



Tennessee Public Health Association Newsletter

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President's Message
Matt McDaniel
President, 2014-15

In mid-October, I was fortunate enough to attend a meeting convened by Sen. Lamar Alexander, bringing together both healthcare and public health experts to discuss the threat of Ebola in Tennessee. Kevin Morris, Regional Epidemiologist for the West TN Region (and TPHA member) sat on the panel, and part of his opening remarks was: "...there is an epidemic in the US, and it's one of fear, of misinformation..."

While I write this article in late October, the news is still continually discussing, hypothesizing, examining, and just plain wondering aloud about all things Ebola. A person only has to go to the comments section on any online story on Ebola to view the many shapes and sizes of misinformed opinions on how the threat of EVD should be treated.

The reason I bring all of this up is because we, as public health professionals, are the front line of defense on helping people understand the how and why of disease transmission along with many other public health basics. At the meeting I mentioned earlier, a fact that was stated repeatedly by hospital CEOs, infection control doctors, chief nursing officers, along with public health leaders was that the flu will kill many more people in the US this year alone than EVD ever will. A piece of information such as that may be all that's needed to first help calm a member of the worried well over their chances of contracting EVD, along with possibly persuading them to get their flu shot.

Each of us working in Tennessee's public health system, be it at a local, regional, or state level, has a very important job to do and that is to be a voice of correct information and to act as a connection between the citizens of Tennessee and healthy lifestyles - for flu shots, smoking cessation, emergency preparedness, WIC, or any of the many services we offer. We are not just part of the services and/or programs we work within, we are all public health.

I am looking forward to working with all of you in my capacity as TPHA President for 2014-2015, and I hope to see many of you at our 2015 Regional Meetings, and the 2015 Annual Conference. Along those lines, if you have never served on a committee or section, why not make this the year you do so? Our committee and section chairs are always looking for new blood to assist them in their efforts, be it finding speakers, exhibitors, poster presenters, or scholarship recipients, just to name a few. Don't sit back and wait for them to find you, go ahead and email them today! Even if you can't attend a meeting, your efforts may find the perfect keynote speaker or newest platinum exhibitor. The listing of chairs is located on the TPHA website, so why not take a look today?

In closing, let's make 2015 one of the best years ever for TPHA. The Association needs you to be an advocate for TPHA, and for public health in general. I hope each of you has a fantastic holiday season, and please contact me if I can be of assistance.

**The Tennessee Public Health Association
extends a very special**

THANK YOU

To the Tennessee Department of Health and
To the following organizations for supporting the
2014 conference and
other public health activities throughout the year

Platinum Agency Membership

LIFEPATH

TPHA Gold Agency Membership

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

TPHA Silver Agency Membership

Community Health Alliance

TPHA Bronze Agency Membership

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee

Pfizer Vaccines

FOCUS ON PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

Emergency Preparedness CDC Assignee Deployed to Liberia to Help Combat Ebola

Submitted by: Judith Baker, BSBM/EM , Emergency Preparedness Finance Director



For precisely one month Dr. Rendi Murphree provided epidemiological assistance to the Montserrado County Health team of Liberia. Rendi shares, "There are 15 counties and 1.3 million people in Liberia. Montserrado County contains 25 percent of Liberia's population and is where Monrovia, the most populous city, is located. Montserrado County alone contained 40 percent of Liberia's cases and deaths"

The Liberian ministry of health lacks the infrastructure needed to support a coordinated response. Without modern technology such as computers, fax machines, printers, or internet connections, timely communication is challenging. Healthcare professionals use personal cellphones and personal e-mail accounts to communicate electronically. Power is supplied for only a few hours during the day. When Rendi arrived to support Liberia

and all of its 1.3 million people, there were two people and two computers for surveillance. Process changes are physically taken from location to location on foot or motorcycle. There is one lab in Liberia to run Ebola tests.

As the outbreak spiraled out of control, health professionals became ill from Ebola causing the healthcare system to crumble. Clinics turned symptomatic people away. Liberians having nowhere else to go returned home often infecting their large families of six to ten people. Asymptomatic Liberians were unable to receive routine and emergency care. In America, Rendi feels the fear of Ebola has already created American hysteria to the extent the reality of Ebola has created in Africa. Her advice for protection is do not travel to the affected West African countries. "Use your head, stay calm, and remember your training. Don't jump in to save the world, avoid the fire fighter mentality – don't rush into the burning house."



Rendi helped identify six locations and set up community care centers within Ebola hot spots. These centers perform triage outside the clinic for those in need of medical care. Suspected Ebola patients are sent to a special area for evaluation and care, allowing the clinic to continue to provide services. The hardest part for Rendi coming home is "not having any visibility of how the work and response continues."

Rendi's experience in Liberia can be applied to Tennessee's sleeping New Madrid fault line. "After the ground stops shaking we will basically be like a Liberia. Communication will be interrupted, health care will be

fractured and we can't do business the way we do it now. We have to learn how to manage the response with more of a boots on the ground approach because we are not going to have the luxuries we have now." In some ways the time she spent in Africa is helping now. Rendi shares "Some of the things we are preparing for here, West Africa has already dealt with. The biggest thing is gaining perspective of how to get work done when you don't have the things at your disposal that you are used to using."

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2014 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Submitted by: Gail Harmon, Chair, 2014 Awards Committee

R.H. Hutcheson, Sr., M.D., Award



Charlene Haynes, Regional Nursing Director for the Mid-Cumberland Region is the recipient of the TPHA R.H. Hutcheson Sr., M.D. Career Award presented by the Association at its annual meeting in Franklin on September 11.

Ms. Haynes is described as caring, compassionate, having tremendous integrity and a strong work ethic. She began her career in 1977 as a staff nurse with a break in service in 1979. She returned in 1989 and worked in a local health department until moving to the Regional Office in 2006 where she developed an intense orientation and training program for medical providers to assure quality, consistent and uniform delivery of care in the Public Health arena. Because of her dedication and efforts, every new Public Health Nurse is required to enter this training program prior to performing

hands-on care in the health department

In 2008 she was promoted to the Regional Director of Nursing for her region where she directs a large nursing staff in 12 counties and 19 clinical sites. She is an integral part of the Department of Health's first ever Electronic Health Record that is currently being implemented. As stated in her nomination, "Charlene would never look for any recognition or accolades, but is simply doing what she feels she has been called to do."

Alex B. Shipley, M.D. Award



Dr. John Cummings, Primary Care Director for the West Tennessee Region is the recipient of the TPHA Alex B. Shipley, M.D. Award presented by the Association at its annual meeting in Franklin on September 11.

Dr. Cummings is a hand's on physician who leads by example. During the H1N1 he played a vital role on the regional team from assisting with the drive- thru clinic in 21 degree weather to speaking on the evening news to calm the community's fears. He has worked at evacuation shelters for both Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Gustof and he traveled to Nicaragua as part of a team to assist Chosen Children's Ministry where he helped build a house for a single mom with six small children. While there, he also helped to set up

medical clinics and provide medical treatment in the area.

Dr. Cummings currently works as the Primary Care Director for 11 county health departments where he is diligent in recruiting physicians and APNs for the region. Through his efforts in working on coding issues with staff, RVU's have dramatically increased. Most recently, he assisted with the implementation of Group Medical Visits at the Primary Care Sites in the West Tennessee Region.

Workgroup of the Year Award



The **East Regional Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Committee** is the recipient of the TPHA Workgroup of the Year Award presented by the Association at its annual meeting in Franklin on September 11.

According to current statistics in Tennessee, TennCare costs for a healthy newborn delivery are \$4,237 compared to an average cost of \$66,973 for an infant born dependent on drugs and diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). The committee developed plans for a collaborative Primary Prevention Initiative to address the growing epidemic of NAS in rural East Region and identified female jail inmates as a population at high risk of having a baby born with NAS. The committee partnered with local sheriff and jail officials, family physicians, a Drug Recovery Court Judge and several

other community partners. Two counties were selected (one large, one small) to pilot the program that had a high percentage of NAS Births.

On January 30, 2014, the first LARC Clinic was conducted at the Cocke County Jail with 29 female inmates attending and at the Sevier County Jail with 55 female inmates attending. The purpose of the program is to educate females who are incarcerated in local jails who are of child bearing age to empower them to make decisions involving their reproductive health. The committee is working to roll out the program to all 15 sites in the East Region in the coming months.

Public Health Worker of the Year Award



Joey Smith, Director, Montgomery County Health Department is the recipient of the TPHA Public Health Worker of the Year Award presented by the Association at its annual meeting in Franklin on September 11.

Mr. Smith has worked for the department for 14 years. He has been an integral part of moving the state into the 21st Century as he was one of the few environmental specialists helping the State to test hand held computers in the field. During the Great Recession of 2008 with a hiring freeze in place staff had to take on additional work in unfamiliar territories; Joey had advanced course work in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and he shared his

knowledge with other staff and helped them to mass map hundreds of addresses within seconds.

In 2013 when the Breast & Cervical Screening (BCS) budget was cut, he secured funding for the program to be self-sufficient by forming a partnership with Austin Peay to create a local screening mammogram program for uninsured women in Montgomery County. This lessened the demand on the State's BCS Program and their unused slots were allocated to help other counties.

Last fall, he created a county direction report based on data from the County Health Rankings on how to become a top 10 county in the state that is now being used statewide for all 95 counties. In addition, he is working to partner with the Meharry Dental School to provide expanded dental services for underserved residents, as well as help dental students learn about public health in hope it will be used as a recruitment tool for future dentists

Partners and Leadership (PAL) Award



Ms. Sherrie Smith, Director of the Critical Care Nursing Unit at East Tennessee Children's Hospital in Knoxville, is the recipient of the TPHA Partners and Leadership (PAL) Award presented by the Association at its annual meeting in Franklin on September 11.

Ms. Smith has been practicing the art of nursing for the past 27 years - all in the neonatal and pediatric setting. She has pioneered a program to address the suffering of infants whose cries can pierce your heart by addressing the Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome which is at epidemic levels in the state of Tennessee. She has worked tirelessly with her staff to get the attention of the Governor and politicians to see the problem with the growing number of infants born in pain to withdrawing of prescribed and/or illegal medications they were exposed to in utero. She developed a partnership with the Methadone Clinic and provided classes to the clients at the

clinic to educate them on what opioids will do to the unborn baby. She developed a curriculum for DCS supervisory staff to teach case workers about the growing problems with NAS, as well as a curriculum for Foster parents and opened up her facility to hold classes for DCS and foster parents; DCS has now adopted that curriculum statewide.

Her local initiative has been featured in diverse media outlets, including CNN Health, ABC News and the Tennessean and has garnered approval of Governor Haslam, as well as the Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Dreyzehner, becoming an example other states are wanting to follow.

Distinguished Service Award



The TPHA Distinguished Service Award is selected by the TPHA Board of Directors and is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to the Association.

This year's recipient has been a member of TPHA for 11 years and has been involved at every level, including serving as Chair of numerous committees and as President in 2011.

He works tirelessly and has been the driving force in bringing the Association into a new communication era. In addition, he chaired the Task Force charged with the responsibility of assessing TPHA's ability to sustain itself in the future and make recommendations for change. He has been instrumental in coordinating annual conferences

including the 2014 conference.

This year's recipient is always ready to lend a helping hand. He has a passion for TPHA and always strives to make it the best Association it can be. And, if you have ever heard him sing, you know he can do a mean Guns-n-Roses!!

TPHA is very proud to present the 2014 TPHA Distinguished Service Award to **Robert Goff**, Emergency Response Coordinator for the Southeast Region.

TMA/TPHA William Schaffner, MD
Public Health Hero Award



The Tennessee Medical Association and the Tennessee Public Health Association have jointly established the William Schaffner, MD, *Public Health Hero* Award to be presented annually to someone who has made extraordinary contributions to public health in Tennessee. Each year, nominations will be accepted by both organizations. The nominee may be someone who has made a career of public health with work that spans a number of years or someone who was instrumental in working on a critical public health issue of a shorter nature. Dr. Schaffner, a true public health hero, exemplifies the characteristics of the individual to whom the award will be presented.

Dr. Schaffner has made countless contributions to the fields of science, medicine, and public health. But perhaps his most important, yet least well known impact is reflected in the many individuals for whom he has served as a gifted teacher and mentor, patiently and logically introducing them to the intricacies of epidemiology, infectious disease control, and public health. Building upon this foundation, these individuals have established wide-ranging and significant careers as physicians, epidemiologists, and public health professionals. Through their efforts, Dr. Schaffner's powerful influence continues to impact public health not only in Tennessee, but **also** around the world.

Joining Dr. Dreyzehner and TPHA President Paula Masters in the presentation of the inaugural **Dr. William Schaffner, MD award** is Dr. Stuart Polly, Chair, Public Health Committee, Tennessee Medical Association.

SECTION AWARD WINNERS



Kimberly Bishop, Chair, Nursing Section, presents to David Baron the Excellence In Nursing Award for Direct Nursing Service.



The Award for Excellence in Nursing Administration/Supervision/Management is presented to Deborah Hardin by Kimberly Bishop and Jill Mount.

2014 Inductees into the Tennessee Environmental Hall of Fame

Billy G. Bottoms

Billy Bottoms began his career at the Robertson County Health Department on October 1, 1954 after serving two years in the U.S Army. He served one year as President of the Tennessee Sanitarian Association and was also Chair of the Sanitation Section of TPHA. He represented Tennessee at the National Sanitarians Association meeting in Houston, Texas.

He moved to a position in the Business Administration Section of the Health Department and from there helped circulate a petition that led to the creation of Health Workers Credit Union where he served as Treasurer, Vice President and President over the first years of its existence.

He then became Assistant to Statewide Medical Director for a period of time and then moved back into the Environmental Section in the state Rabies Program. He remained in the central Office for a number of years and was named the Assistant Director in the early 1990's. The Director at the time, Mr. Steve Blackburn was killed in an automobile crash and Mr. Bottoms was the acting Director for the Division when he retired on December 31, 1994.

Mark Houser

Mark Houser was born November 14, 1958 in Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Houser attended Livingston Academy in Livingston, Tennessee and graduated from Tennessee Tech University in 1980 with a B.S. Degree. After teaching school for a couple of years Mr. Houser began his career with the Tennessee Department of Health on May 7, 1984.

He served as a field environmentalist before being promoted to a Supervisor position in 2000 and Field Office Manager in the Upper Cumberland Region in 2002. Houser served as President of the Tennessee Environmental Health Association in 2007 and again in 2009. He won the Lynn B. Hearn Award as Tennessee Environmentalist of the Year in 2008 by advancing the idea of a Tennessee Environmental Hall of Fame. He negotiated the home of the Hall of Fame at East Tennessee State University and has served on that school's Environmental Advisory Board from 2011-2014. Since the Hall of Fame's inception in 2009 Houser has served as its Executive Director.

In addition Houser's singing and writing career has included a #9 bluegrass album in Billboard Magazine and the #1 single Lead Me Home on Christian Country Weekly.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AWARDS



20 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS are presented by TPHA President Paula Masters to Charlene Haynes, Marilyn Barnes, and Danna Taylor.

Other members recognized who were not in attendance are: Cynthia Ables, Shavetta Conner, Joe Ferguson, Angela Hassler, Debbie Hoy, Mickie Jeffreys, Andy Langford and Janet Lovell.

30 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

are presented to Melody Hatfield, Annette Haley, Debbie Lorenz, and Teena Myers by TPHA President Paula Masters.

Other recipients who were not in attendance are: Mark Houser, Rosalyn Laster, John Roberts, William Ulmer and Vanessa Watkins



Donna Gibbs is presented with a plaque recognizing her 40 years of service by TPHA President Paula Masters.

40 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS



TPHA President Paula Masters presents Pamela Newton with her 40 year service plaque.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Chris Taylor, Chair



Incoming President Matt McDaniel presents the President's Plaque to Paula Masters, Immediate Past President, with thanks from the Association for her leadership during the 2013-2014 year.

