

# NCPHA E-Newsletter

August 2017

Newsletter from the NC Public Health Association and the NCPHA Public Awareness Committee

## Message from the President

– Josh Swift



While summertime may be a slower pace for many of us, those of us who work in local and statewide public health know that public health never takes a day off. From making sure babies and mothers have their nutritional needs met to ensuring that we have healthy food at local restaurants and clean water flowing from our faucets. Public health affects us all each and every day.

I know that several individuals and sections have been busy planning our fall educational conference. I want to thank in advance, President-Elect, Brittan Wood, for her leadership in planning this large event and the members of her planning committee. In this issue, we highlight the fall 2017 conference, Public Health Today = A Healthy Tomorrow, and I sincerely hope that you will be able to join us in Asheville.

As you may recall from the last newsletter, NCPHA is working with the NC Medical Society to develop a leadership program for new public health professionals. The program is highlighted further in this newsletter and will help us mentor and grow the next generation of public health leaders.

Finally, I want to thank you for letting me serve as the NCPHA President this past year. It has been a honor to represent the public health professionals of North Carolina.

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# NCPHA Advocacy Efforts/Legislative Wrap-up



NCPHA advocacy efforts were off to a fast start with the beginning of the long session of the 2017 North Carolina General Assembly. The General Assembly created its biennial budget and continued its efforts toward regulatory reform. Thanks to NCPHA's advocacy efforts and close alignment with partner organizations, public health saw several successes this year and avoided a few not-so-good outcomes for environmental health and local health departments.

## **NCPHA TEACHES CIVICS 101**

The Spring meeting of NCPHA was billed as a “giant civics lesson,” for new and long-time NCPHA members. The focus of the day-long meeting, which hosted 150 people, was to teach advocates the nuts and bolts of how

state government works and how bills and regulations are actually made. The day was kicked off by Dr. Andrew Taylor from NC State University providing an overview on the structure of state government and the checks and balances put in place by the Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches. The next session featured long time health advocates Pam Seamans and Betsy Vetter providing a real-life example of how a bill actually becomes law (North Carolina's smoke free bar and restaurant law) and tools advocates can use to be effective. Other sessions featured small group discussions with representatives of the three branches of government, including Supreme Court Justice Barbara Jackson. The hope for the day was that members could pick up skills to make them strong advocates for good public health policy.



# Continued...NCPHA Advocacy Efforts/Legislative Wrap-up

## **TRAINING GOES INTO PRACTICE**

It didn't take long for NCPHA members to put the new skills into action. When called for help with needs for information, technical expertise and local advocacy efforts, NCPHA members really made a difference this past session. Several good things happened for public health this year and will help to build a base for further progress next year.

## **LEGISLATIVE WINS**

**Rabies Bill Passes:** A big win for public health was the enactment of a bill that will bring North Carolina into line with the national Compendium on Rabies Prevention and Control. Adoption of this bill will result in: Improved guidance for local health director on the management of actual and/or suspected rabies exposures; allow for the efficient and effective management of animals suspected of having been exposed to rabies (e.g. fewer animals euthanized; and, more never vaccinated dogs and cats placed under quarantine (not euthanized) for shorter period of time – four months); and, a decreased financial burden to pet owners.

**Corner Store Program Funded Again:** \$250,000 was appropriated to create a statewide HCSI in North Carolina. This program will promote the elimination of food deserts, which would lead to an increase in the amount of healthy food being offered in existing small retail stores in low- and moderate-income communities.

**Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs Funded:** For the first time in five years, the state invested funds, \$500,000, in youth tobacco prevention programs. This funding will be used by the state Tobacco Control Branch to begin to rebuild the award winning statewide program that was so successful in reducing youth tobacco use rates in North Carolina. Since the programs ceased there has been an 888% increase in the number of children trying e-cigarettes. This year's budget also contained an additional \$500,000 for Quitline NC and the You Quit-Two Quit Program aimed at helping pregnant women quit tobacco use.

