



Tennessee Public Health Association Newsletter

www.TNpublichealth.org



President's Message

*Paul Erwin,
MD, DrPH
President 2016-17*

Greetings to all, once again! I hope your spring is unfolding in marvelous ways. What a spring it has been! By the time this newsletter is on the website, the Middle and East Grand Division Spring meetings will have taken place, and the West Grand Division meeting will be “on deck”. This gives me an opportunity to express my gratitude to the TPHA Vice-Presidents for their leadership in putting these meetings together: East – Carrie Thomas; Middle – Adam Jarvis; and West – Melony Sesti. Each VP has benefitted from very engaged and creative committees, and I thank you all! A major focus for the spring has been the search for a new TPHA Executive Director. Under the very thoughtful leadership of TPHA past President Ami Mitchell, the search committee reviewed some 50 applications, interviewed five candidates, and will be making its recommendation for a final selection to the TPHA Board at its June meeting. We celebrated National Public Health Week in April, and selected winners of the student video challenge and our Visionary Awards, which will be presented at the Grand Division meetings. And then there is the TPHA annual meeting for September... committees at work, plenary and workshop sessions lined up, sponsors being identified. So much effort by so many people – so many of YOU – and I cannot thank you enough.

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Your TPHA Program Committee has been hard at work since last fall planning an exciting program for this year’s annual conference. The conference will be held at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs on **September 13-15, 2017**. The theme for this year’s conference is: *Cultivate, Innovate, Elevate: Health Across the Spectrum*. The Program Committee chose this theme after a rich discussion that included several key points:

- We have an opportunity to cultivate our public health workforce and to “grow” health in our communities
- Tremendous innovation is taking place among Tennessee’s public health workforce as well as in other states
- Improving population health requires that we elevate our “game” and refine our current efforts
- The opportunities to improve health exist across several spectra—prevention (primary, secondary, tertiary); the lifespan; health vs. health care (Continued on Page 2)

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In my February message, I continued to consider the concept of evidence-based public health, and in particular, the idea that - "if we want more evidence-based practice, we need more practice-based evidence." One approach to making this happen is to develop partnerships between health departments and academic programs, with the formal relationship being known as "Academic Health Departments." At present, we have accredited public health programs at five institutions - East Tennessee State University, Meharry Medical College, University of Memphis, University of Tennessee, and Vanderbilt University. Other academic programs are under development. Clearly, we have an abundance of public health academic programs, but we still have 95 counties in the state; thus, many counties may be beyond the practical reach of these five academic programs. At the close of the February message I made mention of the fact that there are many local colleges, including two-year community colleges, which have public health-related expertise and interest in partnering with groups such as health departments. Several years ago, I participated in a national effort to identify model community health improvement processes involving health departments and community partners. Two of the most successful were small health departments that had partnered with local institutions - one, a 4-year community college that had a single course on "Community Health Assessment" and the other a 2-year community college that had a course in health economics. In both instances the course instructors had a strong desire to provide practical field experience for their students - getting them out of the classrooms and applying their knowledge to real-world problems. This desire was matched by creative health department directors who wanted to conduct community health improvement processes, but did not have the personnel or time to do it alone. So whether it is a Roane State Community College, Motlow State Community College, Columbia State Community College, or Dyersburg State Community College - or any of the four-year colleges with no formal accredited public health program - there are jewels of expertise, interest, and willingness to partner with health departments. Don't be shy!!!

While I'm on the subjects of the Academic Health Departments and Evidence-based Public Health, I want to provide a "teaser" for the TPHA annual meeting. Among the many fine sessions already confirmed, we will have a session led by Dr. Bill Keck from Ohio - the person who developed the concept of the Academic Health Department 30+ years ago when he was simultaneously the Director of the Akron Health Department and the head of a Department of Family and Community Medicine in a nearby medical school. We will also have a session led by Dr. Ross Brownson, who literally wrote the book on Evidence-Based Public Health. Keep an eye on the TPHA website as the annual meeting gets closer, where you will find more information about the meeting sessions, posters, awards, and a whole lot more. Remember that your best ticket to the meeting is through your annual membership - if you haven't already, please renew (or join for the first time!) at <http://tnpublichealth.org/membership-information/>. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at spring meetings and beyond in the coming weeks. Many thanks again for all you do!!!

(Continued from Page 2 - Annual Conference)

With this theme in mind, the Committee has been diligently building a conference agenda with the aim of providing something of interest to all those in our public health workforce. As in prior years, a series of plenary sessions will anchor our conference, and a broad array of workshop sessions will cover a wide-range of topics. Planned plenaries include:

- Toxic Stress & ACEs. Trauma-informed practice, and adverse childhood experiences in particular, have become a hot topic for public health. Dr. Ruth Ann Shepherd (a neonatologist and former director of the Division of Maternal and Child Health in the Kentucky Department for Public Health), will examine the studies of ACE's and toxic stress in the context of the Life Course, how it impacts maternal and child health, and how this science is being used to address trauma in populations, programs, and policy. Discover how understanding and responding to trauma fits into the approach to population health and what roles families play in the development and implementation of trauma-informed policy and practices.
- Consumer Engagement: Putting the "Public" Back in "Public Health." How do we best put the "public" back in "public health" and engage communities to help achieve health equity? In this plenary session, Eileen Forlenza, a nationally-renowned family leader will help us explore strategies for engagement at multiple levels and discuss ways to utilize various communication modalities to engage stakeholders. Using a personal story of her own family's engagement, Eileen will help us realize how to work "horizontally" with community partners despite the "vertical" organization of our systems.

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- **Built Environment.** Parks and Greenways are providing physical activity opportunities across Tennessee for people of all ages and ability levels. Public health can plan a vital role in making parks and greenways happen. A panel of speakers will help us learn how parks and greenways professionals are stretching limited budgets and resources to create beautiful places that benefit both health and economic development.



