



Message from the President

– Rod Jenkins, MHA



Greetings to the best public health association. I cannot thank you enough for your support and participation in the North Carolina Public Health Association. As we enter the season of giving, I want to thank you for all your gifts and sacrifices in keeping our communities safe. Your sacrifices have not gone unnoticed as we were able to share “war” stories and fellowship during an extremely successful Fall Education Conference in Wilmington, North Carolina with over 450 people in attendance. The rescheduled 2021 Fall Educational Conference, *Connectedness and Equity: Public Health Creates a Healthier North Carolina*

was on full display as the energy was high and the weather was beautiful.

As the holiday season is upon us, it is comforting to feel a sense of “normalcy.” The previous two seasons were met with anxiety (and lots of work) on the local level. It is truly my hope that everyone can break away from work and enjoy friends, family, and respite! I have said it before, but it is worth repeating. I am beyond grateful and would like to thank the NCPHA family for the opportunity to serve as NCPHA President for 2022-2023. It is truly an honor, particularly during this pivotal time for public health.

We are excited to welcome our new Executive Director, Mr. Patrick Brown. After an exhaustive search, we are fortunate to have a new leader that will take our organization(s) to the next level. Mr. Brown began his journey with our Association on November 28, 2022 and has hit the ground running. I ask that you join me in wishing Patrick all the best as his success is OUR success. We are grateful for Becky Hughes for filling in as Interim Executive Director and keeping things moving along.

While it is an honor to serve and follow in the footsteps of those presidents that came before me, I am delighted to follow Past President Leah Mayo Acheson's term as NCPHA President. Leah served with dignity and grace while bringing forth an outstanding program that will benefit our public health workforce. Leah's leadership was instrumental in NCPHA becoming the CDC's Region IV Community-based Training Site for North Carolina. As part of this year-long partnership, we can

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offer the Pathways to Practice Field Placement Program. There are three field placements available for North Carolina. We hope that Local Health Departments will host a practicum student. The stipend for the practicums is \$3500 and is to be completed in the spring of 2023. This is a tremendous opportunity to influence the next generation of public health leaders. What a huge win for North Carolina Public Health!

I conclude my message with a word that we (in Public Health) should become comfortable with...**advocate**. We have much to look forward to in 2023. With the General Assembly's return for the Long Session in January and Medicaid Expansion on the agenda, now is the time to speak up for Public Health. We are the voice of our Public Health workforce. Our charge is to educate and advocate so we must promote Public Health. [The NC Institute of Medicine's report on the Future of Public Health](#) will serve as a **must read**. This report lays the groundwork for what needs to be done to sustain this great momentum that we have gained because of pandemic activity and worldwide notoriety of public health. We must not be afraid to have a conversation; write a letter; send a text or email our elected officials. Public Health has many needs and increased funding is on the top of the list. We encourage you to get into the arena and join us! It is my goal to have a unified voice with our partner associations (NC Alliance for Public Health Agencies and NC Association of Local Health Directors). What an exciting time to be in public health!

We know that 2023 will be a banner year. I thank you for your continued participation and commitment to NCPHA!

Rod Jenkins, MHA
2022-2023 NCPHA President



Silos are for feed, not funding

— Amy Belflower Thomas, MHA, MSPH, CPH



Whether you have been in public health over 20 years like me, or maybe just a few years, you know that our funding in governmental public health comes down in “silos.” AA151 for Family Planning, AA514 for Emergency Preparedness, AA whatever for the-next-disease-de-jour. And we can’t blame CDC for our siloed funding woes—they have 150-200 individual budget lines coming in that they are required to pass down in similar fashion¹.

For decades, CDC directors have been frustrated by this inflexible funding system especially during public health emergencies, from Director Julia Gerberding in the early 2000s with the anthrax attacks to Interim Director Bessor with H1N1 to Director Thomas Frieden with Ebola. Ed Hunter, a retired CDC official, was interviewed by CNN and said every CDC director he worked with experienced “the same story: that there’s such limits to what you can do [given] the specificity of the appropriations that come from the Congress and the timelines and the complexity of the federal procurement system.” Simply put, public health often has to respond to emergencies with its hands tied behind its back, often receiving funding only after the threat is over while at the same time sitting on unused funding for other programs that can’t be used for the emergency.