**A complete listing of the Board of Directors,
Committee Chairs and Section Chairs is
available on the website at
www.tnpublichealth.org**

Chris Taylor, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee announced the following election results for the 2014-2015 year.

President-Elect - Ami Mitchell
 Vice President/East TN - Christen Minnick
 Vice President/Middle TN - Joey Smith
 Vice President/West TN - Sandy Hayes
 Board Reps/Middle TN - Shannon Railling
 Rendi Murphree



Shown left to right: Middle TN Vice President Joey Smith; East TN Vice President, Christen Minnick; President Matt McDaniel; President-Elect Ami Mitchell; Board Rep, Middle TN, Shannon Railling; and West TN Vice President Sandy Hayes. Also elected as Board Rep for Middle TN was Rendi Murphree.

REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Glenn Czarnecki, Chair

The following resolutions were adopted by the TPHA membership at the annual business meeting on September 10.

Resolution Regarding E-Cigarettes
Resolution Regarding Smoking in Vehicles with Children

(The resolutions may be viewed in their entirety on the TPHA website: www.tnpublichealth.org)

MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS:

Dorothy Latimer, Director, Obion CHD, retired Aug. 31, 1990, lifetime member TPHA, died November 1, 2013

Melissa Overton, retired from Metro Health Dept., lifetime member TPHA, died April 17, 2014

Barton Warner, retired Medical Director, Mid Cumberland Region, died June 12, 2014

Sue Arnold, RN, Bedford CHD, retired in 2002, died August 12, 2014

Will Shipley, Private Physical Therapist, died Sept. 4, 2014

Melva Green, Public Health Nurse 3, McMinn CHD, retired May 3, 2011 and died Sept. 12, 2014

RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS:

Joy Cook, Public Health Program Director 2, ETRO, retired Sept. 22, 2014 with 15 years of service

Mary Jane Dewey, Director, TN Breast & Cervical Screening Program, retired Nov. 16, 2013 with 26 yrs. of service

Donna Gibbs, ASA4, SCRO, retired Oct. 17, 2014 with 40 years of service

Steve Hall, County Director, Lawrence & Wayne Counties, retired February 28, 2014, with 37 years of service

Patricia Harden, RN5, WTRO-Jackson, retired January 3, 2014 with 37.5 years of service

Deborah Hardin, State Nursing Director, Central Office, retired Nov. 20, 2014 with 21 years of service

Blaine Hill, Regional EP Coordinator, Mid-Cumberland, retired March 1, 2014 with 33 years of service

Margaret Jones, Pharmacist, SCRO, retired June 27, 2014 with 10 years of service

Janet Lakeman, Nutritionist 3, WTRO-Jackson, retired February 3, 2014, with 40 years of service

Carol Mione-Myatt, RN4, Hickman CHD, retired July 15, 2014 with 14 years of service

Wanda Moore, RN4, Giles CHD, retired May 9, 2014 with 35 years of service

Kathy Shearon, State Q1 Director, Central Office, retired August 29, 2014 with 20 years of service

Pam Winters, PH Nurse, Chattanooga-Hamilton CHD, retired October 29, 2013 with 34 years of service

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by: Carrie Thomas, Chair

Active 949

Life 160

Total 1,109

Agency Membership 120

Awarded Life Membership: Janet Ridley

Winner of \$50 for new member drawing: Aubrenie Jones



Aubrenie Jones is presented a check for \$50 as the winner of the new member drawing.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Upper Cumberland Region

Health Insurance Marketplace Outreach and Enrollment

Submitted by: Sandy Moore, Health Promotion Coordinator

In July 2013, the Upper Cumberland Region, with health departments deemed Federally Qualified Health Centers, was awarded funding from HRSA to employ and train outreach and enrollment staff to assist customers with the enrollment process for accessing health insurance available through the Marketplace.

