

NCPHA E-Newsletter

December 2020

Newsletter from the NC Public Health Association and the NCPHA Public Awareness Committee

Message from the President

– Mike Zelek



First, I would like to thank the NCPHA family for the opportunity to serve as NCPHA President for 2020-21. It is truly an honor, especially during this pivotal time for public health, and I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

2020 has been a challenging year. Our state, nation, and world have grappled with a new pandemic in COVID-19 and an ongoing public health crisis in structural racism. These issues will remain at the forefront in 2021, and the public health community will continue to play a critical role in addressing both issues. We will also be called on to adapt to new changes, like Medicaid Transformation, while responding to the wide range of public health matters that we face day in and day out.

While this work is daunting, I am amazed and inspired by the dedication, ingenuity, and perseverance of the public health community. You all continue to make North Carolina a healthier place for all and deserve much gratitude and respect for your service. Know that the NCPHA family supports and stands alongside you.

This year, I hope you are able take advantage of the many resources, trainings, and opportunities that NCPHA offers. Due to the pandemic, our conferences looked different in 2020. I hope that we will be able to come together in person again in 2021, with both the Spring and Fall Educational Conferences on the schedule.

I also encourage our members to get more involved in NCPHA this coming year and welcome your ideas and feedback. After all, NCPHA is a professional organization driven by its members, and I know there is much expertise to be shared.

Thank you for all you have done to make NCPHA the best public health association in the country and for your incredible work to respond to these critical public health challenges.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful holiday season and look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in the new year.

Mike Zelek, MPH
2020-2021 NCPHA President



INSIDE:

Message from the President
page 1

Public Health News
page 2

NCPHA Events
page 8

NCPHA Member
Introductions
page 11

NCPHA Section News
page 15



NCPHA Legislative Priorities



The Governing Council adopted the below legislative priorities for 2021 at its December 10th meeting. The NC General Assembly will convene January 13, 2021.

PRIORITIES FOR 2021

SUPPORT legislation that would remove the exemption for state and local government employees from the Social Work Title Protection Law.

- [BACKGROUND: 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. The Social Work Section of NCPHA would like to see the exemption removed from the law.]

SUPPORT legislation that will close the health insurance coverage gap in North Carolina and provide access to affordable coverage to the more than 500,000 individuals living in the coverage gap. The appropriate legislation must address four key principles which are: Accessibility, Affordability, Accountability, and Economic Development. Care4Carolina will lead on this issue.

...continued

NCPHA Legislative Priorities Continued

ENDORSE proposed legislation to amend the definition of “lead poisoning hazard” in GS 130A- 131.7 (7) g to read as follows: “Any concentration of lead in drinking water equal to or greater than 5 parts per billion.” (Currently 15 parts per billion).

- [BACKGROUND: This issue works directly to improve public health by reducing lead poisoning hazard. This hazard level (greater than or equal to 15 parts per billion) was established in the state’s childhood lead poisoning statute many years ago. However, current research indicates that the childhood hazard level should be set as close to zero as possible. Both the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that the drinking water lead hazard level be set at 1 ppb (to be as close to zero as possible), and the Environmental Protection Agency has recently recommended a level of no more than 5 ppb. Three states and the District of Columbia have already adopted this standard, and many states are in the process of doing so. NC Child is working in collaboration with The Child Fatality Task Force to lead these efforts.]

ENDORSE any proposed legislation to expand Access to Comprehensive Prenatal Care for Undocumented Immigrant Women. The NCGA should adopt the Children’s Health Insurance Program option to provide comprehensive prenatal, labor, delivery, and immediate postpartum care to undocumented immigrant women.

- [BACKGROUND: This came as a recommendation from the NCIOM Risk-Appropriate Perinatal System of Care Task Force. Task Force convened in partnership with the NCDHHS, Division of Public Health, Women’s and Children’s section, to respond to Session Law 2018-93 and Goal 3E of North Carolina’s Perinatal Health Strategic Plan. The Task Force estimates, because of difference in the funding mechanism, that NC tax payers could save about \$4 million with a decrease in the Hispanic IMR to 3.8/1000 or 10 babies saved.]

ENDORSE any proposed legislation on a variety of workplace health issues that would support maternal and child health, including:

- Guarantee North Carolina workers the right to pregnancy and lactation accommodations in the workplace;
- Guarantee North Carolina workers the right to use their sick days to care for a sick loved one, seek preventative care, or deal with the physical, mental, or legal impacts of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
- Address paid family leave benefit in North Carolina.

ENDORSE appropriation request to provide additional state funding to address increased demands associated with communicable and emerging infectious diseases.

