Happy New Year! What an exciting time to be in the field of Public Health and be a part of TPHA! As we ushered in a new year, the 2019-2020 Board and Committee Chairs have been working diligently to further the work of those who came before us, establish TPHA’s priorities for the year, start planning Spring Grand Division meetings, and begin putting the pieces in place for the Annual Conference.

TPHA Vice Presidents representing each of the Grand Regions are planning their Grand Division meetings which are sure to be fantastic! I strongly encourage you to attend your Grand Division Spring meeting, as these meetings provide you with an excellent opportunity to gather with your colleagues, earn professional development and continuing education credit in your field, and stay up-to-date on the latest developments in Public Health.

Our Committee Chairs are also hard at work on the 2020 Annual Conference. Be on the lookout for a survey to gather input from the membership to assist with the conference planning.

YOU are a valuable part of this organization, so I also encourage you to renew your membership. If you have already renewed your membership, thank you. We simply could not do the work we do without you.

All My Best,
Haley Colvin, MA, RD, LDN, CLC

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Bradley County Drastically Increase Flu POD Numbers from Previous Year

Submitted by Amanda Goodhard, Assessment & Planning Coordinator, Southeast Region

The State of Tennessee held its second statewide free flu vaccination event on November 19. Since the event was so successful last year, every county and region had goals to increase their numbers. Bradley County was one of the Southeast Region’s most successful counties this year with a total of 284 vaccinations given thanks to the hard work of their staff and a few tweaks to their process from the previous year.

While Bradley County gave over 100 vaccinations at their POD last year, they wanted to make sure even more people got their vaccine. Last year, the POD was open for a few hours in the morning and then again for a few more hours in the evening. This year, it was open from 7 in the morning until 7 at night, providing more opportunities for people to get their vaccine around their work schedule.

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National Public Health Week 2020
Submitted by Shannon Railling, MPH, Coordinated School Health Director, Warren County Schools

National Public Health Week will be celebrated April 6-12, 2020. The theme of this year’s celebration is “National Public Health Week @ 25: Looking Back, Moving Forward.” We will again be honoring local public health dreamers and doers with the 10th Annual Public Health Visionary Awards! Nomination forms will be sent to TPHA members via email and will be available from your region or metro’s Public Health Week Committee member in January, or email raillings@warrenschools.com. Deadline for nominations is 12:00 PM CST on March 12, 2020. The Visionary Awards honor local public health advocates who work to make their communities a healthier place to live, work, play, and grow. It could be a local elementary school cafeteria manager who has changed the cafeteria environment to make the healthy choice the easy choice, or it could be a dedicated group of community members who created a farmer’s market or walking trail. How about the local policy maker who has worked to improve county or city policies that effect health, the health professional who is working tirelessly to improve the lives of NAS infants, or even a local community advocate who is a voice for sidewalks, bike lanes, or playgrounds? The possibilities are abundant across the state. To honor these individuals and recognize their contributions we need your help! Please submit nominations! This year we will also continue the 7th Annual Student Video Challenge. This is the opportunity to give our future public health professionals a chance to stand out and let their voice be heard! Students will create and submit videos based on the theme “Public Health in Tennessee; Looking Back, Moving Foward” with the deadline for video submissions being Noon Central on March 12, 2020. Videos will be reviewed and scored by the Public Health Week committee and a winner will be chosen for the grand prize and recognition at their regional TPHA meeting. Any student attending college in the state of Tennessee and currently enrolled in a public health course is eligible to enter. For more information please contact your region or metro’s Public Health Week Committee member, or email raillings@warrenschools.com.

As always, Public Health Week is a time to recognize our local public health heroes, YOU! Every region and metro has their Public Health Week traditions that are unique. TPHA is proud to be a part of your celebration. Thank you to each of you for the daily work you do to improve the health of Tennesseans. You are Public Health at its best!

