



Tennessee Public Health Association Newsletter

www.TNpublichealth.org

“Health and Home: Where You Live Matters”

Submitted by: Matt McDaniel, Program Committee Chair

2014 Keynote Speakers

The Program Committee is pleased to announce three more of our illustrious speakers for our 2014 Conference! For our first Keynote Speaker on Wednesday, Sept. 10th, we will be hosting Dr. Jeffery Levi, the



Executive Director of the Trust for America's Health, where he leads the organization's advocacy efforts on behalf of a modernized public health system. He oversees TFAH's work on a range of public health policy issues, including implementation of the public health provisions of the Affordable Care Act and annual reports assessing the nation's public health preparedness, investment in public health infrastructure, and response to chronic diseases such as obesity.

Dr. Levi is also Professor of Health Policy at George Washington University's School of Public Health, where his research has focused on HIV/AIDS, Medicaid, and integrating public health with the healthcare delivery system. He has also served as an associate editor of the American Journal of Public Health, Deputy Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. Dr. Levi received a BA from Oberlin College, an MA from Cornell University, and a PhD from The George Washington University.

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President's Message

Paula Masters, MPH

Give Thanks!

The grand division conference season of TPHA is officially over! As president, I had the wonderful opportunity to be part of each grand division conference. This year has afforded me so many areas for learning during my trip across the state! In East, I was able to receive information on how to create a healthy home and where city planning and public health intersect; in West, I learned how bikeways are developed and why they matter and how to best use the MAPP process; and in Middle, I got up-to-date information on the impact that tobacco products still have and the unfortunate reality we are facing with the issue of human sex trafficking. All meetings were so informative and were great opportunities for our public health communities. A great big THANK YOU to all the Vice Presidents and their planning committees for another superb year for grand division conferences!! These conferences did such a tremendous job of establishing the groundwork and exciting members for the annual conference!

Speaking of the annual conference, planning is well underway and the committees are hard at work. To pull off a conference on the level that is provided every year by TPHA, there is an astronomical amount of work

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Dr. Levi will be discussing current health system changes, along with responding to increased demands for improved quality, lower cost, and improved health outcomes, and how the role of public health (and population health efforts more broadly) will need to adapt. He will identify the opportunities and challenges of a closer partnership between public health and the health care system; as well as partnerships between the health sector and non-health sectors to address population health and the social determinants of health.

For our second Keynote Speaker, we will hear from Dr. Ali Mokdad, who is Director of Middle Eastern



Initiatives and Professor of Global Health at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington. In this role, he is building IHME's presence in the region through new research projects, dissemination and uptake of IHME's methods and results, and consultation with regional leaders in population health.

Prior to joining IHME, Dr. Mokdad worked at the CDC, starting his career there in 1990. He served in numerous positions with the International Health Program; the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity; the National Immunization Program; and the National Center for Chronic Diseases Prevention and Promotion, where he was Chief of the Behavioral Surveillance Branch.

Dr. Mokdad also managed and directed the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), the world's largest standardized telephone survey, which enables the CDC, state health departments, and other health and education agencies to monitor risk behaviors related to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the United States.

Dr. Mokdad has published more than 250 articles and numerous reports and is the recipient of several prestigious awards. He received his BS in Biostatistics from the American University of Beirut and his PhD in Quantitative Epidemiology from Emory University.

Dr. Mokdad will be sharing his work on the "Eight Americas", a study that found that there are eight national subgroups, ranging from best to worst, that capture the geographic and socio-demographic differences in life expectancy observed in the population. This work has been utilized to divide the race-county combinations of the US population into eight distinct groups to explore the causes of the disparities that can inform specific public health intervention policies and programs.

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that is conducted. Your committee chairs and members accomplish an amount of work that is nothing short of a miracle. As an attendee, you are only aware of the conference offering from this perspective and are able to benefit from all the intensive labor that has occurred. What may not be forefront in your mind are the countless hours that many have put forth to ensure a seamless, beneficial, amazing educational conference. I say all this to show the commitment of TPHA committee members to the public health workers in our great state. These people do all this in addition to their professional and personal responsibilities because they are passionate about the competency of the public health workforce and want every citizen to benefit from the provision of care by these workers. Working in public health is unfortunately a thankless profession, but I do not want serving as a committee member in TPHA to also be. So THANK YOU to all committee members for working to create what I am sure will be one of the best conferences to date!!

This year's annual conference is already shaping up to be epic! The theme "Health and Home: Where you live matters" is one I am sure speaks to everyone and also lends itself to offering a holistic slate of topics and sessions. Our Program Committee is working hard to secure sensational speakers and from what I have seen, I am really getting excited! Your next newsletter will have more information around details for the conference, but consistently check our website for "all-things" conference over the next few months, especially to REGISTER!!

I want to end with a quote about thanks. I do so that you may take away beautiful words (not mine, but borrowed) of gratitude that will encourage you to thank a TPHA committee member, fellow co-worker, or both for their commitment and desire toward public health in Tennessee. Let's take public health in Tennessee from a thankless to thankful profession! It truly is a treasure to Tennessee!

"We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures"

-Thornton Wilder

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On Friday, September 12th, we will be joined by Mark Fenton. Mark is a national public health, planning, and transportation consultant, an adjunct associate professor at Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, and former host of the "America's Walking" series on PBS television. He's author of numerous books including the bestselling "Complete Guide to Walking for Health, Weight Loss, and Fitness" (Lyons Press, 2nd edition 2008).