**Medicaid Expansion Bill Introduced:** Although it did not pass, North Carolina saw its first bi-partisan Medicaid expansion bill introduced. Titled "Carolina Cares" the bill would have created an affordable insurance product for those left in the coverage gap under the Affordable Care Act. The introduction of this bill provided the first meaningful

opportunity for discussion of the issue in recent legislative sessions. NCPHA was one of the first organizations to express support for the concept and will continue to work with coalition partner Care4Carolina to advocate for a North Carolina solution for covering the uninsured.

**Money for Safety-net Providers:** The new state budget also contained \$7.5 million in funds for North Carolina's safety net providers. The funds will be distributed by a grant process through the Office of Rural Health. Local Health Departments are eligible and urged to apply.

## **NCPHA PLAYS GOOD DEFENSE**

Sometimes the most important thing in a legislative session is what DOES NOT happen, and that was the case for this session for public health. NCPHA, in collaboration with the Local Health Directors, was able to stop three provisions that would have greatly weakened environmental health protections at the local level. One bill, The Business Freedom Act, would have retroactively re-validate expired septic system permits going back to the year 2000. Another, The Regulatory Reform Act, would have given local health department EXCLUSIVE authority, for permitting and inspecting well plumbing and electrical systems, a function traditionally performed by building code inspectors. Finally, NCPHA was able to remove another provision inserted at the last minute into a larger bill that would have changed standards and rule making for requirements for onsite wastewater systems. The provision would have allowed each county to create its own rules on the siting and installation of septic tank systems.

Members of the Environmental Health Section get a special shout-out for their work in providing technical information and local advocacy efforts to legislators and county commissioners. Their insight and advocacy into the long term impact and expense of these types of regulatory changes was the key to NCPHA's success.

## **WHAT'S NEXT**

The legislature technically "adjourned" at the end of June, but has already scheduled three special sessions for August, September and November. These special sessions are generally limited come one topic, like legislative redistricting, but anything could happen so NCPHA will stay vigilant and keep members informed about the "next big thing" coming for public health.



# What's new with the Young Professionals of NCPHA!

Young Professionals of the NC Public Health Association

## Healthy Baby Initiative Service Project



# BABY SUPPLIES DRIVE



UNEXPIRED GOODS & NON PERISHABLE

September 27 - September 29, 2017

Drop off at YP table (near registration) during the  
Fall NCPHA Conference.

- \* At least 1 high need item = raffle ticket! \*
- \* High need = diapers, pull-ups, & wipes.

[tiny.cc/moreinfo](http://tiny.cc/moreinfo) • [www.mannafoodbank.org](http://www.mannafoodbank.org)  
[YPCPHA@gmail.com](mailto:YPCPHA@gmail.com)

NCPHA's Young Professionals Caucus is continuing to grow, and featured new networking opportunities this year. In March, we partnered with East Carolina University's Master of Public Health students to host a social at Trollingwood Taproom & Brewery in Greenville, NC. Young professionals, students, and professors filled the room, and the evening featured team trivia and information about grant writing and public health funding provided by March of Dimes, Eastern AHEC, and Pitt County Health Department.

After the NCPHA Spring Conference we held a Meet & Greet at Skybox Grill & Bar in Raleigh. Attendees included young professionals from the coast to the foothills. This event was all about networking and learning about one another. We were fortunate to have a couple seasoned environmental health specialists and a health director join the fun too! Between the two events we had over 40 people attend and raffled off three NCPHA annual memberships and a NCPHA t-shirt.

NCPHA Young Professionals will be "Popping Up" at the BBQ Dinner on September 27<sup>th</sup> during the Fall Educational Conference. Be sure to register today to join us! We are also supporting NCPHA's Healthy Babies Initiative and Manna Food Bank by setting up a Baby Drive during the conference. Please bring your donations to the conference including diapers, pull-ups, wipes, baby food, infant cereal, and formula to support the cause and to be entered into a raffle. Check your inbox and follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ypncpha](http://www.facebook.com/ypncpha)) to learn more!