ENDORSE any proposed legislation or administrative efforts to restore Women’s and Children’s Health Block Grant funding to local health departments.

ENDORSE proposed legislation to amend North Carolina’s youth access law to ensure effective enforcement of the new age restriction for purchasing tobacco products.

ENDORSE proposed legislation or appropriation request that would increase funding for school nutrition programs and food banks.

ENDORSE proposed legislation or appropriation request that would support funding for active routes to school and increased bike and pedestrian programs.



COVID-19 Vaccine Update

– Betsey Tilson, MD, MPH, State Health Director and Chief Medical Officer, NCDHHS and
Amanda Fuller Moore, PharmD, Pharmacist, DPH, NCDHHS



The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) is working tirelessly to ensure individuals living in North Carolina have safe, effective, and equitable access to a COVID-19 vaccine.

Approvals and Timeline

There are multiple COVID-19 vaccine candidates in development. Two companies, Pfizer and Moderna, have submitted their vaccines to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Meetings will be held by the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) independent Vaccine Advisory committee in mid-December to determine vaccine approval. After the FDA gives approval, the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) will review the data again and make recommendations. However, because the federal governments' task force, Operation Warp Speed, contracted with manufacturers to assure payment, simultaneous testing and manufacturing of the vaccine occurred making an initial vaccine supply immediately available after EUA approval and ACIP recommendations are in place.

Effectiveness and Safety

The COVID-19 vaccine works like other vaccines by triggering your body to produce protective antibodies that help prevent infection. Like other vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccine will pass rigorous safety and efficacy standards prior to its release. While many vaccine clinical trials enroll between three and five thousand participants, tens of thousands of people globally have volunteered as part of the COVID-19 vaccine trials. As a result, the sample size of COVID-19 trials is nearly ten times that of typical vaccine trials, which means that meaningful data can be collected on a faster timeline with greater confidence in results.

Vaccine Recipients

There will be very limited supply of vaccine in the beginning.

To help determine who should get the vaccine first, the North Carolina Institute of Medicine convened an independent COVID Vaccine Advisory Committee. The North Carolina prioritization plan is based on their guidance along with guidance from the National Academy of Medicine on equitable distribution of vaccine and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice. The prioritization plan is based on risk of exposure to and severe illness with COVID-19. Initially, vaccine supply will be given to health care workers who are at high risk for COVID-19 exposure, those involved in the initial vaccine efforts, and long term care staff and residents. The next priority populations are adults with 2+ chronic conditions, with a focus on people living in high exposure settings (e.g., congregate living) and front-line workers (such as police, food processing workers, and fire fighters among others). As more vaccine becomes available, vaccinations will be offered in a variety of settings, including clinics and pharmacies, as well as at vaccination events across communities. NCDHHS, local health departments, hospitals, and community providers are working together to make sure as vaccine supplies increase over the next few months, it is accessible to everyone living in North Carolina that would like to receive it.

In order to prepare for the vaccine, North Carolina has already enrolled close to 400 priority providers. The state is excited to report that there are no outstanding hospitals or counties left to enroll in the program and additional provider registration opens the second week of December 2020.

There is still much to do in the fight to eliminate COVID-19, but these are some significant steps taken to help get us back to the people and places we love.

Please do your part by practicing the 3 Ws – Wear, Wait, Wash. You can learn more at covid19.ncdhhs.gov.

Western Carolina University's Environmental Health Program



The COVID-19 pandemic has been a public health crisis of historic proportions, with the phrase “frontline workers” becoming a large part of the daily lexicon.

And the Environmental Health Program at Western Carolina University has contributed its fair share of professionals to those ranks at the local, state, and national levels.

“Any given day of this profession can change, based on events that affect public health,” said Geraldine Riouff, assistant professor in the Environmental Health Program. “One day you are all set to conduct a health inspection at a nursing home or food service vendor and a gas leak occurs that affects the water supply. Or ... a crisis of pandemic proportions occurs and you find yourself in the field providing guidance to facility operators, by being the voice for the public when they would otherwise not have one.”

In addition to being an instructor in the program, Riouff also is an alumna. She has extensive experience in the public health sector, working with departments in Wake,

Chatham, and Jackson counties after earning her in degree in 2000.

“The four main ingredients for this practice are to possess scientific-based knowledge, integrity, trust, and good communication skills,” Riouff said. “WCU’s Environmental Health Program readies students for this ever-changing field of practice by providing them with the foundation and tools necessary to rise up to the occasion, protect public health on any given day, and face the challenges that come their way.”