POD, Continued from page 1
This POD also gave patients the option to drive through or go inside to receive their vaccine. Additionally, local media had more of an interest in the event this year and one news station promoted the event at least four times during their morning broadcast and once during their evening broadcast – just in time for a few more people to see it and come by before they closed. Overall this event was a huge success and some counties have already started planning and brainstorming ways to improve for next year!
An Introduction to Charrettes in Northeast
Submitted by Kristen Spencer, MPH, Assessment & Planning Coordinator, Northeast Region

You may be wondering “what is a charrette” and “how does it relate to public health?” A charrette is a collaborative process in which stakeholders, community members, designers, and architects collectively brainstorm design ideas. Charrettes can be used for many possibilities including clinic room layouts, art work, landscaping, lighting options and water bottle refill stations.

In the Northeast Region, we have utilized charrettes for team members to explore project design potentials and establish collaborative efforts to make spaces more inviting and healthy for staff and patients. Ashley Davies, Healthy Development Coordinator has facilitated charrette sessions in the Northeast Region with one of those sessions including renovation planning at the Washington County Health Department. During the WCHD session, interactive activities assisted staff in identifying the possibilities of their existing area and an opportunity to brainstorm about the future possibilities of their designated interior and exterior office spaces. A clear and concise feedback report was developed and shared with entire team and leadership based on the results of the session. As a region we have learned a variety of tactics by allotting time to effectively brainstorm with team members, resulting in great customer service and efficiency for the patients we serve.

WIC or TREAT in Monroe County
Submitted by Corrie Gouge, MS, CHES, Assessment & Planning Coordinator, East Tennessee Region

Monroe County Health Department provided WIC patients with an extra special treat for Halloween. Staff dressed up in their favorite costumes to provided patients with healthy treats. Nutrition Educator Olivia Ellison makes string cheese ghost with games and prizes filling the lobby for patients.

(Washington County Health Department team actively participating in a charrette session.)

Tennessee Active Building Guidelines
Lewis County High School TNSTRONG Wins PSA Contest
Submitted by Madison Toney, Assessment & Planning Coordinator, South Central Region

Lewis County High School: Tennessee Stop Tobacco and Revolutionize Our New Generation, TNSTRONG, students participated in the “Harmful Effects of Vaping” Public Service Announcement, PSA, contest in October of 2019. The contest was presented by Regional Tobacco Coordinator Lindsey Wayland with the South Central Region Health Office. The purpose of the PSA contest was to educate youth of the “Harmful Effects of Vaping” which includes but is not limited to: Big Tobacco’s lies and manipulation targeting youth, physical health effects, vaping and nicotine use, etc. Lewis County Public Health Educator Amanda Krueger made the announcement in November of 2019 to the TNSTRONG students praising the group for their work and placing 1st place in the contest. Their PSA included education on nicotine use in e-cigarettes, the harmful effects of nicotine use on brain development of teens and young adults, the risks of e-cigarette use leading to cigarette use and current United States statistics of lung injury cases associated with the use of e-cigarettes or vaping products.

Their one minute PSA will serve as a vital component in the continued efforts of tobacco education and prevention in the State of Tennessee and the local community. The PSA is also featured in conjunction with the Great American Smokeout in Lewis County. The Tennessee Department of Health featured the PSA on its website, social media platforms and local media outlets. Lewis County Schools Family Resource Center Coordinator, Terry Whittenberg, serves as the group’s sponsor.

The students involved in the PSA project include Alyssa Grinder, Kasi Castro, Kane Dillon, Morgan Bailey, Luke Roberson, Paige Roberson, and Allee Carroll.

Did you receive a white elephant gift that’s not your style?

Did you get a gift card you know you’ll never use?

Donate it to the Silent Auction!

All money raised from the Annual Silent Auction goes to the scholarship fund.