He was a developer of the University of North Carolina's Safe Routes to School clearinghouse, and facilitator for the walkable community workshop series of the National Center for Bicycling and Walking; he now provides technical training and community planning as an independent consultant. Mark was a member of the United States national racewalking team from 1986 to 1991, and competed in the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Trials in the 50-kilometer (31-mile) racewalk.

He studied biomechanics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was a researcher at the Olympic Training Center's Sports Science Laboratory in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and manager of Reebok's Human Performance Laboratory. Mark has research publications and articles related to exercise science, physical activity promotion, and community level interventions. He's a vocal advocate for non-motorized transportation, a frequent consultant on bicycle and pedestrian community plans, and recognized authority on public health issues and the need for community, environmental, and public-policy initiatives to encourage more walking, bicycling, and transit use.

ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by: Ami Mitchell, Chair

Arrangements for the conference in September are starting to fall into place. The TPHA enthusiasm must be contagious because even the Marriott staff is making plans to participate in our Fun and Fitness activities! We have veteran sales staff and a new Chef on board to help us make sure our conference experience is the best yet.

As usual, the conference will begin with a luncheon at the conclusion of the business meeting on Wednesday, September 10. Also there will be the traditional awards luncheon on Thursday.

We do plan to repeat the student breakfast on Thursday morning this year as well. Please refer to your program materials to be sure you have all of the needed

information for the meal events.

The Exhibit Hall will be open from Wednesday afternoon through Thursday afternoon and the Poster Sessions will be on display too. We are trying out a new way to showcase the poster presentations and we think it will make the flow through the hallways at peak times much easier. Please enjoy all our exhibits and posters and we welcome your feedback.

Our President's Reception and following Fun and Fitness activities will all be centered around our 1980's theme. The food and activities will transport you back to the days of big hair, big malls and big shoulder pads. So be ready to dress and act the part, like oh-kayy? It is shaping up to be totally radical!

Check out the program brochure carefully for other events such as section meetings, new member orientation and coffee breaks to be sure you don't miss a thing.

The Arrangements Committee and Chef Hayden are committed to planning the most enjoyable and pleasant events possible and we count on your ideas and feedback. In response to your comments, nutritional information will be posted on the tables again this year and vegetarian plates will be available for those who request them at the time they register. We are happy to make any possible accommodations you require so please don't hesitate to speak up!

REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Shannon Railling, Chair

National Public Health Week 2014 was a huge success with health departments and communities across the state celebrating and hosting events. The TPHA and APHA theme was "Public Health: Start Here", and had daily focus areas including nutrition, emergency preparedness, disease prevention, maternal health, and being the Healthiest Nation in One Generation!

This year we had a brand new statewide contest called the "Student Video Challenge" where we challenged college and university students who are interested in public health to submit a video showing us what public health is in their communities. The winners were Yoonwon Jung and Claire Mason from the University of Tennessee Knoxville. We plan to make this an annual event and are so excited to partner with students and make them a part of our yearly celebration of Public Health Week. Thank you to all of the students who submitted videos.

This year's Visionary Award nominees were absolutely incredible, and the committee had the very difficult task of scoring the nominations and choosing a

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winner. A big congratulations goes out to the Visionary winners and the Student Video Challenge winners. You are each a testament to the great public health work being done in Tennessee! Presentations of the Visionary Awards and the Student Video Challenge Award are shown below.

As always, Public Health Week is a time to recognize our local public health heroes, YOU! Thank you to each of you for the daily work you do to improve the health of Tennesseans. You are Public Health at its best!

TPHA Visionary Award

The Tennessee Public Health Association's Visionary Award was created in 2011 as part of TPHA's celebration of National Public Health Week. The award is presented to a recipient in each of Tennessee's three grand divisions and recognizes unsung public health visionaries who make a difference in their community's health. The 2014 TPHA Visionary Award recipients are:

East Tennessee- Ben Epperson, Program Director of the Knox County Health Department's Healthy Kids, Healthy Community initiative which focuses on engaging the community to address barriers to physical activity and nutrition in a new and pioneering way. As Program Director, Ben was charged with working with three Knox County areas that had high incidences of childhood obesity and were also economically challenged. Through Ben's leadership, KCHD has been able to work with communities in a different, more powerful way by giving them the tools to address barriers that impact their health and well being. *(Shown from right are Paula Masters, TPHA President; East TN Visionary Award Winner Ben Epperson; Doris Spain, TPHA Executive Director and Rebekah English, Vice President for the East Grand Division).*



West Tennessee- Dr. Glen Steele who specializes in pediatric eye care at Southern College of Optometry. Since beginning his career in 1969, he noticed a gap in services for children in their first year of life. While most parents worried about colic, many missed signs of visual impairment. Steele's research, much of it conducted during his service as chair of the Pediatric Vision service at SCO, showed that one in 10 children is at risk for serious vision problems due to a smaller issue going undiagnosed during infancy. Locally in Memphis, Dr. Steele supports eye care education initiatives and treatment. He spearheads programs like "Envisioning Change," which, in 2012, brought renowned blind entertainer and actor Tom Sullivan to Memphis to speak on improving the lives of others and overcoming his blindness to succeed. *(Shown in the photo at left are Paula Masters, TPHA President; Dr. Richard Savoy who accepted the award for Dr. Steele; and Doris Spain, TPHA Executive Director).*

Middle Tennessee- Kathy Ferrell, Mobile Health Outreach Coordinator for the *Ministry in Motion*, Mobile Health Unit within the Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital's Care of the Poor and Community Benefit Plan. Their goal is to provide accessible health care to uninsured or underinsured individuals and families. By partnering with The Guidance Center, Primary Care & Hope Clinic, Rutherford County Health Dept, Coley & Coley Vision, and Saint Thomas Emergency Medical Services, the Mobile Health Unit offers various types of services dependent on location and need. Her dedication to promote good health shines through every encounter as she continues to go beyond the expectations of those who seek her services. *(Shown in the photo at right are Paula Masters, TPHA President; Kathy Ferrell, Winner of the Middle TN Visionary Award; Pam Browning, Vice President for the Middle TN Grand Division; and Doris Spain, TPHA Executive Director).*



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Student Video Challenge Award

This year, the Public Health Week Committee initiated the 1st Annual Student Video Challenge. Any full time Bachelor's or Master's student could enter a 2 minute video based upon the NPHW theme - *Public Health: Start Here*. The winner receives a certificate and a \$100 check.