(Dr. Ruth Ann Shepherd)

(Eileen Forlenza)



In addition to the plenary presentations by distinguished speakers, the Committee has put together an exciting lineup of workshops. Those scheduled to date include:

- Tips from TED Talks
- Marijuana as Medicine
- Public Health Response to NC Flooding
- Health Promotion in Aging
- Implementing Public Health Curriculum in Schools

(Continued Next Column)

- Healthy Community Panel Discussion
- City/County Partnerships for Improving Health
- Evaluation Y'all: How We Do it in Texas A Statewide Evaluation of a Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Program
- Caries Prevention in Interprofessional Settings: Update on Fluoride and Dental Sealants
- The Case for Practice/Academic Partnerships
- Public Health Nursing: A Key Partner for Healthy Populations in a Transformed Health System
- Using a Coordinated Approach to Physical Activity in Schools
- How Do We Develop Evidence-Based Health Departments?
- What Should We Do to Address the Social Determinants of Health?
- Expanding Breastfeeding Support
- Public Health Approaches to Addressing Food Insecurity
- Update on the Controlled Substance Monitoring Database (CSMD) and the Sequelae of Opioid Abuse
- New Drug Update
- Public Health Response to the Gatlinburg Wildfires
- Higher Education in Public Health 2.0: Overview of the New Curricular Requirements for Public Health Degree Programs

As in prior years, the Conference will feature opportunities: to network with your public health colleagues from across the state; celebrate the achievements of public health professionals recognized in our annual Awards Ceremony; learn about how your peers are contributing to the body of public health knowledge during the Poster Sessions; and hear from our Commissioner, Dr. John Dreyzehner, on public health priorities and opportunities for “moving the needle” on population health. And what TPHA Conference would be complete without an evening of “Fun and Fitness”?

The Annual Conference also serves as a resource in meeting your continuing education needs. Continuing education credits are being pursued for these specialties: Nursing, Medicine, Health Educator, Pharmacy, Nutrition, and Dental.

Look for registration materials and the conference brochure to be posted soon on the TPHA website. You can reserve your hotel room now while conference rates are still available.

FOCUS ON PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

Submitted by: Dr. Rendi Murphree

ESSENCE 2017 Program Update

Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics
Questions? Want to know more? Contact cedep.surveillance@tn.gov.

What is syndromic surveillance?

- Syndromic surveillance is the process of monitoring information on patient symptoms or groups of symptoms (i.e., syndrome) to detect and respond to disease outbreaks and events which may impact population health.
- In Tennessee, data on emergency department (ED) visits are collected, analyzed, and visualized using a system known as ESSENCE - Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics.

What other data are available to analyze in ESSENCE?

- In addition to data available from hospital emergency departments, ESSENCE is also used to capture, analyze and visualize data on reportable diseases, school absenteeism, hospital resources (hospital beds, service availability), and weather.

How has ESSENCE been used in Tennessee?

ESSENCE is used by epidemiologists at local and regional health departments across the state every day! Here are a few success stories around recent use of ESSENCE in Tennessee.



Acute Hepatitis C Enhanced Surveillance – ESSENCE has been used for enhanced acute viral hepatitis C surveillance since October 2015. Epidemiologists use daily and weekly temporal and geographical cluster analyses to identify potential outbreaks. Aberrations are investigated to rule out any clusters potentially associated with hospital acquired infections or injection drug use.



Wildfire Respiratory Disease Surveillance – Sullivan County Health Department used ESSENCE to conduct enhanced surveillance for respiratory illnesses in the Fall of 2016, a time of multiple wildfires and extreme drought.



Carbon Monoxide Surveillance – ESSENCE is used daily by the Environmental Epidemiology Program to conduct active case finding and follow-up on potential carbon monoxide poisoning cases.



Measles Outbreak – In April 2016, a measles outbreak occurred in the Memphis-Shelby and West Tennessee public health regions. ESSENCE was used for enhanced surveillance of febrile rash illness in emergency departments to help ensure that all potential measles cases were identified and thoroughly investigated.



Opioid Overdose – Several regional epidemiologists have begun using ESSENCE for prescription drug overdose surveillance. Nashville Metropolitan Health Department regularly provides aggregate overdose trends to local law enforcement to increase situational awareness.

ESSENCE 2017 Program Update

Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics
 Questions? Want to know more? Contact cedep.surveillance@tn.gov.

What is next for syndromic surveillance in Tennessee?

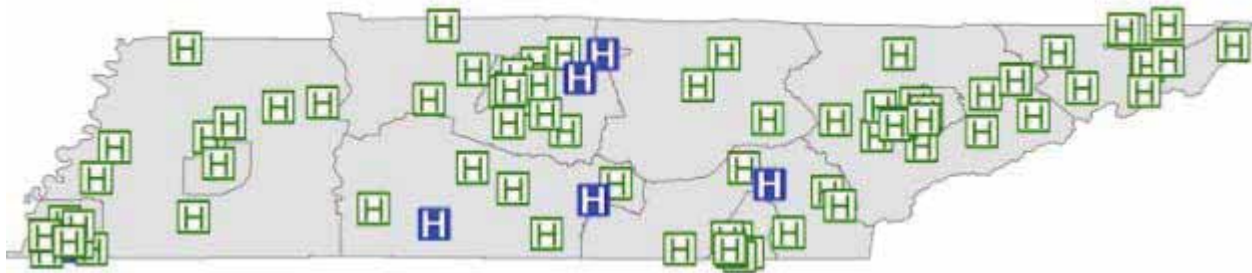
Increase the number of hospitals providing high quality data to ESSENCE. Improve the timeliness of data available in ESSENCE. For ESSENCE to be as useful as possible, we need to get high quality data from hospitals throughout the state.

