



## Message from the President

- Iulia Vann, MD, MPH



### Inspiring a Shared Vision: Embracing National Public Health Week and National Social Worker Month in 2024

As the President of the North Carolina Public Health Association, I am thrilled to address our esteemed members in the March issue of our quarterly newsletter. This edition is particularly special as we stand on the cusp of two significant observances: National Public Health Week the first week of April and National Social Worker Month taking place this month. Both events offer us a unique opportunity to reflect on our shared vision for a healthier, more equitable society and the critical roles that public health professionals and social workers play in realizing this vision.

health professionals and social workers play in realizing this vision.

### National Public Health Week: A Unified Call for "Protecting, Connecting, and Thriving"

As we step into the vibrant spring of 2024, the North Carolina Public Health Association is excited to lead the charge in celebrating National Public Health Week (NPHW) from April 1-7. This year's theme, "**Protecting, Connecting, and Thriving: We Are All Public Health,**" is a powerful reminder of our collective responsibility toward fostering healthier communities across North Carolina. NPHW 2024 is not just a celebration; it's a call to action for all of us to engage more deeply with the public health issues that affect our communities. Each day of NPHW is dedicated to a specific theme that addresses critical aspects of public health:

- **Monday: Civic Engagement** - Highlighting the impact of voting and civic participation on public health policies and outcomes.
- **Tuesday: Healthy Neighborhoods** - Focusing on the importance of safe, active, and nourishing environments for community health.
- **Wednesday: Climate Change** - Addressing the urgent need to mitigate climate change for the sake of global health.

...continued



## INSIDE:

Message from the President  
page 1

Executive Director Update  
page 3

Legislative Updates  
page 4

Public Health News  
page 5

NCPHA Member  
Introductions  
page 12

NCPHA Section News  
page 17

## Continued... Message from the President



- **Thursday: New Tools and Innovations** - Exploring how technology can advance public health goals and improve health outcomes.
- **Friday: Reproductive and Sexual Health** - Advocating for accessible and comprehensive reproductive health services for all.
- **Saturday: Emergency Preparedness** - Stressing the importance of being prepared for health emergencies and disasters.
- **Sunday: Future of Public Health** - Envisioning a future where public health efforts are inclusive, addressing racism, and promoting well-being for everyone.

This NPHW, let's amplify our voices to advocate for policies and practices that ensure the health and well-being of all North Carolinians. By protecting our communities, connecting with each other, and thriving together, we embody the true spirit of public health.

### **National Social Worker Month: Celebrating Unsung Heroes**

Concurrently, National Social Worker Month in March shines a spotlight on the unsung heroes who play a pivotal role in our public health ecosystem. Social workers are at the forefront of addressing social determinants of health, advocating for policy changes, and providing support to individuals and communities in need. Their dedication to social justice, human rights, and the well-being of society's most vulnerable is the backbone of a compassionate, inclusive public health strategy.

This month, let us acknowledge the invaluable contributions of social workers. Their work in mental health, children, and elderly wellbeing, and beyond not only enhances individual lives but also strengthens the fabric of our communities. It's a testament to the power of empathy, resilience, and relentless advocacy in driving social change.

As we celebrate these observances, let us also renew our commitment to a shared vision: a North Carolina where every individual has access to the resources they need to live a healthy, fulfilling life. This vision requires collaboration across disciplines, sectors, and communities. It calls for innovation, persistence, and a deep understanding of the complex interplay between health and society.

In the spirit of National Public Health Week and Social Worker Month, I encourage each of you to engage in conversations, participate in community events, and advocate for policies that promote health and well-being. Let's use this time to inspire one another, share best practices, and work together towards a healthier, more equitable future.

Together, we have the power to make a lasting impact. Let's embrace this opportunity to lead with passion, purpose, and a shared vision for the health of North Carolina.

Warm regards,

Iulia Vann  
President, North Carolina Public Health Association

# Executive Director Update

– Patrick Brown, NCPHA Executive Director



NCPHA is off to a strong start in 2024! We are thrilled to be in the middle of a search process for an external partner that will assist in the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for the entire North Carolina Public Health Collaboration. As this effort continues, we will be reaching out to ensure that the voices and priorities of NCPHA members are heard as we develop the strategic plan. On the advocacy and legislative front, we are thrilled to announce that Peg O’Connell has agreed to serve NCPHA in a new role as our contract lobbyist! We look forward to continuing to work with Peg in this capacity. We will also be launching our Voter Voice advocacy platform this legislative session. This platform will allow us to craft messages to NCGA members on issues critical to public health, and to provide an “easy button” for NCPHA members to send these talking points to your respective elected leaders in the North Carolina General Assembly. We intend to soft launch this platform early in the 2024 short session, which will begin in April. After we have launched the system, we will continue to use it when appropriate for advocacy communications.

I also wanted to take a moment of my update in this newsletter to remind NCPHA members that we are still raising funds for the **John Rouse Memorial Scholarship**. John was the long-tenured Local Health Director in Harnett County and was a key leader and mentor to many in North Carolina Public Health. We are excited to announce that we have already raised \$6,000 for this fund and have established an endowment target of \$25,000. In the coming days and weeks there will be more information about opportunities to participate, including a planned fund raiser through the Aging Section. In the meantime, if you’re willing to contribute you can do so via check to NCPHA, mailed to 222 N Person St, Suite 201 Raleigh NC 27601, or online at [ncpha.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com\\_mcform&view=nforms&id=2189992#](https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=nforms&id=2189992#)!

# NCPHA Prepares for 2024 Legislative Short Session

– Peg O’Connell, JD



Peg O’Connell, JD

NCPHA held its first advocacy committee meeting of the year on February 20, in preparation for the 2024 legislative short session. The short session, which is scheduled to convene on April 24, is so-called because it has traditionally been a two-month session focused on making budget adjustments and moving selected bills that have already passed one legislative chamber. How long the 2024 session will last is anyone’s guess, but NCPHA will be monitoring a variety of public health issues and possible regulatory changes.

In early 2023, the Governing Council of NCPHA approved the biennial advocacy agenda for the Association [ncpha.memberclicks.net/advocacy](https://www.ncpha.org/memberclicks.net/advocacy). Two of the major issues on that agenda passed during the last legislative session: Medicaid Expansion and legislation to expand the educational and experience requirements to become a Registered Environmental Health Specialist. NCPHA was also successful in securing \$8 million dollars in local public health funding. Advocacy and education for other items on the legislative priorities list will continue in the short session.

In addition, NCPHA is working in collaboration with the North Carolina Division of Public Health and the Association of Local Health Directors on a legislative request for local public health funding for community based behavioral health interventions. The focus of this request will not be clinical interventions, but upstream programs such as violence interruption and resiliency

training around ACEs. The Public Health Association will also working with Local Health Directors on possible legislation to clarify the academic training and experience levels necessary to be a health director.

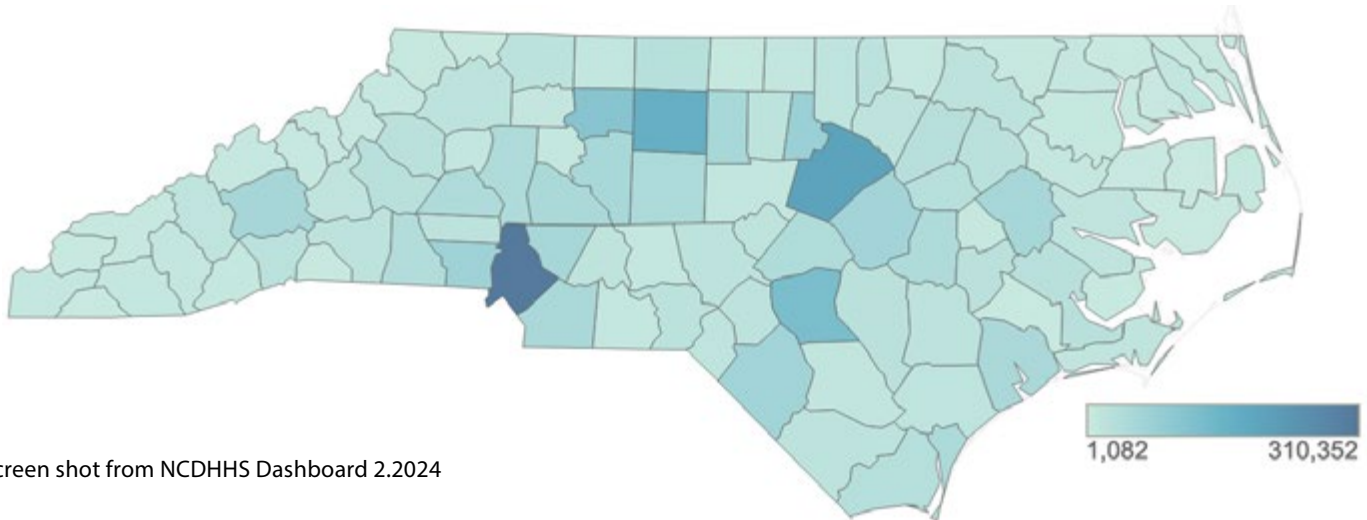
After multiple delays, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services says it’s “on track” to implement specialized Medicaid plans this summer tailored to beneficiaries with complex needs. Now set to launch on July 1, the so-called “tailored plans” are expected to cover about 150,000 existing Medicaid participants who require more extensive care and support than typical enrollees. Many people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, complex psychiatric disorders and substance use disorders will be moved to the plans, according to DHHS.

Unlike standard Medicaid plans, the tailored plans will be administered by a network of four state-funded behavioral health organizations known as LME-MCOs. For the past decade, these regional managed care organizations have been providing access to behavioral health services for people with complex needs across the state, sometimes operating under a cloud of controversy. Now, these regional entities have been tasked with connecting tailored plan participants to both physical and mental health care providers that accept the plans.

The tailored plans were initially scheduled to go live in December 2022, but DHHS delayed the launch to give the LME-MCOs more time to prepare. Additional delays were announced last year, with the department citing a lack of buy-in among some providers.

# NCPHA Hosts Webinar on Medicaid Expansion Enrollment and Outreach

– Peg O’Connell, JD



NCPHA hosted its first lunchtime webinar of 2024 on Friday, February 9 on the topic of Medicaid Expansion in North Carolina. Abby Emanuelson and Peg O’Connell of expansion coalition Care4Carolina briefed the 53 attendees on enrollment numbers and outreach efforts across the state.

“Medicaid Expansion enrollment began on December 1 and nearly 350,000 were enrolled by the first week in February,” said Abby Emanuelson. “This is a remarkable achievement and our colleagues at NCDHHS are to be commended for their work,” said Emanuelson.

Emanuelson and O’Connell also advised attendees on key facts of about applying and getting approved for expanded Medicaid. “One of the most important things to remember is that anyone who applied for Medicaid in December will have coverage retroactive to the first of December 2023 and anyone who applies in 2024 can request coverage be retroactive for 90 or to December 1, whichever date is sooner,” said Peg O’Connell. “Coverage can take up to 45 days to go into effect, so this retroactive provision provides those new to the Medicaid program protection for expenses while their application is pending,” O’Connell said.

People enrolling in expanded Medicaid will be able to choose a health plan and a primary care physician, however, if they don’t make a choice at time of enrollment, they will be auto-assigned to one of the Medicaid managed care plans. Enrollees who are auto-assigned will then have 90 days to choose a different health plan if they wish.

There are several pathways to enroll in Medicaid aimed at providing the smoothest process for potential enrollees.

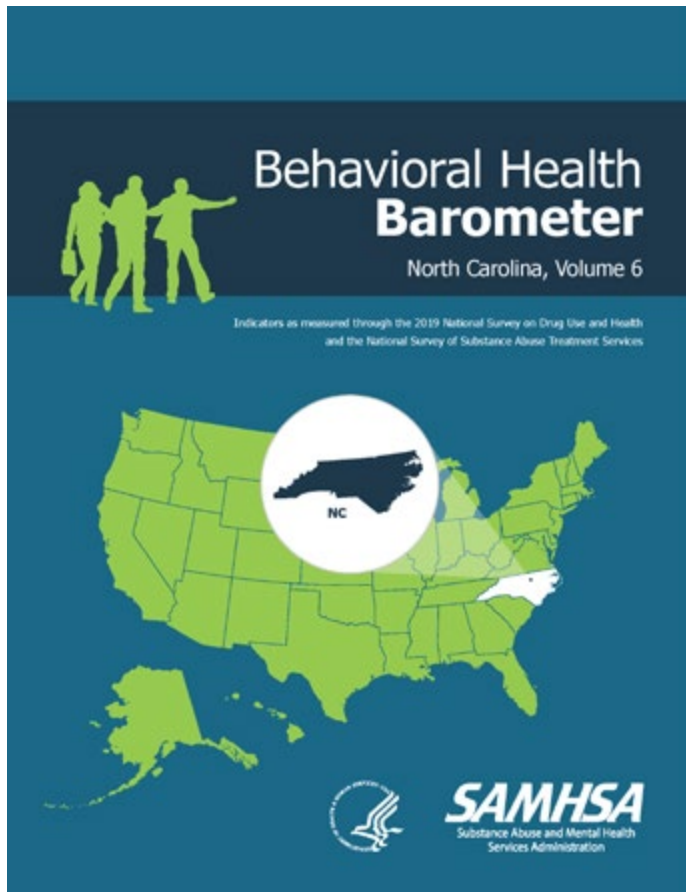
Enrollees can apply through the state’s ePASS system, via [Healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or by visiting or calling their local county Department of Social Services. Some people may also be able to enroll at their local hospital and certain individuals on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) may be auto enrolled in Medicaid via the Social Security Administration.

According to Emanuelson, outreach and enrollment events are held across the state and are a key way that North Carolinians can find out about eligibility and how to sign up. “Care4Carolina is working with community partners and community health workers to get the word out and we will hold several events in eastern and central North Carolina in March and April,” she said. “We hope NCPHA members will help us spread the word about this important benefit.”

