



## Message from the President

– Rod Jenkins, MHA



### *One for all and All for ONE*

How many times have we heard this familiar saying from The Three Musketeers, by the nineteenth-century French author Alexandre Dumas? The many ups and downs of life, the ups and downs of relationships, and the ups and downs of a global pandemic have led me to think of this familiar saying as it relates to NC Public Health. When all the members of a group support each of the individual members, and the individual members pledge to support the

group we have true unity of purpose and a shared responsibility. I have seen this approach to service play out on so many levels over the past three years as we endeavored to help the communities that we serve. This mantra has no color....no creed and no hidden meaning. After my year as President of this Association, I can honestly say I've learned a thing or two about being all in..... for all of you!

As we inch closer to the Fall Education Conference, I am reflecting upon everyone who challenged me and encouraged me to take this journey. I am privileged to work with an incredibly talented and passionate team of public health professionals on the Executive Committee and Governing Council. They are dedicated to serving our members and bringing innovative ideas for growing and supporting our Association. I owe a debt of gratitude to the staff of the North Carolina Public Health Collaboration. They work hard behind the scenes to ensure that all three organizations (NCPHA/NCALHD/NCAPHA) work as one cohesive team.

One of my pledges during my presidency was to work hard and to have fun while doing this great work. I believe that I have delivered and still smiling along the way. Another pledge was to forge strong alliances with our TEAMMATES. NCPHA's bond with the North Carolina Department of Public Health is stronger than ever. In this issue we provide an update on the leadership at the NC Department of Public Health. Local health department rely heavily on DPH and could not ask for a greater public health leader and warrior than Stacie Turpin Saunders who serves as Deputy Director/ Section Chief for Local and Community Support. Stacie is a collaborator,

**...continued**



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## Continued... Message from the President

excellent orator, spectacular wordsmith, but most of all... Stacie is one of us having served as the Health Director in Alamance and Buncombe Counties. We are delighted to have her on our team!

Throughout this year, I was able to meet on a quarterly basis with DPH Director Dr. Susan Kansagra and staff to synergize and determine ways that NCPHA and DPH could work together. These meetings culminated in spirited discussions on the path forward with marketing public health in our state as well as an incredible Public Health Leaders' Conference, a Data Summit/Hack-a-thon (Spring Educational Conference) and a well-planned Firearm Safety Pre-Conference thanks to collaborating with Scott Proescholdbell and team from the Injury Violence and Prevention Branch of DPH. The Firearm Safety Pre-Conference spawned from a conversation to an event that is sure to be well attended. We are also delighted to help celebrate the 20th Anniversary of NC Violent Death Reporting System. Teamwork makes the dream work. I highlight all of these activities because they speak to the intentional desire to be TEAMMATES (not partners). It is my hope that we continue to find ways to partner.

I am proud of what we have accomplished this year. Your NCPHA staff has helped us to work diligently in serving our members through advocacy, support, and training. We now turn our attention to our Fall Educational Conference

in Concord, North Carolina. Fall Conference is always that special time to refresh, reaffirm, and reestablish our commitment to public health. There will be a vibe in the atmosphere that represents togetherness. There are many great sessions planned and opportunities for networking. We look forward to warmly welcoming you to Concord.

As I move toward my mic drop moment, please know that it is my hope that I have represented you well. My goal was to be a President that embodies the spirit of all that is good about public health in North Carolina. I wanted to show that we are an Association that embraces all races and respects everyone. As I stated in my first speech as your 2022-2023 President, we are 1321 members strong and growing. We have been tried by the fire and came out stronger than ever. The joy and excitement of being together will be on display in Concord. It has been one of the greatest joys of my professional career to have been the President of the best public health associations in the country.

***We are all in....one for all and all for one!***

***We are the North Carolina Public Health Association, and We are Back!***

(mic drop)



# Update from NC DHHS and the Division of Public Health

— *Erin Fry Sosne, Director of Strategy*

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the NCPHA Fall Educational Conference in just a few weeks! In the meantime, we are excited to share some highlights at the Division of Public Health and updates to our leadership team.

The Division was proud to receive accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board in May 2023. We will use this opportunity to continue to build and strengthen the public health infrastructure in North Carolina. Looking ahead, we continue to champion the statewide Healthy North Carolina 2030 and encourage all NCPHA members to [get involved](#) with the North Carolina State Health Improvement Plan Community Council.

As federal support of COVID-19 response winds down, we anticipate new challenges and opportunities in the public health community. DPH is thinking strategically about spending funds, implementing policy effectively, and understanding implications for communities across North Carolina.