In Winston-Salem, Shannon Maloney is part of an effort to house members of a homeless population that has either tested positive, appear symptomatic, or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive. A 2018 Environmental Health Program graduate, she is a registered environmental health sanitarian with the Forsyth County Health Department, but currently is serving as a shelter manager.

During a break from her temporary assignment, Maloney reflected on her new role. “In our studies at Western, we learned a lot about many different subjects,” she said. “That has helped me in my work today. Although I am generally doing inspections of restaurants, I had the confidence and knowledge to switch to something out of my normal work environment. I also want to point out that (this field) generally does not get much credit. I want to tell my colleagues, don’t be discouraged, no matter how small your contribution to helping your community is. You are still contributing and that is extremely important.”

The pandemic has highlighted the need for environmental health professionals as a needed part of preventing diseases, a vital role in protecting public health, she said.

Victoria Boyer, a 2018 program alumna, agreed.

“We have been working diligently over the past two months to ensure that the health and safety of our associates is our number one priority,” said Boyer, a 2018 graduate who is the environmental health and safety manager at Resistoflex, a McDowell County-based plastic-lined piping products supplier. “We have taken measures that include mandatory face masks at all times, hired an extra cleaning crew to disinfect high-traffic areas

...continued

Western Carolina University's Environmental Health Program Continued

and touch points throughout the day, restricted visitors to essential personnel, reduced the number of on-site office employees, and continued communication and reinforcement of social distancing, which all began at the end of March.

"This is an unprecedented time and uncharted territory for everyone, so we are continuing to flow and adapt as new guidelines are implemented in correlation with our government. It has been difficult navigating as there is no clear end in sight, but we will continue to push through until there is," she said.

The encompassing and global reach of the pandemic has highlighted how everyone is a stakeholder in public health, said Jessica Otto, an environmental health officer with the U.S. Public Health Service working with the Food and Drug Administration in College Park, Maryland. "Everyone has something to bring to the table and is essential to the development and implementation of the plan," she said. "That's what we're doing at the federal level, consulting with stakeholders, anticipating needs and developing tools and strategies in concert with sister agencies, state and local health departments, trade and professional associations, and consumer groups so we can mitigate the risks together as one team, to protect the workforce and the public."

People are living through a once in a 100-year public health event, and environmental and public health professionals have to be flexible and responsive, and confident that the theoretical knowledge gained through training, and the real-world experience from previous events, is enough to make sound decisions and make an impact.

"Pandemic history, strategy, response, and recovery is a basic foundational part of every public health curriculum, but that doesn't mean we've been able to apply that knowledge in real life," said Otto, a 2004 WCU graduate. "This isn't a local or regional event like we are used to responding to. This isn't an epidemic in some far-flung part of the world. This is affecting everyone worldwide, which presents a new set of challenges and opportunities like no other public health emergency I've responded to before."

WCU is one of only 28 environmental health degree programs accredited by the National Environmental

Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council and one of 31 by the Association of Environmental Health. It is recognized as a leading program by industry professionals in the nation.

"The profession is committed to improving public health by protecting the very things that are vital to life - food, air, shelter and water - whether it's on a day-to-day basis or during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Kim Hall, program director and assistant professor. "The COVID-19 pandemic has created a public health emergency and highlighted an existing need for environmental health practitioners. Graduates of WCU's Environmental Health Program are on the frontlines of responding to the pandemic and are working from many angles to slow the spread of the virus."

These are the practitioners who are conducting testing and contact tracing campaigns, evaluating trends in disease data to inform policymakers, and responding to outbreaks in congregate living environments and occupational settings to stop disease spread, Hall said. The work also includes moving forward, as steps are taken to reopen segments of society. Environmental health professionals are providing guidance to restaurants and other businesses to ensure safe reopening, overseeing worker safety in essential businesses, and educating the general public on ways in which they can help slow the spread of the virus.

"Most importantly, our graduates are engaged citizens who have a strong passion and desire to serve their communities. They are competent and proficient scientists who successfully apply their technical knowledge to prevent disease and disability, respond to public health emergencies, and promote public health through education," Hall said. "These are the professionals whose work has always been vital to the improvement and protection of public health and whose work will continue to be vital as society navigates to a 'new normal' in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The need is greater now more than ever for this profession and environmental health practitioners, and WCU's Environmental Health Program will continue to meet those needs."

For more information, contact Hall at 828-227-2654 or kkhall@email.wcu.edu.



Gas Cards Are a Thing of the Past: Meet Real Public Health Social Work



Picture this: you are working in a local health department and a patient reports they are experiencing interpersonal violence. Another patient is 13 and just had a positive pregnancy test; however, she will not tell you anything about the father. There is a young patient whose exhibiting signs of autism and needs an evaluation. Do you know how to handle those situations? You may think you do, but there is a special skill set required and this can be found in your public health social workers.

