



## Message from the President

– Rod Jenkins, MHA



Hey Papa, Daddy, Paw Paw or Father. Its June and that means that Father’s Day is right around the corner. Perhaps the greatest (and most complex) job that I have is being a Dad. There is no cliff notes, manual, nor job aid for being a father. We are the protectors of our families and called on to accomplish the impossible on a daily basis. We work hard in our homes, on our jobs and in our communities. I remember when I was a freshly minted father who was sleep deprived and eager to understand why babies’ internal clocks don’t come adjusted with that of their Momma’s, a

sweet little lady looked me in the eye (with a tenderness) that only a seasoned Momma could display and said, son....it only gets harder from here! I join the rest of the fathers in wearing these experiences like a badge of honor. There is nothing in the world that compares to having my kids run a full sprint and jump into my arms screaming...“Daaaaaaadddddyyyyy”. I have also come to learn that being a father is simple....just shell out cash and claim the title. That’s not how it’s done, and I will always aspire to be a Daddy because the rules for being a Daddy are even more simple. You just have to show up.... be there and care! So, to all the Daddy’s out there, I ask that you join me with two fist pounds on your left chest. We fathers have been tried by the fire and have earned the right to receive the crappiest gifts known to man. We cherish each and every one of them too.

June is also Pride Month, a time to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community. Pride Month commemorates the Stonewall Riots of June 1969, when New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village as part of ongoing efforts to close gay bars throughout the city. During and after the raid, there was resistance from the surrounding community. The following June, Pride parades were held at a few large cities throughout the United States to commemorate the Stonewall Riots of the previous year. Over the next 50 years, Pride events spread worldwide. Although the increased focus on LGBTQIA+ rights helped lead to some improvements -- such as the removal of homosexuality as a mental health condition from the DSM in 1973 – other structural barriers persist.

Pride Month is a reminder that, while many strides have been taken to close

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the inequity gap among these populations, there is still much work to be done. We must continue to do our part as healthcare managers, public health professionals, researchers, advocates, and human beings to foster inclusion and support for the LGBTQIA+ community. Take a moment this month to reflect on your own actions and whether you are answering the call. With many festivals and parades commemorating PRIDE Month, consider lending your support to this vibrant community. To all of you...I say to keep moving onward. Let us embrace that which makes us unique. Collectively, you are the reason why we are the best public health association in the nation. Thank you for being a faithful member and spread the word about NCPHA! Wishing all father's, a Happy Father's Day and those celebrating Pride Month I say Happy Pride!

Rod Jenkins, MHA  
2022-2023 NCPHA President

## Rebrand, Refresh, Renew

— *Jessica Alexander, Communications Manager*



We are so excited to launch our website redesign project for the NCALHD, NCAPHA, and NCPHA websites! The existing websites were designed many years ago and currently have a web presence that is outdated in branding, appearance, structure, functionality and in the presentation of content. With this new project, our new sites will be flexible, informative, and up-to-date web

sites for the three organizations and a website for the Collaboration that will link to the others.

Through a RFP process, we selected Angel Oak Creative, a Raleigh-Based marketing agency that specializes in non-profit digital marketing. They have worked with hundreds of nonprofit organizations across the state of North Carolina and beyond. So far, we have established a staggered timeline for completion of the websites: NCALHD will be the first website completed by the Fall Education Conference in September 2023, followed by the NCAPHA website in October and ending with the NCPHA site in November.

In September 2022, we completed the first phase of our organization's rebrand that included a new name and logo for the overarching agency (The NC Public Health Collaboration), as well as new logos for each of our three organizations and new color palettes. The new websites will include and complement the new organization branding.

To date, we have reviewed the first draft of the NCALHD website homepage, and we are so excited about this new look. We can't wait to unveil our new sites to you soon!

# NCPHA and NCALHD Advocacy Priorities Aim to Improve Public Health



## **Executive Director Legislative Update**

What a session it has been! With many twists and turns and lots of conversations and outreach, it does feel like we're entering the "home stretch" of this session.

With the thrilling news that Medicaid expansion is passed into law, we now look to the budget process to be completed before implementation can formally begin. That said, NCDHHS has already started the preparation work and things will really take off when the budget is finalized. The house and the senate are currently in "conference" to negotiate between the differences in their respective budgets. We expect an agreement and a final budget sometime later in June.

Also noteworthy to the budget process in the local health department communicable disease funding, originally introduced via House Bill 108. We were delighted that a \$15M recurring appropriation was included in the House

Budget, but unfortunately that funding was not included in the Senate Budget. NCALHD has kicked our advocacy efforts into overdrive for one last push to advocate for this funding.

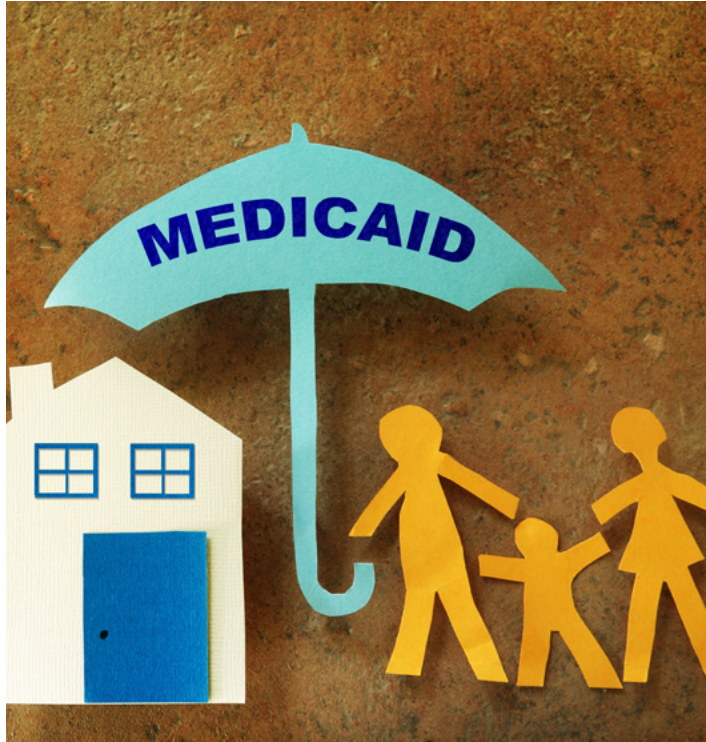
Beyond these topline issues this session, there have been many other areas of focus for public health. Many, many conversations have occurred this session related to public health. These can be summed up into larger themes of workforce, vaccines, environmental health and regulatory reform. Some of these conversations have been productive, some less so. As always, we work to advocate on behalf of public health across North Carolina.

## **NCPHA POLICY PRIORITIES**

NCPHA is working in collaboration with our partners in the NC Association of Local Health Directors on a variety of public health issues. NCPHA's policy priorities

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## Continued...NCPHA and NCALHD Advocacy Priorities Aim to Improve Public Health



can be found here [Advocacy \(ncpha.memberclicks.net\)](https://www.ncpha.org/advocacy). In addition to supporting communicable disease funding for local public health and reform of training requirements for Environmental Health Specialists, NCPHA is also leading on a variety of issues of importance to public health professionals.

