

# Navigating Uncertainty:

## BALANCING PRIORITIES & ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH IN TIMES OF COMPLEXITY

### 2026 PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERS' CONFERENCE

March 12-13

📍 Embassy Suites Raleigh-Durham/Research Triangle

### 2026 PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERS' CONFERENCE AGENDA AT A GLANCE

#### THURSDAY, March 12, 2026: DAY 1 Public Health Leaders' Conference

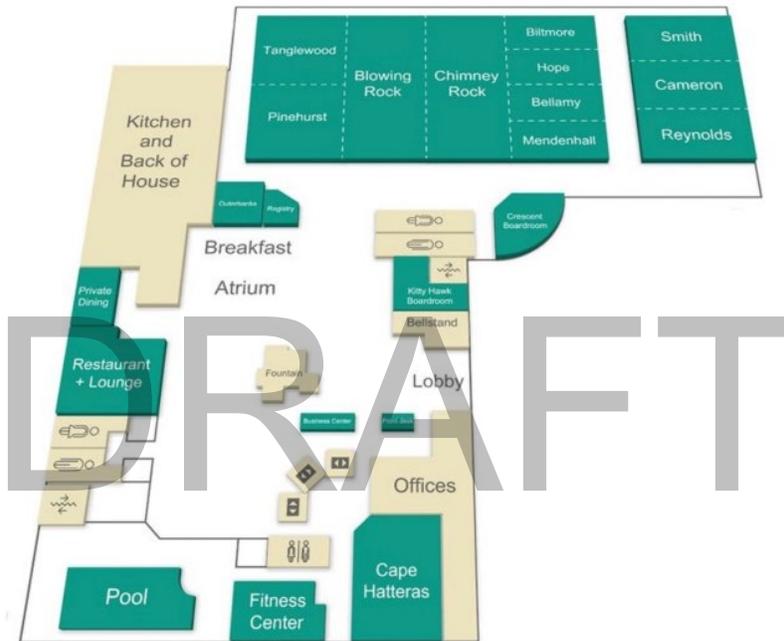
<b>7:30 – 9:00 am</b>	Registration & Breakfast	<b>Pre-function</b>
<b>9:00 am – 5:00 pm</b>	Exhibits and Posters Open	<b>Pre-function</b>
<b>9:00 – 9:30 am</b>	Opening Remarks: Dr. Kelly Kimple, Division Director, NC DPH & Jen Greene President, NC Association of Local Health Directors (NCALHD)	<b>Ballroom</b>
<b>9:30 – 10:30 am</b>	Keynote Address: Public Health Leadership in Times of Uncertainty Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH, National Advisor, Manatt Health	<b>Ballroom</b>
<b>10:45 – 11:45 am</b>	Leadership Principle Plenary: Cultivating Inner Strength & Resilience as Leaders Kristin Neff, PhD, Self Compassion Institute	<b>Ballroom</b>
<b>11:45 am – 1:00 pm</b>	Lunch and Presentation of the Dr. Ron Levine Award	<b>Ballroom</b>
<b>1:30 – 4:45 pm</b>	Breakout Sessions	

Breakout Tract	1:30p-2:30pm	2:45p-3:45pm	4:00p-4:45pm
<b>Surveillance &amp; Assessment</b>	Pending	Pending	Resolving the Uncertainty of Drug-Impaired Driving
<b>Location/Room</b>	<b>Smith</b>	<b>Smith</b>	<b>Smith</b>
<b>Addressing Gaps in Health</b>	NC Environmental Public Health Tracking Program Water Filter Distribution Project	Building Bridges for Control of HIV and Other Diseases	NC Programs' Holistic Approach to Address Infant Mortality
<b>Location/Room</b>	<b>Cameron</b>	<b>Cameron</b>	<b>Cameron</b>
<b>Communications</b>	Being trustworthy & earning trust - what the data tells us, as lessons from life	Exploring New Technology & Collaborating Regionally to Advance Local Public Health Communications	Overview of NC Injury Data User Toolkit & How it Can Help You Better Understand Data
<b>Location/Room</b>	<b>Reynolds</b>	<b>Reynolds</b>	<b>Reynolds</b>
<b>Policy Development &amp; Support</b>	Rules That Protect: Improving Public Health Through Rulemaking	Moving MMRC Recommendations to Action: Statewide Strategies to Reduce Maternal Mortality	Legal Mandates vs. Staffing Realities: Strategies for Maintaining CD Compliance in LHDs
<b>Location/Room</b>	<b>Cape Hatteras</b>	<b>Cape Hatteras</b>	<b>Cape Hatteras</b>
<b>Organizational Competencies</b>	From Support Tool to Organizational Asset: Navigating the Spectrum of AI Use in Public Health	Workforce Development and Nurturing the Public Health Workforce Panel	Building Systems to Support Chaos: Control What You Can Control
<b>Location/Room</b>	<b>Bellamy/Mendenhall</b>	<b>Bellamy/Mendenhall</b>	<b>Bellamy/Mendenhall</b>
<b>Community Partnerships &amp; Preparedness</b>	Community-level surveys for preparedness and response: Case studies from two hurricane events in NC	PHAT- Bringing the Assistance to You in an Emergency	Currency of Collaboration: Funding Stability Through Partnership Innovation
<b>Location/Room</b>	<b>Biltmore/Hope</b>	<b>Biltmore/Hope</b>	<b>Biltmore/Hope</b>

FRIDAY, March 13, 2025: DAY 2 Public Health Leaders' Conference

7:30 – 9:00 am	Breakfast	Ballroom
9:00 – 9:30 am	Opening Remarks: Dr. Devdutta “Dev” Sangvai, Secretary of NC DHHS	Ballroom
9:00 – 10:00 am	Public Health in Action Panel: Money Matters - Understanding & Strengthening the State & Local Public Health Funding Ecosystem	Ballroom
10:15 – 11:30 am	Send-Off Keynote: Motivation in Adversity and Uncertainty (Working Title) Mike Schlappi, Motivational Speaker & Olympic Champion	Ballroom
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Closing Remarks: Dr. Kelly Kimple, Division Director, NC DPH	Ballroom

Map of Conference Facility: Embassy Suites



Connecting to WiFi:  
Password: PHL2025

Please download the NCPHA Conference App using the QR codes placed around the venue or visit the App Store on your phone with NCPHA keyword.

NOTES: