Year; Kim Davidson - Certificate of Merit; Joe Ferguson -Certificate of Achievement; Mark Houser-Certificate of Achievement

Officers elected for 2007 : Dr. Fred Vossel, Board Rep-Health Officers Section; Sheila Abbott, Chairperson-Nursing Section; Env. Section: Mark Houser, Chair and Board Rep, and Kim Davidson Sec/Treasurer.

West Tennessee - Once again the West Tennessee is experiencing expansion in the region. In Gibson County the Humboldt Clinic has received a \$300,000.00 Community Development Block Grant to expand and renovate the current facility. The Humboldt Clinic will have an additional 1200 sq. ft. as well as renovation to the reception area, laboratory, and clinic area.

Weakley County is in the process of creating a formal diabetes coalition. The community recognizes the devastation diabetes and the potential consequences of inaction. The University of Tennessee at Martin Nursing

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Department, the Department of Human Performance, the Tennessee Department of Health, and community partners have worked with Emory University to host a community wide diabetes forum. A core group of Weakley County leaders are now trained in the Centers for Disease Control Systems Thinking and Simulation Model. The result is a community coalition planning to address diabetes prevention and maintenance through many diverse avenues.

Through a collaborative effort with UT Extension, the Tennessee Department of Health, *The West Tennessee Examiner*, AKA Sorority, and First State Bank of Humboldt a "Sister to Sister: Beautiful Women of Color Health Conference" was held in October 2006 in Gibson County. The fifty-three conference participants had the opportunity to attend workshops addressing health issues affecting minorities as well as participate in health screenings.

WHO'S WHO IN TPHA IN 2007

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South Central Regional Office

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Ami Mitchell (Representing Administrative, Management
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Hamilton County Health Department

Carmencita Espada (Representing Communicable Disease
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Central Office

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Jackson-Madison County Health Dept.

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Southeast Regional Health Office

Mark Houser (Representing Environmental Section)
Upper Cumberland Region

Jennifer Kozlica (Representing Epidemiology and Biosta-
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Southeast Region

Chris Freeman (Representing Health Education/Health
Promotion Section)
Mid Cumberland Region

Gail Harmon (Representing Management Support Section)
East TN Reg. Health Off.

Jewel Shipley (Representing Nursing Section)
Northeast TN Regional Health Office

Glenda King (Representing Nutrition Section)
Nutrition Section

Fred Vossel, MD (Representing Physicians Section)
Upper Cumberland Region

Doris Spain (ex-officio member)
Executive Director, TPHA

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Katie Garman, Central Office

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Melissa Davis, East TN RHO

*Wishing you warm holiday
memories to make your new
year bright*

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