This big news this month is the NC House of Representative passage of HB 76, An Act to Provide North Carolina Citizens with Greater Access to Health Care Options [www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2023/Bills/House/PDF/H76v2.pdf](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2023/Bills/House/PDF/H76v2.pdf) also known as **MEDICAID EXPANSION!** This is the first time that a bill to close the coverage gap has ever come to the floor of the House and due to much good advocacy work on the part of NCPHA and its many partners at Care4Carolina, the vote for the bill (on second reading) was very strong—96 YAYS and 23 NAYS. HB 76 is a fairly straight forward expansion of Medicaid to the 600,000 North Carolinians who make too little to qualify for a subsidy on the Federal marketplace. For the first time, single adults, without dependent minors, would also be eligible for coverage under Medicaid. The bill also contains language that would authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Service to request HASP funding for the State's Hospitals, establish a rural health grant program and set up a voluntary workforce development program in collaboration with the Department of Commerce and the Department of Labor.

The bill has now moved to the Senate and is waiting for consideration by that body. The Senate passed a Medicaid Expansion bill in 2022, so advocates are hopeful that the two chambers will be able to come to agreement on a Medicaid Expansion bill before the redetermination process begins at the county level. By some estimates, up to 200,000 people who became eligible for Medicaid during the pandemic public health emergency, could lose coverage during redetermination.

NCPHA's policy priorities also include opposing any legislation that would discriminate against people based on gender, gender identification or sexual preference. The Advocacy Committee, in collaboration with the leaders of NCPHA's Nursing Section, is creating a position statement on this issue in response to a pair of bills recently introduced that would impact LGBTQ youth: [Senate Bill 49 \(2023-2024 Session\) - North Carolina General Assembly](#) and [House Bill 43 \(2023-2024 Session\) - North Carolina General Assembly](#).

Senate Bill 49, entitled The Parent's Bill of Rights bans curriculum addressing gender identity, sexual activity or sexuality in kindergarten through fourth grade. The bill also requires teachers to tell parents if students change their pronouns—potentially outing the child. This bill was passed by the Senate earlier in February and is now sitting in the House Rules Committee. House Bill 43, introduced on February 1, would restrict gender-affirming treatment for minors, has been referred to the House Health Committee but, so far, no other legislative action has been taken.

Also, as part of the 2023/24 Advocacy Agenda is the resolution adopted by NCPHA's Governing Council declaring firearm violence a public health crisis. The resolution sets out the alarming statistics on the increasing rate of firearm deaths and injuries in North Carolina. This resolution will set the stage for the development of an NCPHA-wide initiative to draw attention to the impact of firearm and gun violence on the health of the public. This issue will be the subject of strategic planning efforts by association leadership at the end of February and will also be featured in a "preconference" before the Fall Educational Conference in Concord.

# Pride Month: Highlighting LGBTQ+ Health Disparities

— Juliana Wilson, North Carolina Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch  
Sexual and Gender Minority Tobacco Treatment Coordinator



Pride Month celebration first began as a one-day event but grew into a month-long celebration. The celebration is meant to counter social stigma and shame that individuals identifying as LGBTQ+ often experience.

LGBTQ+ identified individuals face a number of health disparities, among them higher levels of depression and suicidality, eating and body image disorders, higher risk of heart disease, and greater risk for certain cancers. The approaching Pride month gives the public health community an opportunity to focus on these disparities and consider how we can adapt our public health practice to engage with a population to address these throughout the year.

## **LGBTQ+ Adults and Tobacco**

One key health disparity facing individuals identifying as LGBTQ+ is higher health burden of tobacco product use. In 2020, adult LGB smoking rates stood at 16.1%

compared with 12.3% of heterosexual adults. Transgender adults have 4 times the prevalence of tobacco use than cisgender adults.

In North Carolina, 23% of LGBT individuals smoke compared with 15% of the general population. LGBT individuals also have a higher prevalence of other tobacco product use: LGBT individual use e-cigarettes at 4 times the rate of general population (19.7% vs. 5.1%), cigars 2 times more (7.8% vs. 3.8%), and hookah 5 times more (4.6% vs. 0.9%).

Research attributes high tobacco use levels among LGBTQ+ identified people to a mixture of socialization and identity, coping strategies, tobacco industry marketing, and barriers to accessing medical care.

Approximately 90% of adults who regularly use tobacco products started when they were teens. Therefore, a critical point for curbing the disproportionately higher LGBTQ+ adult tobacco use starts with LGBTQ+ youth.

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### LGBTQ+ Youth and Tobacco

LGBTQ+ youth use tobacco products at significantly higher rates than general population youth.

- 19.8% of LGB youth vape, compared with 13.2% of general population youth;
- 18.9% of transgender youth use any tobacco product; and
- 52.1% of LGB youth have ever vaped compared to 38.6% of general population youth.

Use rates are highest among LGBT high school females. Compared with general population high school females, LGBT females are:

- 3x more likely to use cigarettes and cigars;
- 2x as likely to use e-cigarettes; and
- Use tobacco products more heavily than non-LGBT females.

Many of these impacts redouble on LGBTQ+ youth due to additional stressors related to holding a minoritized sexual and/or gender identity. LGBTQ+ youth often face stigma and isolation in their community. They often wrestle with their identity awareness before developing coping skills and without the support of family or sexual or gender identity peers. The surge of dopamine, serotonin, and norepinephrine in the brain when smoking or vaping can lead to increased feelings of peace and control.

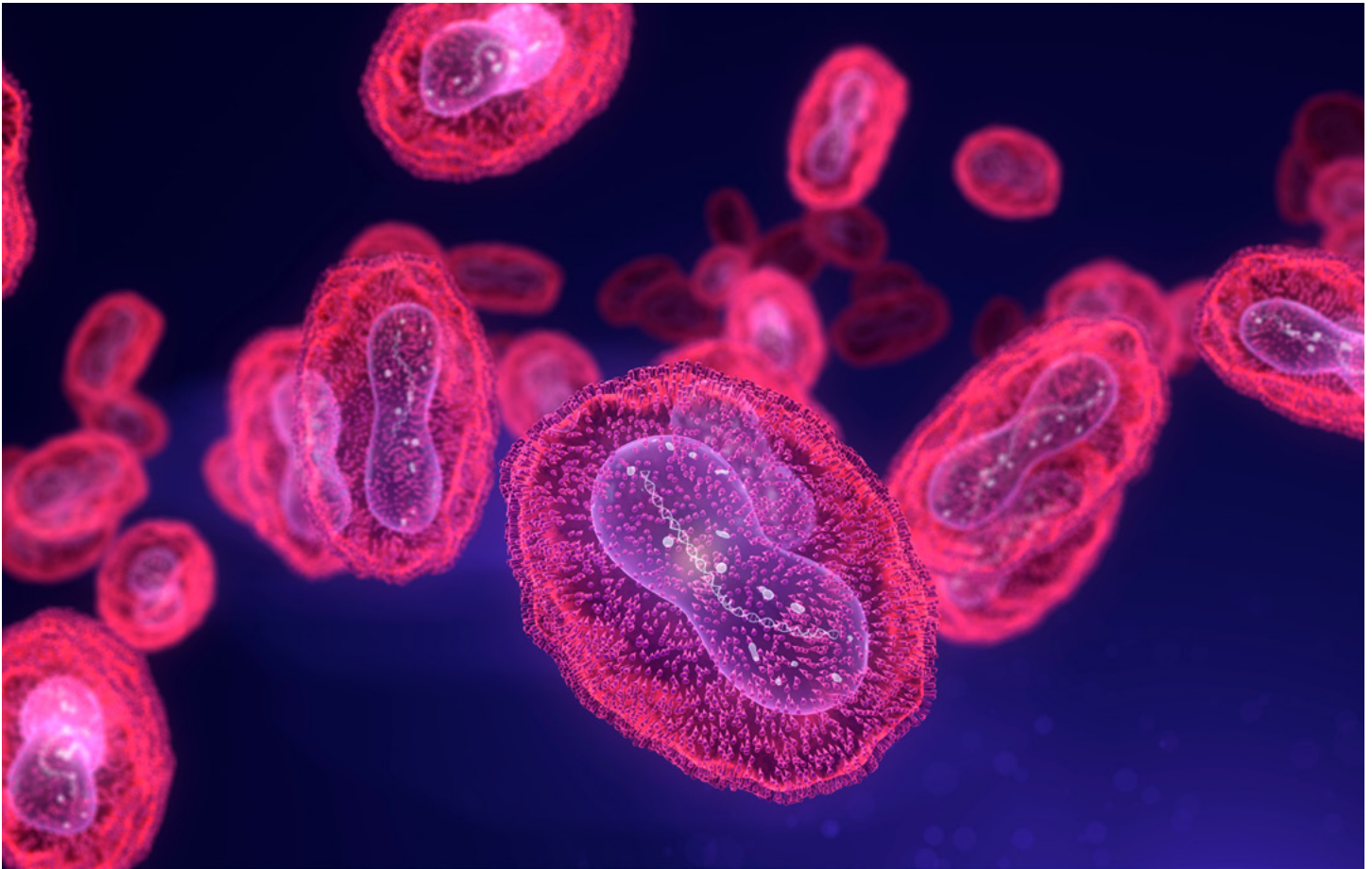
LGBTQ+ people commonly postpone or avoid accessing