Over the past few months, we had some transitions among our DPH leadership team. Here are some updates to reacquaint you with our Division of Public Health leadership team and introduce you to our newest members:

**Dr. Susan Kansagra**, continues to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Public Health, State Health Official, and Division Director.

**Stacie Turpin Saunders\***, (replacing Beth Lovette) joined DPH in January 2023 and is serving as the Deputy Division Director and Section Chief for Local and Community Support which includes serving as the key leadership liaison to Local Health Directors across NC.

**Terra Ankrah\***, (replacing Dr. ClarLynda Williams-DeVane) now serves as the Assistant Division Director, Data and Opportunity and State Registrar for the Office of Vital Records. She began her role in August 2023, and in this role she provides leadership to the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, State Center of Health Statistics, including the Office of Vital Records, and the Division's data modernization and equity initiatives.

Also under Dr. Kansagra's leadership, **Ryan Jury**

continues to serve as the Assistant Division Director for Operational Excellence, **Dr. Kelly Kimple** as the Senior Medical Director for Health Promotion and Title V Director, **Virginia Niehaus** as the Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, and **Erin Fry Sosne** as the Director of Strategy.

**Dr. Betsey Tilson** continues to serve as the State Health Director and NC DHHS Chief Medical Officer – connecting across the divisions of NC DHHS to drive foundational change in how we invest in whole person health.

Under Dr. Kansagra's leadership, the Division continues to work toward her top three priorities for NC Public Health:

1. Supporting the recruitment, development, retention, and diversity of our public health workforce
2. Building a durable statewide infrastructure that supports foundational public health capabilities
3. Earning trust

These priorities align with the NCDHHS strategic goals refreshed this summer. NCPHA members and other public health and related stakeholder organizations will be key informants in this important work.

If you aren't already, we hope you will follow and use the **#WeAreNCPublicHealth** to share information on state and local public health careers in NC and awareness of the impact of public health in North Carolina.

## \*New Leadership Bios

**Stacie Turpin Saunders** (she/her), Deputy Director and Section Chief for Local and Community Support In this role, she will be serving as the DPH leadership point of contact with Local Health Directors covering all 100 counties and the NC Association of Local Health Directors, as well as, supporting the delivery of cross-cutting public health programs and services. Stacie has been a long-standing leader and advocate for public health. She is well known to many of us via her roles as a local health director and as an officer with NCAHLD. Stacie received a Bachelor's degree in Medical Technology from Radford University and received a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. While she grew up in the Virginia mountains, Stacie has called North Carolina home since 2005.

...continued

## Continued...Update from NC DHHS and the Division of Public Health

**Terra Ankrah** (she/her), Assistant Division Director, Data and Opportunity for the NCDHHS Division of Public Health effective August 1st and is also the State Registrar effective August 15th. In this capacity, Terra will provide oversight for the State Center for Health Statistics, which includes the Office of Vital Records, the Division's Data Modernization efforts and Equity initiatives, and will also play a role in supporting the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Terra brings a wealth of expertise to this role

having most recently served as the Strategic Director for the North Carolina Office of Vital Records. Previously, Terra served as State Registrar for the District of Columbia Department of Health Vital Records Division. She earned an MBA from the University of Baltimore Merrick School of Business and holds a Bachelor's degree from North Carolina Central University. Terra was raised in Ellerbe, North Carolina.

## Annual Medicaid Cost Settlement Training

— *Jessica Garner, MPH, Financial Analyst*



The 2023 Cost Reporting season has begun! Annual Medicaid Cost Report Settlement and Separate Directed Payment trainings were held for over 170 local health department staff across the state. Steven Garner presented an overview of the State Plan Amendment Requirements, the Established RCC for Public Health Departments and a Review of Cost and Fees.

Participants were also provided with information related to Cost Reporting Documentation, Settlement Payments vs. Separate Directed Payments, Reconciliation of Separate

Direct Payments, and Fee Schedule Restructuring related to the potential impact of cost settlement payments.

Steven presented an outcome summary for SFY 2022. The summary highlighted that public health had received over \$58 million dollars in settlement, including Separate Directed Payments resulting in a 12% increase above the 5-year average.



# Medicaid expansion advocate Peg O'Connell recognized

— Bobby Burns, *The Standard*, [Republished from TheReflector.com](#)



Medicaid expansion advocate and longtime public health champion Peg O'Connell has been awarded the North Carolina Hospital Association's 2023 Meritorious Service Award, one of the organization's highest honors.