Shown for the presentation of the Student Video Challenge Award are: Paula Masters, TPHA President; Video Challenge Winners Claire Mason and Yoonwon Jung, students at the University of Tennessee; Doris Spain, TPHA Executive Director; and Rebekah English, TPHA Vice President for the East Grand Division.

REPORT OF THE EXHIBITS AND SPONSORS COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Cathy Cowart, Chair, Exhibits and Sponsors Committee

New Way to Earn TPHA Membership and Cash!!!!

In an effort to recruit new sponsors and exhibitors, TPHA will reward members who acquire new partners, with various incentives based on the level of sponsorship acquired!! By recruiting new sponsors or exhibitors, individuals can earn TPHA Membership for one year and earn cash (amount earned is based on the level of partner you recruit)! This is our attempt at getting new agencies involved in our Association, as well as trying to get vendors from across the state. Remember, these agencies help to fund our annual conference. Please consider earning your membership and cash and helping the Tennessee Public Health Association! The newly developed Prospectus gives additional information and is available at TPHA website www.tnpublichealth.org.

Recruit a NEW:

Exhibitor (\$300 for noncommercial)	1 yr. Free Membership and \$50
Exhibitor (\$500 for commercial)	1 yr. Free Membership and \$75
Sustaining Agency Membership (\$500)	1 yr. Free Membership and \$75
Bronze Agency Membership (\$1000)	1 yr. Free Membership and \$100
Silver Agency Membership (\$2,500)	1 yr. Free Membership and \$150
Gold Agency Membership (\$5,000)	1 yr. Free Membership and \$250
Platinum Agency Membership (\$10,000)	1 yr. Free Membership and \$300

Free Memberships refers to one year membership in TPHA. To see what the various levels offer, go to www.tnpublichealth.org

ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS!!!

Submitted by: Kevin Morris, Chair, Scholarship Committee

If you have at least 3 years public health experience, have been a member of TPHA for a minimum of one year and are enrolled in an educational program; then you should apply for a TPHA scholarship!

Who wouldn't like a little financial assistance with education endeavors? The Tennessee Public Health Association raised over \$5,000 last year to help provide scholarships to its members. If you are interested in applying, you may download an application from the TPHA website www.tnpublichealth.org.

Scholarships shall be awarded to advance individual knowledge and competence in Public Health. Awards for Public Health training shall be limited to programs which award college credit, continuing education units (CEU's), or certification through a nationally recognized accrediting body or educational institution.

For applications, visit <http://tnpublichealth.org/index.php?id=15>

The deadline to submit an application is **June 30th**!! If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Morris at kevin.morris@tn.gov, Scholarship Committee Chair.

AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Submitted by: Gail Harmon, Awards Committee Chair

The competition for the TPHA Awards can be as easy or hard as you, the members, make it. Easy? Yes, if you don't submit nominations that is one less qualified nomination the committee has to review making their task easier! Hard is when there are so many nominations there has to be much discussion on who is the most deserving candidate. Let's make 2014 one of the hardest in history for the Awards Committee!

The Awards Committee is accepting nominations now through June 30 for the following awards:

- ***R. H. Hutcheson, Sr., MD Award***
- ***Alex B. Shipley, MD Award***
- ***Public Health Worker of the Year Award***
- ***Public Health Group/Unit/Department Award***
- ***PAL (Partners and Leadership) Award***

Please visit the TPHA website, www.tnpublichealth.org for further information regarding each award and the required forms. **The deadline for submitting nominations is June 30, 2014.** If you have any questions, please e-mail Gail.Harmon@tn.gov.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submitted by: Dr. Paul Petersen, Poster Session Committee Chair

The Tennessee Public Health Association is currently accepting abstracts for poster presentations at the 2014 annual Public Health Conference, September 10-12, at the Cool Springs Conference Center in Franklin, Tennessee. We encourage abstracts in all areas of public health from all public health disciplines, including colleges and universities.

Abstracts on all topics related to public health in Tennessee are welcome. You do need to be a TPHA member to submit an abstract. If your abstract is accepted, you will need to register for the conference and plan to attend.

Abstracts must be typed and submitted in electronic format (Microsoft Word). Use 12-point font, double spacing and 250 words or less. The word count excludes the title, authors, affiliations and contact information.

Please email Committee Chair Dr. Paul Petersen at Paul.Petersen@tn.gov with any questions that you may have. Web Site: <http://tnpublichealth.org/index.php?id=65>

FUN AND FITNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by: Christen Minnick, Committee Chair

Dust off your high top Reebok's and get your scrunchies out of the closet. This year's Fun and Fitness theme is all centered on the decade of great music and big hair: the 1980's! Our Fun and Fitness committee members have planned activities to get you thinking about and moving to the 80's beat. We may even have a special guest appearance by "Richard Simmons" to keep us active throughout our meetings and events! Get your teams ready now for Thursday night's main event. Prepare for relays and a music competition worthy of Ed McMahon's *Star Search*. More details will come soon...it's going to be totally righteous!