health care due to fear of discrimination, therefore it is critical to build trust and create safety for LGBTQ+ people in your practice. Building trust starts when the client approaches your practice: display a LGBTQ+ affirming sign on your website, office door or window, such as the rainbow or progress flag, an ally sticker. It is also important to appropriately integrate sexual orientation and gender identity questions on patient intake forms and practice using they/them or other non-binary pronouns. Consistently misgendering transgender and non-binary individuals is particularly hurtful, has negative impacts on provider/client relationships, and reinforces perceptions that healthcare is unsafe. Have LGBTQ+ specific materials available and display pamphlets and posters that are LGBTQ+ specific. With these visual cues, patients will not only be less apprehensive about disclosing sexual orientation and gender identities but able to engage more fully in cessation treatment. Finally, healthcare begins with awareness of services; if possible, attend LGBTQ+ events in your area such as Pride or health fairs to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ tobacco use disparities (the majority of the LGBTQ+ population is not aware of the disparities) and your safe, affirming tobacco cessation services, including QuitlineNC. Your local LGBTQ+ Center will likely be able to help you!

If you have questions or would like more information or help connecting to your LGBTQ+ Center, please reach out to Juliana Wilson, North Carolina Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch Sexual and Gender Minority Tobacco Treatment Coordinator at [Juliana.wilson@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Juliana.wilson@dhhs.nc.gov).

# Mpox and LGBTQ Outreach

— Noah Riley, MPH & Akil Campbell, MPH, MBA, CTS, CPM  
Division of Public Health, Communicable Disease Branch



Mpox, formerly monkeypox, garnered significant public health attention last year with case counts peaking nationally during the [2022 summer months](#). The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported the first case in June of that year, notifying the public of this rare but potentially serious viral illness that typically involves flu-like symptoms, swelling of the lymph nodes and a rash that includes bumps that are initially filled with fluid before scabbing over. Because vaccination supply was limited at first, seven local health departments were identified to receive vaccine as part of an emergency response, both to prevent infection and to reduce the severity of symptoms in those affected. These health departments played a crucial role in reaching men at risk for infection in the early days of the mpox response and included Buncombe, Durham, Forsyth, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, Pitt and Wake. The Mpox Response Plan was released in July of 2022, urging people to get checked, tested and protected. During the early months of the response it

became clear in both the nation and in North Carolina that men who have sex with other men (MSM) were being disproportionately affected, and that men of color were experiencing the highest rates. Therefore, particular efforts were made to reach out to the LGBTQ+ community across the state, notifying clinics where they might seek healthcare and working with local organizations to increase awareness of mpox and the availability of vaccine.

By late July, two more local health departments (Cumberland and Guilford) had been added as vaccination sites and supply was available to vaccinate 2,300 individuals. This immediate response, coupled with collaboration with local health departments, LGBTQ+ serving organizations, the Immunization Branch and the NC Office of Health Equity allowed the Division of Public Health to use lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic to move quickly to intervene in mpox transmission and ensure that awareness among affected

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## Continued...Mpox and LGBTQ Outreach



populations was emphasized. Community engagement events were identified where mpox related public health messages could be delivered to those at risk, and led to success stories like Mecklenburg Health Department's vaccination efforts at [Charlotte Pride 2022](#). By the end of September 2022, 12,763 people had been vaccinated for mpox.

As of May 2023, there have been 87,314 cases globally, 30,401 cases and 42 deaths in the United States, and [709 cases in North Carolina](#). Also as of May 2023, over 26,000 [vaccinations](#) were administered in North Carolina.

The 2022 mpox outbreak has primarily affected gay, bisexual, and other MSM, with 96% of North Carolina's cases identifying as men. Additionally, North Carolina's mpox outbreak has disproportionately impacted Black/African American and Hispanic/Latinx men. Despite making up 67% and 12% of North Carolina's mpox cases, Black/African American and Hispanic/Latinx North Carolinians accounted for only 27% and 10%, respectively, of persons immunized. This means that there is still work to be done to increase vaccine access and uptake among our most at-risk populations.

Although cases have decreased, continued action is still needed due to the potential for recurrent mpox outbreaks. Such an outbreak has recently been reported

in Chicago, with 31 confirmed cases of mpox reported since late April 2023. The majority (65%) of Chicago's recent mpox cases were fully vaccinated but their mild disease highlights the importance of mpox vaccine in reducing severity of disease in addition to preventing infection. Vaccine in conjunction with safer sexual practices remains the cornerstone to preventing another mpox outbreak. Building on best practices learned last year, NC DHHS is again working to have a successful Pride Month by leveraging existing relationships with local health departments and LGBTQ+ organizations. LGBTQ+ groups throughout the state have put in the hard work of organizing large pride events to celebrate our vibrant queer community. It is imperative that public health work alongside these fierce organizers to share resources and education, and to support the health of the LGBTQ+ community.

The recently launched "[Take Pride Now](#)" campaign encourages North Carolinians to take pride in their sexual health. The campaign encourages North Carolinians to take part in safer sex practices, pride themselves in prioritizing their sexual health by getting regular testing for STIs and get vaccinated against mpox, recognizing that now is the time to take the first steps toward sexual health wellness. Prevention tools such as PrEP, medication that prevents the acquisition of HIV, is also encouraged for people at risk for mpox and other STIs and should be a part of the conversation about sexual health for both men and women; over 50% of people diagnosed with mpox are also living with HIV. It is important that medical providers are comfortable in taking sexual health histories for their patients, to identify risk for mpox, HIV and other STIs. For that reason, Communicable Disease Branch staff provided a lecture at the Public Health Leaders Conference this past January, and the Branch is planning to offer two webinars on this topic for providers this fall.