Where are we now?

- 60** Number of hospitals contributing some form of data to ESSENCE, representing over 2 million Emergency Department visits.
- 26** Number of hospitals submitting data that meet specific standards ; we can reliably count on receiving high quality, standardized data from these hospitals.

Where are we going?

- 114** Number of hospitals targeted to send high quality data to ESSENCE by August, 2018.
- 80** Percentage of ED visits in targeted to be included in ESSENCE by August, 2018.



Improve the timeliness of data available in ESSENCE

For syndromic surveillance data to inform public health response and decision making, they must be timely.

- 82** Percentage of ED data currently available in ESSENCE within 48 hours of patient visit.
- 90** Percentage of ED data targeted to be included in ESSENCE within 48 hours of patient visit by August, 2018.

Promote use of ESSENCE in Tennessee

The more knowledgeable users of ESSENCE exist, the better! Over the next several months, our goals are to:

- Connect ESSENCE users in Tennessee to each other to share valuable lessons learned through experience.
- Improve the quality of written resources and guidance.
- Increase availability of training, both in-person and online.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Shannon Railling, Chair

This year's celebration of National Public Health Week included County, Regional, and Metro sponsored celebrations across the state! Each area has unique activities and traditions that make Public Health Week special! TPHA's activities included the 7th Annual Visionary Awards, the 4th Annual Student Video Challenge, and a new tradition, participation in the APHA's 1 Billion Steps Challenge!

TPHA Visionary Award Winners

One of our association's most exciting ways to celebrate is the annual Visionary Awards. The Visionary Award recognizes individuals or groups who dedicate their time, talents and efforts to promote good health through creating a healthier community in which to live, work, play and grow. One award is presented in each of the three grand divisions across the state. This year's annual TPHA Visionary Awards were awarded to two individuals and one group whose work to improve the health of Tennesseans is truly inspiring. Winners are announced during National Public Health Week and are recognized at their respective TPHA Grand Division Meetings across the state. Each winner receives a year of TPHA membership and a \$500 prize!



(L-R, Dr. John Dreyzehner, Paula Chilton, Amber Chilton, and Autumn Vespie)

Middle Tennessee Grand Division. Hickman County Coordinated School Health Director **Paula Chilton** works tirelessly to build collaborative partnerships and to seek opportunities that promote health and wellness in the community and school system. She is a respected and trusted leader who is continually planning activities and programs to benefit her community such as the Grinder's Switch Turkey Trot 5K/10K Run/Walk for all ages and 1 Mile Fun Run for grades K-5; co-chairing the Hickman County Health Council; or collaborating with school food services to create a Second Chance Breakfast Program.

East Tennessee Grand Division. **Jamie Price** is a pharmacist at Mac's Pharmacy in Knoxville. She desires to spread health education beyond the walls of the pharmacy, so that she and her team may focus more on prevention than treatment. The pharmacy provides free educational classes multiple times each month which are open to everyone in the community not just customers. She teaches classes on smoking cessation, COPD, and asthma as needed, and regularly teaches a monthly heart health class called The Beat and twice monthly diabetes class called "The Sweet Spot". Following the 30 minute class presentation Jamie conducts a "support group" session where she goes above and beyond to answer questions. Her personal touch improves the health of the community.



(L-R, Dr. Michael Warren, Jamie Price, Carrie Thomas)

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TPHA Visionary Award Winners - Continued



L to R: Carl Mallory, Melony Sesti, Bob Shutt, Gary Wilson, and Tom Smith

West Tennessee Grand Division. Savannah City Commission has secured funding for several projects to improve outdoor safety and walkability in their community including a Safe Routes to School Grant, projects for construction of sidewalks in historic and downtown areas; and a Local Parks and Recreation Fund grant for replacement of playground equipment and new restroom facilities at Savannah City Park are among a few of the projects that will improve the health of the community.

The Savannah City Commission was recognized at the West Tennessee Grand Division's spring meeting on May 25.

Student Video Challenge Award

Another way we celebrate National Public Health Week in Tennessee is through the TPHA Student Video Contest. This event challenges public health students at our colleges and universities to create a two-minute video based on the APHA's National Public Health Week theme. The winner is recognized at their TPHA Grand Division meeting and is presented with a \$100 prize! This event is becoming one of our favorite Public Health Week traditions and is a wonderful partnership with students who are the future of public health.

TPHA is proud to announce the winners of the Student Video Challenge, which is open to all Tennessee college and university students enrolled in a public health course and challenges them to present in 2 minutes or less public health through their eyes following the theme of "Healthiest Nation 2030". The 4th Annual TPHA Public Health Week Student Video Challenge winners are **Margaret Rose Bailey, Mary Peyton Hodges, and Sara Stallworth from the University of Tennessee Knoxville**. All three are students in Dr. Cristina Barroso's Introduction to Public Health course, and she was their faculty sponsor. The link to their video is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-wcRqJfZmk>

The 1 Billion Steps Challenge

The 1 Billion Steps Challenge was created this year by APHA to challenge affiliates and groups across the country to walk 1 billion steps. Between January 9th and April 9th the Team Tennessee Public Health walked a total of 8,755,552 steps! Our team of 27 team members came in 45th out of 696 teams in the team rank for total steps! That is amazing! And overall we came in 231st for average daily steps. Thank you to the TPHA members who joined our team. We hope to have an even better year for the 2018 challenge so get your walking shoes ready!

What an amazing year for Public Health Week! These events along with the many others sponsored in communities across the state are a testament to the dedication of our public health workforce and those that we serve. Public Health Week is not only a time to get out in neighborhoods and let Tennesseans know what public health does in our state, but it is also a time to celebrate you and the work you do every day. Thank you!