NCPHA members with questions about who and how to enroll in expanded Medicaid can click [Questions and Answers about Medicaid Expansion | NC Medicaid \(ncdhhs.gov\)](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/medicaid-expansion-questions-answers). In addition, NCHHS has created a dashboard to track how enrollment numbers are proceeding and providing a snapshot on how enrollment growing in each of the state’s [100 counties Enrollment Dashboard | NC Medicaid \(ncdhhs.gov\)](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/medicaid-enrollment-dashboard)

The Medicaid Expansion webinar was funded by a grant through Region IV Public Health Community Based Training. NCPHA members with ideas for future trainings should contact Kim Dittmann at [kdittmann@ncapha.org](mailto:kdittmann@ncapha.org). You can access a recording of the webinar here: [zoom.us/rec/share/mmRkFe9OL3878OnKzchKG7-F\\_Mj4uG1I39sIQ8VhHRbHWIBPIjngOObZgX78IBgW.UNpYJkvUdQOiiVzA](https://zoom.us/rec/share/mmRkFe9OL3878OnKzchKG7-F_Mj4uG1I39sIQ8VhHRbHWIBPIjngOObZgX78IBgW.UNpYJkvUdQOiiVzA)

# Project THRIVE: Treatment, Health services, and Recovery through Integrated care in Vance and Granville Counties



Granville Health System and Maria Parham Health), received funding for a competitive Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant to expand and sustain behavioral health services for children and adolescents and to prevent substance misuse, **Project THRIVE: Treatment, Health services, and Recovery through Integrated care in Vance and Granville Counties**. Project **THRIVE** provides new services, augments existing services and builds capacity and community collaborations to address the pressing behavioral health and substance use prevention in children and adolescents.

The **THRIVE** team along with partners will 1) establish new behavioral health prevention, treatment, and recovery services for children and adolescents aged 5-17 years; 2) Improve the capacity of rural health care providers, paraprofessionals, non-clinical staff, and community members to care for and support children and adolescents aged 5-17 with behavioral health needs, through providing training and peer mentorship opportunities; and 3) Build community partnerships to ensure that children and adolescents, and their families, have access to community resources and human services that support prevention of, treatment of, and recovery from behavioral health disorders.

Addressing substance use and mental health issues in youth is a community priority in Granville and Vance Counties. North Carolina data now show alarming rates of behavioral health needs among children and adolescents, with significant increases in the number experiencing moderate to severe anxiety and depression. In addition, substance use (including illicit drugs, alcohol use and tobacco use) remain elevated in youth and treatment is lacking.<sup>2</sup>

To address these community needs, Granville Vance Public Health (GVPH) and its partners (Granville and Vance County Public Schools, VAYA Health, Granville and Vance County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC),

**THRIVE** builds on a strong history of prior funding and successful programming to support addressing mental health, behavioral health and substance use in rural Granville and Vance Counties and leverages the Rural Academic Health Department Model at GVPH to bridge and leverage academia/academic resources to amplify public health practice. The project kicked off this past November with a visit at GVPH from Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and HRSA Administrator Carole Johnson.

## REFERENCES

1. North Carolina Child Report Card. Children's Mental Health. <https://ncchild.org/publications/2023-child-health-report-card/>
2. Behavioral Health Barometer, North Carolina, Volume 6. [https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt32850/NorthCarolina-BH-Barometer\\_Volume6.pdf](https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt32850/NorthCarolina-BH-Barometer_Volume6.pdf). Accessed 4/8/23.

# Narcan Kiosk Launched in Alamance County



The Alamance County Health Department, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina's Healthy Blue Medicaid plan, and Vaya Health partnered to launch the first Narcan kiosk in Alamance County. The machine is inside the Human Services Center which houses the Health Department and Department of Social Services.

Narcan is a life-saving medication that can reverse opioid overdoses. The kiosk is a vending machine that provides free Narcan nasal spray for anyone in the community. As overdoses and deaths continue to impact Alamance County, a Narcan kiosk is an important way for the community to access this lifesaving medication. For additional information contact Alamance County Health Department at 336-513-4761.

March is National Social Work Month!



Be sure to thank your Social  
Worker colleagues this month as  
we celebrate National Social Work  
Month!

The North Carolina Public Health Social Work Continuing Education and Training Advisory Committee (CETAC) are presenting the Kelly Spangler Public Health Social Work Conference Thursday, March 28 in Colfax. Registration closed on February 29, but you can check out the agenda on the following page or here: [ncpha.memberclicks.net/public-health-social-work-conference](https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/public-health-social-work-conference)