A Farmville resident, O'Connell has lately been in the news for her decade-plus work on expanding Medicaid, which Gov. Roy Cooper and the N.C. General Assembly approved in the spring. Implementation is currently tied to the passage of a state budget, which remains in the works.

"Peg's dedication to improving access to health care and public health has made her one of the most influential healthcare leaders in the state," said NCHA President and CEO Steve Lawler. "The Association is proud to recognize Peg for her leadership with the Care4Carolina coalition to help pass Medicaid expansion in North Carolina."

The award is given each year to an individual who is not a CEO or trustee of an NCHA member institution and recognizes outstanding service to the health care field. O'Connell received the award July 21 at NCHA's Summer Membership Meeting.

O'Connell was a senior adviser for government and public affairs with the Raleigh consulting firm of Fuquay Solutions. She has over 25 years of experience in legislative, public, regulatory, and governmental affairs, health care, media, and grassroots advocacy at the state and federal levels and has been active in working to reduce smoking and obesity.

She is chair of the statewide, nonpartisan Care4Carolina

coalition, a group created to find a North Carolina solution for closing North Carolina's health insurance coverage gap and chair of the Safe Kids North Carolina Steering Committee.

"Nearly 10 years ago, a new group of partners, including NCHA and several hospital system representatives, came together to change the conversation about expanding Medicaid," O'Connell said in the announcement about the award.

"Working with our health care partners we told the true stories of the people in the coverage gap: our farmers, fishermen, volunteer firefighters, working moms and dads, many frontline healthcare workers and even pastors of small churches ... With your help, Care4Carolina has grown into a strong and determined coalition of nearly 200 organizations, we have moved North Carolina into the 'win' column becoming the 40th state to adopt Medicaid Expansion and we are 'almost' at the place where our state can start to implement this much needed program. On behalf of the thousands of people and organizations across our state who worked so hard for so many years, who never gave up on finding a health insurance solution for our 600,000 neighbors and friends, I say thank you."

O'Connell also has served as the manager of external affairs for the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, is chair of the NC Stroke Advisory Council and a board member of the North Carolina Stroke Association and the American Heart Association Mid-Atlantic Affiliate.

She is past chair of the board of directors for North Carolina Prevention Partners, a two-time recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, recipient of the 2011 American Heart Association Advocacy Award, the 2000 and 2012 recipient of the North Carolina Public Health Association Distinguished Service Award and the first recipient of the North Carolina Prevention Partners POWER Award.

An attorney by profession, O'Connell has spent most of her career in government affairs and communications. She graduated magna cum laude from Marietta College, earning a BA in history and political science, and received her law degree from the Ohio State University College of Law.

# NCPHA

# Member Introductions

This issue we meet **Tonya Yvette Chesney**, Maternal Health Program Manager, NC DHHS, DPH, Women, Infant and Community Wellness Section, Maternal Health Branch, **Stacie Turpin Saunders**, Deputy Director Division of Public Health, Section Chief Local & Community Support, NC DHHS, DPH, and **Erin Fry Sosne**, Director of Strategy, NC DHHS, DPH.



# NCPHA Member Introductions



## Tonya Yvette Chesney, MHS

*Maternal Health Program Manager*

NC DHHS, DPH, Women, Infant and  
Community Wellness Section, Maternal  
Health Branch

**Hometown:** Sanford, North Carolina

**Education:**

- Liberty University, Master's degree in Human Services
- Meredith College, Bachelor's degree in Social Work

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

25 years.

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

Advocating for underserved communities.

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

Aaron Hall, Suze Orman, and my Grandmother Mary Harrington

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

The availability of behavioral health services.

**FAVORITES:**

**Hobby:** Interior Design and Floral Design

**Food:** Fish

**Movie:** The Bridges of Madison County

**Song/Artist:** Goodby Love /Guy

**Sport/Team:** Toronto Raptors

**Color:** Green

**Book:** Profiles in Courage, John F. Kennedy



# NCPHA Member Introductions



## Stacie Turpin Saunders, MPH

*Deputy Director Division of Public Health,  
Section Chief Local & Community Support*

NC DHHS, Division of Public Health

**Hometown:** Parrott, Virginia (so tiny it wasn't even on a map until I was 14 yo)

**Education:**

- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, MPH
- Radford University, BSMT

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

16 years.

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

Witnessing the inter-workings of government processes and operations. Serving the community in which I live whether that's at the local or state level.

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

Dr. Jocelyn Hicks, Dolly Parton, Cillian Murphy

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

Respect for those serving in the field and adequate and flexible funding. It sounds so simple, but incredibly hard to achieve.

**FAVORITES:**

Strong coffee, dark chocolate and more coffee.