THE EVELYN VAILLENCOURT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Submitted by: Carrie Thomas, Chair, Scholarship Committee



Scholarship Opportunity

Are you a student pursuing a formal education in the field of health education? Do you plan to practice in Tennessee following your graduation? If so, you may qualify to apply for the Evelyn Vaillencourt Memorial Scholarship. One scholarship of up to \$1000 will be awarded this year.

The Evelyn Vaillencourt Memorial Scholarship provides financial support to students in Tennessee currently pursuing a formal education in a field of health education. Evelyn Vaillencourt served public health in Tennessee for many years. She was a health education advocate whose works and efforts were recognized across the state. Evelyn's professional contribution to the field of health education was extraordinary, and she was a firm believer that it all began with the foundation she received through training and education while in school. She was a lifetime learner always pursuing opportunities for growth and perfecting her craft. Upon her death in 2016, monies to continue to support the growth and professional development in the field of health education were contributed to begin this memorial scholarship.

The scholarship application can be found on the TPHA website at www.tnpublichealth.org. Also, please include 1 - 3 letters of recommendation. The deadline to submit an application is **June 9th**. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Thomas at Carrie.Thomas@knoxcounty.org.

AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Submitted by: Lang Smith, MD, Awards Committee Chair

The competition for the TPHA Awards can be as easy or hard as you, the members, make it. Easy? Yes, if you don't submit nominations that is one less qualified nomination the committee has to review making their task easier! Hard is when there are so many nominations there has to be much discussion on who is the most deserving candidate. Let's make 2017 one of the hardest in history for the Awards Committee!

The Awards Committee is accepting nominations now through **July 27** for the following awards:

- ***R. H. Hutcheson, Sr., MD Award***
- ***Alex B. Shipley, MD Award***
- ***Public Health Worker of the Year Award***
- ***Public Health Group/Unit/Department Award***
- ***PAL (Partners and Leadership) Award***

Please take advantage of this opportunity to recognize the outstanding public health champions that you know. For more specific information on awards criteria and forms, please visit the TPHA website at www.tnpublichealth.org. Please send electronic nomination forms to: lang.smith@tn.gov

MEMBERSHIP

To help you get the conversation started with a potential new member, the following is a list of incentives associated with the different membership categories. It is members like **YOU** who make this organization strong.

Membership Incentives

Individual membership recruitment:

- A free year's membership for every five new members recruited
- A \$50 cash prize to the member who recruits the most new members
- A drawing from all new members and their sponsor at the annual meeting (\$50 each)
- The region with the largest percentage increase in membership is presented a rotating trophy

Agency membership recruitment:

- Earn \$40 toward registration or hotel voucher by recruiting one new agency member
- Earn \$60 toward registration or hotel voucher by recruiting two new agency members
- Any sponsor recruiting more than two new agency members will receive one year's free annual membership for each additional new agency recruited
- The region with the largest number of new agency members will be recognized with a rotating plaque

Exhibit/Sponsor membership recruitment:

In an effort to recruit new sponsors and exhibitors, TPHA will reward members who acquire new partners with various incentives based on the level of sponsorship acquired. Recruit a **NEW**:

- Exhibitor (\$300 for noncommercial), member receives a 1 yr. Free Membership and \$50
- Exhibitor (\$500 for commercial), member receives a 1 yr. Free Membership and \$75
- Sustaining Agency Membership (\$500), member receives a 1 yr. Free Membership and \$75
- Bronze Agency Membership (\$1000), member receives a 1 yr. Free Membership and \$100
- Silver Agency Membership (\$2,500), member receives a 1 yr. Free Membership and \$150
- Gold Agency Membership (\$5,000), member receives a 1 yr. Free Membership and \$250
- Platinum Agency Membership (\$10,000), member receives a 1 yr. Free Membership and \$300

Free Memberships refers to one year membership in TPHA. To see what the various levels offer, go to ww.tnpublichealth.org

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submitted by: Dr. Paul Petersen, Poster Session Committee Chair

The Tennessee Public Health Association is currently accepting abstracts for poster presentations at the 2017 TPHA Annual Conference, September 13-15, at the Cool Springs Conference Center in Franklin. All public health disciplines, including colleges and universities, are encouraged to participate.

Abstracts on all topics related to public health in Tennessee are welcome. You need to be a TPHA member to submit an abstract. If your poster is accepted for display at the conference, you may be asked to present at one of the conference workshops. You will need to register for the conference and plan to attend. Abstracts must include the following format to be considered: Background, Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusion. In addition, the abstract must be 250 words or less and be submitted via the following online registration link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X66HN2R>

Please email Committee Chair Dr. Paul Petersen at paul.petersen@tn.gov with any questions you may have.

SPRING MEETINGS

A New Take: Middle TN Grand Division Meeting's

Submitted by Adam C. Jarvis

The Middle TN Planning Committee was excited to welcome over 150 attendees to this year's spring meeting on May 5, at the Williamson County Public Safety Center – our largest attendance in years! To me, this speaks to the growing emphasis and trust put in public health officials today. More industries are starting to look towards public health professionals to address both traditional and nontraditional health issues facing our nation and the global community.

The structure of this year's meeting varied from our meetings in the past. Modeled after well-known TED Talks, our aim was to encourage speakers to give a powerful, motivating, and informative presentation that captivated and inspired our attendees. Science suggests that the average human attention span is around 10-18 minutes. With that in mind, allowing 30 minutes for each presentation aids in focusing on the topic and "key takeaway(s)" of the presentation while allowing for dialogue between the audience and the speaker.

As we all know, the field of public health is broad, to say the least. Our hope was to provide every public health professional with the opportunity to learn something of interest during our spring meeting. The thirty-minute presentations allowed us to not only focus on presentations but also cover a wide range of relevant topics throughout the day. This year's meeting featured an array of topics, from the familiar "Zika Virus: Protecting the Public Through Surveillance and Control" to "Behind the Scenes with the Governor: The 2015 Chattanooga Terrorist Attack."