But perhaps no other time in history has the issue been so stark as recently with the COVID-19 pandemic and the monkeypox outbreak of 2022 right on its heels. The current system simply doesn’t allow for the nimbleness needed for emergency response to new threats nor planning for sustainable preparedness and response to a multitude of threats. Beyond just the CDC, other entities like the Trust for America’s Health, the Bipartisan Policy Center, NACCHO, and APHA also understand

and advocate for changes to public health funding infrastructure as its’ challenges affect us not only during emergencies, but in our dynamic day-to-day work of public health protection, improvement, and health equity as well.

Despite these decades of siloed funding challenges, CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky is now tackling the issue head-on and in a slightly different way than directors before her. As she states, she is asking specifically for new flexibilities, “We’re not asking for money. We’re asking for capacity. We’re asking for authorities to be able to do our job.”² For instance, instituting less funding streams that focus more on Foundational Capabilities and infrastructure versus specific diseases and programs would free up governmental public health to act more efficiently and effectively in day-to-day work as well as during emergencies, and able to be more responsive to their community’s unique public health needs.

Furthermore, she states, “I want to be very clear that [we] are not asking for a blank-slate ability to release resources. What we’re saying is, in certain situations, we need to be nimble and act urgently in culturally sensitive ways that we don’t currently have the capacity to do.”² For instance, flexible financial arrangements, such as contracting with external entities during emergency situations, are allowable for other federal agencies such as (FEMA) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), but not for the CDC. This type of contracting would have been extremely helpful with things like COVID messaging to various audiences, but also in response to recent polio outbreaks in New York affecting Orthodox Jewish communities³.

Former CDC attorney, The Network for Public Health Law- Southeastern Region principal investigator, and general public health guru/mentor Gene Matthews once told me when I was lamenting the challenges of public health infrastructure today and the “good ole days” of the bioterrorism funding boom pre-2018, you have to believe that the pendulum will always swing. Indeed, in the people and energy of public health today, I see much hope for improving public health infrastructure in the months and years to come in our great state. Here’s to hoping that Walensky’s pushing of the pendulum is finally successful and that silos go back to their rightful place.

¹Goodman, B. August 17, 2022. CDC announces sweeping reorganization, aimed at changing the agency’s culture and restoring public trust.CNN, www.cnn.com/2022/08/17/health/cdc-announces-sweeping-changes/index.html

²Cohen E, Lape, J. November 3, 2022. CDC wants to change ‘antiquated’ rules that hamper agency’s ability to fight COVID, polio, and other diseases, CNN, www.cnn.com/2022/11/02/health/cdc-crisis-flexibility
³Interlandi J. June 16, 2021. COVID proved the CDC is broken: can it be fixed?, The New York Times Magazine, www.nytimes.com/2021/06/16/magazine/cdc-covid-response.html

A 'Tripledemic'? Flu, R.S.V. and Covid May Collide This Winter, Experts Say

By Apoorva Mandavilli
Published in New York Times

A 'Tripledemic'? Flu, R.S.V. and Covid May Collide This Winter, Experts Say

Flu cases are higher than usual for this time of year and are expected to soar in the coming weeks. Another virus, R.S.V., already is straining pediatric hospitals in some states.

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A young girl receiving a Covid test at Esperanza Health Center in Chicago in September. Jamie Kelter Davis for The New York Times

For more than two years, shuttered schools and offices, social distancing and masks granted Americans a reprieve from flu and most other respiratory infections. This winter is likely to be different.

With few to no restrictions in place and travel and socializing back in full swing, an expected winter rise in Covid cases appears poised to collide with a resurgent influenza season, causing a "twindemic" — or even a "tripledeemic," with a third pathogen, respiratory syncytial virus, or R.S.V., in the mix.

Cases of flu have begun to tick up earlier than usual, and are expected to soar over the coming weeks. Children infected with R.S.V. (which has similar symptoms to flu and Covid), rhinoviruses and enteroviruses are already straining pediatric hospitals in several states.

"We're seeing everything come back with a vengeance,"

said Dr. Alpana Waghmare, an infectious diseases expert at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and a physician at Seattle Children's Hospital.

Most cases of Covid, flu and R.S.V. are likely to be mild, but together they may sicken millions of Americans and swamp hospitals, public health experts warned.