**Hobby:** Purposely getting lost to explore this world...and I crochet

**Food:** My granny's chicken n' dumplings, Mimi Donna's spinach dip (really anything Mimi Donna makes), and Lay's potato chips with French onion dip.

**Movie:** The Royal Tennebaums

**Song/Artist:** It runs the spectrum...right now Tyler Childers, Megan Thee Stallion, and you could probably throw in some Harry Styles.

**Sport/Team:** Whatever sports my kiddos are playing!

**Color:** Green – all shades

**Book:** I recently read "The One" by John Marrs. It was a combination of science and thriller...a needed departure from the nonfiction that I tend to read.



# NCPHA Member Introductions



## Erin Fry Sosne, MPH

*Director of Strategy*

NC DHHS, Division of Public Health

**Hometown:** Fullerton, California

**Education:**

- Scripps College, B.A. in Bioethics
- GWU School of Public Health, MPH Health Policy

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

20+ years.

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

Connecting the dots for impact. I am an inch deep in many aspects of public health, and I love waking up each day thinking about how I can use communications, policy, or partnerships to have impact on a particular issue or population.

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

Malala Yousafzai, Greta Thunberg, and Michelle Obama

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

Flexible funding. While it goes without saying that underfunding is chronic, I can only imagine what we could achieve in public health if we didn't have siloed funding requirements standing in the way of how we worked.

**FAVORITES:**

Waking up early and having coffee before my kids are up, and traveling.

**Hobby:** Spending time with my family

**Food:** Fresh produce

**Song/Artist:** Defy Gravity from Wicked the musical

**Sport/Team:** Carolina Courage

**Color:** Aqua

**Book:** Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH (reading it to my son again and it's so good)



THE ACADEMIC LIASON COMMITTEE  
PROUDLY PRESENTS:

 NCPHA

# THE 2ND ANNUAL PRE-CONFERENCE

## Seminar

Guest speaker:

**JEFFREY  
SIMMS, MSPH**

Assistant Professor  
Director of Student Life  
& Alumni Relations

UNC Gillings School of  
Global Public Health



Let's Talk: Public Health at  
Work, Addressing Resilience  
and Breaking Barriers

SEPT | 25th | 2023 10AM EST

**THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC\***

\*No NCPHA Conference Registration or  
NCPHA Membership Required  
<https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/>

**QR code for  
Registration:**



# FEMININE HYGIENE

# Drive

Every woman deserves access to proper feminine hygiene products. Unfortunately, many girls and women around the world struggle to afford these basic necessities, leading to discomfort and health issues.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED:  
PADS • TAMPONS • PANTY LINERS  
MENSTRUAL CUPS • SANITARY WIPES

NCPHA Young Professionals and Women's and Children's Health Section will collect donations at the 2023 Fall NCPHA Conference September 27 & 28.

Donations can be dropped off in the designated collection bins near the registration area between 8 AM and 5 PM Wednesday and Thursday of the conference.



Proceeds  
Benefitting







North Carolina Public  
Health Association

*Invites You To...*

## NCPHA Scholarship Endowment Walk

\$20 per person  
to register



Registration  
includes  
a T-shirt!

Fall Educational Conference-Concord, N.C.

*September 27, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m.*

# HNC 2030 “WICKED PROBLEM” DATA WALK

The North Carolina Division of Public Health sponsors an annual DATA WALK to check in on twenty-one of the state’s most WICKED PROBLEMS. Wicked problems were first described by environmental health planners in 1973:

## Definition

“Social or cultural issue or concern that is difficult to explain and inherently impossible to solve.”

- Horst Rittel and Max Webber, 1973

► Healthy North Carolina 2030 (HNC 2030) uses population health data indicators to represent WICKED PROBLEMS:

## HNC 2030 Indicators

Poverty	Tobacco Use
Unemployment	Excessive Drinking
School Suspensions	Sugar Sweetened Beverage Consumption
Incarceration	Hiv Diagnosis
ACEs	Teen Births
Third Grade Reading Proficiency	Uninsured
Access to Exercise Opportunities	Primary Care Clinicians
Limited Access to Healthy Foods	Early Prenatal Care
Severe Housing Problems	Suicide
Drug Overdose Deaths	Infant Mortality
	Life Expectancy

► For example, HNC 2030 may define “Poverty” as the percent of families living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, but we experience the wicked problem as “So many poor people!”