I personally cannot think of a more motivating and engaging way to talk about opioid abuse and misuse than from a previous addict, especially one that is a fellow public health professional. We were honored to have Dr. Stephen Loyd, Medical Director for Substance Abuse Services, at the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services with us to share his story. As one of our attendees put it best, "I could listen to him for hours." Dr. Loyd delivered a powerful moving personal story, helping the audience to relate to the opioid epidemic and how it impacts our lives.

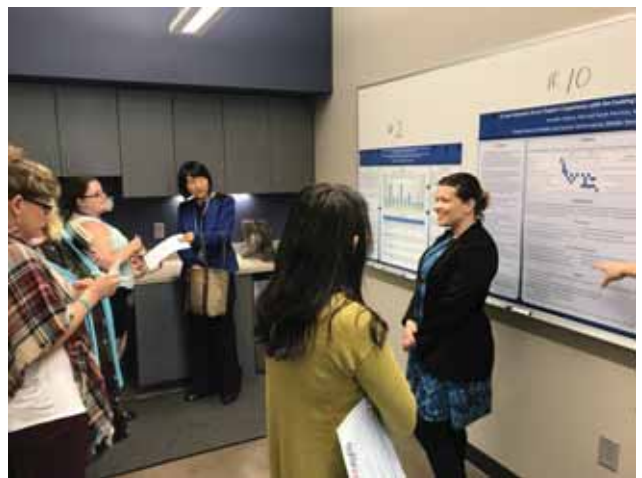
Also new to this year's meeting, we were excited to offer poster presentations in conjunction with a networking break. Attendees from previous meetings had provided feedback that they would like additional opportunities to network, connect, and reconnect with colleagues. Attendees had the opportunity to interact with and learn from twelve poster topics ranging from, "Health Care Payment Reform in Tennessee: Episodes of Care" to "Reducing Premature Births: A 17P pilot project" during the meeting's networking break. Abstracts for all posters presented can be found on the TPHA website at www.tnpublichealth.org.

The opportunity to interact with leading public health professionals and the poster presenters was one of the many reasons this year's meeting was widely attended by students. With over twenty students in attendance from Middle Tennessee State, Meharry Medical College, and Vanderbilt University, students had the opportunity to learn from and interact with experts in the public health field.

Our committee extends a special thanks to all the committee members, volunteers, speakers, poster presenters, and the Public Safety Center staff that made our meeting a success. Most importantly, thank you to all those that attended this year's meeting. We look forward to a bigger, better meeting next spring!



L-Attendees enjoying a game



R- Attendees listening to a poster presentation

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East Tennessee Grand Division Meeting

Submitted by Carrie Thomas, Vice President

The 2017 East Grand Division Meeting was held in Knoxville at the Jubilee Banquet Facility on May 11th. Over 100 attendees enjoyed a great day of presentations and networking with other public health professionals. Embracing the theme of “Health Across the Spectrum”, the planning committee assembled an engaging and diverse slate of speakers.

The morning kicked off with a presentation by Dr. Roberto Fernandez, Medical Director of the Pat Summitt Clinic. Dr. Fernandez addressed the growing problem of Alzheimer’s Disease and other dementias and shared the benefits of a multidisciplinary approach to care as well as support and education for caregivers. Attendees also heard about three local programs that support healthy living in East Tennessee. Healthy Kingsport, Nourish Knoxville and Starr Regional Medical Center all provided valuable information about their effective community programming.

The morning concluded with a presentation by Jack Cochran with the East Tennessee Regional Health Office who addressed the public health response to the wildfires that devastated Gatlinburg late last year. With over 40 years of experience in emergency services, Jack was able to provide a unique perspective and overview of the response as well as lessons learned following the event.

We were fortunate to have Dr. Michael Warren, Deputy Commissioner for Population Health join us to present this year’s awards. During the awards presentation, attendees were able to view the winning video for this year’s student video challenge. Additionally, the East Grand Division Visionary Award was presented to Jamie Price. Congratulations to all of our winners!

In the afternoon, attendees heard from three partner organizations; Healthier Tennessee, The Southeast Tennessee Development District and the Governor’s ThreeStar Program. During this session, presenters provided an overview of their work and featured local examples of their partnerships. Dr. Warren facilitated an excellent panel discussion with the presenters highlighting the theme of partnerships and how TPHA members can get involved in the work that they do.

Thank you to Dr. Warren, all of our presenters and all those who attended. I’d especially like to thank those who served on the planning committee: Michelle Moyers, Jennifer Valentine, Sarah Bounse, Angie McGee, Garnet Southerland, Megan Quinn, Kate Beatty, Missy Wolford and Cathy Cowart. Thanks to all of you for a successful event!

WEST TENNESSEE GRAND DIVISION MEETING

Melony Sesti, Vice President

The West Tennessee Grand Division meeting was held on May 25 at the University of Memphis Lambuth Campus in Jackson Tennessee. This year’s theme, *Health Innovations Across West Tennessee*, provided opportunities for more than 90 attendees to hear from a variety of interesting speakers. First on the agenda were Annette Wilson, Coordinated School Health Administrator, and Judy Levont with the Jackson - Madison County School System who explained how more than ninety 5th graders at South Elementary learned about healthy lifestyle habits using curriculum provided by NutriBullet University. Attendees got to sample a spinach and banana smoothie, which was one of many healthy recipes that the 5th graders learned how to prepare while participating in the program.

Next up were Lynn Mooney, Emergency Response Director for West Tennessee, and Jeremy Lansing, Regional Hospital Coordinator, who described the critical role, especially in restoring and maintaining essential communications between all emergency response agencies, that the Tennessee Department of Health played in the evacuation and recovery efforts for last year’s Gatlinburg and Sevier County wildfires.