Additionally, extending beyond Pride Month, efforts are underway to decrease barriers to mpox vaccination, making mpox a part of routine sexual health conversations and incorporating mpox prevention into the syndemic approach to preventing other sexually transmitted infections like HIV and syphilis. While mpox cases remain low, it is important to highlight the benefits of preventive care like vaccination, PrEP, and overall sexual health education for the LGBTQ+ community.



# Firearm Safety is a Public Health Concern

— Amanda Nester and Sydney Newton



In 2020, firearm-related injury became the leading cause of death in the United States among those aged 1-19 years, transcending motor vehicle crashes, cancer, poisoning, and drug overdoses (Patel et al., 2022). Each day, 109 firearm-related deaths occur, with mass shootings accounting for a small proportion (McLean et al., 2019). Mass shooting frequencies have steadily increased, which has caused detrimental impacts on individuals, families, communities, and society (McLean et al., 2019). The health impacts of firearms not only concern the loss of life, but the long term physical and mental health consequences for survivors (Patel et al., 2022).

Deaths from firearms have remained stagnant over the past forty years due to the lack of public health policy and the primary focus of this issue as a political electoral affair (Patel et al., 2022). Preventing firearm injuries and advocating for gun control are related, but they are not synonymous (Steinbrook and Redberg, 2013). This confusion has led to limited federal support of gun research. There is \$12 million allocated each year for firearm-related death research funding, compared to \$88 million allocated for motor vehicle crashes and \$335 million for cancer research (Patel et al., 2022). Research conducted to better understand the cause and effect of firearm-related injury and death and to identify, test, and implement strategies to reduce these events is important for the protection of the public's health (McLean et al., 2019).

"The Covid-19 pandemic reconfigured health systems towards prevention and harm reduction, sharpened public attention to the burden of preventable deaths, and inspired a fresh ambition of eliminating avertable deaths" (Patel et al., 2022). The medical community has identified specific policy recommendations to aid in the reduction of these preventable injuries and deaths (McLean et al., 2019). Adequate federal monetary allocation to fund and facilitate research will aid the public health community and lawmakers to assemble an evidence base to direct policy development (Patel et al., 2022). Education on the safe storage of firearms and access to mental health care should be a priority following research (Patel et al., 2022). Comprehensive criminal background checks for all firearm purchases and the prevention of intimate partner violence would greatly reduce the amount of firearm homicides each year (McLean et al., 2019). Finally, reasonable laws and regulations compliant with the Second Amendment regarding high-capacity magazine-fed weapons are a common-sense approach to reducing mass casualties (McLean et al., 2019).

Firearm-related injury and death are completely preventable with collaboration between public health officials and politicians. The time is now for firearm safety to be brought to the forefront of discussion and policy development.

**Citations:**  
Deng, H., Yue, J. K., Winkler, E. A., Dhall, S. S., Manley, G. T., & Tarapore, P. E. (2019). Pediatric firearm-related traumatic brain injury in United States trauma centers. *Journal of Neurosurgery*, 24(5), 498–508. doi.org/10.3171/2019.5.peds19119  
McLean, R. R., Harris, P. A., Cullen, J. B., Maier, R. V., Yasuda, K., Schwartz, B. J., & Benjamin, G. C. (2019). Firearm-Related Injury and Death in the United States: A Call to Action From the Nation's Leading Physician and Public Health Professional Organizations. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 171(8), 573. doi.org/10.7326/m19-2441  
Patel, J., Leach-Kemon, K., Curry, G., Naghavi, M., & Sridhar, D. (2022). Firearm injury—a preventable public health issue. *The Lancet. Public Health*, 7(11), e976–e982. /doi.org/10.1016/s2468-2667(22)00233-x  
Steinbrook, R., & Redberg, R. F. (2013). Firearm Injuries as a Public Health Issue. *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 173(7), 488. doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2013.22

# In Memoriam

## Dr. Howard Monroe Fitts, Jr.

June 8, 1921 - January 30, 2023



Dr. Fitts and Becky Bowden at the Durham NAACP awards ceremony



Anne Moore, Howard Fitts, & Margaret Keller at a Senior PharmAssist Breakfast Event



Howard Fitts, Becky Bowden, Bill and Ida Friday

Attribution: Senior PharmAssist, March 2023 newsletter

Dr. Howard Fitts, Jr., past President of NCPHA, passed away on January 30, 2023 at the age of 101 years.

In addition to being the NCPHA President in 1979, Dr. Fitts served as the first Professor and Chair of North Carolina Central University's Department of Health Education from 1954-1987. He was also very involved with the Durham NAACP and many other service organizations.

The Senior PharmAssist program states, "For those of you who didn't know him, he was humble, very insightful, and always a wonderful cheerleader for ..... all things public health. Howard and Becky (Bowden) helped develop NC Citizens for Public Health to ensure there was a watchful citizen eye on community health in North Carolina that led to amazing interventions over the years."

Dr. Fitts' NCPHA President's Message from the 1979 NCPHA Newsletter stands as important and poignant then as it does today: "...hereby ask each of you to take appropriate measures for enhancing NCPHA's effectiveness as a positive influence upon the health and well-being of North Carolinians. These measures begin with your active membership and your encouraging others to become members. Also of vital importance are your informed counsel, advocacy, and joining with other citizens to bring about changes essential for the promotion of community health locally, at the state level, and nationally." Nothing could honor Dr. Fitt's more than for our NCPHA membership of today to follow his message.



Phillip Tarte, past President of NCPHA and health director of several counties passed away on April 15, 2023 at the age of 52 years.

Phillip was a 1989 graduate of Whiteville High School, a 1993 graduate of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte with

a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, and a 2000 graduate of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a master's degree in Health Care Administration. He devoted his professional career to Public Health until his retirement.

Read more about the life of Phillip Tarte here: [www.mckenziemortuary.net/obituary/PhillipEugene-TarteJr](http://www.mckenziemortuary.net/obituary/PhillipEugene-TarteJr)

# Time to Nominate!

Now's the time to nominate your team member, community partner, or health department for one of the NCPHA Major Awards, Wolfe Mini-Grants of \$8,000 each, NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Awards, NCPHA Scholarships, or the NCPHA Major Awards.

**All are due by Friday, July 14.**

**Awards and Mini-Grants Information and forms:** [ncpha.memberclicks.net/awards-grants-and-scholarships](https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/awards-grants-and-scholarships)

**Scholarship Information and Form:** [ncpha.memberclicks.net/ncpha-scholarships](https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/ncpha-scholarships)

- Robert Parker Leadership Scholarship of \$2000
- Undergraduate/Graduate Scholarships of \$1500/each
- Child of Member Scholarships of \$1500/each
- Associate/Technical Scholarship of \$500

## **Reynolds Achievement Award:**

The Reynolds Achievement Award is bestowed upon the individual member of NCPHA who has made the greatest contribution to public health in North Carolina during the past year. Winner is awarded \$500. Sponsored by the NC Medical Society.

## **Rankin Legacy Award:**

The Watson S. Rankin Award is given to a NCPHA member in recognition of the outstanding contributions to public health in North Carolina over the member's lifetime. Winner is awarded \$1000.

## **Distinguished Service Award:**

This award is given to a NCPHA member for their service to NCPHA. Nominated by the NCPHA Executive Committee. Winner is awarded \$250.

## **Partners in Public Health Award:**

This award was established in 1998 to recognize other organizations and professions outside public health departments who have made significant contributions to public health in North Carolina over the past year. Winner is awarded an organizational membership to NCPHA.