## Symptoms of Wicked Problems

So many poor people	Commercial tobacco is killing us
It's hard to find good paying jobs	Drinking is killing us
Too many kids are suspended from school	Sugar is killing us
Prisons are full	HIV should not be killing us
Families can't cope anymore	Young people having babies
Kids can't read	I can't afford health insurance
We are all couch potatoes	That doctor doesn't look like us and doesn't even live here!
Fast food	I saw a doctor with my first two kids
Can't afford housing	Stress is killing us
Drugs are killing us	Babies are dying before their first birthday
	I want to know my caregivers when I am old



Dr. Jennifer Green, Cumberland County Health Director talking with Donnie Varnell, Dare County Sheriff’s Office.

► Take a quick check on how we are doing with these problems as you walk between the conference hotel and convention center. While you are there, pick up a copy of the soon to be released 2023 State Health Improvement Plan. Are we trending in the right direction?

# Academic/Practice Based Research Section

## *Historic Numbers and AHDs- Can APBR Peek Your Interest?*



The Academic/Practice-Based Research (APBR) Section is excited about our slate of sessions in September and we encourage all NCPHA attendees to join us! Our general sessions are focused this year on Academic Health Departments (AHD):

### **Wednesday, September 27**

**1:15PM to 2:45PM**

#### **What is an Academic Health Department?**

Dr. John Wiesman, Associate Dean for Practice at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, will speak about his experience with AHDs in the state of Washington along with real-life AHD practitioners Lisa Macon Harrison (Health Director at Granville Vance District Health Department) and Dr. Carmen Samuel-Hodge (Associate Professor at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health).

**3PM to 4:30PM**

#### **How to Become an Academic Health Department and Make the Most of Your Partnership**

This interactive session, facilitated by Dr. Bonnie Coyle Rocco from the Mecklenburg County Health Department (MCHD), will include presentations/guided discussion by the Academy for Population Health Innovation (APHI) partnership through MCHD and the UNC Charlotte College of Health and Human Services. Participants will then break out into groups to brainstorm and prioritize topics they would like to see/have in an AHD.

### **Thursday, September 28**

**3:30PM to 5PM**

#### **Leveraging Academic Partnerships at the State Level**

This panel session will discuss current state/academic initiatives including the NC Partnership for Excellence in Applied Epidemiology, the Division of Public Health Fellowship Program, the NCDHHS Historically Black College/University and Minority Serving Institutions Internship program, and the Academic Practice Network.

Also, please support our amazing academics, practitioners, and students for our podium presentations and poster session! We had a historic 76 submissions for our peer-reviewed abstract process this year. Competition will indeed be strong for our four prizes this year (one practitioner and one student each for podium presentation and poster)!

**Podium Presentations: Thursday 8:30AM to 10:00AM, 10:30AM to 12PM, 1:30PM-3PM**

**Poster Session/Reception: Thursday 6PM to 8:00PM**

Last, but certainly not least, please join our **APBR Business Meeting on Thursday from 8AM to 8:30AM!** We can't wait to see you in September!





### FAMI Section conference highlights:

- Sessions will include **Prioritizing Business Associate Agreements (BAA) and BAA Security.**
- **Work to a different Beat (Own your mindset, meaning and performance at work and home)** Justin Jones-Fosu, the Author of "Your Why Matters Now".
- **Management support, management team and leadership team "Working Together to Build a Strong Workforce."** This will be a Panel.
- **Bridging the Gap and Collaborating with Community Partners** (Health Departments, DSS, Care 360).
- **Aid to County/ Financial Training with Administrative Consultants.**
- We will be having a **silent auction** with our section located outside of our meeting space.

We are excited to see all of the Finance, Administrative, Management and Office Support people in attendance at the conference. Drop by and see what we are all about! There are tons of networking opportunities and friendships to be made, along with so much information. If you have never attended and are thinking of attending you will not be disappointed if you do. So many people in this group are willing to help you if you need it and are there for you! You can gain so much from just a few days of information, the people in this group know your struggles and they are there to support you and see you succeed. We look forward to seeing you there!

# Nursing Section



The Nursing Section has planned some informative and engaging sessions for this year's NCPHA Fall Educational Conference. In keeping with this year's conference theme, *Remodeling Public Health: Tearing Down Stigma and Building Resilience for a Healthy NC*, we will have a session entitled **Decreasing Opioid Deaths through Evidence-based Harm Reduction**. In this session, Dr. Melissa Floyd-Pickard will share the work of GCSTOP (Guilford County Solution to the Opioid Problem) and its impact on her community. She will address the stigmas associated with opioid addiction and how these may be removed. Dr. Floyd-Pickard is a Social Work Professor at UNC-Greensboro. Also included on Day One of the conference will be Dr. Susan Little's session entitled **News from the Office of the Chief Public Health Nurse**. Dr. Little is currently the Chief Nursing Officer for NC Divisions of Public Health, and Child & Family Well-Being and Head of Local Technical Assistance and Training Branch, NC Division of Public Health.