Gone are the days when social workers were specialists of gas cards and food vouchers. So, what exactly does a public health social worker do? Public health social workers are degreed professionals with specialized training in both prevention and crisis intervention techniques; many have a master's level of education. Public health social workers can be found at all levels of government, which includes local, state, federal, and tribal entities. They can be found in a wide variety of public health settings such as administration, adult health programs, Care Management for High-Risk Pregnancies (CMHRP), Care Management for At-Risk Children (CMARC), Community Alternative Programs (CAP), Disaster Preparedness, Hospice, and Home Health. This is not an exhaustive list, so you are encouraged to seek out the public health social workers within your agency and find out what role they play.

Regardless of the population(s) served, public health social workers assess their patients for their areas of strength and their areas of need. We work with the patient to identify goals and help them remove the barriers that are in the way and that may keep them from accomplishing those goals. We link and refer patients to necessary community resources, and we help arrange special services such as speech therapy. We advocate on

behalf of our patients, whether it be through a phone call to a resource that rejected a request for assistance or contacting a legislator to let them know how proposed changes to a system may impact patients. We are also an active listening ear for many patients who lack a solid support system. Some of North Carolina's public health social workers are Licensed Clinical Social Workers, which means they are licensed mental health providers who can also bill for services rendered.

Public health social workers cannot do it alone, though. Within North Carolina, public health social workers are supported by multiple professional organizations; however, the two prominent organizations are the Continuing Education and Training Advisory Committee (CETAC) for public health social workers and North Carolina Public Health Association's (NCPHA) Social Work Section. CETAC's mission is to advance the practice and profession of public health social work and assure high quality education and training for public health social workers. Members are appointed by the North Carolina State Health Director and the Dean of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health at Chapel Hill, NC. For more information about CETAC, please visit nciph.sph.unc.edu/cetac.

Among the many sections of NCPHA is a Social Work Section, which provides the voice of public health social work to NCPHA's Governing Council. As well, the NCPHA SW Section provides educational and networking opportunities. All public health social workers are encouraged to become members of NCPHA's Social Work Section. For more information about the NCPHA SW Section, please visit ncpha.memberclicks.net/social-work.

Public health is composed of many important professions that focus on improving the lives of our local communities; however, none of these professions can independently meet every need. While we are small in numbers compared to other public health professionals, there is something that social workers knew a long time ago: the definition of "healthy" includes a patient's social factors, too. While public health social workers may not be providing direct medical services, we are doing something just as critical on the front lines. We have been and continue to take on the social determinants of health that impact our society. We are strengths-based. We are outcome driven. We are people focused. We help make healthy communities. We are public health.

Newsletter Survey



The Public Awareness Committee is always looking for ways to improve the newsletter. We want to make it both informative and enjoyable to read since it's one of the many benefits of being a NCPHA member. Please go to the below link to complete a short survey about the eNewsletter. **Once you've completed all the questions, you will be eligible for a \$25 Visa gift card.** Good luck!

www.surveymonkey.com/r/6SFRVPZ

SAVE THE DATE

October 6-8, 2021

2021 Fall Educational Conference

Hopefully next year's conference will convene in Asheville at the Crowne Plaza Resort!



Fall Educational Virtual Conference Wrap-Up

We held our first ever virtual conference October 7-9. We had more than 250 attendees, 10 exhibitors, 19 poster presentations and five sponsors for the event. Secretary Mandy Cohen kicked off the event with an inspirational opening message for our state's public health employees followed by a powerful presentation by Tanya Bass entitled: *History of Systemic Racism: What it Means for Public Health*. Ten NCPHA sections held sessions ranging from *NC Private Well Water, Then and Now*; *A Guide to Successful Coding and Billing*; *Chasing Prevention: ACEs, Racism, and New Faces*; and the ever-popular *Legislative & Legal Update*. Finally, on Friday we wrapped up with the virtual passing of the gavel from Teresa Ellen, NCPHA Past President to our new President, Michael Zelek and a thought-provoking presentation from our Wood Lecturer, Brian Castrucci entitled: *Ideas to Increase Public Health Impact Post COVID-19*.

We missed having both the annual NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Awards Luncheon and the NCPHA Awards Luncheon, but awards and scholarship were presented virtually to the below individuals and health departments.

Dr. Ann Wolfe Mini-Grant winners:

The winners receive \$8,000 each for their health department programs to combat infant mortality and increase child health.