## **Dr. Sarah Taylor Morrow Health Departments of the Year:**

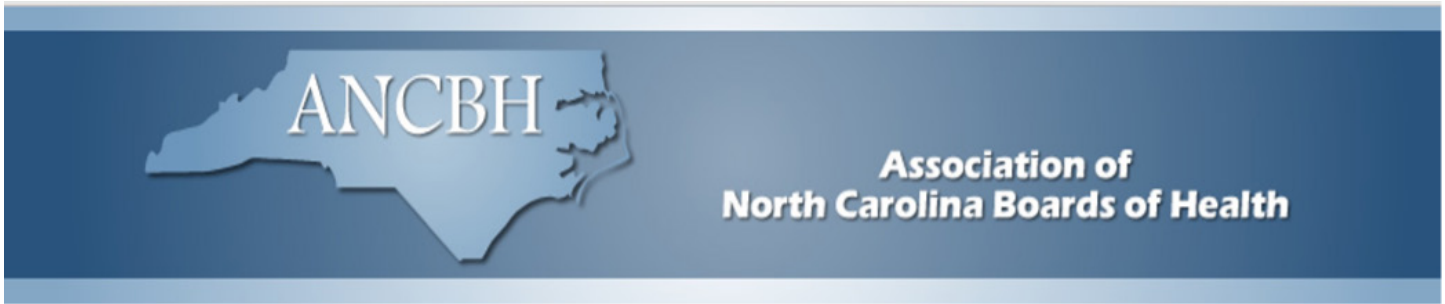
This award is given to health departments for outstanding programs and efforts. Awarded to two health departments based on the population size in the county. Health department must be an organizational member of NCPHA. Winners are awarded \$1000.

## **The Dr. Ann F. Wolfe Endowment Mini-Grants:**

The Dr. Ann F. Wolfe Endowment was established in October of 2003 through the estate of the late Dr. Ann Wolfe. The endowment was established as a component fund of the North Carolina Community Foundation. The purpose of the fund, as stated in the establishing agreement, is to combat infant mortality and enhance child health. This purpose is to be accomplished through mini-grants to local health departments to aid their work in these endeavors. Four Mini-grants of \$8,000 each are awarded annually.



# Association of North Carolina Boards of Health Awards



Hello Public Health Family! It has been the tradition of the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health to present three awards annually to fellow North Carolinians who have distinguished themselves in their service to public health in our state. We would like your help in nominating individuals or entire boards of health to receive these awards this year.

## Carl Durham Award

**Eligible:** Institutional, Individual, Associate or Emeritus Member of ANCBH Nominee:

- Has made significant contributions to public health.
- Is an effective advocate for public health at the local, regional, and/or state levels.

## Outstanding Board of Health Award

**Eligible:** ANCBH Institutional Member Nominee:

- The board's leadership in public health accomplishments must be clearly evident.
- The accomplishment must either have documented results or be currently producing intended results.
- The activity may be accomplished through the health department, other agencies, or groups.

## Robert Ed Strother Partnership Award

**Eligible:** Individual Nominee:

- Established and/or fostered a public-private partnership, which has improved public health for the community.

## Nomination Forms

Available on following page.

Available on the ANCBH website: [www.ancbh.org/awards](http://www.ancbh.org/awards)

## Submission

You may submit your nominations by email to: Merle Green, Executive Director, ANCBH

Email: [merle.green@alamance-nc.com](mailto:merle.green@alamance-nc.com)

## Deadline

Nominations are due by **July 15, 2023**. Winners will be notified by August 15, 2023. Awards will be presented at the annual ANCBH meeting on September 20, 2023.

# ANCBH Award Nomination Form

## Association of North Carolina Boards of Health Award Nomination Form Submission Deadline: July 15, 2023

(Please check next to the award selected. Use a separate form for each nomination.)

**Carl Durham Award**

- The nominee must be an Institutional, individual, associate, or emeritus member of ANCBH.
- The nominee has made significant contributions to public health.
- The nominee is an effective advocate for public health at local, regional, and/or state levels.

**Outstanding Board of Health Award**

- The nominee must be an ANCBH Institutional member.
- The board's leadership in public health accomplishments must be clearly evident.
- The accomplishment must either have documented results or be currently producing intended results.
- The activity may be accomplished through the health department, other agencies, or groups.

**Robert Ed Strother Partnership Award**

- The nominee has established and/or fostered a public-private partnership, which has improved public health for the community.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Justification for the Award: (Please use separate sheet and include documentation as needed)

Send nominations vial email to Merle Green, Executive Director, ANCBH at: [merle.green@alamance-nc.com](mailto:merle.green@alamance-nc.com)

# NCPHA

# Member Introductions

This issue we meet **Tia Foula**, Regional Director of Children’s Developmental Services Agency, NC DHHS, DPH, Division of Child and Family Well-Being/Early Intervention Branch, **Scott Proescholdbell**, Injury Epidemiologist and Unit Manager, NC DHHS, DPH, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, and **Tia Robertson**, Medical Director, Gaston County Public Health.

# NCPHA Member Introductions



## Tia F. Foula, MPA

*Regional Director of Children's  
Developmental Services Agency*

NC DHHS, DPH, Division of Child and  
Family Well-Being/Early Intervention  
Branch

**Hometown:** Baltimore, Maryland

**Education:**

- University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Master of Public Administration
- Barton College, Bachelor of Social Work

**How long have you worked in public health:**  
8 years.

**What do you like most about your job:**

I love having the ability to solve problems and motivate my team towards excellence. I also enjoy linking resources to those who need them. There is such a great opportunity to network and connect with other public health practitioners, that problem solving becomes fun.

**If you could have dinner with three people, who would they be:**

Ooh, that's fun to think about. First it would be my dad. He passed away several years ago and I miss being able to share things with him. Jim Carey would be at the table – I think he is hilarious and probably good dinner company. Finally, let's invite Oprah Winfrey. She has interviewed so many people over her career and has such great nuggets of wisdom to share from those interviews.

**If you could change one thing about public health, what would it be?  
(money is no object)**

There is nothing more important than the health of our communities. I believe investment needs to be made in our overall public health infrastructure consistently, not just in times of crisis.

**FAVORITES:**

I like to be active. Exercise, competitive activities, being out in nature recharges me.

**Hobby:** Um, who has time for that? I love listening to audio books and plants.

**Food:** I LOVE Thai Food....and Potato Chips!

**Movie:** Annie (1982 version). I sing along to all the songs.

**Song/Artist:** I love all music, but Beyonce is heavy on my playlist at the moment.

**Sport/Team:** I am a soccer mom, so I am partial to my children's teams 😊

**Color:** Bright/Sunshine colors

**Book:** I love Leadership Books. I know that Public Health's greatest asset is its workforce. I enjoy practicing the "art" of Public Health Leadership.

# NCPHA Member Introductions



## Scott Proescholdbell, MPH

(PROESCHOLDBELL is pronounced like 'threshold' with a 'P' and add 'bell' to end... PRESH-HOLD-BELL)

*Injury Epidemiologist and Unit Manager*

NC DHHS, DPH, Injury and Violence  
Prevention Branch

**Hometown:** Durham, NC

**Education:**

- Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health

**How long have you worked in public health:**

25+ years (communicable disease, tobacco and injury/violence)

**What do you like most about your job:**

Connecting with people. Being a problem solver. Helping people to better understand and use data and surveillance information for public health action.