"You've got this waning Covid immunity, coinciding with the impact of the flu coming along here, and R.S.V.," said Andrew Read, an evolutionary microbiologist at Penn State University. "We're in uncharted territory here."

The vaccines for Covid and flu, while they may not prevent infection, still offer the best protection against severe illness and death, experts said. They urged everyone, and especially those at high risk, to get their shots as soon as possible. [Read complete article.](#)

What's your dream car?

In order to put a face with a name and give a little insight to the staff of NCPHA/NCAPHA, we asked them to answer this question: *What's your dream car?*



Jessica Alexander

Mercedes G Wagon



Joanne Brassington

Acura RDX



Karen Davis

Lexus IS 300



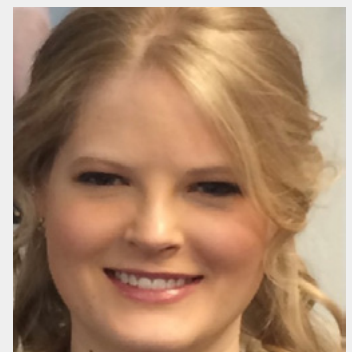
Kim Dittmann

Electric Volvo C40



Becky Hughes

Volvo Convertible



Katie Hughes

Chevrolet Suburban

Preaching to the choir, but if you have not received your flu shot, do so today!

PROTECT AGAINST THE
FLU 

#FIGHTFLU



OASH

Office of
Infectious Disease
and HIV/AIDS Policy

SAVE THE DATE

NCPHA WEBINARS

NCPHA Lunch and Learn: NC Overdose Update

Late January, 2023 – Exact date and time TBD

Latest Data - Mary Beth Cox

Latest on Prevention - Alyssa Kitlas or Amanda Isac

Latest on Opioid Settlement - Nidhi Sachdeva

Q&A

Webinar: Lung Cancer Screening

January 20, 2023

Nursing CEUs will be offered

Speaker Information: Ike Keku is an undergraduate student at UNC-CH and the director of programming of the university's American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative (ALCSI) chapter. ALCSI is a nonprofit organization of over 50 doctors and students working to raise awareness of lung cancer and lung cancer screening in communities around the country. This past summer, Ike attended a Burch Field Research Seminar abroad to study innovation in healthcare delivery as well as funding models and accessibility to healthcare services in selected countries. He will be hosting a webinar to speak about lung cancer screening for high-risk patients and ALCSI's aim to bring attention to this topic.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Public Health Leaders' Conference

March 16-17, 2023

Crabtree Marriott, Raleigh

Public Health Legal Conference

April 19-20, 2023

Chapel Hill, UNC School of Government

SAVE THE DATE

The North Carolina Public Health Social Work

Continuing Education and Training Advisory Committee's (CETAC)

SPRING 2024

PUBLIC HEALTH SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE



Kelly Spangler worked as the Western Region's Social Work Consultant for the NC Division of Public Health for 25 years. She holds a Bachelor and a Master of Social Work and a Master of Public Administration. She is also a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Kelly is a long-serving member of CETAC, NCPHA, ASTPHSW, and NASW. Within these organizations, she held numerous responsibilities, including her favorite, advocacy! She was honored as the 2016 NASW – NC Chapter Social Worker of the Year. She taught social welfare policy for the BSW Program at Mars Hill University and feels privileged to have helped encourage and inspire future social workers.

In honor of Kelly's dedicated service to Public Health Social Work in North Carolina and her commitment to advocacy, the conference has been renamed:

The Kelly Spangler

Public Health Social Work Conference

NCPHA

Member Introductions

This issue we meet **Patrick Brown**, Executive Director, NC Public Health Associations, **Bonnie Coyle**, Medical Director, Mecklenburg Health Department, **Andrea R. Freeman**, Finance Officer, Martin Tyrrell Washington District Health Department, **Shahnee Haire**, Regional Program Manager, **Marissa Mortiboy**, Population Health Director, Durham County Department of Public Health, **Amy Belflower Thomas**, Director of Community Assessment and Strategy & Accreditation Administrator, NC Institute for Public Health.

NCPHA Member Introductions



Patrick Brown

Executive Director

NC Public Health Associations

Hometown: Asheboro, NC

Education:

- BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences – UNC Chapel Hill
- Doctor of Pharmacy – UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy

How long have you worked in public health:

2 years.