GRAND DIVISION MEETINGS

East Grand Division Meeting - Rebekah English, Vice President

Rebekah English, East Vice President and her committee put together an excellent program for TPHAs East Division meeting, held in Knoxville on Friday, April 25th. The program entitled **Health and Home: Where You Live Matters** was attended by approximately 100 from the grand division. Topics included: *TPHA Strategic Plan*, presented by TPHA President, Paula Masters; *Using Secondary Data and Community Health Assessment to Identify and Describe Place-Based Disparities*, presented by Lori Ferranti, Assistant Commissioner of Health, Audrey Bauer, Epidemiologist, TN Department of Health (TDH), Fred Croom, Epidemiologist, TDH and Tawny Spinelli, Children's Cabinet Assistant Director and TN Young Child Wellness Coordinator, TDH; *Healthy Home and Community –Radon*, Jan Compton, Department of Environment and Conservation; *Household Environmental Concerns*, Jan Compton, Department of Environment and Conservation; *Community Prescription Collection Bins*, Mark Penland, Department of Environment and Conservation; and *Exploring Health Considerations in Local and Regional Planning: Examples from Blount County, Plan East Tennessee, and East Tennessee Quality Growth*, John Lamb, Director, Blount County Planning Department.

The East Grand Division Public Health Week Visionary Award was presented during lunch by TPHA President Paula Masters to Ben Epperson for his leadership as program director for the Knox County Health Department's Healthy Kids, Healthy Community initiative, which focuses on engaging the community to address barriers to physical activity and nutrition in a new and pioneering way. First place award in the student video contest went to Yoonwon Jung and Claire Mason, University of Tennessee students, who were also recognized at the meeting.

If you attended the meeting and have not filled out your evaluation, please go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/Program_Evaluation_2014_EastTNMeeting or www.tnpublichealth.org as we value your opinion for future programs/meetings.

West Grand Division Meeting - Heather Burton, Vice President

More than 60 members of the Tennessee Public Health Association met at the University of Memphis for the 2014 West Tennessee TPHA Grand Division Meeting on Friday, May 2, 2014. Working from the state's theme for 2014, the theme of the meeting was "Health and Home: HOW you live matters". The planning committee worked diligently during the months leading up to the event to ensure the agenda included informational, yet lively, and well-rounded speakers.

We kicked off the morning with a message from the Tennessee Department of Health covering the contemporary issues and public health challenges facing the state. Speakers included Deputy Commissioner Bruce Behringer, Fred Croom, Martin Whiteside, and Monique Anthony, who's use of focus groups as a means of gathering information among African America women in southwest Tennessee counties sparked specific interest with the MPH students in attendance.

The morning continued with a presentation from Kyle Wagenschutz with the City of Memphis who discussed the installation and utilization of bike paths, green spaces, and other outdoor facilities in and around Memphis and Shelby County. The conversion of old railway lines into paved bike paths proved to be an interesting and popular topic.

Jason Hodges with the Shelby County Health Department discussed Shelby County's experiences and lessons learned while using the Mobilizing Action through Partnerships and Planning (MAPP) process locally to identify

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specific public health concerns and issues facing the citizens of Shelby County and developing the most successful methods to address those issues.

During lunch, the Visionary Award was presented to Dr. Glen Steele for his significant work with the InfantSEE program. Although Dr. Steele was unable to attend personally because of his extensive travel to spread the word of InfantSEE both national and internationally, his colleague, and fellow TPHA member, Dr. Rick Savoy graciously accepted on his behalf.

The afternoon speakers, both with Shelby County Government, kept the attention of attendees through the use of games including Nicole Gates's "Prepared Not Scared" presentation which had TPHA members rifling through their own bags and purses to see who had the most relevant preparedness items should a public health emergency happen during the meeting. Wayne Puckett used her own version of Jeopardy to engaged members while discussing the most significant ways we can provide "Red Carpet Customer Service" both externally to our patients, clients, and consumers, as well as internally to our coworkers.

As this year's West TN Vice President, I would like to personally thank the planning committee for their work both before and during this event. I would also like to thank those TPHA members who were able to attend this year's meeting. We welcome your feedback and hope we can continually improve each year to offer the best resources for our members.

Middle Grand Division Meeting—Pam Browning, Vice President

The 2014 TPHA Middle Tennessee Grand Division Meeting was held on Friday, May 9, 2014, at the Williamson County Ag Expo Center in Franklin, Tennessee. Approximately 84 members were in attendance, taking advantage of the opportunity to obtain up to 4.25 hours of continuing education credits. We started the morning with a welcoming message from our President, Paula Masters, who reviewed the TPHA Strategic Plan: our Mission, Vision, Core Values and Strategic Goals.

Next were Bruce Behringer and his team (Fred Croom, John Brown and Kimberley Glenn) who gave us an overview of place-based issues, mapping displays, and a two-part case study using quantitative and qualitative data regarding Congestive Heart Failure hospitalizations and discharges in Davidson County.

Donna Leedle helped us "get Happy!" during the break, demonstrating some fun moves to get the energy flowing. Concluding the morning, we listened to Lynn Williams, State Government Relations Director with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network with an update on current tobacco issues, applying strategies to reduce the impact of tobacco on society, barriers and challenges to reduce tobacco's impact, and benefits of raising the tobacco tax.

This was a perfect segue into learning about E-Cigarettes: facts, marketing tactics, harmful effects and regulation, presented by Horace Pulse, a public health educator with the Tennessee Department of Health, Family Health and Wellness Division.