**If you could have dinner with three people, who would they be:**

Bill Foegen, Bryan Stevenson, Jimmy Carter (technically, this happened as I was Fellow at Carter Center when I was at Emory but I would gladly do it again)

**If you could change one thing about public health, what would it be? (money is no object)**

Show the day-to-day value of public health in ways that everyone can understand and grasp. Have data systems talking better with one another.

**FAVORITES:**

Watching English Premier League/college soccer/hiking/making things.

**Hobby:** Woodworking

**Food:** Indian/BBQ/Waffle House

**Movie:** "Princess Bride", my kids hate when I suggest it these days but I still love it.

**Song/Artist:** Trevor Noah- insightful and funny

**Sport/Team:** Soccer (Everton FC, sadly). In US, Charlotte FC or Atlanta United. ACC soccer. I played soccer in college and have been lifelong fan of the world's sport.

**Color:** Blue

**Book:** "Sentinel for Health", Elizabeth Etheridge (History of CDC), "Mountains Beyond Mountains", Tracy Kidder (bio of Paul Farmer- public health hero), anything by David Sedaris (Raleigh born & raised).



# NCPHA Member Introductions



**Tia L. Robertson, MD, MS, FACOG**

*Medical Director*

Gaston County Public Health

**Hometown:** Augusta, GA

**Education:**

- University of Georgia—B.S.
- Georgia State University— M.S.
- University of Louisville School of Medicine—M.D.
- East Carolina University/ Vidant Medical Center—  
Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency

**How long have you worked in public health:**

5+ years.

**What do you like most about your job:**

As Medical Director, I'm on a team that positively impacts the community by providing and ensuring quality healthcare to underserved populations.

**If you could have dinner with three people, who would they be:**

Jesus, Mother Teresa and my Great-Great-Grandmother Kate

**If you could change one thing about public health, what would it be? (money is no object)**

Public perception and understanding of public health on national, state and local levels.

**FAVORITES:**

**Hobby:** Playing guitar

**Food:** Italian Cuisine

**Movie:** The Matrix

**Song/Artist:** "The Greatest Love of All"/ Whitney Houston

**Sport/Team:** Georgia Football! Goooooo Dawgs!

**Color:** Pink

**Book:** The Bible, "The Four Agreements"

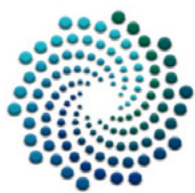
# Section Scholarships and Awards



## *Section Scholarships and Awards*

The following sections are offering scholarship and/or awards that will be given at the Fall Educational Conference. Nominate yourself, a co-worker, or public health colleague! Click on the below links for more information:

- **Environmental Health**  
[Three scholarships and three awards.](#)
- **Nursing**  
[Two scholarships and two awards.](#)
- **Social Work**  
[One scholarship and three awards.](#)
- **Wellness and Prevention**  
[One award.](#)
- **Women's and Children's Health**  
[One scholarship and one award.](#)



## INNOVATIONS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

at the intersection of academia and public health practice



### Inoculating the Public Against Vaccine Misinformation

A WEBINAR SERIES BY THE ACADEMY FOR POPULATION HEALTH INNOVATION  
A collaborative effort of Mecklenburg County Public Health and UNC Charlotte

The Academic/Practice Based Research (APBR) committee of NCPHA is interested in learning about and promoting Academic Health Department affiliations across North Carolina. We would like to highlight various efforts, and promote learning communities for the benefit of population health. This month we are pleased to highlight an existing partnership between Mecklenburg County Public Health (MCPH) and University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC) and also reach out to the membership to identify other successful models and partnerships.

But first, what is an academic health department? An academic health department (AHD) partnership is formed by the formal affiliation of a health department and an academic institution that trains future health professionals. This relationship is sometimes described as the public health equivalent of the “teaching hospital” affiliation found between hospitals and medical schools. Most of us may think about the partnership between an academic institution and a public health department for the placement of public health interns, yet there are many other ways that collaboration that can benefit both institutions. With the need to focus on and build our public health workforce, academic health department

partnerships become an even more important strategy. We need to reach out to students at earlier points in their academic careers to inform and excite them about the fulfilling opportunities afforded them in the public health sector. I have personally met many students throughout my career that have stumbled almost accidentally upon public health as a potential career, often telling me they were not aware of the field. The typical response I hear is, “I knew I wanted to do something health related, I just didn’t know about public health.” We need to change that by engaging with more students earlier in their educational process!

An example of an Academic Health Department is highlighted by the partnership between Mecklenburg County Public Health and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The Academy for Population Health Innovation (APHI) was established in 2016 as a unique affiliation between these two institutions. The partnership acts as a framework to strengthen cooperation, coordination, and exchange of resources that enhance both organizations’ mission to improve population health. APHI members, including faculty, students, and health department employees, collaborate to identify health

...continued

## Continued....Academic/Practice Based Research Section



issues and improve public/population health concerns.

APHI's mission is to develop innovative solutions to address the greater Charlotte area's most pressing community health needs and priorities. The AHD partnership accomplishes this by supporting innovation and implementation of evidence-based community health practices, coordinating training programs and professional education, securing external funding for research, and expanding MCPH's ability to systematically collect, analyze, and interpret health-related data needed for the implementation and evaluation of public health practice.

APHI utilizes non-traditional partnerships among different sectors of the community – public health, business, the academic community, health care providers, local government entities, and others – to work together and achieve positive health outcomes. By strengthening partnerships with key regional public health organizations and local government, APHI works to develop new initiatives and implement promising practices and approaches in order to make Mecklenburg County a place where everyone has a chance to live a long, healthy life.

Much of the work of APHI has been focused on HIV related projects, including analysis of the county-wide PrEP initiative, and informatics efforts to build interactive dashboards for the evaluation of HIV initiatives and to better understand health disparities and social determinants of health. **Additional collaborative projects have included:**

- Assessing the public health response to the COVID pandemic in Mecklenburg County and the state;
- Holding a syphilis symposium for local clinical providers to improve knowledge about current

epidemiology and treatment;

- Evaluation and provision of technical assistance for tobacco cessation and care management programs;
- Development of the Holistic Opportunities Program for Everyone (HOPE) initiative, which provides screening and referrals to assess and address clients' needs (behavioral health, food security housing, etc.) and make linkages to community resources;
- Conducting quarterly webinars titled Innovations in Public Health. Sessions are open to employees, faculty, staff, and students and are intended to shine a spotlight on the intersection of public health practice and research. Previous sessions have explored community violence prevention, food security, community health workers, and vaccine misinformation with each drawing over 100 participants.

Numerous other projects are also in various stages of development. As a result of the strong partnership efforts, APHI has been able to secure over \$2.5 million in external funding to date, with over \$800,000 received for 2022.

In 2022, nineteen UNCC students, at the PhD, master's and undergraduate level, were actively involved in supporting APHI projects. This past year APHI hosted the sixth annual Nexus event, Advancing Population Health Equity, with 142 virtual participants from the University, MCPH, and the local community. The program featured an opening plenary led by Dr. Raynard Washington and concluded with a keynote presentation by Dr. Sandro Galea. The 2023 Nexus event will be held April 4, 2023 at UNC Charlotte Center City Campus, and public health practitioners and academicians interested in learning more about the beneficial impact of AHDs are encouraged to participate to learn more.

If you are currently engaged in an AHD project and would like to highlight your partnership in future newsletters, or would like to engage with others who are interested in developing an AHD in your local health department, let's connect! My email is [bonnie.ronco@mecklenburgcountync.org](mailto:bonnie.ronco@mecklenburgcountync.org).