What do you like most about your job:

I being able to support and advocate for public health across North Carolina, and the dynamic nature and variety that the work brings.

If you could have dinner with three people, who would they be:

Roy Williams, Cal Ripken Jr, and Mark Hamill.

If you could change one thing about public health, what would it be? (money is no object)

I would bring compensation for public health employees in line with competing industries.

FAVORITES:

Hobby: Cooking and Pickleball

Food: Thai

Movie: Star Wars (Original Trilogy)

Song/Artist: Something to Love/Jason Isbell

Sport/Team: College Basketball/UNC and Baseball/
Baltimore Orioles

Color: Carolina Blue

NCPHA Member Introductions



Bonnie Coyle

Medical Director

Mecklenburg Health Department

Hometown: Nazareth, PA

Education:

- MD Degree – Thomas Jefferson University

How long have you worked in public health:

30 years.

What do you like most about your job:

Collaborative and creative work to improve health of community.

If you could have dinner with three people, who would they be:

Brene Brown, Michael Gregor, and Rachel Maddow.

If you could change one thing about public health, what would it be? (money is no object)

That it would become the highest priority for decision making in our country.

FAVORITES:

Hobby: Hiking, gardening, and SUP

Food: Thai, Indian, or Ethiopian food

Movie: Spanglish

Song/Artist: Song: If I could (Regina Belle); Artist – Phil Collins, Queen

Sport/Team: Tennis

Color: Sage Green

Book: The Kite Runner; Cutting for Stone; China Study

NCPHA Member Introductions



Andrea R. Freeman

Administrative Officer III/Finance Officer

Martin Tyrrell Washington District Health
Department

Hometown: Plymouth, NC

Education:

- BSBA in Management Accounting – East Carolina University
- MPA with a Government Emphasis – Keller Graduate School of Management
- DPA Candidate with a Concentration in Health Policy – Walden University

How long have you worked in public health:

16 years.

What do you like most about your job:

Working with numbers, which is my passion, while using that knowledge to help serve my community.

If you could change one thing about public health, what would it be? (money is no object)

The citizens' understanding of public health.

FAVORITES:

Hobby: Not my hobby, but I love taxes (weird, I know.)

Food: Anything Non-American (Italian, Mexican, Japanese, Chinese, Asian, etc.)

Movie: The Sound of Music

Song/Artist: I love Gospel and R&B

Sport/Team: I love football (high school, college, and NFL). My Favorite NFL Team is the 49ers.

Color: Blue, purple, and gold

Book: I love numbers and hate words, so I can honestly say I don't like to read.

NCPHA Member Introductions



Shahnee Haire

Regional Program Manager

Hometown: Durham, NC

Education:

- Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion – University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- Certified Health Coach – University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Youth Development and Leadership Graduate Certificate – North Carolina State University
- Master of Public Health – Lenoir-Rhyne University

How long have you worked in public health:

10 years.

What do you like most about your job:

Community outreach and program implantation.

If you could have dinner with three people, who would they be:

Jesus and grandparents that have passed away.

If you could change one thing about public health, what would it be? (money is no object)

I would end all health disparities. All people regardless of their income level, race, gender, sexual orientation, or disability will receive the highest quality of healthcare.

FAVORITES:

Sport/Team: Carolina Panthers

Color: Pink

Book: The Ben Carson Story (I read it for the first time in middle school. I still remember how it left me inspired and amazed by his skills as a neurosurgeon.)

NCPHA Member Introductions



Marissa Mortiboy

Population Health Director

Durham County Department
of Public Health

Hometown: Bloomingdale, IL

Education:

- BS – Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
- MPH – University of Tennessee-Knoxville

How long have you worked in public health:

Just under 20 years.

What do you like most about your job:

The people that I get to work with within the Durham County Department of Public Health and the Population Health team. We've been able to do some innovative work around data and community engagement, which is exciting and leads to better serving the Durham community.

If you could have dinner with three people, who would they be:

Harriet Tubman, Michelle Obama, and Bono.

If you could change one thing about public health, what would it be? (money is no object)

Modernized data system with real time data across public health and healthcare organizations.

FAVORITES:

Hobby: Traveling, gardening, and reading

Food: Red velvet cake and Chicago style pizza

Movie: Goodfellas

Song/Artist: U2

Sport/Team: UNC and Wake Forest.