Foothills Health District
Forsyth County Health Department
Johnston County Health Department
Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health

NCPHA Scholarship winners:

Associate/Technical Scholarship (\$500):
Megan Hauser

Child of Member Scholarship (\$1500):
Hannah Jordan

Undergraduate/Graduate Scholarship Winners (\$1500 each):

DeAnne Adams
Brandon Glover
Charlene Hunt
Gretchen Mason
Elizabeth Senter

Robert Parker Leadership Scholarship (\$2,000):

Jennifer Sharpe

Thanks to the NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation for their generosity in helping to fund these scholarships.

NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Awards:

The Lifetime Achievement Award (\$4,000 to the NCPHA Scholarship Fund):

Gayle Harris - retired Health Director from Durham County Dept of Public Health

Public Health Staff Award (\$2,000 to the winner):

Tara Blackley - Deputy Director, Durham County Dept of Public Health

Local Health Department (\$10,000 to each Health Department):

Cleveland Dental Clinic
Stanly Dental Clinic
Cabarrus Health Alliance - WIC Program

Individual Award (\$4,000 to the NCPHA Scholarship Fund):

Adonna Simpson Lewis - Health Educator, Wake County Human Services



SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

2021 Spring Educational Conference

Save the Date of Tuesday, May 18, for the 2021 Spring Educational Conference. We're not sure yet if the conference will be held virtually or in-person but nonetheless, it promises to be a great conference. Here's the draft agenda:

Reading Between the Lines, Improving Equitable Messaging in Public Health

Raleigh, Crabtree Hilton Garden Inn (if in-person)

Keynote: Becoming Better Messengers to Communicate Public Health

Gene Matthews, JD, Director, Southeastern Region, Network for PH Law, NC Institute for Public Health, Adjunct Professor, Health Policy and Management,

Skill-Building to Create More Equitable Messages Using the Foundational Moral Values Framework

Gene Matthews

How Do I Deal with Those People? Multigenerational Management

Michael Blackburn, BS, MS, AS, LFACHE, President, Blackburn Healthcare Consulting

Racial Equity (Exact Title TBD)

Kweli Rashied-Henry, DRPH(C), MPH, Racial Equity Officer, Durham County Health Department

Inclusive Innovation: Building on the Strengths of our Partners

Emily Roland, North Carolina Healthcare Association (NCHA)



NCPHA

Member Introductions

This issue we meet NCPHA President, Mark Zelek, NCPHA Executive Director, Katye Griffin, and NCPHA President-Elect, Leah Mayo.

NCPHA Member Introductions



Mike Zelek

Health Director

Chatham County Public Health Department

Hometown: Nashville, TN

Education: MPH, UNC-Chapel Hill
BA, Northwestern University

How long have you worked in public health: 12 years

What do you like most about your job:

The opportunity to work with dedicated and brilliant people on issues larger than ourselves.

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

Dr. Fauci, my wife (an epidemiologist), and 3-month old son. That would be an interesting conversation in 2020.

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

There would be no disparities in health outcomes and we would all enjoy optimal health.

FAVORITES:

Hobby: Spending time with my wife and young son, cooking, and woodworking

Food: Pizza, Thai curry, and Sushi

Movie: Field of Dreams

Song/Artist: Bring Him Home (Les Mis) and Queen

Sport/Team: Northwestern Wildcats

Color: Blue

Book: Nothing beats reading kid's books to baby son

NCPHA Member Introductions



Katye Griffin

Executive Director

North Carolina Public Health Association

Hometown: Lumberton, NC

Education: J.D., Wake Forest University School of Law; B.A., University of Miami (FL); Lumberton Senior High School

How long have you worked in public health:

This is my first year!

What do you like most about your job:

Every day is challenging in a different way and I've gotten to meet so many new and wonderful people who are passionate about their important work.

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

Courteney Cox, Jennifer Aniston, and Lisa Kudrow

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

I would make sure every child had a class about healthy lifestyle choices every year they are in school.

FAVORITES:

Hobby: Running with my Labradoodle Beasley

Food: My husband's mac and cheese

Movie: Remember the Titans

Song/Artist: Can't pick just one! I generally like Country music, Christian music, and Broadway musical soundtracks (Wicked and Hamilton are two of my favorites)

Sport/Team: Wake Forest football and basketball (unfortunately)

Color: Purple

Book: The Bible (or Harry Potter)



NCPHA Member Introductions



Leah Mayo

*Center for Healthy Communities Coordinator
Part-time instructor, UNCW Public Health Studies*

UNC Wilmington, College of Health & Human Services

Hometown: Wilson, NC

Education: MPH, East Carolina University
B.S., Community Health Education, UNC Wilmington, MCHES

How long have you worked in public health:

Eight years total. Five years at Albemarle Regional Health Services and three years at UNCW. I started my career as an intern at Albemarle Regional Health Services in the summer of 2012.