# North Carolina Joins Rest of Nation by “Raising the Age”

By Adam Sotak, NC Child



After decades of advocacy by a wide range of organizations, elected officials, and concerned citizens, the North Carolina FY 2017-18 state budget includes language that raises the age of juvenile jurisdiction from 16 to 18 for adolescents charged with misdemeanors and low-level felonies. This policy change will make our communities safer and provide our youth with the best chance for success in life. Thousands of our children will no longer be burdened by criminal records as they apply for jobs and college; rather, they will receive family-focused, age-appropriate treatment that is proven to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes.

NC Child and other members of the Raise the Age NC Coalition applaud our state legislators and Gov. Roy Cooper for enacting this needed change. Key leaders in the North Carolina General Assembly include Representatives Chuck McGrady (R-Henderson), Susan Martin (R-Pitt), David Lewis (R-Harnett), Duane Hall (D-Wake), and Marcia Morey (D-Durham), as well as Senators Tamara Barringer (R-Wake) and Danny Britt, Jr. (R-Robeson). Much credit must also be given to NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Martin who in recent years has made the raise the age issue the number one priority for court reform efforts in our state.

Prior to this year, North Carolina is one of only two states that automatically charged all 16- and 17-year-olds as adults, regardless of the crime. Both North Carolina and New York passed raise the age legislation this year joining the rest of the nation. One of the most heartening aspects of this successful advocacy effort was that it was refreshing

bi-partisan. This shows that when groups and lawmakers work together -- relying on good data and evidence to drive a public policy solution -- we can make real change happen. This is a strong lesson and model in an age of hyper-partisanship.

Advocates for this change pointed out that recidivism rates among 16-and 17-year olds handled by the adult criminal justice system are more than twice as high as those served by the juvenile justice system. Youth in the adult system are also more likely to re-offend in more serious and violent ways. North Carolina's juvenile justice system has a track record of providing effective services to youth as proven by the 37 percent reduction in the juvenile delinquency rate since 2000. The juvenile system is the appropriate system to handle youth, especially youth who accused of minor misbehavior. This ultimately means that raising the age is also fiscally responsible, saving taxpayer dollars.

In addition, medical professionals and public health advocates consistently emphasized the fact that the adolescent brain is still developing. Character, personality traits, and the behavior of adolescents are highly receptive to change. Adolescents respond well to interventions, can learn to make responsible choices, and are likely to grow out of negative or delinquent behavior. The juvenile justice system is far better equipped to facilitate these needed interventions than the adult system.

Disability Rights NC and other disability advocates also consistently point out that two-thirds of children in the criminal justice system have a least one disability. The juvenile justice system is far more effective setting for these children than the adult criminal justice system, because it offers needed services and support that can help youth with disabilities stay on track in the future.

The raise the age legislation does not apply to all criminal offenses for 16- and 17- year olds. Violent felonies will continue to be prosecuted in the adult system (Felony Classes A – G). However, data shows that over 90% of criminal offenses by 16- and 17- year olds are either misdemeanors or low-level felonies that will now be adjudicated through the juvenile court system. The changes go into effect beginning in December 2019. NC Child and others will continue to monitor the implementation process.

Adam Sotak is the Public Engagement Director for NC Child, a non-profit child advocacy organization based in Raleigh. For more information, go to [www.ncchild.org](http://www.ncchild.org).



# Growing of Healthy Home Programming in NC's Environmental Health Departments

Victoria Hudson, EH Section Chair



## Public Health

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Statistically, the home presents some of the most dangerous hazards for US families with children. Substandard housing conditions can be linked to childhood environmental health ailments and childhood morbidity, like lead poisoning and asthma. In 2009, the United States Surgeon General called for action around healthy homes. Improving home health environments can alleviate the cycle of childhood morbidity and mortality (Reviews on Environmental Health, 2011).