There have been several barriers to overcome during this first year including educating individuals as to how insurance works, helping customers understand who in their household is eligible and explaining the process for when penalties will occur for lack of coverage. By far the successes out-weigh all barriers presented. Many outreach and enrollment staff witnessed families overcome with emotion upon learning they are medically insured, some for the first time in their lifetime.

Since open enrollment in October 2013 to date, UCR outreach and enrollment staff has helped over 11,000 uninsured individuals gain access to new affordable health insurance coverage through the Marketplace, to include private health insurance, TennCare and/or CoverKids. Open enrollment for 2014-2015 is November 15, 2014 through February 15, 2015.

South Central Region

Pretty in Pink

Submitted by: Janet McAlister, Assistant Regional Director

Tennessee Department of Health staff members from the South Central Regional Office and the Giles County Health Department partnered with Fast Pace Urgent Care Clinic to provide a free breast health awareness event on October 8, 2014.

The Giles County Chamber of Tourism & Commerce welcomed members of the community by hosting a “Chamber Coffee” prior to the event which began at 9 a.m. Guest speaker Kim Carter, Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Program Coordinator, shared information with attendees about breast health and risk factors. Immediately following, Fast Pace Urgent Care treated participants to a variety of pink gifts, light healthy snacks and a chance to win a spa treatment. Participants had the opportunity to meet individually with health department nurses in private clinic exam rooms to learn more about breast cancer signs and symptoms and breast cancer risks.

Currently, there are 20 Fast Pace Urgent Clinic sites across the state. Originating in Giles County as part of Health Commissioner John Dreyzehner’s Regional Primary Prevention Initiative, nine health departments in the South Central Region are partnering with local Fast Pace Urgent Clinics to provide this event in their communities during the month of October. Future plans include partnering to deliver other health education opportunities such as diabetes, cholesterol, stroke and high blood pressure awareness events.



From L to R: Kim Carter, Regional Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Program Coordinator; Margaret Campbell, Fast Pace Urgent Care Regional Marketing Coordinator; Cynthia English, RN, Health Department Nurse Supervisor; Janet McAlister, Health Department Director and Savannah Jenkins, Health Department Health Educator.

Northeast Tennessee

Ebola Response Training

Submitted by: Melissa A Taylor, RN, BSN, CHEP

Ebola is a word that is causing fear among not only the general population, but healthcare providers across our country as well. Since the diagnosis of Ebola in a gentleman who traveled from Liberia to Texas in September of this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have published guidelines for healthcare providers to assist in the recognition of individuals presenting with possible symptoms of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). These guidelines are based primarily on the recognition of symptomology along with a positive travel history to one of the Ebola stricken countries within the previous 30 days. Or, recognition of symptomology and positive contact with someone who has traveled to an Ebola stricken country within the past 30 days and is currently ill.

Dr. John Dreyzehner, Tennessee's Public Health Commissioner, in taking a proactive stance on Ebola related education and preparation, directed each region and metropolitan area in Tennessee to conduct training on Ebola recognition, containment and treatment for all hospitals and public health employees within the state. This directive resulted in the development of an Ebola Tabletop Training exercise that was conducted for all hospitals on October 3, 2014. Representatives from all 13 hospitals in the Northeast Tennessee Region and the Sullivan County Metro area attended and participated in this tabletop exercise which was led by Dr. David Kirschke, Medical Director for the Northeast Tennessee Region's Department of Health. Additionally, similar tabletop exercises were conducted for each health department within the region, as well as, the Regional Health Office. A total of 7 tabletop training exercises were conducted within the 2 week period following October 3rd. The focus of these exercises was on early recognition, containment and treatment of those individuals suspected of being ill from the Ebola virus.

The Department of Health, at the state and local levels, are continuing to monitor the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, as well as, the recognition and evaluation of potential cases in the United States. To date, there have been no confirmed cases of Ebola in Tennessee.

The Northeast Tennessee Region will continue to provide to most updated information and training for its employees and hospitals as it is received.

Knox County Health Department Region

Resource Guide Aids Community Health Equity Work

Submitted by: Khrysta Baig, MSPH, RD, LDN, CHES, Nutritionist, Knox County Health Department

To build a house, you must have the right tools. To build a home, you must have the right people. Health equity work involves bringing the right tools and right people together to strengthen a community.

