



Tennessee Public Health Association Newsletter

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President's
Message

From

Paul Erwin,
MD, DrPH

Greetings to all for the New Year!! It is February, but do you realize we are just about midway in the cycle of annual meetings? Committees are moving forward doing the necessary nitty-gritty work that must be done to put on this meeting, which we expect will draw in excess of 500 members. The Program Committee has established the annual meeting theme, **“Cultivate, Innovate, Elevate: Health Across the Spectrum”**, and under the very able leadership of Dr. Michael Warren the committee is already beginning to fill its roster of plenary and workshop speakers. There will be something for everyone in TPHA, with offerings to expand knowledge and skills, and as important as anything, opportunities to network with public health friends and colleagues across the state. Remember – your most important “ticket” into the annual meeting is your TPHA membership, which requires your renewal at the beginning of each year. You can renew (or join for the first time!) through the website at <http://tnpublichealth.org/> and clicking on “Membership.” And while most committees are up and running I’m sure there are openings for you to volunteer and lend your mind, heart, and hands – on the website click on Leadership, and you will see Committee Chairs - identify a committee of interest, and then contact the chair.

I want to return to the closing of my message from November - “if we want more evidence-based practice, we need more practice-based evidence.” What does this mean? I recall from my years as Regional Director and Health Officer being often confronted with, for example,

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2017 Annual Educational Conference
**“Cultivate, Innovate, Elevate:
Health Across the Spectrum ”**

September 13-15, 2017

Cool Springs Marriott, Franklin, TN

Submitted by Dr. Michael Warren, Program Committee Chair

**Save the date for the
2017 TPHA Annual Conference!**

This year’s conference will be held September 13-15 in Franklin, Tennessee at the Cool Springs Marriott. The theme is:

**“Cultivate, Innovate, Elevate:
Health Across the Spectrum”**

This theme was chosen to highlight the need to think about health across the lifespan, to think about the spectrum of health vs. health care, and to think about the entire spectrum of prevention, from primary to tertiary. The program will help to **cultivate** the skills and competencies needed for a modern public health workforce, encourage attendees to **innovate** in their program and work areas, and **elevate** our ability to engage communities in moving the needle on health.

The Program Committee is already hard at work securing plenary speakers to engage and challenge conference attendees. Plenaries that have been scheduled to date include: Bridging Public Health and Clinical Medicine, the Future of Public Health, and Community Engagement: Putting the “Public” Back in Public Health.

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federal requirements in family planning to perform this or that lab test as a part of the patient visit. The Nurse Practitioners who really taught me about family planning were as vexed as I was about why many of the tests were required. "What is the evidence that the test results make any difference in how you manage the patient?" This was a constant refrain. Similar questions, though, were being asked about community-based activities, most notably the many "health fairs" that were being carried out – "What is the evidence that such one-time events make a difference in the health of a community?" Answering these questions requires carefully conducted research, something that is usually not the purview of those working in public health practice.

In the past, public health academicians showed little interest in exploring these questions. This was part and parcel of the disconnect between the academic programs that provided degrees in public health, and the place where the practice of public health actually took place – the local health department. Can you imagine a nurse or a physician getting a degree by only sitting in the classroom? No! Nursing and medical schools are integrated with teaching hospitals, giving students the opportunities to apply classroom theory to actual patients. Many of us in both public health academics and public health practice are now trying to build similar levels of collaboration through the establishment of formal working relationships known as "Academic Health Departments." One critical aspect of these collaborations is building the capacity to carry out research in the practice setting, to work with practitioners in helping to answer questions that are searching for evidence: "What is the evidence that the test results make any difference in how you manage the patient?" "What is the evidence that one-time events such as health fairs make a difference in the health of a community?" That evidence cannot be established in the classroom, where academicians generate the research questions – it can only be established when the research attempts to answer practitioners' questions in the practice setting – this is practice-based evidence.

I look forward to continuing this conversation with you in the next newsletter, with this caveat – even with public health academic programs scattered across the state, there is great untapped potential for local health departments to partner with other colleges, including 2-year community colleges, to generate practice-based evidence.

Fare forward!

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The proposed workshops offer something for a variety of public health professionals working in different settings. While workshop planning is still underway, some of the workshops that have already been confirmed include: Healthy Aging, Toxic Stress and Brain Development and the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Best Practices on Tobacco Prevention and Control, Social Determinants of Health, Leveraging Academic Partners for Public Health Practice, and The Public Health Nurse: Necessary Partner for the Future of Healthy Communities.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2017 Annual Conference! Stay tuned for more information on the agenda and registration.

The Tennessee Public Health Association
extends a very special

THANK YOU

To the
Tennessee Department of Health
and

To the following organizations for supporting the 2016 conference and other public health activities throughout the year

TPHA Gold Agency Membership

TPHA Bronze Agency Membership

LIFEPATH
Tennessee Public Health Training Center

Belmont University
College of Health Sciences and Nursing

UnitedHealthcare

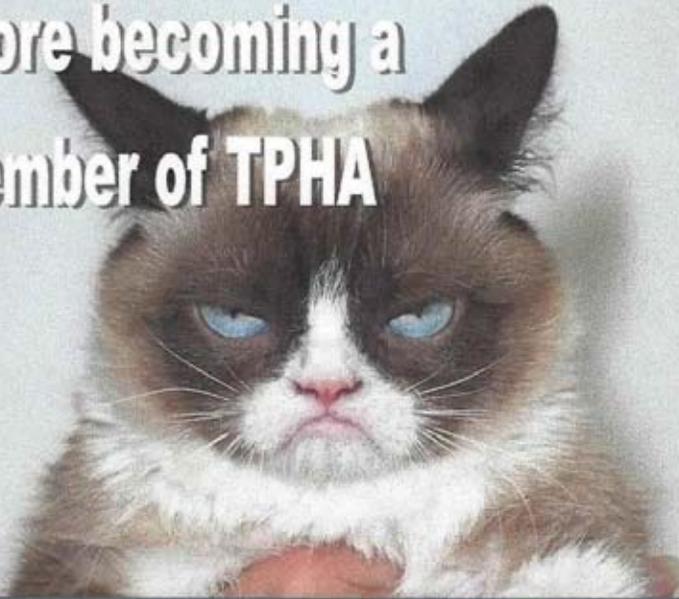
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee

Pfizer Vaccines

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Paula Masters, Chair

Before becoming a
member of TPHA



After becoming a member of TPHA



Don't be the first picture. Renew today and recruit often. Simply go to <http://tnpublichealth.org/membership-information/> and sign up today!!

PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Shannon Railling, Chair

National Public Health Week 2017 is quickly approaching! The theme of this year's celebration is "Healthiest Nation 2030" and focuses on making America the healthiest nation in one generation.

We will also be honoring local public health dreamers and doers with the 7th Annual TPHA Public Health Visionary Awards! Be on the lookout for the nomination forms that will be distributed to TPHA members via email, and will be available from your region or metro Public Health Week Committee member, or by emailing raillings@warrenschoools.com. Deadline for nominations is 12:00 PM Central on February 24, 2017. 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 affect 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 4th 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 "Healthiest Nation 2030" with the deadline for video submissions being 3:00 Central on February 24, 2017. 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 public health student in the state of Tennessee is eligible to enter. For more information please contact your region or metro's Public Health Week Committee member, or email raillings@warrenschoools.com

New this year we are participating as a team to take part in the American Public Health Association's 1 Billion Steps Challenge! This challenge has teams from across the country walking to improve their health, with the goal of reaching 1 Billion steps by the end of Public Health Week. You can join Team TPHA by following this link <https://stridekick.app.link/join-challenge?id=57118> and use code yj32q to join. You must first create a Stride Kick account, then click "join".

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!

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Dr. Lang Smith, Chair

As we kick off the new year, it's time to think about this year's TPHA award nominations. The Awards Committee is actively accepting nominations for the following awards through July 25, 2017:

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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Carrie Thomas, Chair

If you have at least three years of public health experience, have been a member of TPHA for a minimum of one year and are enrolled in an educational program; you may be eligible for a TPHA Scholarship! **Who wouldn't like a little financial assistance with educational endeavors?**

If you are interested in applying, you may download an application from the TPHA website at www.tnpublichealth.org. Scholarships shall be awarded to advance individual knowledge and competence in Public Health. Awards for Public Health training shall be limited to programs which award college credit, continuing education units (CEU's) or certification through a nationally recognized accrediting body or educational institution. Scholarships will be awarded in amounts up to \$1000 for degree programs and \$500 for certificate programs.

The deadline to submit an application is May 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Thomas at Carrie.Thomas@knoxcounty.org.

POSTER SESSION COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Dr. Paul Petersen, Chair

Call for Posters

Submissions due by:

June 29, 2017

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 do 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 workshops this year. 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 Paul Petersen at paul.petersen@tn.gov with any questions you may have.

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REGIONAL REPORTS

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Great American Smokeout - South Central Region

Submitted by: Brook Davis, Assessment and Planning Coordinator

During the month of November, several counties in the South Central Region participated in Great American Smokeout (GASO) events. Maury County Health Department's Tobacco PPI team partnered with the local health council and students from Columbia State Community College's Respiratory Therapy program to display educational exhibits in the lobby of the Maury County Health Department. Patients and community members were encouraged to view the exhibits and quit kits were also available. Exhibits were also shared on the campus of Columbia State, to encourage students and staff to kick the habit. Between both campuses, there were approximately 60 visitors to the events.



Students trained for the Tennessee Teens Talk Tobacco (T4) program at Moore County High School shared a youth proclamation with their peers. It stated that the T4 group is working toward a healthier, smoke-free generation. It helped to explain to other students that to start smoking or using dip is not a healthy thing to do. The proclamation was also signed by Assistant Principal Lindsay.

The Giles County High School T4 and Student Council representatives, celebrated by decorating the cafeteria with a coffin and several tombstones, to send a message of the ultimate result of long term tobacco use. During the four lunch periods, students set up aging booths to give their peers a glimpse of what premature aging would look like. To

demonstrate that tobacco leads to thirty-two deaths in Tennessee every day, cards describing different tobacco related diseases were placed randomly at the tables. Over 800 students participated in the activities.

Hickman County Health Department Health Educator Teresa Gregory, partnered with Hickman County High School STAR (Students Teaching and Reaching) Teens to promote the event by utilizing social media and in-school awareness. A video featured students discussing the event and reading a portion of a proclamation. Healthy Hickman Communities, STAR Teens, TNSTRONG, and the Tennessee Department of Health Facebook pages also shared the video. This resulted in the video being viewed 760 times and shared a total of 10 times. A photo was also placed on social media showing the students signing the proclamation. The youth group also posted anti-tobacco mini posters in the school hallways and via social media.

Fifth through eighth grade students at Lawrence and Wayne County schools, participated in a poster contest to commemorate the Great American Smokeout. Students were asked to create posters to help influence community members to stop using tobacco products. Poster contest judges included various community leaders who had a very hard job to do!

WEST TENNESSEE REGION

Tennessee Department of Health and University of Tennessee – Martin Utilize Collective Impact Framework to Initiate “Healthy Hawk” Campus Coalition

Submitted by: Chanda Freeman, Regional Health Promotion Coordinator

Using the Collective Impact Framework, representatives from the West Tennessee Regional Health Office, the Weakley County Health Department and the University of Tennessee - Martin came together to form the UTM Healthy Campus Coalition in the spring of 2016. The mission of Healthy UTM Campus Coalition is to develop a culture of health on the University of Tennessee-Martin Campus, by implementing strategies that promote healthy behaviors and improve the health of faculty, staff, and students. The UTM Health Campus Coalition focuses on improving health behaviors by encouraging physical activity, healthy eating habits, and tobacco abstinence and cessation.

Collective Impact was founded on the premise that solutions to social problems are more likely found when various stakeholders abandon their agenda for a shared agenda. Unlike isolated impact, an approach oriented toward finding and funding a solution embodied within a single organization, combined with the hope that the most effective organizations will grow or replicate to extend their impact more widely. The Collective Impact Framework purports that large-scale social change is achieved through cross-sector coordination rather than from the isolated interventions of individual organizations.