How does this look in North Carolina? According to the National Center for Healthy Homes (2015), thirty-four percent of children in North Carolina live in households with high housing cost burden and one in four kids live in poverty. Children are living in homes with busted heating, plumbing, walls and windows, pest infestation, and leaky roofs. Many must live in dwellings with toxic chemicals, missing smoke detectors, and other injury hazards. Carl Carroll, Environmental Health Director in Alamance County, suggests another complication, "We also find that a large percentage of the people cannot afford to hire someone to help them or they are renting and are afraid to complain to the landlord." Unhealthy housing conditions leads to lead poisoning, injuries, and asthma and other respiratory problems. Health problems result in missed school days and poor school performance for children and work absences for parents.

In recent years North Carolina's local health departments are including robust healthy homes programming

into their services. These services examine components in and around the home relevant to environmental issues that may specifically affect children where they reside. Local programs tend to be interdepartmental or housed in Environmental Health. There may be collaboration within the federal/ state government, university affiliations, and community partners to improve the health of its most vulnerable citizens. Healthy homes programs provide consultative advice and education to parents, renters, realty agents, managers and owners on health hazards. It may share information on many possible environmental contaminations to children such as mold, radon, carbon monoxide, household chemicals, pesticides, and especially lead. Carroll also states that his office found trends in reported complaints that led to decisions to respond air quality complaints.

There is room for improvement. Let's look at the numbers. In 2012, 5,908 of the children tested in North Carolina had an elevated blood lead level. Yet only 52% of the target population for blood lead level testing was tested in the state of North Carolina in 2011. 8-10% of North Carolinians have current asthma. North Carolina cities have made the top 100 list of the most difficult places to live with asthma. There were 584 deaths in North Carolina due to carbon monoxide exposure in 2000-2007.

The good news: investing in home based interventions has proven to improve health with a large return on the investment, such as the dollars spent on air quality and lead investigation versus the dollars spent on medical treatment. NCHH, citing Asthma Control (2013), states that each dollar invested in asthma home-based interventions that include education and remediation results in 5.5-14 fold return. Trending data, that illustrated how "place" affects the public's health, was the main impetus for the start of the [Healthy Homes Program in Alamance County](#). "At least now, we feel that folks have a resource in Alamance County to help them to improve their indoor environment. In the future, we hope to continue to affect change by working with others on healthy housing standards," says Carroll.

Developing and sustaining an extra program in Environmental Health departments with enough time and money and trained staff to provide the service is tough. New tasks are not always welcome. What is out there to help? Department's may already have interested staff who



## Continued... Growing of Healthy Home Programming in NC's Environmental Health Departments

currently work or have worked in lead assessment or an education in industrial hygiene or epidemiology. Building a program can justify adding or retaining staff. Initiatives from the State, grant-funded projects, and the promise of some reimbursement have proven to help ease the budgetary constraints. Training is out there and comes in many forms from a "Healthy Homes" –brand of education, workshop topics on mold remediation, or continued focus of lead remediation by the Children's Environmental Health Unit.

Here are some opportunities for Environmental Health to implement healthy home programming more widely. Look to support in-home assessments as interdisciplinary and documented by personal health staff so that the assessments are eligible for medical reimbursement. Align

resources which provide services and supports to reduce asthma triggers, lead-based hazards, carbon monoxide exposures, insect infestations, and general injury risks identified in the home environment. Do not miss chances to make the difference. It is critical to test the target population for lead poisoning. Make the case. Promote education, investigation, and remediation for children with elevated blood lead levels.

Make plans to join the EH Section for the 2017 Fall Education Conference to discuss important topics that relate to healthy homes: Environmental Contamination (water supply topic); Helping Families Address Lead in Spices and Folk Art; and Indoor Air Quality: Lead, Asthma, Policies and Educational Tools that Address Environmental Health Hazards in Homes.

## Healthy Babies Initiative Update



At the 2016 annual meeting (New Bern), we adopted our **Healthy Babies Initiative (HBI)**. Reducing infant mortality and improving healthy baby outcomes is also a goal at NC-DHHS.