# Environmental Health Section



NORTH CAROLINA  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION  
N. C. Public Health Association, Inc.  
Affiliated with the National Environmental Health Association, Inc.

## Please Apply for the NCPHA EH Section SCHOLARSHIPS 2023



### Dewey L. Padgett Scholarship (\$300 per year)

Applicant must be an ECU Junior or Senior student majoring in environmental health. Applicant shall have GPA of 2.5 or above, and have a financial need. If a qualified student does not apply, the scholarship may be offered to a practicing environmental health specialist (member).

### Stacy Covil Scholarship (\$300 per year)

Applicant must be a WCU Junior or Senior student majoring in environmental health. Applicant shall have a GPA of 2.5 or above, and have a financial need. If a qualified student does not apply, the scholarship may be offered to a practicing environmental health specialist (member).

### Environmental Health Section Scholarship Fund (\$300 per year per scholarship)

One scholarship is to be awarded to an ECU student and one to a WCU student. Application from ECU and WCU applicants are approved by the Executive Committee and shall have a GPA of 3.0 or above.

### The Tim Hilton Environmental Health Specialist Scholarship (\$500 per year)

One scholarship is awarded to an Environmental Health Specialist within the geographical boundaries of the Western District NCPHA, who is a current member of NCPHA and the EH Section and whose course work is related to the professional environmental health field.

**Nominate someone now that deserves the recognition and distinction in the environmental health field within North Carolina. Applications to be sent to:  
[Angela Sowers at: asowers@orangecountync.gov](mailto:asowers@orangecountync.gov)**



**Scholarship applications are due by June 30th, 2023**

# Environmental Health Section



NORTH CAROLINA  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION  
N. C. Public Health Association, Inc.  
Affiliated with the National Environmental Health Association, Inc.



## NCPHA Environmental Health Section Awards



Every year the EH Section sends out a request for nominations for Rookie EH Specialist of the Year, Stacy Covil EH Specialist of the year and the Bill Broadway Award. All nominees must be active members in good standing with the Environmental Health Section of NCPHA.

The nominee for the **Stacy Covil EH Specialist of the Year Award** should have demonstrated outstanding achievement in a specific health related project, program, or activity within the past two years. Priority will be given to selecting an individual who has been instrumental in providing significant local, regional, or state impact or the potential for such impact, as a result of implementing the project, program or activity.

The nominee for the **Rookie Environmental Health Specialist of the Year Award** shall have not less than one year of active service in the field of Environmental Health and not more than three years of active service as of December 31 of the year for which the award is to be given.

**The Bill Broadway Award** is named in honor of a founding member of the Environmental Health Section of NCPHA. He was always at the forefront of evolutionary changes in Environmental Health and helped to develop educational requirements and performance standards for the profession. Bill was a national leader in the field of environmental health. To be considered for this award, the nominee must be directly or indirectly involved with the practice of Environmental Health and contributed significantly, through superior achievements and professional excellence, to the field of environmental health.

**Please nominate someone now that deserves the recognition and distinction in the environmental health field within North Carolina.**

Please email nominations to  
**[Angela Sowers: asowers@orangecountync.gov](mailto:asowers@orangecountync.gov)**

**[Award Nominations are due by June 30th, 2023](#)**



# Nursing Section



## NORTH CAROLINA Credentialed Public Health Nurse

### Background

NC Administrative Code requires all public health nurses to either “have a nursing degree from a baccalaureate school accredited by the National League for Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education or complete within one year of employment with the health department an introductory course in the principles and practices of public health and public health nursing sponsored by the Department.”

During the Spring of 2023, NCDPH piloted the North Carolina Credentialed Public Health Nursing Course (NCCPHN) to meet this requirement and will officially launch the course in Fall 2023.

This course is only open to governmental public health nurses currently employed in a North Carolina local public health department or with the North Carolina DHHS Division of Public Health or Division of Child and Family Well-Being.

### Course Overview

The new NCCPHN Course was built through a partnership between the Office of the Chief Public Health Nurse, state and local public health nurses, and the North Carolina Institute for Public Health, under the leadership of Chief Public Health Nurse, Dr. Susan Haynes Little. This course provides access to current evidence-based fundamental public health and public health nursing information and supports our commitment to ensuring a strong and inclusive public health workforce.

The goal of the NCCPHN course is for participants to demonstrate the foundational knowledge, skills, attitudes and judgments associated with the roles and functions of governmental public health nurses.

The five-week course will be provided online through on-demand modules and will require readings related to each subject area. There will be knowledge checks, a final knowledge assessment and a course evaluation.

### Spring 2023 Program Graduates

Congratulations to the first cohort to complete the program! We are particularly excited to highlight NCPHA

### Nursing Section Members:

*Ainsley Johnson, Harnett County*  
*Angela Callicutt, NC DHHS Division of Public Health*  
*Carol Rose, NC DHHS Division of Public Health*  
*Carolynn Hemric, NC DHHS Division of Public Health*  
*Dana Lynch, NC DHHS Division of Public Health*  
*Ginny Fredell, Brunswick County Health Services*  
*Heather Willis, NC DHHS Division of Public Health*  
*Jennifer Garrett, Macon County Health Department*  
*Lindsay Novacek, NC DHHS Division of Public Health*  
*Liz Stevens, Durham County Dept of Public Health*  
*Lynn Harmon, Gaston County DHHS*  
*Maria Turnley, NC DHHS Division of Public Health*  
*Michelle McGrath, Union County Health Department*  
*Mona Cooper, Mecklenburg County Health Department*  
*Patricia Kempton, NC DHHS Division of Public Health*  
*Susan Little, NC DHHS Division of Public Health*

### Next Offerings:

- **August 28-September 29, 2023**  
(Registration opens on July 10, 2023)
- **October 16-November 17, 2023**  
(Registration opens in August)
- **February 19-March 22, 2024**  
(Registration opens in January)

Prerequisite certificates are due a week before the course site opens.

### Learn More:

[sph.unc.edu/nciph/nccphn](https://sph.unc.edu/nciph/nccphn)

# SOCIAL WORK

# BREAKS BARRIERS

The North Carolina Public Health Association-Social Work Section recognizes outstanding achievements and highlights significant contributions to the social work profession with three awards - the Outstanding Achievements Award, the Outstanding Contributions to Social Work in Public Health Award and the Kelly Spangler "Bulldog" Advocacy Award.

Each year, we recognize leaders in the profession and in our communities who fully embody social work values and ethics. This year, we have added an award, the "Bulldog" Advocacy Award, to honor the life and legacy of Kelly Spangler. Kelly was a dedicated North Carolina public health social worker for over 24 years. She was also an active member of the North Carolina Public Health Association and the Social Work Section. Kelly invested her professional career as a fierce advocate for public health. More specifically, she was a champion for Women's and Children's Health, as well as public health social work. This advocacy is how she was dubbed a "bulldog." She was not willing to back down on issues that she felt were important and would bring positive changes to the lives of North Carolinians.

Please take this opportunity to acknowledge exceptional work by identifying those who exemplify the very best in the field and advance the profession.

Consider your coworkers or anyone who has made significant contributions to public health social work and nominate them. Nominees will be considered based upon individual merit, supportive evidence, personal achievements, and impact on public service in community health.