# Kelly Spangler NC Public Health Social Work Conference

Date: March 28, 2024

The Conference Center at Guilford Technical Community College Colfax, NC

*DRAFT AGENDA*

- 8:30 am**      **Registration/Coffee**
- 9:00**            **Welcome and Announcements**  
Brandy Chrismon, MSW, CCM, Regional Social Work Consultant  
Maternal Health Branch- Women, Infant and Community Wellness Section
- 9:15**            **Opening Session—**  
Senator Sydney Batch JD/MSW, NC Senate District 17
- 10:15**          **Break/Visit Exhibitors**
- 10:30**          **Morning Breakout Sessions**
- A. Social Work and Ethics**  
Valerie Arendt, MSW, MPP, Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers and  
Karen McLeod Ray, MSW, LCSWA, CMARC Supervisor, Durham County Department of Public Health
- B. What if There's No Such Thing as Client Resistance?**  
Michael E. McGuire, LCSW, LCAS, LMFT, CCS, MINT Trainer, UNC School of Social Work  
Clinical Assistant Professor, Director Substance Use & Addictions Specialist Program
- C. Fatherhood**  
Diggs Williams, LCSW & Juan Irby PD, LD, NPE, From Dad to Doula
- D. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: The Impact of Alcohol Exposed Pregnancies**  
Amy Hendricks, Proof Alliance NC Training Coordinator, The Arc of North Carolina
- 12:00 pm**      **Networking Lunch**
- 1:00**            **Afternoon Breakout Sessions**
- A. Hear Me Out: Cultural Competence in Healthcare for Deaf Women**  
Melanie Vick, LCSW, LCAS, Blue Ridge Behavioral Health
- B. Doulas and Medicaid in NC**  
Tara Owens Shuler, M.Ed., LCCE, CD(DONA), Branch Head, Maternal Health Branch-Women, Infant  
and Community Wellness Section
- C. Health, Adversity and the Roots of Disparities**  
Ann Bullock, MD, Former Director (Retired), Director of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention, Indian  
Health Service
- D. "Reframing Resilience: Thriving in a Changing World"**  
Ebony Rao, M.A., Ed.M., LCMHCS, Sr. Program Manager ReCASTII (Resiliency in Communities After  
Stress and Trauma, Mecklenburg County Department of Public Health
- 2:30**            **Break/Afternoon Snack**
- 2:45**            **Closing Session**  
Brandy Chrismon, MSW, CCM and Deborah Smith, MSW, LCSW, Regional Social Work Consultant  
Maternal Health Branch- Women, Infant and Community Wellness Section
- 3:45 pm**      **Adjourn**

# Environmental Health Scholarships and Awards 2024

Consider applying or nominating someone to be honored at the Fall Education Conference

Applicant must be a member in good standing



Applications must be received by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024



Open to students and practicing EHS

Applications can be found at <https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/environmental-health>  
Please send packets to: [amanda\\_nester@onslowcountync.gov](mailto:amanda_nester@onslowcountync.gov)

The Environmental Health Section will choose deserving Environmental Health Specialists who are working on expanding his or her environmental health knowledge, skills, and professionalism. They will have performed professional duties in the field of environmental health above and beyond the usual employment requirements.





Registration and  
More Information.

## SAVE THE DATE

Day 1: Operations

Day 2: Strategy

Day 3: Technical

JOIN US! Registration is Open

Join us for an unparalleled gathering at the forefront of public health data innovation & improvement!

This three-day event – designed by North Carolina, for North Carolina – will focus on multiple levels of solution & opportunity. We will gather together to **create up-to-date knowledge, plans, partnerships, and the technical expertise** we need for the public health data system in our state to reach its incredible potential. Immerse yourself in practice-based discussions, hands-on workshops, problem-solving sessions, and technical skills trainings designed to build our individual collective clarity, connection, and capacity.

Whether you're a seasoned professional or new to the field, student or faculty, quantitative or qualitative, population or performance, research or practice, public or private, local, Tribal, or state public health, and whether you consider yourself a “data person” or not... we hope to see you there.

Join us and be part of a growing and vibrant community committed to leveraging data for positive change. Together, let's unlock the potential of data to drive innovation, inform decision-making, and ultimately improve health outcomes for all.

If you are interested in being a sponsor or a vendor for this event, please contact Kim Dittmann at [kdittmann@ncapha.org](mailto:kdittmann@ncapha.org). For questions about the gathering or to get involved as a speaker or volunteer, please reach out to Amanda Blackwelder

# NCPHA

# Member

# Introductions

This issue we're featuring section leadership for the four newest NCPHA sections – **Diana Hills**, Section Chair, Emergency Preparedness and Response, **Kiara Davis**, Section Chair, Aging, **Velma Taormina**, Section Chair, Medical Directors' and **Amanda Pollard**, Secretary/Treasurer and Public Awareness Committee Representative, Advanced Practice Providers' Section. If you're not a member of any of these four sections, you can use the Section Membership form to join: [ncpha.memberclicks.net/sectiondues](https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/sectiondues).

# NCPHA Member Introductions



## Diana Hills, MAS

*Emergency Preparedness Coordinator*

Brunswick County Health Services

**Hometown:** Greensboro, North Carolina

**Education:**

- Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Master of Applied Science in Spatial Analysis
- East Carolina University, Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education

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

9 years.

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

That each day is different and working with a variety of community partners.

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

My Grandfather, John Snow, and Catherine Wolfe Donohue (one of the Radium Girls)

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

To have elected officials invest funds and resources to public health so we can maintain and expand our services to meet the needs of our communities.