This important topic reminds me to reflect upon a challenge at the 2016 NCPHA spring meeting (Health in All Policies), "What would you like to redefine as unacceptable in your community", and "Are you willing to be a passionate advocate for policies that address that issue?" Improving healthy baby outcomes is one topic for which we can all be passionate advocates. And we are....

Many NCPHA sections have planned speakers and topics related to improving healthy baby outcomes, such as:

- Zika during pregnancy,
- Opioid addiction during pregnancy,
- Improving breastfeeding,
- Strengthening father involvement in families,
- Improving maternal and child health through community-based strategies, and
- Key note speaker Dr. Magda Peck, addressing "For ALL Our Babies, Now and Next".

Our HBI project coordinator-intern is Dr. Ben Hooker, MD, who is a general pediatrician. He is serving as an intern with NCPHA as part of residency training in Preventive Medicine at UNC School of Medicine.

Back in July 2016, each section listed action steps to meet healthy baby outcomes goals. Ben or myself will be contacting each section leader in early August (for those that have not replied already) to get updates on section progress and help plan next steps. If you'd like a copy of the section action steps and indicator measures, please contact me (Suzanne Lea, [leac@ecu.edu](mailto:leac@ecu.edu)). Invite a colleague to be a passionate advocate for healthy babies by joining NCPHA.



# The NCPHA Emerging Leaders Program

The evolution of health care from individualistic to requiring community-based approaches calls for a general emphasis on leadership among professionals in public health. Traditionally driven by a sense of purpose to do good in community and high levels of compassion, leaders in public health understand systemic issues and lead change, and are further better suited to identify how to address the most persisting population health challenges in the community. To that effect, the NCPHA Emerging Leaders Program aims to provide emerging leaders in public health with skills and knowledge to become even more effective in their work through successfully leading teams through change and the ability to communicate with a diverse group of stakeholders as well as understand financial concepts as these relate to public health and the complex landscape of health care.

Leadership development starts however with the individual. Successful leaders know their value lies not only in managing teams and running organizations, but also in how they inspire and motivate others, set purposeful goals, execute strategic visions and create cultures of excellence. With the individual perspective of leadership as the core for effective leadership, learning about self and leadership is a crucial point of departure for what we refer to as the

leadership journey. With increased awareness of self, individuals will develop the ability to challenge current perceptions and the values that shape it and further understanding their individual purpose as a leader is. As research shows, self-awareness is crucial as a sustainable platform for effective leadership.

The NCPHA Emerging Leaders Program is a year-long, leadership development program that provides participants the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of themselves as leader and learner. Through interactive sessions, applied-learning and reflection, participants improve their self-awareness, learn how to lead teams, communicate with others, and how they view and engage with others.

Applications for the program will begin \_\_\_\_\_ with participants being announced at the FEC in Asheville. All meetings will take place in Raleigh at the NC Medical Society and will meet on the below dates:

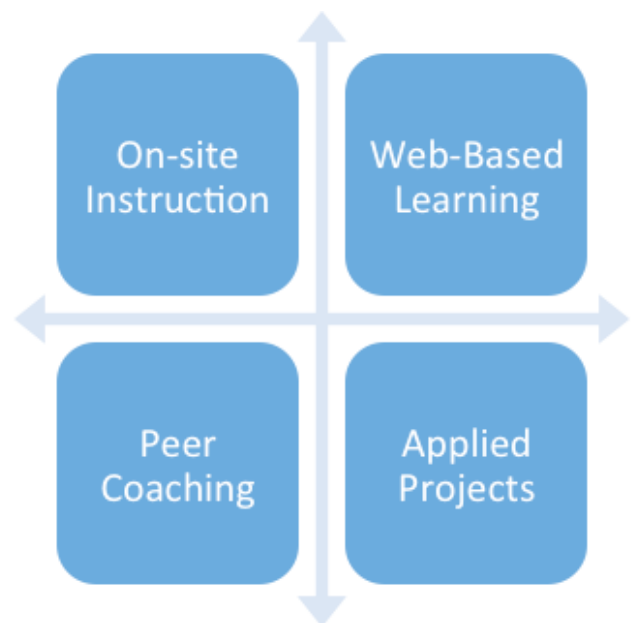
10/19/17  
12/14/17  
2/22/18  
4/5/18  
6/7/18

## New Leadership Development Program for NC Professionals

*Avia Mainor, Workforce Development Specialist, NCIPH*

The North Carolina Public Health Association (NCPHA) and the NC Division of Public Health (NCDPH) are excited to collaborate with the NC Institute for Public Health at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health on a new leadership development program for professionals working in state and local health departments. This program aims to facilitate leadership development by incorporating training on key leadership practices with hands-on application throughout the yearlong program.

The first cohort of the Public Health Leadership Institute (NCPHLI) kicked off in March 2017 with eighteen public health professionals from across North Carolina. The program has a competitive application process seeking a diverse group of professionals representing both state and local public health agencies. This inaugural cohort consists of thirteen NCPHA members with various roles including health directors





## Continued... New Leadership Development Program for NC Professionals



and assistant health directors, health promotion, health education, environmental health, and community health services directors. The cohort also includes section chiefs and staff from the following units within the Division of Public Health: Women's and Children's, Epidemiology, Environmental Health, Center for Health Statistics, Local Technical Assistance and Training, and the Chief Medical Examiner.

NCPHLI incorporates various activities to help participants analyze their own leadership experiences, document leadership in action by observing the behaviors and actions of leaders around them, and opportunities to apply leadership practices to a current challenge in their organization.

The program launched with an on-site session where participants identified their personal leadership preferences and worked to understand how their behavior impacts others. Following the session, attendees reported that

they intended to use this information in their daily (69%) or weekly (31%) work. Some of the most important gains participants cited from the on-site session include:

- Understanding that we are all leaders and we lead using different styles depending on our preferences.
- The importance of the intersectionality of the work within the Division of Public Health and the need for adaptive leadership at all levels.
- The specific tools [presented] were very helpful to understand how to deal with the people I manage and the public.
- A better understanding of my leadership style, how to improve upon it, and how to address other's personalities.

Throughout the program web-based learning via Zoom and an online classroom supplements the foundational material presented during the initial NCPHLI session. Participants continue to develop their leadership skills through peer coaching and the real-world application of their individual projects. The first NCPHLI cohort will conclude in March 2018 with presentations from each of the participants on how they have applied the leadership practices to a relevant issue in their organization.

We are pleased to work with NCDPH and NCIPH to support this program for North Carolina public health practitioners. Developing leadership skills in professionals across the state to best address the complex challenges facing public health is a key priority for all of us at NCPHA, NCDPH and NCIPH. Applications for the next cohort will open in the fall of 2017. For more information please contact NCIPH at [nciph@unc.edu](mailto:nciph@unc.edu).



# Community Baby Shower

According to United Health Foundation's America's Health Rankings, North Carolina ranks 42nd in the nation in infant mortality, with more than seven infant deaths before the age of one for every 1,000 live births. One of the most significant steps we can take in improving birth outcomes and preventing infant deaths is investing in health education and services for women including prenatal care, proper health screenings, and instruction on healthy habits and proper nutrition. Taking these steps to address this public health crisis is critical to improving people's health. Education is a key factor in improving perinatal outcomes.

As a result, UnitedHealthcare worked collaboratively with the Guilford County Health Department to host our first Community Baby Shower for 53 underserved expectant moms. In order to receive a Baby Box which included a mattress, fitted sheet, diapers, zipper bag and educational materials, the participants had to engage with each of the following organizations:

**NCWorks Career Center:** Provides career counseling, job listings, GED completion, life skills and training

**TAPM:** Pediatrician, Dr. Faith Gardner and her nurse were available to speak about primary care services and the importance of immunizations

**One Step Further:** Grocery assistance, nutrition education/budgeting, and employment preparedness services

**Women's Resource Center:** Provide information on their Legal Resource Network, job-readiness program, and self-esteem workshops