Just before lunch was served, I had the pleasure of presenting this year's Visionary Award to Kathy Ferrell, Mobile Health Outreach Coordinator, in recognition of her work with *Ministry in Motion*, the Mobile Health Unit within the Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital's Care of the Poor and Community Benefit Plan. They work to provide accessible health care to uninsured or underinsured individuals and families.

The afternoon session opened with Margie Quin, Assistant Special Agent in Charge with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation who gave an explicit overview of human sex trafficking in our state, how to recognize it and advocate for its victims. This topic generated a lot of questions and inquiries from attendees.

Ending the day on a positive note, we were treated to Rick Canada, Director of Program Implementation with the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness, leading and directing a statewide initiative to improve health outcomes in Tennessee. He encouraged us to Take Charge of our health, starting now!

It was my pleasure to bring together our members and plan an informative and interesting division meeting. I owe many thanks to my colleagues who helped me along the way, and you know who you are, with a special thank you to my deputized assistant for the day, Mark Browning. Our theme was Home is Where the Health is and for many of us involved with TPHA, public health is our second home. I look forward to seeing everyone again at the Annual Conference in September.

REGIONAL REPORTS

WEST TENNESSEE REGION

Making a Difference in the Lives of Those We Serve: From Patients to Nursing Students

As public health workers it is easy to get so overwhelmed with our day to day duties and responsibilities that we forget that we are making a difference and we are improving the lives of people working and living in Tennessee. The following are excerpts from letters and stories shared by West TN Region Dept of Health staff:

Danna Taylor, County Director for Crockett and Haywood Counties, shared this success story: She explains that she received a call from a patient advocate who works for a local dialysis clinic in the region. The patient advocate contacted Danna at the Trenton Health Department to get information regarding dental assistance for one of their patients. This patient was in end-stage renal disease and was on the kidney transplant list, but there was a problem. Because of some dental issues and infection, the patient would not be a candidate for a transplant even if a donor was found. The patient, who lived in another county, also had transportation issues. **Teara Hutcheson, the Dental Assistant**, spoke with the patient advocate and together they developed a plan to transport the patient to Trenton's health department.

The advocate from the dialysis clinic recently called to inform Danna that the patient had a successful kidney transplant and was doing wonderful. She also wanted to thank **Dr. Hill** and **Teara**, for she knows that without their dental treatment this patient would have never received the kidney transplant. Danna went on to say "I'm always proud of the work our staff does every day.....I hope they are proud too."

This staff testimonial was shared by **Sheila Benson RN**, Henderson County Health Dept. and **Karen Rodgers**, Public Health Office Supervisor, Henderson County Health Dept:

"I want to recognize a great team member of the Henderson Co. Health Department; **Amy Shelby, Nursing Assistant**. Yesterday Amy was doing a WIC mid-certification on a 17 month old and obtained a Hgb. of 4.8. She proceeded to do another test to confirm the reading and on the second reading she got 5.0. Amy immediately came to me with the readings and said that she also observed that the blood looked thin and pale. Amy then brought grandmother and the child to my room for counseling and assessment. This child had average weight and height but was very pale. The grandmother said his activity level was good but he had strep throat a few weeks before and took Miralax 2 times a day for constipation. She denied that the child had any tarry stools. I called the Primary Care Physician and told them that I was sending this child to the emergency room at Jackson Madison County General Hospital. The grandmother was in agreement with the decision. Today I called to follow up on this child and the grandmother was very appreciative of Amy and me and the action we took in getting the child on his way for proper treatment. Also, the child is in LeBonheur Children's Hospital receiving blood in addition to undergoing tests to determine the cause for his abnormal Hgb. reading. A big shout for Amy !!!!." Thanks, Shelia.

A nursing professor's testimonial:

"I am a nursing professor at Baptist College of Health Sciences, Division of Nursing. I teach Public Health/Community Health Nursing. I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the clinical learning opportunity made available to our nursing students at the Lauderdale County Health Department. Our students in this course have now been privy to utilize Lauderdale County for a Public Health clinical rotation for several trimesters now. Every student who has been onsite at this Health Department has been highly complementary of the learning experience they have had. They have remarked to me how **Beth Cullen, Nursing Supervisor**, has made them feel welcome from the time they set foot into the Health Department, and how well-organized the individual clinics are. Each student has been very complimentary of the Health Department staff as a whole. They have recognized just how many and how diverse the Health Department services are, and are amazed at the high level of knowledge required by each nurse for each individual clinical service area. They particularly have enjoyed Primary Care! Many of these students, after their experience in Lauderdale County, have expressed to me that they are now considering Public Health Nursing as their career of choice."

Thank you for allowing our Baptist College of Health Sciences Public Health/Community Health Nursing students this great learning experience! And thank you, Beth (**Janna Beth Shaull, RN Regional Nursing Director** - Southwest Counties) for making this happen!" Sincerely, Rita.

(Rita West, *DNSc, RN NEA-BC, Assistant Professor, Nursing Baptist College of Health Science*)

UPPER CUMBERLAND REGION

Submitted by: Sandy Moore, Health Promotion Coordinator

Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE) Award

The Clay and Jackson County Health Departments were honored at the 21st annual Excellence in Tennessee Awards Banquet, held on Wednesday, February 19, 2014. The TNCPE Interest Award is the beginning level for organizations interested in adopting and applying performance improvement principles. The award was presented to Angela Hassler, Jackson County Health Department Director and Andy Langford, Clay County Health Department Director by Tennessee Speaker of the House Beth Harwell and TNCPE President and CEO, Katie Rawls.