Color: Blue

Book: The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson

NCPHA Member Introductions



Amy Belflower Thomas

*Director of Community Assessment and
Strategy & Accreditation Administrator*

*Adjunct Assistant Professor in Public Health
Leadership Program*

NC Institute for Public Health (NCIPH)
at UNC Gillings School of Global Public
Health

Hometown: Tarboro, NC

Education:

- BA in Anthropology – Wake Forest University
- MSPH in Epidemiology – USC Arnold School of Public Health
- MHA – UNC Gillings
- (In progress) Doctoral studies at UNC Gillings

How long have you worked in public health:

20 years.

What do you like most about your job:

I get to bridge academics and evidence/data-based stuff with applied public health practice.

If you could have dinner with three people, who would they be:

Maya Angelou, John Snow (epidemiologist), and my grandfather who died before I was born.

If you could change one thing about public health, what would it be? (money is no object)

That everyone truly understand health equity and was engaged in genuinely addressing it everyday and in everyday!

FAVORITES:

Hobby: I love some Wine & Design painting!

Food: Pasta

Movie: Last of the Mohicans, Clueless

Song/Artist: Hootie and the Blowfish, Better than Ezra, Dave Matthews Band

Sport/Team: UNC and Wake Forest

Color: Carolina blue, of course!

Book: The Coming Plague by Laurie Garrett

2022 Fall Educational Conference Section Award and Scholarship Winners



NCPHA Scholarship Winners



Forsyth County Award Winners and Emerging Leaders Program Graduate

APBR

Student Poster Presentation: Christina Labows and Caroline Taheri

Student Podium Presentation: Caitlin Dennison

Practitioner Poster Presentation: Tony Locklear

Practitioner Podium Presentation: Lt. Colonel Theresa Pierce and Ashley Curtice

Environmental Health

Rookie Environmental Health Specialist of the Year: Denzel Lewis, New Hanover County Health Department

Tim Hilton Environmental Health Scholarship: Shannon Maloney, Forsyth County Health Department

Practicing Environmental Health Specialist: Amanda Nester, Onslow County Health Department

Stacy Covil Scholarship: Mackenzie Campbell, Western Carolina University

Nursing

Margaret Dolan Award: Ainsley Johnson, Harnett County Health Department

Direct Service Award: Patricia Davis

Joy Reed Scholarship: Heather Willis

Public Health Nurse Superhero Award: Kimberly Hardy

Social Work

Outstanding Achievement Award for a Social Work

Section Member: Tracy Hadjipetrou

Outstanding Contributions to Social Work in Public Health Award (non-member): Kim Herzing

Women's and Children's Health

WCH Section Scholarship in Memory of Dr. Ann Wolfe:

Amber Reece-Young

Superhero Award: Michaela Penix

NCPHA Scholarship Winners:

Child of Member: Olivia Eaton

Child of Member: Emily Lancaster

Graduate/Undergraduate: Amber Reece-Young

Graduate/Undergraduate: Leah Daniel

Graduate/Undergraduate: Breyana Davis

Graduate/Undergraduate: Melissa Nolan

Robert Parker Leadership: Nicole Barnes



Buncombe County Health Department - Dr. Sarah Morrow Large Health Department of the Year

Partners in Public Health Group Award: Olive Branch Ministries, Burke Integrated Care, and Catawba Valley Infectious Disease

Dr. Sarah Morrow Health Department of the Year:

Small County: Iredell County Health Department

Large County: Buncombe County HHS



Barbara Ann Hughes - Rankin Award Winner

NCPHA Major Awards:

Rankin Award: Barbara Ann Hughes

Distinguished Service Award: Robert Parker (presented posthumously)

NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award: Jill Moore

Individual Recognition Award: Elly Steel

Public Health Staff: Beverly Barber

Local Health Department Recognition Award:

Rowan County Public Health Department

Durham County Department of Public Health

Mecklenburg County Public Health

All Star Winners

Lindsay Novacek, Division of Public Health

Melissa McLamb, Harnett County Health Department

Kacee Morgan, Catawba County Public Health

Chantae Lail, Catawba County Public Health

Morgan Davidson, Durham County Public Health

Department

Bonita Murphy, Forsyth County Public Health Department

Dr. Ann Wolfe Mini-Grant Winners

Catawba County Public Health

Durham County Public Health Department

Forsyth County Public Health Department

Guilford County Health Department

New Sections!