**Guilford County DSS:** Family & Children's Medicaid / Food & Nutrition Services

**Work First Employment Services:** Program helps parents support themselves and their families by offering short-term training and other services to increase the chances of employment

**Cone Health Women's Hospital:** Social Worker provided information on safe sleeping arrangements and breastfeeding

**Walgreens:** Pharmacist on site to discuss importance of immunizations. Also donated baby wash, shampoos, wipes

It was an impactful event that connected entire families to needed social services. Media Links: [GSO News & Record](#), [WFMY Play Video](#), [WXII Play Video](#)



Photo credits: F. Scott Hoffmann / News & Record



# FEC Activities and Sponsors

As you hopefully know and are registered for, the NCPHA Fall Educational Conference(FEC) takes place in less than two short months! Although a lot of the conference is about education and earning CEUs, we also want you to have fun and be active (we are Public Health!). Here's what to expect to keep you active and having a good time:



## Asheville Healthy Hilly Hike

We can't confirm the hilly part at this time but the hike will take place in Asheville and it will be healthy! – followed by a BBQ dinner that can be healthy depending on your food choices. The proceeds from the hike benefit the NCPHA Scholarship Endowment which has distributed more than \$10,000 in the last ten years. These scholarships benefit graduate students, undergraduate students, associate students, children of members and recipients of the Robert Parker Leadership Scholarship. If you register by September 8, at the rate of just \$10 we guarantee you'll get a t-shirt with this cool logo. Registrations after September 8 will be \$15 with no guarantee of a t-shirt. [Click here for the registration form.](#)

## Environmental Corn Hole Contest

Have you ever played corn hole? It doesn't matter because I guarantee once you have, you will want a set for yourself. And that is exactly what the Environmental Health Section

is offering you – a chance to win your own corn hole board set! We are giving away two sets in fact! We will be hosting our corn hole tournament/fundraiser beginning at 5:00 pm on Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup> at the site of the BBQ Dinner. The tournament will be double elimination which will allow you to play at least two games. The cost per team is \$30 (\$15 per person for a two-person team). No matter what your skill level, we promise you will enjoy yourself while helping to support the Environmental Health Section of NCPHA. Our goal is to have 24-32 teams. [Please register today!](#)

## Snowden BBQ and Entertainment

The Corn Hole Contest and the Asheville Healthy Hilly Hike will take place at Yesterday's Spaces Event Venue on Wednesday afternoon and evening. The BBQ dinner is a FEC tradition that is sponsored by Terrie Snowden of the Snowden Companies. Terrie prepares the pig and all the fixins and has either a small band or DJ. It always a fun evening for everyone. Shuttles will be provided to the venue from the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

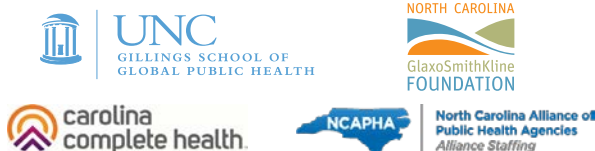
## Poster Reception, Silent Auction, Awards Dinner and Blazin Sounds Entertainment

On Thursday evening prior to the Awards Banquet and Dinner you'll have a chance to review many posters from students and academics from across North Carolina. At the same time, you can bid on some awesome silent auction items including many weekend B&B hotel packages including Asheville, Pinehurst, Wilmington, Raleigh, Charlotte plus a North Myrtle Beach house. Following the Awards Dinner, you can burn off those dinner calories by dancing the night away to the music of Blazin Sounds Entertainment.

To register for the conference or to check out the draft conference agenda, [go here](#). We hope we've given you many reasons to attend, both for fun and public health fundamentals.

**Thanks to our FEC Sponsors who support the above events and make our conference one of the most affordable in the state!**

### Platinum Sponsors



### Silver Sponsor



### Bronze Sponsors



# Photos from our 2016 Fall Educational Conference!



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