What do you like most about your job:

I love having the opportunity to help prepare the next generation of public health professionals (and allies), and finding ways our faculty, staff, and students can partner with community agencies to improve health and quality of life. It brings me joy to watch a student have that lightbulb moment when they realize how much public health influences our daily lives and how they can positively contribute to this important work (regardless

of major or career path). I miss working at the local health department, but I would not be successful in my current role without those years of experience.

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

I would love to have dinner with all three at the same time.

1) My sister - She is a midwife in New York and I have not been able to see her in a year due to COVID.

2) My Great Great Aunt Aggie (Agnes Watson Lenich) - According to the Wilson Daily Times newspaper, she was Wilson's first public health nurse. I also found she was an active member of NCPHA, including being president of the Nursing Section in 1961 and on the 1959-60 membership committee. It is neat to see her name in past files since I am currently President-Elect of NCPHA, and Membership and Outreach Committee Chair was my first leadership role with the organization.

3) My maternal grandmother, Mary Walker - She passed when I was four, so I did not get to know her very well.

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

For public health, especially local health departments, to have the recognition they deserve and the infrastructure and funding to adequately support daily responsibilities, plus emerging and future needs of our communities. Public health professionals are true rock stars and have proven their ability to be resilient and resourceful regardless of the situation. Public health infrastructure should be a top priority. Thank you NCPHA members for all you do!

FAVORITES:

Hobby: Taking care of all my plants

Food: Macaroni and Cheese (or anything with cheese)

Movie: Hocus Pocus

Song/Artist: Dear Mama by 2Pac

Sport/Team: The Ohio State football (I married into an Ohio family)

Color: Purple

Book: You Don't Need a Title to be a Leader by Mark Sanborn



Environmental Health Section

Scholarship and Award Recipients

Scholarship Recipients

This year the Environmental Health Section of NCPHA awarded three scholarships to deserving students working on an environmental health education and one scholarship to a deserving Environmental Health Specialist working on expanding their EH knowledge, skills and professionalism. Education and professional development are critical to the sustainability of the EH workforce. The four scholarships that were awarded are the **Dewey Padgett Scholarship**, the **Stacy Covil Scholarship**, the **EH Section Scholarship**, and the **Tim Hilton EH Specialist Scholarship**.

The **Dewey Padgett Scholarship** is awarded to an East Carolina University junior or senior student majoring in EH, who has a GPA of 2.5 or above, and has a financial need. This year's recipient of the Dewey Padgett Scholarship is a junior at ECU majoring in EH with a minor in Composite Natural Science and has an overall GPA of 3.69. He is involved in many campus activities including being a member of the ECU Marching Pirates, an ECU Pirate Navigator, a member of ECU Leads, and a mentor for Jarvis Leadership Living Learning Community. He also works at the front desk of the Campus Living Dept and has interned with the ECU Sustainability Program. I would like to congratulate **Trysten Culler as this year's Dewey Padgett Scholarship recipient**.

The **Stacy Covil Scholarship** is awarded to a Western Carolina University junior or senior student majoring in EH, has a GPA of 2.5 or above, and have a financial need. This year's recipient of the Stacy Covil Scholarship is a junior at Western Carolina majoring in Environmental Health and has an overall GPA of 3.15. She is also a student in the National Science Foundation sponsored program, LEARN, which stands for Learning Environment and Academic Research Network. As part of this program, she was assigned a research apprenticeship with a faculty research team. Her research focused on aiding professors in the mathematics and computer science dept in tracking digital attendance methods and analyzing the ethical and moral conflicts associated with tracking using technological means. I would like to congratulate **Ariana Hernandez as this year's Stacy Covil Scholarship recipient**.

The **Environmental Health Section Scholarship** is awarded to one ECU student and one WCU student who

has a GPA of 3.0 or above and is approved by the Executive Committee. This year's recipient of the Environmental Health Section Scholarship is a student at ECU working on getting her Master of Science degree in Environmental Health and has an overall GPA of 3.76. She is also working as a graduate research assistant with the Graduate Program Director on her thesis research project dealing with mosquito-borne diseases that impact public health. I would like to congratulate **Jordan Mazzara as this year's Environmental Health Section Scholarship recipient**.