Nearly 400 business and community leaders from across Tennessee packed the ballroom of the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs to salute the winners. Thirty-nine organizations representing high-performing businesses, government agencies, nonprofit and education organizations were recognized for their commitment to excellence and continuous improvement.

National Public Health Week Awards

During National Public Health Week, Deborah K. Johnson, Regional Director, presented employees with awards acknowledging their dedication to achieving the Tennessee Department of Health mission to protect, promote and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee.

Excellence in Promotion: **Amy Fox-Hale**, Clerk 3, provides administrative support at the Regional Office. Amy has worked very hard over the last year in the promotion of healthy lifestyles with the worksite wellness program. She created exercise classes, started walking groups, and sits on the wellness committee where she inspires, encourages, promotes, motivates and leads her co-workers.

Excellence in Improvement: **Angie Richards**, Public Health Office Assistant from the Putnam County Health Department, has worked very hard in the last year to promote anti-tobacco use. She has become involved in the community as an active participant and spokesperson for the Upper Cumberland Anti-Tobacco Coalition. She assists with prevention activities at community events, and also serves on the Putnam County Wellness Committee. Personally, she quit smoking on June 9, 2013, stopped drinking all carbonated and caffeinated drinks, works out every day and has lost 14 pounds.

Outstanding Leadership: **Heather Gibson**, Nurse Practitioner, is a stellar employee who provides excellent patient care to her patients. She willingly travels to numerous clinics in order to assure the patients in our region have access to care. Ms. Gibson has received many accolades from her patients. She is well respected by her peers and works harmoniously with staff in all counties.

Excellence in Protection: In the fall of 2013 **DeKalb County Health Department**, under the leadership of **Michael Railing**, County Director, partnered with Coordinated School Health to pilot a school based flu immunization program. Staff immunized 184 children in five schools. Both agencies are now looking at ways to expand school based health services such as EPSDT's and 7th grade immunizations to further protect the youth of DeKalb County.



Angie Richards



Heather Gibson



DeKalb County Health Department Staff

Retirement Celebration



Dr. Fred Vossel, Medical Director, recently retired after 11 years and 5 months of dedicated service to the Tennessee Department of Health, Upper Cumberland Region. He will be deeply missed by all employees in the Upper Cumberland Region.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Submitted by: Beth Delaney

SERO National Public Health Week Award Winners

Each year during National Public Health Week the Southeast Region selects winners from employees who have been nominated by their peers. There are three different awards: the Above and Beyond Award; the Gee, I Thought Nobody Noticed Award; and the Outstanding Teamwork Award. The awards were announced at a luncheon at the Regional Office on April 7th.

The Above and Beyond Award went to Haley Colvin, a Nutritionist 2 based in Franklin County Health Department. Haley is a team player who assists in whatever comes her way including clinic overflow, PPI events, Healthy Horizons, and even dressing as a rooster at a TPHA Fun & Fitness event. Haley became an examiner for the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence which gave her the insight and knowledge to assist in writing the application for Level One Baldrige for the Grundy County Health Department. Grundy County was awarded a level one this year and Haley is already beginning the prep work for a level 2 application next year. Staff and clients will benefit from the improved clinic efficiency and the manner in which we provide services.

Pattie Born, Administrative Services Assistant based in the Regional Office, was awarded the Gee, I Thought Nobody Noticed Award. Pattie goes out of her way to make sure employees have everything they need even when it's not her responsibility to help them. She puts in many hours to make sure everyone is paid correctly as she manages the entire region's Edison timesheets. She even sends emails to staff on her days off or holidays or weekends to remind employees when a pay period deadline is coming up and they need to key their time. Pattie always has a great attitude and a smile on her face and is very encouraging to other employees.

The Outstanding Teamwork Award went to the Bradley County Disease Outbreak Response Team which includes Amanda Taylor, Epidemiologist; Dr. Allyson Cornell, Medical Director; Deborah Solomon, Nurse Consultant; Debbie Walker, Communicable Disease Director; Melanie Grant, Administrative Assistant; Marsha Rogers, Nurse Consultant; Robin Moore, Immunization Nurse; Eric Coffey, Environmental Health Director; and Christina Arriaga, Translator. This team investigated an outbreak of gastroenteritis among inmates of Bradley County Justice Center. Their rapid response and thorough investigation led to the identification of mechanically separated chicken as the source of Salmonella. As a result of their investigation, a major food manufacturer instituted a nationwide recall of 33,840 pounds of chicken that would have been shipped nationally for institutional use. They reduced the chance of additional illnesses among prison inmates nationwide and potentially saved thousands of taxpayer dollars.

There were many outstanding employees for the awards committee to choose from and the Southeast Region is proud of all these dedicated staff members.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Submitted by Janet McAlister, Assistant Regional Director

On Oct. 21, 2013, Environmental Health Specialist **Brent Shelton** received the **Commissioner's Commendation Award**. Brent Shelton has worked in the Division of Environmental Health for 38 years and is currently a District Supervisor in the South Central Region, working out of the Coffee County Health Department.

For the past twelve years, Brent has been instrumental in orchestrating the Department's activities associated with the huge, annual Bonnaroo festival in middle Tennessee (with attendance currently well over 100,000, covering 750 acres). He has received widespread and consistent accolades from colleagues and partners in other agencies with whom he has worked in this capacity. The current festival requires the permitting and inspection of 224 temporary food establishments set up just for this event. That in itself would be a huge task for a staff of seven in a small region. In addition, he and his team are responsible for planning and monitoring of campgrounds, Mass Gathering Permits, potable water sources, well testing, sewage, reviewing medical facility plans, and a variety of other activities.