The Five Points area of Knoxville has a history of low health outcomes and high poverty levels. The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) and the Five Points Health Equity Work Group, comprised of community leaders who work and live in the Five Points area of Knoxville, have been collaborating since March of this year on improving the health and wellbeing of this community. Leaders from the work group identified that often organizations which provide resources to this community work in silos, unaware of the resources being provided by other organizations. It was out of this realization that the "Five Points Community Resource Guide" was born. KCHD facilitated the development of the guide and served as a connecting point for community organizations that wanted to be listed. Currently, a service provider version has been created, with a community member focused version on the way.

The guide provides information on programs and organizations that are located in and serve the Five Points community and surrounding areas. Resources listed include afterschool care, summer camps, community engagement and outreach, food access, housing, health care, meeting facilities, neighborhood associations, recreation, support services, volunteer opportunities, workforce development, and youth development. Maps of the community resources as well as area churches are also included.

The guide does not replace individual organizations' websites or other resources, but serves as an additional way to connect agencies and link community members with services. Using the guide, duplicate services and service gaps can now be identified more easily. One challenge in bringing this guide together was finding and getting in touch with community organizations that do not have formal contact channels. It was crucial to build relationships with community leaders in order to find the organizations with a more subtle presence in the community. The guide creates a formal contact channel for these previously low visibility organizations.

The service provider version of the resource guide is available in print as well as online at knoxcounty.org/health/5points.php. A community member focused guide will be available soon for distribution. It will list the same

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resources but will use lay terms to increase readability. KCHD plans to update and distribute the guide as well as continue support of health equity initiatives in Five Points. Community input will be integral in keeping the guide up to date and identifying new resources.

Development of the “Five Points Community Resource Guide” is opening doors for future health equity work in the community. The guide will help the right tools and the right people connect in order to focus on new ways to strengthen the community.

Southeast Region

Tabletop Ebola Exercise in the Southeast Region

Submitted by Beth Delaney, Community Development Director

Public health is always on the lookout for potential health threats and how to address them. As the Ebola situation develops, public health emergency response personnel are developing plans to protect against this threat. In the Southeast Region Robert Goff, Emergency Response Coordinator, wrote and facilitated an Ebola tabletop exercise based on a template developed by the Central Office Emergency Preparedness Department. The scenario involved an individual with a potential case of Ebola, determined by symptoms and travel history, arriving in one of our health departments. The tabletop exercise focused on the process of notifying 911 and the Regional Office and staging the individual in an appropriate location in the health department until EMS arrives.

After the tabletop exercise was conducted in the Southeast Region, it was distributed statewide. Using tabletop exercises such as this one, public health offices statewide are able to continually evaluate their emergency response procedures as situations develop. The exercise has been posted on the state’s website: [Http://health.state.tn.us/Ceds/ebola.htm](http://health.state.tn.us/Ceds/ebola.htm) and the American Health Association website: <http://www.aha.org/content/14/141003-comb-tn-ebola-tabletop.pdf>. The Southeast Region is pleased to develop an exercise that can be used nationwide to help prepare for an outbreak of Ebola.

West Tennessee Region

Haywood County Community Health Council Partners with UT Extension Agency to Host Fresh Fruit Markets.

Submitted by Chanda Freeman, LMSW, Health Promotions Coordinator

Haywood County farmers and neighborhood gardeners, who are most often scattered throughout the county, gathered in one location to make accessing fruits and vegetables easier for community members. On September 6th and 20th, 2014 the Haywood County Community Health Council partnered with UT Extension Services and several local farmers to host two Fresh Fruit Markets. The Markets, held at the Haywood County Criminal Justice Complex, were established to promote the importance and health benefits of consuming the recommended daily amount of fresh fruits and vegetables. The more than 100 community members who attended this received one on one education about fruits and vegetables, as well as cooking instructions and recipes.