Advanced Practice Providers' Section



Torica Fuller

Improved communication and collaboration are intended to foster partnerships among the advanced practice providers to protect and promote effective patient care for the residents of North Carolina by:

- Being an expert voice, patient advocate, leader, and a resource for public health advanced nursing practice.

The purpose of the Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Section of the NCPHA is to promote more regular and effective communication and collaboration among advanced practice providers such as nurse practitioners (NPs), physician assistants (PAs) and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) within public health.

- Contributing in a relatively equal measure to the identification of research priorities and evidence-based practices to improve patient care and public health outcomes.
- Having well-defined, complimentary roles in the execution of priority research and quality improvement to be an instrument of change for the community.
- Promoting the continuing training, education, and peer collaboration for public health advanced practice providers.
- Identifying and supporting legislation that is favorable to public health and the promotion of public health for the North Carolina residents.
- Promoting programs and/or services deemed necessary to protect, promote and enhance the public health of citizens of North Carolina.

We encourage you to join the APP Section! See special rate below.

- Torica Fuller, tfuller@cumberlandcountync.gov

Medical Directors' Section

After many years and multiple attempts, we have this year created a new section in NCPHA specifically for medical directors. The Medical Directors Section of NCPHA consist of MD's and DO's who serve as physicians in either our State or Local Public Health Departments. These doctors direct oversee the clinical care provided to patients across the State and help determine policies and procedures used to provide these clinical services. The Section's purpose is to create both a virtual and real community among these providers in order to:

1. Improve patient care;
2. Provide social and emotional support that enhances the work experience of these critical employees;
3. Create an opportunity for policy input and advocacy, and strengthens the role of NCPHA as a strong advocate for the improved health of all people in NC.

New on-line technologies are making it easier to connect these physicians to one another. We have created a new Medical Directors FORUM on our NCPHA website to help these doctors communicate electronically with each other. NCPHA member physicians can log-in to the homepage and then click on the "MEMBER CENTER/JOIN" tab. Follow this list to the bottom and click on "MEDICAL DIRECTORS FORUM". Please try this out and send me a message to test your connection. We hope to be able to store and share files here and create a searchable blog posting. If you can help with this effort, let me know!

- John Morrow, six4sail@gmail.com

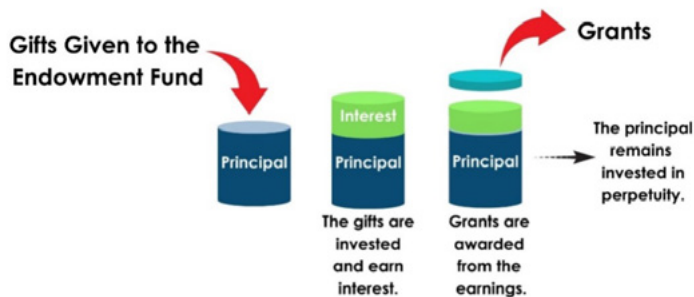
Join Now!

You can join both the **Advanced Practice Providers' Section** and the **Medical Directors' Section** for just **\$5 each** by completing the Section Dues form. Thanks in advance for your support of these new sections!

Social Work Section



How does the Endowment Fund work?



Social Work Section Funded their Endowment:

We did it! We are happy to announce the Social Work Section has established an endowment to support the Michael L. Clements Annual Education Conference Scholarship. The social work section of NCPHA started in

1985 and the members felt strongly that the way to grow the section and build future Public Health Social Work practitioners was through scholarship. The scholarship was developed in 2009 with the intent of sponsoring attendance of a student to the NCPHA conference as well as provide a one-year membership. Over the years the Social Work section has awarded scholarships and section membership to nine students. Funding the scholarship involved labor intensive efforts such as auctions, raffles, various sales and more. The section members came together to determine a more sustainable idea to fund the annual scholarship: An Endowment. Thanks to the partnership of the Shallowford Foundation, the work of the Social Work Section Executive Committee, the generosity of 39 donors (including 23 Charter Contributors (\$200+) and 22 section member gifts, the

Continued...Social Work Section

endowment was fully funded to the amount of \$11,158. This funded amount will allow for the interest to cover the cost of a student to attend the NCPHA conference as well as provide a one-year membership in perpetuity. The Social Work Executive Committee in conjunction with the NCPHA Governing Council are planning to provide a "How to Establish an Endowment" session as a model for other sections to follow these exciting footsteps.