Mr. Shelton is the Department's representative during year-round coordination with TEMA, TDEC, TDOT, and a variety of other partners. Over the years, he has established relationships and protocols that have made all of the Department's activities run efficiently and effectively, and our involvement is widely lauded as exemplary by these other partners.

Management of TDH activities during the early years of this festival, when attendance was far less than it is now, required substantial involvement of personnel from other regions. Current processes are so finely tuned that seven regional EH staff handle it independently, while concurrently continuing routine county operations.

EAST TENNESSEE REGION

Primary Prevention of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome – A Local Initiative

Jana Chambers, County Director – Cocke and Sevier County Health Departments

In January 2013, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) became a reportable disease in Tennessee. At the close of that first year, there were 855 cases of NAS reported across the state. Of those 855 cases, 240 or 28.1% were in the East Tennessee Rural Region. This was the largest percentage of reported cases in the state, so a regional task force was assembled to determine what primary prevention strategies could be implemented in order to reduce the number of infants born with NAS. After some discussion, the task force decided to develop a strategy to reduce the likelihood that women taking narcotics would become pregnant while using drugs.

The task force developed an algorithm to guide the development and implementation of the primary prevention initiative. A targeted outreach plan was developed to use when meeting with local officials to secure their cooperation in implementing the initiative. A pamphlet was designed to use in guiding the conversation. It included a definition/cause/incidence of NAS, why NAS is a concern (cost being one), the focus of local primary prevention efforts, what can be done to help, and who are good candidates for referral. The ultimate goal of the meeting was to get the officials to commit to providing a place for health department staff to do an educational presentation and providing transportation to the health department for any inmates wanting a long-acting, reversible contraceptive (LARC).

A targeted educational plan was developed to inform female inmates of child bearing age about the risks associated with using narcotics during pregnancy and measures to prevent the risk of NAS through the use of LARCs. The presentation included a region-specific ABC news clip on NAS done at East Tennessee Children's Hospital. The clip dramatically demonstrates the suffering experience by a NAS infant during withdrawal. A pamphlet developed to summarize the LARCs available through the Family Planning Program is given to each inmate.

A referral/tracking form was developed, and in December 2013, the Cocke and Sevier County Health Departments implemented the initiative as pilot sites. Local staff met with the sheriff, jail administrator, and jail nurse in each county and secured the necessary commitments. The first educational presentation was done in January 2014, in each county. There were 81 participants in the initial presentations resulting in 49 referrals; a referral rate of 60.5%. As of April 14, 2014, 34 initial exams have been completed and 25 LARCs have been placed. The prevention of one NAS birth represents a cost savings of approximately \$60,000 – the prevention of 25, \$1,500,000.

During the pilot phase a data base has been developed to track such information as history of drug abuse, have a child/ren born drug dependent, currently receiving medications for chronic pain/anxiety, doing nothing to prevent pregnancy, other treatments received at time of initial exam, and LARC received. Algorithms for registration, work-up, and LARC clinic flow have been developed through the pilot process in an effort to prepare for the initiative implementation in other East Region health departments in the 2014/2015 fiscal year.

Injury Prevention for Seniors Anderson County A PPI Project

Submitted by: Patty Campbell, M.S., R.D., LDN, Nutritionist, Anderson County Health Department

The Anderson County Health Department and the Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning (ORICL) through Roane State Community College conducted a series of four sessions with topics of interest to seniors: Heart Health, Brain Function, Bone Health and Fall Prevention and Alternative Protein Sources. Each session featured a nutritious meal in a group setting followed by a program with discussion led by Patty Campbell, M.S., R.D., LDN, Nutritionist, Kathy Scruggs, M Ed., Health Educator and Dietetic Interns from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

This PPI project had two purposes:

- To bring information on injury prevention to seniors
- To provide a social setting for seniors, allowing the group to engage in conversations while enjoying lunch.

Each meal featured foods related to the topic for the session:

- Baked chicken breast seasoned with Dijon mustard with reduced fat potato casserole; vegetable salad with reduced fat dressing (Heart)
- Baked fish with seasoned brown rice; baby salad greens with dried cranberries and walnuts (Brain)
- Lasagne (meatless) prepared with low fat cheeses, tossed salad with reduced fat cheeses (Bone Health and Fall Prevention)
- Quinoa with dried cranberries and walnuts; cucumber salad; macaroni and cheese (Vegetarian)

Recipes and handouts were provided to all enrollees after each session.

Twenty-four persons enrolled in the course; average attendance was 18-21 per session. ORICL members come from a variety of backgrounds and ages: members are former educators, health care professionals, engineers, physicists and business professionals.

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Personal stories include Dr. Paul, a retired (age 94) orthopedic surgeon and long-time supporter of the Anderson County Health Council; Tom and Jeanette, a retired engineer and Army nurse who also volunteer for Habitat for Humanity; and Goldie and Sharon, two widows whose children married and were sitting at home gaining weight. Now they attend ORICL together and work out at Curves daily. ORICL members are interested in maintaining their independence, are active in the community as volunteers and seek to continue a life-time of learning. Their philosophy is “A perfect blend of those who love to learn with those who love to teach”.

ANDERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND HEAD START AWARDED COMMUNITY GARDEN GRANT

Patty Campbell, MS., R.D., LDN and Kathy Scruggs, MEd, Health Educator
Anderson County Health Department

The Anderson County Health Department and Head Start were recently awarded a grant by the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association for a community garden. The concept submitted was “Best use of a small space using the raised bed concept to demonstrate production of a quantity of produce in a small space.” Produce raised will be equally distributed to the Head Start parents and their families who volunteer for the project. Excess produce that cannot be consumed or preserved will be donated to local food banks.

Head Start parents will learn with their children how plants grow. Volunteers will demonstrate gardening functions such as watering, weeding and correctly harvesting produce. Agricultural Extension offers canning and freezing classes. Nutrition and other staff from the Health Department will conduct food demonstrations and tasting events for Head Start families. Head Start parents will be able to demonstrate to other parents and community members the value of gardening and its benefits which will include: reduction in risk of chronic disease by consuming higher amounts of fresher, reasonably priced produce and will also the benefits from the physical activity of gardening.

The intent of the project is to enhance gardening skills for Head Start parents and the volunteers. The parents and volunteers will then be able to go into their respective communities to share their knowledge with neighbors and families with the expectation of passing the knowledge along so that others will learn to garden from the Head Start parents and volunteers.

Local community organizations will include involved in the project include Anderson County Community Action Commission, UT Agricultural Extension, Anderson County Cooperative, Anderson County and Clinton High School FFA clubs. Community Action and the FFA clubs will provide the seeds and plants. Agricultural Extension will conduct classes on canning and freezing for participants. Nutrition and other staff from the Health Department will conduct food demonstrations and tasting events for Head Start families. In-kind donations will be provided by Health Department and Head Start staff. A UT Dietetic Intern provided the schematic design for the garden.

Anderson County Government is committed to a healthy environment. Supporting a partnership between Head Start and the Health Department demonstrates the dedication of public entities to the community to the prevention of chronic diseases and encouraging physical activity.

DR. CHARLES HAMILTON RETIRES

Dr. Charles Hamilton will retire June 30 from his position as professor and director of the MPH Program, achieving Professor Emeritus rank based on his substantial career contributions to the University.

Dr. Hamilton began his UT faculty role in fall 1975 as an associate professor of public health. He has served as the program director since fall 1982 and successfully guided the MPH Program through five self-study reviews leading to accreditation extensions by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). In preparation for his retirement, he created the framework and foundation for the upcoming 2015 self-study document. Concurrently with his responsibilities as program director, Dr. Hamilton served as acting director of the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation during 1985-86 and as head of the Department of Health, Leisure and Safety Sciences from 1986 until August 2000.



The American Public Health Association honored him with Emeritus status in 2010; and the Southern Health Association awarded Life Membership in 2012. The Tennessee Public Health Association (TPHA) awarded Life Membership in 2003 and the R.H. Hutcheson, Sr., MD Career Award in 2004. The Hutcheson award in “recognition of a dedicated career in the field of public health” is identified as TPHA’s highest award. At the invitation of CEPH, he has chaired numerous accreditation site visit teams to conduct reviews of other MPH and doctoral public health programs across the US and in Puerto Rico and Canada. During the past 14 months, Dr. Hamilton served as a member of the national Master of Public Health Expert Panel of the Framing the Future Task Force, convened by the Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health.

CONGRATULATIONS, Dr. Hamilton, and thank you for your many contributions to public health and TPHA!!

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Chris Taylor, Chair

The Nominations and Elections Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers for the upcoming election.

President Elect - Middle Tennessee

Ami Mitchell - Regional Director, South Central Region

Lisa Nistler - Director of School Health, Metro Public Health Dept.

Board of Directors – Middle Tennessee

Carter Garner - Assistant Director of Environmental Health,
Mid Cumberland Region

Rendi Murphree - Epidemiology Field Officer Program - Center for
Disease Prevention, assigned to TN Department of Health

Shannon Railling - School Health Specialist, Coordinated School Health
Program, Warren County

Suzee Sanders - Community Outreach Director, South Central Region

Vice President-East Tennessee

Christen Minnick - Health Promotion Coordinator, Northeast Region

Gail Benton - Community Health Council Coordinator, Southeast Region

Vice President-Middle Tennessee

Angie Faulker - County Director, Marshall and Bedford Counties

Dr. Michael Warren - Director, Family Health and Wellness, Central
Office

Vice President-West Tennessee

Sandy Hayes - Regional Administrator, Jackson-Madison County
Regional Health Department

Cheryl Ervin - Associate Professor and Director of Externship and
Residency Programs, Southern College of Optometry

(Bios and photos will be sent later with instructions for voting)

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Tennessee Public Health Association

Annual Educational Conference

“Health and Home: Where You Live Matters”

September 10-12, 2014

Cool Springs Marriott and Convention Center
Franklin, TN

American Public Health Association

142nd Annual Meeting & Exposition

**“Healthography: How Where You Live
Affects Your Health and Well-Being”**

November 15-19, 2014

New Orleans, LA

Rural Health Association of Tennessee

RHAT 2014 Conference

“Twenty Years of Reaching for the Stars”

November 19-21, 2014

Music Road Hotel and Convention Center
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

NACCHO Annual Conference

**“The New Era of Public Health:
Science, Innovation and Policy”**

July 8-10, 2014

Atlanta, GA

2014 Tennessee Men’s Health Report Card

Launch of the 2014 Men’s Health Report Card

Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 10:00 a.m. CST

Ed Jones Auditorium
Ellington Agricultural Center
Nashville, TN

Reserve Your Room Today at the Cool Springs Marriott

Simply cut and paste the link below and you will be directed to the property’s home page with the code already entered in the appropriate field. Enter your arrival date to begin the reservation process.

http://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=TN%20Public%20Health%20Assn%5EBNACS%60PHAPHA%60132.00%60USD%60false%609/9/14%609/12/14%608/18/14&app=resvlink&stop_mobi=yes

You may also go online to the TPHA website and click “Annual Meeting” and then “Hotel Information.”