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Gary Gaston with the Nashville Civic Design Center talked about factors like transportation, walkability and housing to consider when designing a healthier built environment and was joined by county health directors Matt McDaniel, Pattie Kiddy and Chelsea White who each demonstrated how they had organized community partnerships in order to increase access to opportunities for physical activity in Hardin, Lauderdale, Tipton, Haywood and Weakley counties by building tennis courts and walking trails and installing playground and exercise equipment. Morning presentations concluded with an interesting presentation by Dr. Michelle Pardue, Director of Oral Health Services, Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County Public Health Department, who made us aware of the only breakthrough therapy ever in the field of dentistry, silver diamine fluoride (SDF), and how she has successfully used it to treat caries in challenging patients like young children and older adults with cognitive and physical limitations. This cost-effective approach requires a change in the traditional paradigm currently used to treat caries. Instead of simply filling cavities, the use of SDF enables dentists to treat the bacteria infection that causes them resulting in more effective patient outcomes.

Carl Mallory, Deputy Commissioner of Operations for the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH), recognized the Savannah City Commission as the Visionary Award winner for the West Grand Division. Accepting the award on behalf of the commission was Bob Shutt, mayor of the City of Savannah, Gary Wilson, city manager, and Tom Smith, project manager.

Afternoon sessions included presentations by TDH's partners. Syrena Flowers with the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness spoke about continued efforts to transform all 95 counties into Healthier Tennessee Communities with specific examples of how Crockett County is participating provided by Sarah Poole, University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension, and Kelsey Henning, Coordinated School Health. Jody Sliger, Director of the ThreeStar Program, showed how health is an important element in the success of Tennessee's economic development. Rob Goad from the Northwest TN Development District explained how community partners in 9 West Tennessee counties are working together to improve the health of the elderly. Syrena, Jody and Rob closed out the day with a panel discussion on the importance of planning, social determinants of health and building community relationships.

**A Very Special
THANK YOU!!**

**To all Vice-Presidents,
Committee Members, Volunteers, Speakers,
Members and Guests in Attendance
for making each of the spring meetings such a huge success!**

REGIONAL REPORTS

WEST TENNESSEE REGION

Haywood PPI Team Promotes Family Engagement in Physical Activity

Submitted by Chanda Freeman, Health Promotion Coordinator, Jackson Regional Health Office

According to 2017 County Health Rankings, 41% of adults who live in Haywood County are obese which is substantially higher than the state rate of 23%. Additionally, Tennessee Coordinated School Health reported that 45.1% of students were overweight/obese during the 2015-2016 schoolyear. In the Center for Disease Control (CDC) paper, Recommended Community Strategies and Measurements to Prevent Obesity in the United States, the authors promote several evidence-based strategies that encourage physical activity or limit sedentary activity among children and youth. The authors note that communities should promote activities that encourage families to participate in physical activity as a unit. The premise is that continuous family engagement in physical activity increases the likelihood that the children will continue to engage in physical activity into adulthood. The authors also suggest that communities work to increase opportunities for extracurricular physical activity outside of school hours.

The authors also recommend that communities promote opportunities for extracurricular physical activity outside of school hours to complement formal PE. This strategy focuses on creating and promoting noncompetitive physical activity opportunities such as games, dance classes, walking or running programs, etc. in community and after-school programs. (The strategy excludes participation in varsity team sports or sport clubs, which require tryouts and are not open to all students.) Research has demonstrated that strategies like these are increasing in popularity and are proving to have a major impact on efforts to prevent obesity in children and youth.

In light of these and other recommendations that promote implementing evidence-based strategies that encourage physical activity or limit sedentary activity among children, the Haywood County PPI team partnered with Haywood County UT Extension and Haywood County Coordinated School Health to host a basketball "shoot-out," for

4th and 5th-grade students and their parents. The overarching goal of this event was to educate students and parents about ways to eat healthier and be more physically active. A total of 28 boys and their fathers/mentors participated in the shootout, and there were 75 additional parents and students in attendance. In addition to the shootout, PPI team members sponsored an educational booth that included a physical activity challenge that utilized exercise dice. In the activity, participants rolled the dice: one die determined which exercise they were being challenged to do, and the other die determined how many repetitions of the exercise they were to do. PPI team members were delighted that 30 parents and students accepted the exercise challenge and pledged to continue their efforts by getting 60 minutes of physical activity a day.



NORTHEAST TENNESSEE

Exploring & Conquering HPV: Expert Panel Speaks at ETSU

Submitted by Jayne Harper, Assessment & Planning Coordinator

The Northeast Tennessee Regional Health Office, Tennessee Cancer Coalition, East Tennessee State University (ETSU) Student Health Clinic, and ETSU College of Public Health hosted an expert panel at ETSU on March 28th about Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and provided vaccinations after the event. "Exploring and Conquering HPV: An Expert Panel Discussion" featured TDH Northeast Regional Medical Director David Kirschke, MD, TDH Immunization Program Director Kelly Moore, MD, and ETSU Student Health Services provider and undergraduate instructor Sarah Treat, MSN, APN. Approximately 40 people attended the event and 7 eligible individuals obtained HPV vaccines afterward by nurses from Carter County Health Department and the Northeast Tennessee Regional Health Office.