Unanimous Approval: The Public Health Social Work Conference is now the Kelly Spangler Public Health Social Work Conference!



It is with great honor to inform you that the Public Health Social Work Conference name change was unanimously approved! Below is a brief description of Kelly's contributions, but we all know she's so much more than these words.

Kelly Spangler worked as the Western Region's Social Work Consultant for the NC Division of Public Health for 25 years. She holds a Bachelor and a Master of Social Work and a Master of Public Administration. She is also a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Kelly is a long serving member of CETAC, NCPHA, ASTPHSW, and NASW. Within

these organizations, she held numerous roles, including advocacy- her favorite! She was honored as the 2016 NASW – NC Chapter Social Worker of the Year. She has taught social welfare policy for the BSW Program at Mars Hill University and feels privileged to have helped encourage and inspire future social workers.

"Save the Date" for The Kelly Spangler Public Health Social Work Conference will be coming to your email inbox soon so you can begin to make your plans to attend the Spring 2024 event!

A word about the SW Title Protection Law from NCPHA President Rod Jenkins

Social Work Title Protection has long been discussed in Social Work professional associations and amongst the Social Work Section of NCPHA. The SW Title Protection Law created in 2009 stipulates that no one can have the words social worker in their job title without a social work degree unless they work for state or local government. This exemption was initiated and supported by the NC Department of Social Services Directors and was necessary for the legislation to pass. I am proud to announce that the NCPHA Advocacy Committee is set to recommend the removal of this exemption for state and local government employee as per the current SW Title Protection Law. Having deep affiliations with dedicated social workers throughout my career, I personally know how hard social workers work to obtain their credentials. I also know how hard it is to achieve licensure and maintain the credentials social workers have worked tirelessly to obtain through hours of annual continuing education and training. NCPHA is proud to support this effort. If approved by the Advocacy Committee, our SUPPORT equates to our lobbying for action on this effort. Please stay tuned as we continue to move through this complex process.

Nursing Section

Save the Dates:

3rd Monday of every month at 3:30pm - Monthly Section Leadership Meetings.

All members are welcome to join, please email Liz Stevens (estevens@dconc.gov) for Teams link.

January – Nursing Section Membership Meeting.

Please stay tuned for Time and Date once details are confirmed with our speakers.

Thank you to all members who joined us for our November Coffee Hour and Mocktail Hour events. We enjoyed robust conversations around recruitment, workforce development, and public health awareness. The topics and trends discussed will help drive plans for our January Section Membership Meeting. Further, we are exploring the idea of developing a Public Health Awareness Campaign and welcome suggestions and partnership from other sections on this endeavor. Lastly, our Section Leadership is nearly complete for this term but we are still actively seeking a Chair Elect. To learn

more about our team, you can view our introductory video by scanning the QR code below, and if you are interested in serving please email our current Chair Liz Stevens at estevens@dconc.gov.



Scan the QR code to watch video about the 2022 NCPHA Nursing Section Leadership.

Academic Practice Based Research Section



Thanks to everyone who joined our sessions in Wilmington in September, including all of our presenters! A special congratulations to our poster and podium presentation winners:

Practitioner Podium Presentation: Lieutenant Colonel Theresa Piece from Fort Bragg and Ashley Curtice from Cumberland County Health Department

Practitioner Poster Presentation: Tony Locklear from Hoke County Health Department

Student Podium Presentation: Caitlin Dennison from UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

Student Poster Presentation: Christina Labows and Caroline Taheri from UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

Also, please extend a warm welcome to Dr. Bonnie Coyle, Medical Director for Mecklenburg County Health

Department, who will be the new Practice Co-Chair for APBR. Amy Belflower Thomas from the NC Institute for Public Health at UNC Gillings will continue this year as our Academic Co-Chair and Dr. Josh Fisher from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Animal Care & Control will continue to serve as our Secretary/Treasurer.

The APBR Section provides a forum through which researchers and practitioners statewide can interact and work together to improve population health. As such, the APBR Section will appeal to public health practitioners and applied researchers interested in creating the evidence base to improve public health systems and services. If you have an interest in joining the section or have any questions about the section and our work, please feel free to contact us!

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Graphic Designer: Zannie Gunn, TypeColorShapes.com