**FAVORITES:**

**Hobby:** I love to bake and read

**Food:** Lasagna but really anything Italian

**Movie:** Young Frankenstein

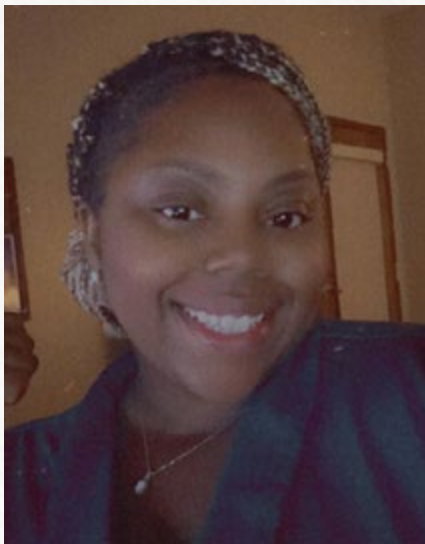
**Song/Artist:** Jefferson Starship

**Sport/Team:** ECU (Go PIRATES) and Pittsburgh Steelers, Penguins and Pirates

**Color:** Blue

**Book:** I love books but my overall favorite one is Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

# NCPHA Member Introductions



## Kiara Davis, MPH

*Informatics Trainer*

Mecklenburg County Public Health

**Hometown:** Salisbury, North Carolina

**Education:**

- UNC-Charlotte – MPH

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

8 years.

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

Helping people gain a better understanding of data literacy and helping behind the scenes!

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

Michelle Obama, Megan Pete, and Viola Davis!

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

I would change how we utilize vacant hotels. I would create a stipend for hotels to let those suffering from homelessness stay the night when a room is available. I would also like to develop a plan for them to be reintegrated back into society.

**FAVORITES:**

**Hobby:** Working out – traveling; Vacations & spending time with family!

**Food:** Chickfila spicy sandwich w/ CJ cheese & French fry with blue power aid.

**Movie:** Black Panther

**Song/Artist:** Drake

**Sport/Team:** Dallas Cowboys

**Color:** Green

**Book:** Becoming Me: Viola Davis

# NCPHA Member Introductions



## Velma Taormina, MD, MSE, FAACOg

*Associate Medical Director Consultant for Women's Health for NC Division of Health Benefits*

*Mecklenburg County Health Department Family Planning Program Medical Director*

NC Division of Health Benefits, Mecklenburg County Health Department

**Hometown:** Corpus Christi, Texas

### **Education:**

- Ob/Gyn Residency Program, Board Certified, University of Kentucky
- MD from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (Lubbock, TX)
- MS Biomedical Engineering and BA Biology from the University of Texas at Austin

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

Since August 2004. Served at the Gaston County DHHS for 15+ years as their Medical Director before transitioning to policy work.

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

The ability to merge patient care with health care policy to ensure that our patients are receiving the best care possible.

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

- My paternal grandfather to discuss his decision to leave Mexico and travel to Texas in 1923.
- My maternal grandmother to discuss her family's history
- My husband's maternal grandfather to delve into all of the family secrets surrounding their family's legacy in Italy.

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

I would streamline the work flow processes and then fully fund all of the positions needed to do our work.

### **FAVORITES:**

**Hobby:** Genealogy

**Food:** Brisket

**Movie:** Mamma Mia 2

**Song/Artist:** Anything by Enrique Iglesias

**Sport/Team:** Dallas Cowboys

**Color:** Black

**Book:** In this last year: Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly. Overall, any of the Harry Potter books.

# NCPHA Member Introductions



## Amanda Pollard MMSc, PA-C

*Advanced Practice Provider  
Clinical Quality Manager*

Johnston County Health Department

**Hometown:** St Marys, Pennsylvania

**Education:**

- Campbell University, BA - Criminal Justice
- Methodist University, MMSc - Physician Assistant

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

10.5 years

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

I have always enjoyed working with patients who need help accessing medical care of all varieties. The critical thinking process and patient relationships are what I value the most!

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

RBG (Ruth Bader Ginsburg), Kamala Harris, and Taylor Swift. I would love to have conversations with powerful women in leadership who have broke barriers during our time.

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

I would want local, state, and federal leaders to all know and understand the importance of the work all public health workers do and create better funding and support for agencies and our missions.