In the Collective Impact Framework all participants agree on a common agenda for change, develop a shared understanding of the problem, and approach problem solving through joint action. Successful collective impact initiatives have five conditions that together produce true alignment and lead to powerful results: a common agenda, shared measurement systems, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and backbone support organizations.

The goal of this project is to create social and physical environments that embrace and promote good health for faculty, staff, and students. Key components of UTM’s Healthy Campus strategy included: identifying staff and departmental wellness champions to lead the effort; creating a campus wide wellness coalition to engage faculty, staff and students; and, initiating and sustaining campus-wide activities that support project objectives and developing appropriate evaluation methods to track and measure outputs and accomplishments.

Project objectives for the Healthy Campus Coalition are to implement a healthy messaging social marketing campaign to introduce, promote and reinforce coalition efforts; to increase the availability of healthier options on campus; to increase water intake among students, faculty and staff; and, to increase physical activity among students, faculty and staff and to become a Tobacco-free campus.

According to the Stanford Social Innovation Review, evidence of the effectiveness of this approach is still limited, but emerging research suggests that substantially greater progress could be made in alleviating many of our most serious and complex social problems if nonprofits, governments, businesses, and the public were brought together around a common agenda to create collective impact.

Utilizing the Collective Impact Framework can help ensure that individual stakeholders continue to work together for the common goal, decrease the likelihood of community partners retreating to silos, and increase the odds of having a greater impact on the community. Currently this coalition is represented by 17 of 21 departments on campus; they are well on their way to creating a healthier college campus.



UT-Martin students and faculty participating in “Fit Friday” campus event

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE REGION

Health Departments Complete Successful Implementation of Electronic Medical Records

Submitted by: Jayne Harper, Assessment and Planning Coordinator

Northeast is LIVE! Since early December 2016 all health departments within the Northeast Region have successfully trained staff and implemented Electronic Public-Health Information (EPI) version 1.0 for most clinical services. The pilot program of the Tennessee Department of Health to switch to electronic medical records is complete!

First to "GO-Live" were the Regional Pharmacy, the TB Clinic at the Regional Health Office and the Hawkins County Church Hill Office beginning in October of 2015. Between June and December 2016 health departments in Hawkins (Rogersville Office), Unicoi, Hancock, Carter, Johnson, Washington, and Greene Counties also received training and implemented EPI, requiring a reduction in patient appointments. Most clinics have returned to 100% of the appointment profile, but clinics requiring more comprehensive visits continue to work toward this goal in increments. Roll out has now moved to the East Region and will continue across the state until all health departments are live with the first version of EPI.

Anecdotes from staff members involved with EPI implementation have been positive as well as constructive. Most employees have been receptive and many eager to implement the new system, making the training work of the Clinical Application Coordinators (CAC's) much easier. While public health office assistants no longer have to assemble paper charts, they are learning new processes for document management such as scanning and indexing. As a pilot program, new processes and procedures remain in "draft" form creating some stress for those eager to follow a tried and approved process. Although many superusers, people adept with the software and poised to train others, were pre-selected, several more superusers emerged during the training. These individuals are invaluable post "GO-Live" weeks when the CAC teams are less accessible due to training in the next site.

"The EPI system is different from the paper system clinicians were used to and it really helped to reduce the patient load during initial implementation," said Shaun Street, Greene County Director. "Even though we saw fewer patients, the RVU's (productivity measure) per patient visit increased."

EAST REGION

Be Smart, Don't Start

Submitted by: Sherrie Montgomery, County Director, Hamblen County Health Department

Be Smart, Don't Start/ #tobaccofreehc is a nine month long anti-tobacco message to the youth of Hamblen County. This is a combined effort of the Hamblen County Health Department, Hamblen County Board of Education/Coordinated School Health, Citizen Tribune Newspaper and Morristown Hamblen Healthcare Systems/Covenant, which is geared toward youth tobacco awareness and prevention. Another key partnership is the T4 group (Tennessee Teens Talk Tobacco), who is working to encourage their peers to avoid all tobacco products.

The campaign began in August 2016 at the Kick Off Classic (Football Jamboree). This was the premiere of the campaign effort and included a video of Hamblen County middle and high school students encouraging their peers to avoid tobacco products. The T4 Group, along with committee members, manned a booth at the event and distributed free "#tobaccofreehc" t-shirts to those students who signed the pledge banner to be tobacco free. Additionally, two of the T4 students filmed a video vignette for the Great American Smoke Out in November to encourage current tobacco users to quit.