Nominations will be accepted until **Monday, July 10, 2023**. The 2023 NCPHA Fall Education Conference (FEC) will be held in Concord, NC September 26-29, 2023. The Outstanding Achievements Award, and the Outstanding Contributions to Social Work in Public Health Award will be announced during the Social Work Section Business Meeting on Thursday September 28, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. The Kelly Spangler "Bulldog" Advocacy Award will be announced during the FEC Awards luncheon September 28, 2023. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to recognize the contributions of your coworkers in public health social work!

### **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AWARD:**

Restricted to current NCPHA SW Section members who have made outstanding achievements in the field of Social Work in Public Health.

### **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL WORK IN PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD:**

For a person who is not a member of NCPHA Social Work Section. This person must have made significant efforts to advance the cause of Public Health Social Work.

### **KELLY SPANGLER "BULLDOG" ADVOCACY AWARD:**

Open to all public health professions; however, preference will be for a social worker. The nominee must show tenacity, perseverance, and have advocated at the patient, local, state, or federal level in an area that would improve public health.

Please submit nominations (forms on following pages) by email to: LaSonya Tuttle: [tuttlelm@forsyth.cc](mailto:tuttlelm@forsyth.cc); Tonya Chesney: [tonya.chesney@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:tonya.chesney@dhhs.nc.gov); Karen McLeod: [kmcLeod@dconc.gov](mailto:kmcLeod@dconc.gov)



# Public Health Leadership Section



Thank you for the important work you do every day!

If you are able, please join the PH Leaders Section Sessions at the Fall Conference in September. These are a few highlights of some of the sessions:

- **Scott Harrelson and Samanta Ange-**  
Establishing Adult Primary Care Clinics in Local Health Departments
- **Christine Wanous, RN, BSN, MPH -**  
Coaching Supervisors to Improve Public Health Retention
- **Whitney Magendie-**  
CDC's Public Health Infrastructure Grant

Please consider whether you would be interested in serving in one of these roles and let me know if you are interested:

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Fall Educational Conference Committee Representative
- Advocacy Committee Representative
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Public Awareness Committee Representative

Public Health leaders make a difference in their communities by improving the opportunities for good health and quality of life right where they are. Thank you for your leadership, your work, your dedication, and the positive changes you bring!

Pamela Brown, Chair of Leadership Section  
[pam.brown@lenoircountync.gov](mailto:pam.brown@lenoircountync.gov)  
252-526-4212

**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL WORK IN PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD NOMINATION FORM**  
(For a person who is not a member of NCPHA-Social Work Section)

**Deadline: Monday, July 10, 2023**

**Name of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Working Title and Credentials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief Description of Work Responsibilities:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's Current Place of Employment and Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Why should the nominee be considered for the outstanding contributions to Social Work in Public Health Award? Please share at least two accomplishments specific to Public Health. Please explain how this person has made a difference in Public Health.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Nominated By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Address of Individual or Agency)

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH SOCIAL WORK AWARD NOMINATION FORM**  
(For a Member of NCPHA-Social Work Section)

**Deadline: Monday, July 10, 2023**

**Name of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Working Title and Credentials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's Current Place of Employment and Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's actual or approximate number of years of public service or community health experience:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list outstanding public service or public health achievements. Be specific in your description.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Nominated By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Address of Individual or Agency)

**KELLY SPANGLER "BULLDOG" ADVOCACY AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

(Open to all public health professions; however, preference will be for a social worker)

**Deadline: Monday, July 10, 2023**

**Name of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Working Title and Credentials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's Current Place of Employment and Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's actual or approximate number of years of public service or community health experience:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide an attached detailed response to the following criteria:**

- Demonstrated tenacity and perseverance in an area of that would improve public health.
- Advocated at the patient, local, state, or federal level.
  - Example: Advocated with prepaid health plans to reimburse for circumcisions; expanded the practice of social work within their community, county, or state
- Accomplished a task or goal that took persistence over time even when barriers arose; they continued to persevere in the face of adversity because they knew the result was necessary and would positively impact public health or the community over time.
- Performed in an exemplary manner in the field of public health (ex. accomplished above and beyond what is expected for their day-to-day job duties)

**Nominated By:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Name and Address of Individual or Agency)

# Women and Children Section



Public health has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and well-being of entire communities. Everyone regardless of their gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation deserves to feel safe and respected, and loved. However, many people who are LGBTQ+ (especially people who are Black and transgender) experience ongoing discrimination and injustice. Many studies and surveys show that people, especially adolescents and youth adults (AYA), who are LGBTQ+ have higher rates of depression, suicidal ideation, substance use and sexually transmitted infections. AYA who identify as LGBTQ+ are also at increased risk of experiencing bullying and homelessness. And unfortunately, there are ongoing efforts that support discrimination towards youth who are LGBTQ+ when youth try to access health care, attend school, and participate in sports.

Individuals, families, professionals, schools, businesses, and communities can help by using supportive practices and policies that create safe spaces to help support AYA who are LGBTQ+ to be able to thrive physically, academically, socially and emotionally. June was chosen to honor the Stonewall uprising in Manhattan on June 28, 1969, which has come to represent the start of the LGBTQ+ rights movement. This June can be a time for each of us to recommit to a strategy to help promote acceptance and celebrate all people and especially our AYA who identify as LGBTQ+.

## POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

Consider learning how to become an ally by participating in a [Safe Zone training](#) such as the ones offered at the LGBTQ Center at UNC Chapel Hill. Safe Zone trainings are designed to raise awareness and increase allies for people who are LGBTQ+.

Consider donating to and/or checking out these resources from these or other agencies that offer strategies and support to promote the safety, health and wellness of youth and young adults who identify as LGBTQ+:

- **Advocates for Youth:**  
[www.advocatesforyouth.org](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org)
- **Equality Federation:**  
[www.equalityfederation.org](http://www.equalityfederation.org)
- **Family Equality Council:**  
[www.familyequality.org](http://www.familyequality.org)
- **Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN):**  
[www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)
- **Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG):**  
[pflag.org/about/our-people](http://pflag.org/about/our-people)
- **The Trevor Project:**  
[www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)
- **Equality NC:**  
[www.equalitync.org](http://www.equalitync.org)
- **Time Out Youth:**  
[timeoutyouth.org](http://timeoutyouth.org)
- **Center Link: The Community of LGBT Centers:**  
[www.lgbtcenters.org/LGBTCenters/State/26/North-Carolina](http://www.lgbtcenters.org/LGBTCenters/State/26/North-Carolina)
- **Human Rights Campaign:**  
[www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)



## 2023 NCPHA Fall Educational Conference

*Remodeling Public Health:  
Tearing Down Stigma and Building Resilience for a Healthy NC*

**September 27-29, 2023  
Embassy Suites, Concord, NC**

**Register here:**

[ncpha.memberclicks.net/fall-educational-information-and-registration](https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/fall-educational-information-and-registration)

## Firearm Safety Pre-Conference

**Tuesday, September 26, 2023**

**Register here:**

[ncpha.memberclicks.net/firearm-safety-pre-conference](https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/firearm-safety-pre-conference)



### Contact Us

Executive Director: Patrick Brown, E-mail: [pbrown@ncapha.org](mailto:pbrown@ncapha.org)  
Kim Dittmann, Operations Officer, E-mail: [kdittmann@ncapha.org](mailto:kdittmann@ncapha.org)  
222 N. Person Street  
Suite 208  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
Phone: 919-828-6201 Fax: 919-828-6203 Website: [ncpha.memberclicks.net](https://ncpha.memberclicks.net)



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Graphic Designer: Zannie Gunn, [TypeColorShapes.com](https://TypeColorShapes.com)