On Day 2 of the conference, Dr. Cheryl Kovar will speak on **Reproductive Coercion: State of the Science** where she will present her work/research around reproductive coercion and how public health can address it in our communities. Dr. Kovar is an Associate Professor at ECU College of Nursing and has conducted research with some of our North Carolina local health departments. Also

included in Day Two sessions is the **Legal and Legislative Updates** with Jill Moore, MPH, JD and Kirsten Leloudis, MPH, JD both Public Law and Government faculty with UNC Chapel Hill SOG, and NC Child's Sr. Director of Policy and Government Relations, Tiffany Gladney. They will cover current legislative changes affecting our work in public health.

The final session, offered by the Nursing section, will be our **Collaboration Station**. This will involve five concurrent sessions addressing topics of interest submitted by previous NCPHA Conference participants. These topics include stress management/resilience, sheltering, mentoring and recruitment/retention. Each station will have a facilitator, to allow participants to explore these areas or ask questions. (Perhaps the highlight will be the art therapy and pet therapy for stress management!) Please bring your questions!

Attendance at above mentioned sessions will allow participants to earn up to 7.5 contact hours of NC Professional Development through Public Health Nursing Institute for Nursing Excellence (PHNICE). We look forward to seeing you all at this year's Fall Educational Conference!

# Public Health Leadership Section

Thank you for your leadership in all the capacities that you lead. In the field of public health, your leadership is critical to improving the wellbeing of those in your community and in your organization!

Please join the PH Leaders Section Sessions at the Fall Conference in September. We are partnering with other sections and having some sessions that we sponsor with a line-up of engaging speakers presenting on topics of importance to our work! These include:

- Update and Discussion: Strengthening the Public Health Data Ecosystem
- Trauma-Informed Organization Assessment: Durham County Health Department
- Establishing Adult Primary Care Clinics in Local Health Departments
- Coaching Supervisors to Improve Public Health
- CDC's Public Health Infrastructure Grant
- Place-based Health

Consider whether you would be interested in serving in one of these roles for the Section 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

The current leadership team can assist you with becoming established in your role, and it is an excellent way to be more involved with NCPHA and public health leaders from around the state!

Wishing you the best in your leadership journey!

Pamela Brown, Chair of Leadership Section  
pam.brown@lenoircountync.gov  
252-526-4212

**Public Health Infrastructure**  
is made up of the **people, services, and systems** needed to promote and protect health in every U.S. community





# Social Work Section

# SOCIAL WORK

# BREAKS BARRIERS

*Social Work Breaks Barriers That Prevent People and Communities from Thriving*

Welcome to the North Carolina Public Health Association's Social Work Section! We are an active and committed group of public health social work professionals. We cordially invite you to join us at the 2023 Fall Educational Conference. This year's agenda features:

## Wednesday, September 27

**1:15PM to 2:45PM**

**Resilient NC, An overview of the NC Healthy & Resilient Communities Initiative.** (Co-sponsoring with Wellness and Prevention)  
Mebane Boyd

**3PM – 4:30PM**

**Credible Minds, Customizable with organizational and local resources**  
Scott Dahl, Credible Mind provides a complete population-based mental health ecosystem, complete with analytics reporting on service needs, use, and outcomes.

## Thursday, September 28

**8:30AM to 10AM**

**Social Work Section Business Meeting & Awards** (in-person and virtual)

**10:30AM to 12PM**

**Wellness and Self-Care: Find Your Oxygen Mask** (co-sponsoring with Social Work)  
Eric Kilmer, MS, CMHC, LCAS; and April Cline, LCMHC, LCAS-A, NCC

**1:30PM to 3PM**

**Panel Discussion: Increased Anxiety, Depression and Grief Amongst Public Health Workers** (Mega-Collaboration with Advance Practice Providers, Public Health Leadership, Public Health Nursing, and Academia/Private Practice). You don't want to miss this one!  
Moderator: Clarissa Gooding Aytch, MPH, MSW, LCSWA, LCAS

We look forward to seeing you and welcome your energy and your ideas. Your participation is essential for preserving the profession of Public Health Social Work in NC and for helping the residents in our state live happy and healthy lives.

Please join us!