**FAVORITES:**

**Hobby:** Painting

**Food:** My grandmother's homemade pizza

**Movie:** Avatar, Moulin Rouge

**Song/Artist:** Ed Sheeran, Bruno Mars,

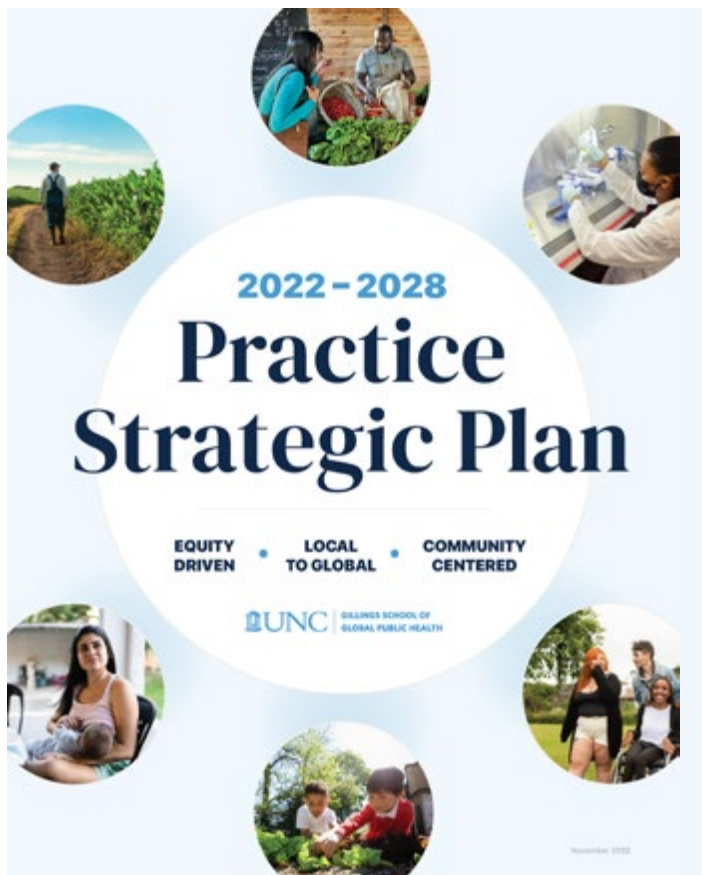
**Sport/Team:** Carolina Panthers

**Color:** Purple

**Book:** Oh the Places You'll Go - By Dr Seuss



# Academic/Practice Based Research Section



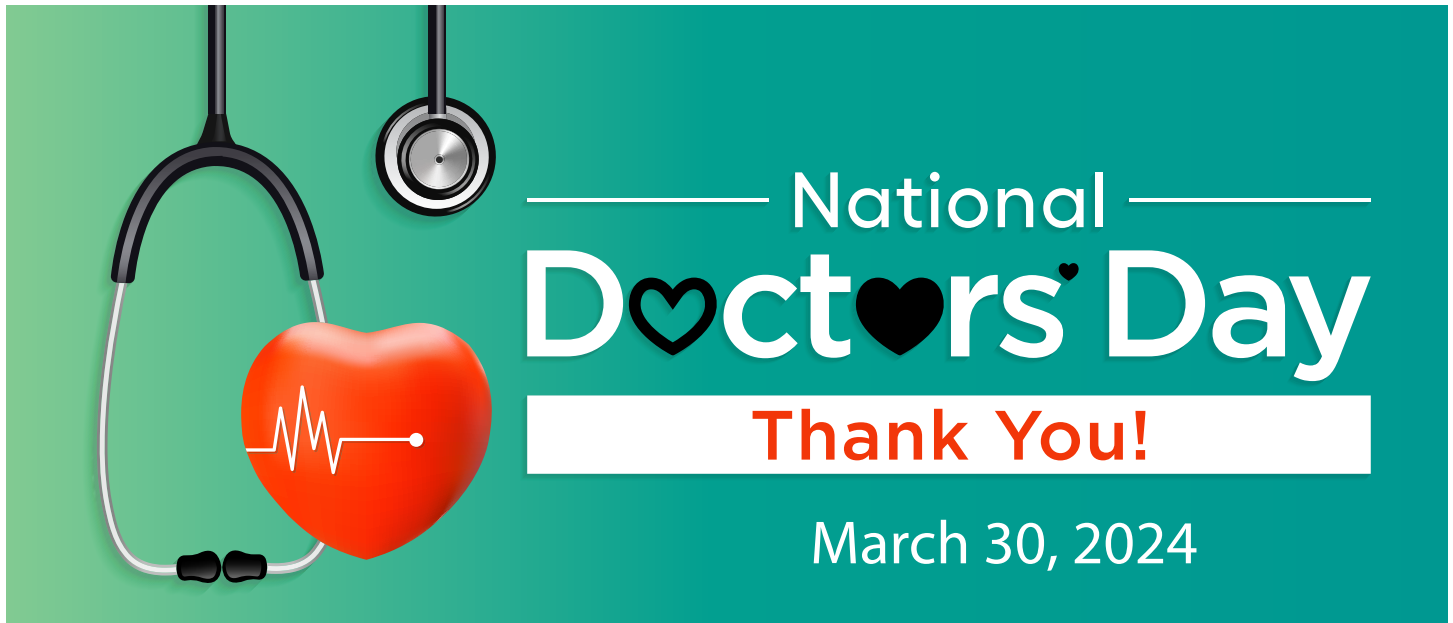
The Academic Practice Based Research (APBR) section of NCPHA is delighted to welcome the newest member of section leadership, Ashley Jarrett! Ashley is the Assistant Health Director of Burke County and brings passion for both on-the-ground public health practice and academic innovation. Ashley will serve as the Fall Education Conference liaison and joins secretary/treasurer Josh Fisher and practice co-chair Bonnie Coyle, both of Mecklenburg County, and academic co-chair Rose Byrnes of the North Carolina Institute for Public Health on the leadership team.