Event collaborators registered participants and provided a pre-test. All attendees were asked to complete the post-test/evaluation before leaving. A total of 14 pre-tests and post-tests were collected from the group. Findings from pre- and post-tests showed slight changes in knowledge. The number of people stating HPV is transmitted through skin-to-skin contact increased from 8 to 12 and the number of people stating HPV is transmitted through contact with infected blood decreased from 5 to 4. The number stating transmission occurs through coughs/sneezes of infected people and transmission through vaginal, oral, and anal sex remained the same at 2 and 12 respectively. All 14 respondents knew HPV can cause vaginal cancer while there were increases knowledge about risk for oral cancer from 10 to 14 respondents, penile cancer from 11 to 14 respondents, anal cancer from 13 to 14 respondents, and cervical cancer from 13 to 14 respondents. The number of participants who knew the HPV vaccine was for females ages 9-26 years and males 9-21 years (some men up to age 26) increased from 12 to 14. There was no change in knowledge about the need for 3 doses among people age 15-26 years: 11 true, 2 false, and 1 no answer. Two of the 14 participants stated they had received HPV vaccination on the pre-test. Many of the event participants were over the age of 26 years and 7 eligible people received vaccinations after the event.

Among participants completing the post-test, 10 either strongly agreed or agreed they had gained valuable knowledge from the expert panel while 1 strongly disagreed and 3 did not answer. Three people either strongly agreed or agreed that the expert panel was valuable in their decision to be vaccinated. Two participants remained neutral, 1 strongly disagreed, and 8 did not respond to the statement that the expert panel was valuable in their decision to be vaccinated.

As a result of event planning efforts among the collaborating organizations, an MOU is being created between the Northeast Regional Health Office and the ETSU Student Health Clinic to provide HPV vaccines on campus and the new Northeast Chapter of Cervical Cancer Free Tennessee (CCFT) has been formed.



EAST TENNESSEE REGION

Football Coaches and Community Help Educate Students to Kick Tobacco

Submitted by: Campbell County Health Department Director Charles Turner

Campbell County Health Department partnered with the Campbell County Health Council to promote Kick Butts Day on March 15 to educate Campbell County students and parents about the risk of tobacco. A large group of community leaders visited Caryville and Jacksboro Elementary Schools as part of the Health Council's incentive for a Tobacco-Free Campbell County. The goal is to educate students and parents on the risk of Tobacco and to teach children to take a stand against the use of tobacco products including e-cigarettes. On the morning of Wednesday, March 15, the group started out in the early cold morning to hand out education brochures about "no smoking in cars with children" and a "no smoking" air freshener to the parents as they dropped off their children. They handed out a total of more than 300 of these items between Caryville Elementary and Jacksboro Elementary Schools. The council also led the assembly in both schools talking to the students as a whole. The football coaches taking part in the council handed out T-shirts to the youngsters as they answered questions on the information provided to them that day.



(Participating in Kick Butts Day (L-R): Dayspring Family Health Center Representative Loretta Phillips, Jacksboro Middle School Head Football Coach Brent Peel, CCHS Head Football Coach Justin Price, CCHS Football Defensive Coordinator Matt Price, South College Pharmacy Emily Jolly, Generation Rx and Terry's Pharmacy Raewyn Tamer Snodderly, Generation Rx and Community Health of East Tennessee Donnie Poston. Not pictured are Health Educator Tammy West, Outreach Worker Shannon Carroll and Outreach Coordinator Nancy Foshee from the Campbell County Health Department.)

KNOX COUNTY REGION



ETWR Gold: An Innovative Worksite Wellness Program

Submitted by Rebecca Ellison, Nutritionist, Knox County Health Department

The East Tennessee Wellness Roundtable (ETWR) is a member-based collaboration of area professionals who strive to create cultures of wellness at their worksites through the promotion of professional development, evidence-based wellness and networking. In 2016, the board of directors in partnership with the Knox County Health Department decided to take this organization even further by implementing a new recognition program called ETWR Gold. The purpose of this program is two-fold. First, we are able to recognize organizations who exemplify excellence in worksite wellness. Second, professionals are able to communicate their need for resources and incentives to implement new wellness initiatives or improve upon existing initiatives. This program is funded under a grant contract with the State of Tennessee, through the Tennessee Department of Health Project Diabetes initiative.

The ETWR Gold program takes a systems approach to worksite wellness by targeting evidence-based built environment and policy changes. The aim is to create cultures of health rather than to focus on traditional wellness programming. To achieve ETWR Gold status, worksites must demonstrate a supportive wellness infrastructure and must meet a certain number of criteria related to physical activity, nutrition, mental health and substance abuse, and tobacco use and prevention. The online application was developed and adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Worksite Health ScoreCard. The application contained six scored items related to infrastructure, eight scored items related to physical activity, eight scored items related to nutrition, five scored items related to mental health and substance abuse, and four scored items related to tobacco use. Applications were evaluated by asking applicants to submit documentation and/or photos for each item that applies to their worksite, and site visits were also scheduled to discuss implementation of grant-funded resources. The first round of applications were accepted in February 2017, and worksites were notified of ETWR Gold status in April 2017. Currently, site visits are taking place and requested resources are being distributed to Knox County worksites. Examples of resources being provided are bike racks, fitness equipment for onsite fitness centers, kitchen equipment for preparing healthy foods, supplies and furniture for lactation rooms, supplies for worksite gardens, scales and blood pressure cuffs for health monitoring, walking route and smoke-free workplace signage, supervisor trainings and several example policies outlining best practices. We are also able to link applicants with other existing resources in the community. Worksites will gain publicity through the ETWR website, ETWR Facebook page and through media releases. For more information about the program and to view frequently asked questions, visit our website <http://etwellness.org/etwr-gold-2/>. The number of applicants for 2017 exceeded expectations and we are excited to be able to provide this innovative worksite wellness program to meet a need in the Knox County community.

SOUTHEAST REGION

CASPER in Marion County

Submitted by Amanda Goodhard, Assessment & Planning Coordinator, SERO



The Southeast Region completed a Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) in Marion County on January 10-12th. Over the 3 days, 11 staff members and 1 volunteer went door to door surveying citizens. By the end of the event, over 100 surveys had been completed with the goal of establishing baseline data for their health needs.