Contact Tatum Johnson at Tatum.H.Johnson@tn.gov to donate or join the Silent Auction Committee.
Blount County Health Department Celebrates 100 Years of Services

Submitted by Corrie Gouge, MS, CHES, Assessment & Planning Coordinator, East Tennessee Region

The Blount County Health Department celebrated its centennial year of service on Friday, October 4th. Blount County Health Department staff members joined colleagues from the Tennessee Department of Health, Blount County officials and other community members for the event. The Blount County Health Department was established as the first public health department in Tennessee in 1919.

“We are extremely proud of this accomplishment and the hard work and dedication of our employees at the Blount County Health Department over the past 100 years and their ongoing efforts to improve the health of everyone in Blount County,” said East Regional Health Office Director, Janet Ridley.

Over the past 100 years the Blount County Health Department has been part of the fight against outbreaks of diseases like tuberculosis, polio, smallpox, influenza, and many others. Today the Blount County Health Department continues to protect, promote, and improve the health of people in the community through services including well child examinations, environmental health services, immunizations, family planning, dental care, primary care, and birth and death certificates. "We want Blount County residents to know about the many services we provide and that we’re committed to continue serving people in this great community for many years to come," said Blount County Health Department Director Robert Schmidt.

Mid-Cumberland Region Received Opioid Grant

Submitted by Olivia Spooner, MPH, Assessment & Planning Coordinator, Mid-Cumberland Region

The Mid-Cumberland Region will be receiving a High Impact Area Opioid Grant. The first year of funding will be devoted to Montgomery, Rutherford, and Cheatham County. The Tennessee Department of Health partnered with American Institute for Research to conduct a Community Data Interpretation Day. This brought local stakeholders together to identify and prioritize community needs. This included members from several community groups, organizations, and law enforcement. The group reviewed data related to opioid use disorder, fatal and nonfatal overdoses, treatment options, arrests, and opioid prescriptions. They then voted on the top priority areas.

The selected projects are prevention education, implementation of linkage to opioid use disorder treatment from health departments, development of emergency department discharge protocols, and public safety team response/ identification and follow up to individual experiencing/at risk of overdoses. The final step of the process was to create action plans that will be funded through the grant. The project will begin planning and implementation this year.
Announcements and Upcoming Events
Click on the following announcement or event for more information. To stay informed throughout the year, visit Tennessee Public Health Association Home Page.

- APHA announces new round of funding for Healthiest Cities and Counties
- Call for Student Posters for the West Tennessee Grand Division Meeting
- Visionary Awards 2020: Nominations due March 5, 2020
- Renew Your TPHA Membership for 2020 Now!
- The 7th Annual Student Video Challenge Is Currently Underway

Mark your calendars!
Tennessee Quit Week is February 3-7, 2020
Tennessee Nurses Day On The Hill and Legislative Reception is February 4, 2020
National Public Health Week is April 6-12, 2020
TPHA’s next Annual Educational Conference will be September 9-11, 2020 at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Hotel and Conference Center.

Deadline to Submit Applications for 2020 Scholarships is May 8, 2020
Submitted by Carrie Thomas, MPH, Division Director of Workforce Development, Knox County Health Department

The Tennessee Public Health Association is currently accepting applications for scholarships. These scholarships are open to public health professionals and students pursuing degrees in public health. For more information on eligibility criteria or to download an application, go to TPHA Scholarships. The deadline to apply is May 8, 2020.

TPHA Turns 80!
Dr. Marian Levy presents the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs with plaque from APHA recognizing TPHA’s 80 year anniversary as an association.

2020 Annual Educational Conference
Submitted by Christian Williams, MPH, DrPH, Director of BSPH Program & Assistant Professor, Belmont University

The Program Committee is excited to announce this year’s theme: A Vision for the Healthiest Tennessee: People Centered, Data Driven, Evidence Based. We are working to identify plenary and workshop speakers who align with this year’s theme. If you have a suggestion for a speaker or topic, please email Christian Williams at Christian.Williams@belmont.edu. Our goal is to ensure we have speakers who meet the wide variety of disciplines that TPHA represents. Stay tuned for updates in the next newsletter edition!