This year in the APBR section, we will be developing and launching a program to pair public health practitioners and academics to spur collaboration and innovation around challenges in public health practice. We will be convening APBR section membership this spring to solicit ideas and begin a co-design process that will culminate in a launch of the program at the Fall Education Conference. An invitation will be sent out to APBR section members in the next few weeks. If you're not sure if you're a member, you can check your profile on the NCPHA website. If you'd like to join the section, please complete the section dues form: [ncpha.memberclicks.net/sectiondues](https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/sectiondues)

The APBR section would also like to highlight a new academic-practice innovation: Public Health Partnership Hubs. The UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health has been actively implementing their **Practice Strategic Plan** which shares the vision of elevating and better supporting practice at Gillings so the school can help meet communities' public health opportunities and challenges. An ongoing initiative from the strategic plan is the creation of Public Health Partnership Hubs. Four pilot Hubs are in development with the health departments in Jackson, Halifax, Durham and Cumberland counties. The Hubs are centers of engagement that will receive high intensity support and resources from the Gillings School to accelerate the community identified priorities and improve health. Some of the resources Gillings intends to supply are funding, student expertise, faculty technical assistance, a full-time community hub coordinator, and more depending on the needs of each community. Another aim of the Hubs is to experiment for future academic-practice relationships and structures outside of academic health departments.

# Medical Director's Section

- Velma V. Taormina, MD, Section-Chair



Your section leaders are expanding the resources available to medical directors who work in public health. We are doing this by being creative and using the talents of our team members.

## Our goals for this year:

- **Expand communication lines:**
  - Shauna Guthrie has created a FB Group and it can be found by clicking on this link: [facebook.com/groups/339163771833663](https://facebook.com/groups/339163771833663) or by searching for NC LHD Medical Directors.
  - Use the NC DHHS Medical Director's listserv to share meeting info and other updates. You can send relevant material to [doug.urland@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:doug.urland@dhhs.nc.gov).
- **Expand our membership:** We invite all medical directors or resident members to join us when they register/renew for NCPHA. We are asking that everyone personally invite their fellow medical directors or interested residents to apply. This can be done through this link: [NCPHA Join Now](#)
- **Create a robust agenda for the NCPHA Fall Educational Meeting.** What topics would you like to learn about? Send your session ideas to [velma.taorminamd@gmail.com](mailto:velma.taorminamd@gmail.com).

## Medical Director's section officers:

**Chair:** Velma V. Taormina, MD, MSE

**Secretary:** Kimberly Newton, MD

**Treasurer:** Jennifer Mullendore, MD, MSPH

**Resident Representative:** Cate Lynn, MD, MPH

## Opportunities for Networking and Professional Development:

- 2024 Public Health Leaders' Conference, Theme: Foundations of Public Health Excellence: Charting our Course for Success, March 14-15, 2024, Hilton Raleigh North Hills
- 2024 NC Annual STI Update, virtual on March 20, 2024 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
- NCMS 2024 Advocacy Summit, March 23rd, McKimmon Center in Raleigh

March is a busy month, yet I'm eager to take a moment to acknowledge our physician leaders as we approach Doctor's Day on March 30. Allow me to extend my gratitude in advance for the invaluable leadership you provide in the realm of public health.

# Public Health Leadership Section



Several NCPHA sections, including the PHL section, will be offering some virtual training in April. The topic is *Leading Where You Are: A Holistic Approach to Personal Leadership Development*. More information will be forthcoming as the date approaches. Look for emails from Kim Dittmann.

The Leadership Section Officers are excited to begin planning the presentations for the Fall Educational Conference. If you have an idea for a speaker and/or topic, please email the details to Pamela Brown ([pam.brown@lenoircountync.gov](mailto:pam.brown@lenoircountync.gov)) or Sarah Banks ([Sarah.Banks@haywoodcountync.gov](mailto:Sarah.Banks@haywoodcountync.gov)). The section members

have always provided excellent suggestions, and we look forward to your input for this year's conference as well!

For a future edition of the newsletter, I would like to feature quotes from Leadership Section members about what Public Health Leadership looks like or means to you. Please send your thoughts to Pamela Brown: [pam.brown@lenoircountync.gov](mailto:pam.brown@lenoircountync.gov).

You are appreciated for the leaders you are today and for the leadership you will provide to public health in the future.



## 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](http://ncpha.memberclicks.net)



---

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