There are many benefits to supporting local farmers and farmer’s markets. According to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, who hosts the website picktnproducts.org and a mobile app entitled Pick TN Products, farmers markets are a Tennessee tradition. Consumers can find almost anything their heart's desire from fresh fruits and vegetables to fresh flowers and crafts. Fruits and vegetables purchased on farms and at farmer’s markets are the freshest and tastiest available because they are allowed to ripen fully in the field and then are brought directly to the consumer.



*Haywood County is receiving a \$10,000 CDC 1305 innovative Grant for 5 years to implement programs, events, provide community gardens, and provide community based farmer's market's to target chronic disease in our county. This grant is intended to provide innovative community strategies, to improve access to healthy food, to promote physical activity and to initiate healthy behavior changes.

Pictured L to R are: (UT Extension 4-H Agent) Travis Wade, (Public Health Educator) **Cindy Wilkins- Wise**, and (UT Extension Agent) Tenille Short.

West TN Regional Staff Invited to Participate in Panel of Experts Convened to Discuss the Threat of Ebola in Tennessee

Submitted by: Matt McDaniel, County Director Lauderdale/Tipton Counties

On October 18th, the West Tennessee Region was honored to have two of its staff members, Fayette Co. Health Officer Dr. Karen Codjoe and Epidemiologist Kevin Morris, be invited to participate in a panel of experts convened by Sen. Lamar Alexander to discuss the threat of Ebola in Tennessee.



The discussion took place at Methodist University Hospital in Memphis, and included healthcare professionals ranging from infection control physicians to hospital CEOs. Dr. Codjoe and Mr. Morris represented the region very well, with both stressing the need to provide accurate information in order to calm fears within the community surrounding the Ebola Virus Disease. County Directors Lisa Park and Matt McDaniel also attended the discussion. Video coverage of the panel discussion can be found at: <http://wreg.com/2014/10/17/preparing-for-ebola-in-memphis/>

Pictured from left to right: (Hardeman/Fayette/McNairy County Director) **Lisa Parks**, (Lauderdale/Tipton County Director) **Matt McDaniels**, Senator. Lamar Alexander, (Regional Epidemiologist) **Kevin Morris**, (MD)**Karen Codjoe**.

FUN AND FITNESS WINNER

West TN Rocked and Rolled Away with the Spirit Stick!!

Submitted by Chanda Freeman, LMSW, Health Promotions Coordinator

Lots of totally gnarly dudes and bodacious babes danced their way to the 80's themed Fun & Fitness events at this year's annual TPHA conference. This year teams competed in a variety of competitions including the "This and That 1980's Trivia," which was a morning aerobic workout session.

Team members also participated in an album cover contest, and utilized the title "Born in West TN". Other contests included a dress to excess relay; a pin the sequined glove on Michael Jackson; a two minute Skip It Challenge; and finally the "MTV"...er..."TPHA" performance which was deemed by some as the best fitness competition of the conference. Team members even crossed regional lines to cheer each other throughout the fun filled activities. According to Outreach Coordinator, Megan Sills, "unless you were there, it's hard to describe just how good the competitors and winners were in the competition." In the end, the West Tennessee Region took home the coveted Spirit Stick Award, which consequently has not rested in the West Region in more than 20 years. Regional Director, Marilyn Barnes accepted the award on behalf of the West Region from Fun & Fitness Committee Chair Melony Sesti at Friday's closing session for her fellow rockers.

We want to give a great big shout out to Melony Sesti, regional Fun and Fitness chair and all who coordinated and participated in another great event. We believe that TPHA is a fantastic organization and one that works tirelessly for its members. We encourage all Department of Health employees and their community partners to be involved with this worthwhile organization and we look forward to seeing all at next year's conference.



TPHA Winners of the Spirit Stick pictured: (L to R) (Community Outreach Coordinator) **Megan Sills**, (Gibson/Crockett County Director) **Danna Taylor**, (West Regional Director) **Marilyn Barnes**, (Lauderdale/Tipton County Director) **Matt McDaniel**, (Regional Fun and Fitness Chair) Melony Sesti, Jonna Sims, Lauren Weiland, and (Benton/Decatur County Director) **Tracy Byrd**.

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