Additionally, the committee and T4 Group are collaborating on future efforts related to "It's Quittin' Time in Tennessee" in February and Kick Butts Day in March. Art students from both high schools will submit tobacco awareness and prevention art work (in February) for a poster contest. Entries will be displayed at the Home Show in March, with the winners from each school prominently displayed at the front of the booth. The Home Show event will coincide nicely with Kick Butts Day efforts in mid-March. All entries will receive a "Tobacco Free" bracelet and the two high school winners will receive a Fit Bit.

Exciting things are happening in Hamblen County! The campaign efforts can be followed at #tobaccofreehc.

UPPER CUMBERLAND REGION

Ms. Helen Allen named recipient of a 2016 Governor's Excellence in Service Award for the Tennessee Department of Health.



Ms. Helen Allen, Public Health Office Supervisor with the Jackson County Health Department in the Upper Cumberland region is a recipient of a Governor's Excellence in Service Award for the Tennessee Department of Health. Governor Haslam created these awards in 2016 to recognize outstanding state employees who are at the forefront of improving the way Tennessee State Government delivers services.

Ms. Allen has provided a professional environment and quality service to Jackson County and the Jackson County Health Department for over 16 years. Community members speak highly of Helen in both the general public and patient satisfaction surveys. Helen has worked to make improvements to the local health department resulting in increased customer satisfaction and improved working partnerships with local government. Helen is a

lifelong resident of Jackson County. She and her husband, Darryl, have one son, Andrew, who lives in Wichita Falls, Texas with his wife, Elise.

County employee fitness program



Recently, Putnam County Health Department launched "Mission Possible 2.0", a 3 month worksite wellness program for all Putnam County employees. Mission Possible 2.0, a follow up to the successful Mission Possible, involved a journey to better health through exercise and nutrition with monthly check-ins for body mass index and blood pressure.

Over 50 employees participated in the program. Many reported they were eating healthier, exercising more, and motivating one another to keep going. Randy Porter, Putnam County Executive, stated "Mission Possible 2.0 county wide wellness program has been an outstanding program for our local government employees. We hope this will continue to motivate each individual to live a healthy lifestyle and make good nutritional choices daily".

Shown left to right Lisa, Bumbalough, County Director; Billie Jo Crabtree, Top Female Winner, and Randy Porter, County Executive

SOUTHEAST REGION

Radiological Exercise in Sequatchie County

Submitted by: Amanda Goodhard, Assessment and Planning Coordinator

On February 2, multiple agencies participated in an exercise that mimicked a real-life scenario during a radiological event. The exercise was arranged by multiple agencies including Sequatchie County EMA, Tennessee Department of Health's Southeast region, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials. Members from each of these agencies as well as the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and multiple counties and regions in Tennessee either participated or observed the exercise.

The purpose of the exercise was to measure throughput times for multiple individuals being process through monitoring and decontamination at a community reception center following the release of radiological material. Once the participants arrived, they went through a portal monitor. If they were "clean", they stepped to one side, received a wrist band to indicate that they were clean, and went to the "shelter" area. If a participant or their timekeeper had a live source, the portal monitor would alert the staff and the participant would go to a different station for further monitoring, go on to be decontaminated, and monitored once more; if they were "clean", they received their wrist band and went to the shelter area. Although the scenario was simulated, fully functional monitoring devices and live radiological sources were used. The goal was to measure 20-30 individuals going through the process but the group ended up being able to measure 40 individuals that went through the whole process.

As with most exercises, the goal is to improve the process. Throughput times will be analyzed and examiner notes and participant evaluations will be reviewed in order to look at what was done well and what could be done better next time.



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE EVENTS

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

Middle Tennessee Meeting
May 5, 2017
Williamson County EMA Center
Franklin, TN

East Tennessee Meeting
May 11, 2017
Jubilee Banquet Facility
6700 Jubilee Center Way
Knoxville, TN

West Tennessee Meeting
May 25, 2017
University of Memphis, Lambuth
Jackson, 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