As a result of this data collection, health department staff found the greatest needs to be access to physical activity programs and lack of a recreation center in the county. In response, the health department has implemented programs such as a walking club and free yoga classes to address different topics and areas citizens were interested in. A follow up CASPER will be conducted in Marion County this summer to see if there has been a change in awareness and/or participation in these types of programs. While the second CASPER will still use the same methods as the first, the clusters will be changed so that different citizens will be surveyed. After data that is collected from the second CASPER, a decision will be made about how often the county would like to conduct a CASPER to gauge community interest and knowledge of programs.

In addition to providing baseline data, the CASPER had a couple other uses in the Southeast Region. The data collected was used to help develop some of the goals in the county's performance plan so they could make sure they were targeting the needs that the community considered important. Also, this served as a pilot for how a CASPER could be done in other counties in the region.

MID CUMBERLAND REGION

TDH Mid-Cumberland Region Announces New Regional Director Mrs. Sanjana Stamm takes lead of largest rural region, TDH

Submitted by Tennessee Department of Health: Press Release, Tuesday, May 2, 2017



The Mid-Cumberland Region of the Tennessee Department of Health is excited to announce Mrs. Sanjana Stamm, APN as the new Regional Director as of May 1st. Mrs. Stamm will take the lead of TDH's largest rural region, overseeing services provided by 19 county health departments to a population of over 1.3 million.

For over a decade, Sanjana has worked with the Nashville Metro Public Health Department, most recently serving as their Director of Clinical Services since 2012. Prior to joining the Mid-Cumberland Region, Sanjana directed and managed the clinical operations within Nashville's Community Health Bureau as well as oversaw

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administrative activities for the Occupational Health and Wellness clinic, the Children's Special Services clinic, and three Preventive Health clinics. Mrs. Stamm holds a Master of Science in Nursing from Vanderbilt University with a specialty in Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Management. She has spent the majority of her career working in public health, starting as a RN at Lentz Public Health Center and advancing to a Public Health Nurse Practitioner and the Family Planning Administrator for Nashville's East Health Center.

Mrs. Stamm has been an active member of TPHA since the start of her career. Most recently, she has served as the Nursing Section's Vice Chair as well as a member on the Public Policy Committee.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

RISE in Giles County

Submitted by Brook Davis, South Central Region Assessment and Planning Coordinator

The Giles County Health Department recently partnered with the Giles County Board of Education to offer a school readiness program at Minor Hill School. As part of the health department's primary prevention initiative, the school readiness program targets children ages three to five years old in one of the more rural schools in the county. Readiness Initiative for Success in Education or R.I.S.E., focuses on children not enrolled in Pre-K, Headstart, daycare, or who have limited access to other resources needed to help prepare them for school.

Social Counselor Candace Wilkes was involved in preliminary planning efforts with Minor Hill School which later also included Health Educator Savannah Jenkins, Nurse Supervisor Cindy English and Office Supervisor Leanne Beasley, all members of the team. With the goal of helping prepare these children with skills needed for entrance to Pre-K and Kindergarten, the program is also designed to increase parental involvement by including parents in the instruction as well as the demonstrations. Parents learn what skills are needed for entrance into Pre-K and Kindergarten and materials are provided to use at home in order to help parents.

Through the use of activity centers, two ninety-minute sessions are offered twice monthly which focus on reading foundational skills, fine motor skills and counting and cardinality. School readiness kits are provided to each child and include materials that focus on school readiness skills and can be used at home. Participants also received a "Minor Hill Wildcats" backpack for use in carrying their supplies. A representative from the school reads a book to the group each session and participants receive a copy of that book following the session. A book drive is planned for late spring in partnership with the school. Each participant will also receive books to continue reading throughout the summer months. Imagination Library enrollment forms are available for children that qualify and desire to register.



REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Dr. Michelle Pardue, Chair

DATES TO REMEMBER

The Nominations Committee is excited to present a strong slate of candidates for the 2017-2018 Board of Directors. Each of these candidates possesses unique skills and experience in the public health arena that will assist in enabling TPHA to remain a strong association.

The Nominations Committee presents the following slate of nominees for this year's election:

President-Elect:

Dr. Paul Peterson Dr. Cathy Taylor

Vice President Middle:

Tatum Johnson Dr. Bethany Wrye

Vice President West:

Dr. Richard Savoy Pattie Kiddy

Vice President East:

Amanda Goodhard Corey Gouge

Board Representatives:

Susan Gulley Lesa Byrum
Michael Railling Sandra Nelson

As in previous years, voting will be done electronically. Each candidate's picture and biography will be available for review with the ballot. Notice will be sent to all TPHA members when voting can begin along with instructions for how to access the ballot. Please exercise your right to vote this year!

Tennessee Public Health Association
Annual Educational Conference
“Cultivate, Innovate, Elevate: Health Across the Spectrum”
September 13-15, 2017
Cool Springs Marriott Hotel and Convention Center
Franklin, TN

National Association of County and City
Health Officials
**“Public Health Revolution:
Bridging Clinical Medicine and Population Health”**
July 11-13, 2017
Pittsburgh, PA

American Public Health Association
143rd Annual Meeting & Exposition
**“Creating the Healthiest Nation:
Climate Changes Health”**
November 4-8, 2017
Atlanta, GA

Planning to Attend TPHA's Annual Conference? Reserve Your Room Today at the Cool Springs Marriott

The link shown below will direct you to the property's home page with the code already entered in the appropriate field. Enter your arrival date to begin the reservation process. The cutoff date for reservations at the group rate is August 21.

http://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=TN%20Public%20Health%20Assn%20%5Ebnacs%60phaphaa%60139.00%60USD%60false%604%609/12/17%609/15/17%608/22/17&app=resvlink&stop_mobi=yes

You may also go online to the TPHA website and click Hotel Reservations under Annual Meeting on the home page.