Tia Foula, MPA  
Chair of Public Health Social Work Section  
Tia.Foula@dhhs.nc.gov

# Wellness and Prevention Section



The Wellness and Prevention section has five incredible sessions planned for September's conference! This year's agenda features:

## Wednesday, September 27

**1:15PM to 2:45PM**

**Resilient NC, An Overview of the NC Healthy and Resilient Communities Initiative**  
(co-sponsoring with Social Work)  
Mebane Boyd, MSW, LCSW

**3PM to 4:30PM**

**Community-focused Efforts to Mitigate the Health Effects of Climate Change** (co-sponsoring with Environmental Health and Epi/Stat/Lab)  
Autumn Locklear, MSPH; Sarah Hatcher, PhD; Chris Douglas, MSEM, NRP; Courtney Williams, MPH

## Thursday, September 28

**8:30AM to 10AM**

**Health and Wellness in Public Leaders**  
(focus on boundaries and prioritizing needs)  
Nikki Lewis, MSW, LCSW, LCAS, CCS

**10:30AM to 12PM**

**Wellness and Self-Care: Find Your Oxygen Mask**  
(co-sponsoring with Social Work)  
Eric Kilmer, MS, CMHC, LCAS; and April Cline, LCMHC, LCAS-A, NCC

**1:30PM to 3PM**

**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: The Impact of Alcohol-Exposed Pregnancies**  
Lauren Borchert, BS

**3:30PM to 5PM**

Section Business Meeting

We plan to offer CHES® credits for each session. Lastly, there will be some great silent auction items. Come prepared to bid!



# Women and Children Section

Thank goodness that the hot days of summer are ending soon!! The WCH Section is excited because fall always brings cooler days, beautiful fall colors AND the Fall Educational Conference. This conference is a wonderful opportunity to network within our Section and among the other sections on many topics related to women, children and non-binary people's health. It is also a chance to hear about the great work in child health going on in our many local health departments and their staff across the state during the Glaxo Smith Kline Foundation Child Health Awards.

The WCH Section has several sessions we hope you will consider attending to hear from some of our amazing colleagues and also a youth, young adult, and parent in NC:

## Wednesday, September 27

1:15 to 2:45PM

### How We Got Here, Now to Get There: The Long Tail of Syphilis

Dr. Shannon Dowler, NC DHHS Assistant Secretary Health Access, CMO of NC Medicaid, Author and....

3PM to 4:30PM

### Safe Sleep in NC

Murphy Jones, Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Megan Canady, MSW, MSPH, Research Associate, UNC Collaborative for Maternal and Infant Health Safe Sleep NC, You Quit, Two Quit, Incarcerated Women's Health, Kerry Young, Local Child Fatality Prevention Team Program Manager, DCFW

## Thursday, September 28

9AM to 10AM

### WCH Section Business Meeting

10:30AM to 12PM

### The Importance of Gender Affirming and Informed Health and Mental Health Care

A Panel Facilitated by Kristen Russell, MSW, LCSW Duke Children's Health Center, Child and Adolescent Gender Care Department of Case Management (will include a parent and adolescent and young adult)

1:30PM to 3PM

### Legal and Legislative Updates

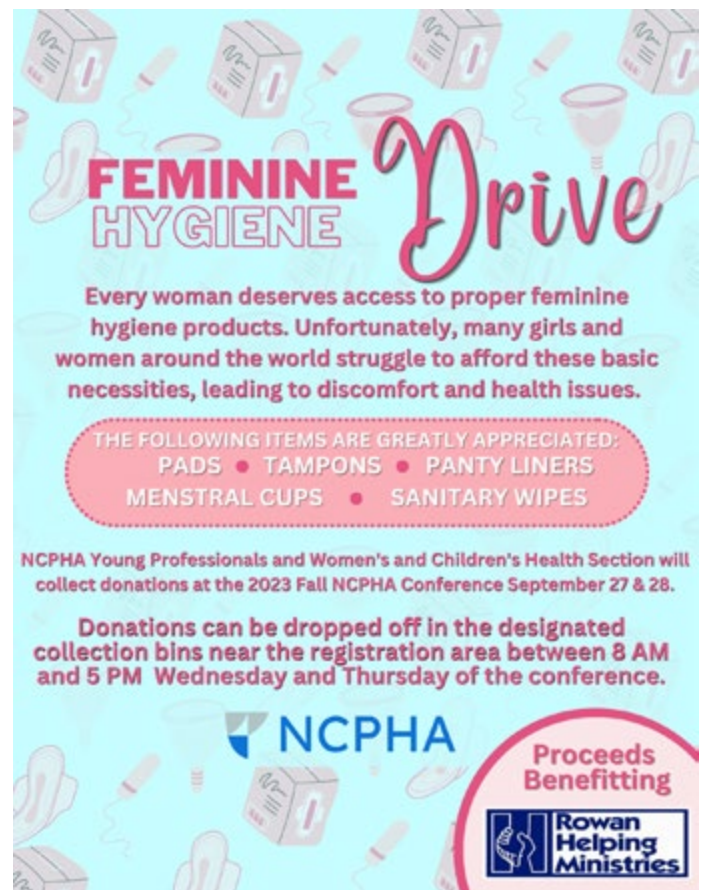
(in partnership with Nursing Section and always an annual favorite)