The **Tim Hilton Environmental Health Specialist Scholarship** is awarded to an Environmental Health Specialist within the geographical boundaries of the Western District NCPHA, who is a current member of NCPHA and the EH Section and whose course work is related to the professional environmental health field. This year's recipient of the Tim Hilton Scholarship is an EHS working for the Davidson County Health Department. She is authorized in food and lodging, child care and schools, swimming pools and tattoos. She is also Davidson County's Public Health Preparedness Coordinator. She is also part of a quality assurance team for Davidson County and a member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration at Appalachian State University. I would like to congratulate **Summer Curry as this year's Tim Hilton Environmental Health Specialist Scholarship recipient**.

Award Recipients

This year the Environmental Health Section of NCPHA is proud to present the Bill Broadway Award to a deserving Environmental Health Specialist. The Bill Broadway Award is named in honor of a founding member of the Environmental Health Section of NCPHA. Bill Broadway served the State of North Carolina as a sanitarian for over 45 years. He was always at the forefront of evolutionary changes in Environmental Health and helped to develop educational requirements and performance standards for the profession. Bill was a national leader in the field of environmental health. He served as President of the National Environmental Health Association and on the National Sanitarian Foundation's Council of Public Health consultants.

...continued



Environmental Health Section Continued

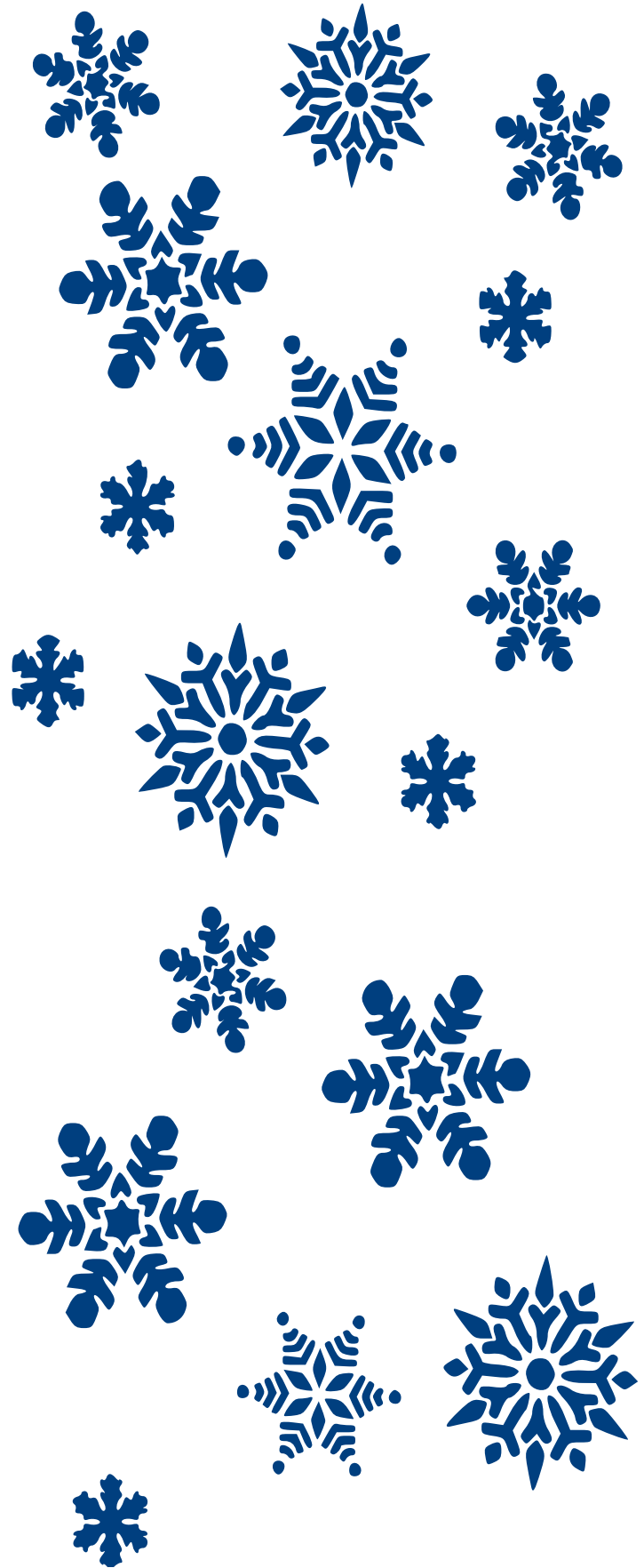
To be considered for this award, the nominee must be directly or indirectly involved with the practice of Environmental Health and contributed significantly, through superior achievements and professional excellence, to the field of environmental health. This year's recipient of the Bill Broadway award has contributed tremendously to the field of environmental health through her commitment to excellence in advancing the practice of environmental health.