Jill Moore and Kirsten LeLoudis, UNC SOG Tiffany Gladney, NC Child, Policy and Government Relations

3:30PM to 5PM

### Postpartum Care of Birthing People and Infants

Narges Farahi, MD family physician and associate professor at UNC School of Medicine  
Connie Caudle, MSN, FNP-C, Physician Extender I/  
Nursing Supervisor, Yadkin County Human Services Agency-Medical Clinic



The WCH Section is also working with the Young Professionals Section to hold a Feminine Hygiene Drive to collect donations. Donations can be dropped off in the designated collection bins near the registration area between 8AM and 5PM on Wednesday and Thursday of the conference. Please consider bringing new pads, tampons, panty liners, menstrual cups, and sanitary wipes that many women and girls struggle to afford. Please consider stopping by our WCH Section Business meeting from 9AM to 10AM on September 28. We know that many of you from other sections are members of the WCH Section and this may be during your section meeting. Please consider stopping by to say hello for just a few minutes. Also, if you are not ...continued

## Continued...Women and Children Section

a member of the WCH Section, please consider also joining our section. Please check out our WCH Section web site at: [ncpha.memberclicks.net/women-s-and-childrens-health-section](http://ncpha.memberclicks.net/women-s-and-childrens-health-section). We have all of our section officer slots open except one member at large position (and public affairs committee representative is not an elected position). Please check out our descriptions of our executive committee officers towards the bottom of that web site above. We hope you will consider running for an officer position or starting to join our monthly WCH Section Executive Committee meetings which are open to all WCH Section members.

And please remember that September has a lot of public health awareness days, weeks and months going on:

### Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month

[www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/partners.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/partners.html)

### September 9th is International FASD Day

[canfasd.ca/fasd-awareness-month](http://canfasd.ca/fasd-awareness-month)

### National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

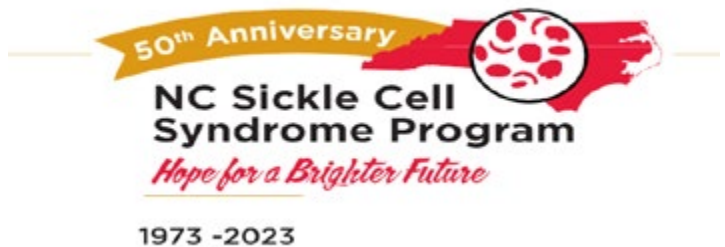
[health.gov/our-work/nutrition-physical-activity/move-your-way-community-resources/campaign-materials/materials-parents](http://health.gov/our-work/nutrition-physical-activity/move-your-way-community-resources/campaign-materials/materials-parents)

### Check out the AAP Institute for Healthy Weight

[www.aap.org/en/patient-care/institute-for-healthy-childhood-weight](http://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/institute-for-healthy-childhood-weight)

### Clinical Practice Guidelines for Management and Treatment of Obesity in Children and Adolescents

[www.aap.org/en/patient-care/institute-for-healthy-childhood-weight/clinical-practice-guideline-for-the-evaluation-and-treatment-of-pediatric-obesity/supporting-the-implementation-of-the-cpg-recommendations](http://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/institute-for-healthy-childhood-weight/clinical-practice-guideline-for-the-evaluation-and-treatment-of-pediatric-obesity/supporting-the-implementation-of-the-cpg-recommendations)



### National Sickle Cell Awareness Month

Check out resources from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at:

[www.nhlbi.nih.gov/education/sickle-cell-month](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/education/sickle-cell-month)

### NC Sickle Cell Syndrome Program:

[ncsicklecellprogram.dph.ncdhhs.gov](http://ncsicklecellprogram.dph.ncdhhs.gov) which celebrated 50 years this year!

### Folic Acid Awareness Week is from September 10-16 with theme as Power to Prevent.

[www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/folicacid/folic-acid-partner-toolkit.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/folicacid/folic-acid-partner-toolkit.html)



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