This year's recipient started her career in EH in quality assurance for a meat processing plant, then went on to work for the United States Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service Program for Meat and Poultry. In 2000, she went to work for the Richmond County EH Department and moved in 2011 to the Orange County Environmental Health Department. In 2018, she was promoted to the EH Director position for Orange County.

This year's recipient holds many certifications including being a Registered EHS, a Registered Instructor and Proctor for Servsafe, a Certified HACCP manager, a Certified Installer for EZ Flow and Infiltrator, and a Certified Pool Operator for the American Swimming Pool Association, just to name a few. This year's recipient has served on several executive committees for different organizations, including the EH Section of NCPHA and the North Central Environmental Health District. She is also a member of several organizations, including NEHA, the American Society for Public Administration, the Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration, the NC Healthy Homes Task Force and the Orange County Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Services Advisory Board.

This year's recipient has also received several awards and grants over the past couple of years, including the 2016 NCPHA Public Health All Star Award, the 2016 Grant Award from the Food Establishment Excellence Program, the 2016 Robert S Parker Leadership Scholarship and the 2018 Orange County Health Department Innovation Grant.

As Vice-President of the EH Section of NCPHA, it is my pleasure to award **Victoria Hudson as this year's recipient of the Bill Broadway Award.**



Nursing Section

The Nursing Section of the NCPHA is proud of the work our Public Health Nurses are doing in the COVID-19 pandemic response. Our PHN workforce promotes and protects the health of all North Carolinians. They serve on the front lines by conducting case investigations, contact tracing, detecting outbreaks and working with local, state, and national stakeholders to mitigate the spread of the virus. Thank you all for your hard work and commitment to North Carolina Public Health.

Each year the Nursing Section awards two scholarships recognizing two extraordinary public health nursing professionals; this year's recipients are:

Nursing Section Scholarship: Mary Elaine Knight, BSN, RN, NCSN

Mary Elaine is a school health nurse working for Catawba County Public Health. She is a nationally certified school nurse and is currently the president elect of the School Nurse Association of North Carolina. She is working towards a Masters in Nursing: Community Public Health Nursing with a concurrent graduate certificate in Nursing Education from UNC Charlotte with an expected graduation of Fall 2022. Mary Elaine's goals include: 1) Investigating means to ensure school health nursing policy and procedure at the local and state level is evidence and nursing theory based. 2) Obtaining techniques to encourage ongoing active learning for public health nurses via diverse yet effective platforms. 3) Identifying methods to inspire passion for public health in pre-licensure nursing students, as well as attracting experienced nurses to a career in public health

Joy F. Reed Leadership Scholarship: Dr. Jaimee L. Watts-Isley, DNP, RN, AGNP-C

Dr. Watts-Isley earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in May of 2020 from UNC- Greensboro and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health (MPH) at the University of Missouri at Colombia with an expected graduation in 2021. She recently began as a full-time assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she works with undergraduate nursing students to cultivate a love for public health nursing. In 2019, Dr. Watts-Isley was featured in APHA

Public Health Nurse Research Spotlight and NCPHA Young Professional's Spotlight in 2019. She is also a member of the American Journal of Public Health Student Think Tank, an innovative approach to scholarly review. Dr. Watts-Isley initiated a study looking at public health nursing retention in North Carolina.

Margaret B. Dolan Award: Dr. Kimberly Hardy, DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, NEA-BC

Dr. Kimberly B. Hardy is the Personal Health Division Director and Director of Nursing for the Pitt County Public Health Department in Greenville, North Carolina. Dr. Hardy completed BSN, MSN, and Doctor of Nursing Practice studies at East Carolina University College of Nursing in 1991, 2001, and 2017 respectively. Dr. Hardy has worked in several capacities over the course of her career: advanced practice registered nurse, nursing faculty, and nurse administrator. In March 2019, she was inducted into the ECU College of Nursing Hall of Fame and recognized for work as an exemplary nurse leader. Her clinical focus areas include women's and preventive health.

Public Health Nurse Superhero: Carol Lynn Rose, MSN, RN, PHNA-BC

Carol Lynn Rose, consistently demonstrates patience and strength of character through her sage wisdom when the stress of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic often causes us to lose our bearings and need a trusting other to lean on. Carol Lynn demonstrates her abiding leadership and constant counsel as a PHN leader truly dedicated to ensuring her peers have the resources they need during COVID-19. Carol Lynn demonstrated Dedication to the Public Health Nursing Profession and Superhuman Commitment to Public Health when she created the logo that NCPHA nurses now recognize as our very own call to "Public Health Nursing at Heart." She has demonstrated commitment to Public Health as a nurse leader at the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services through her commitment to the health and well-being of all North Carolinians, and also her years of service in leadership in the North Carolina Public Health Association.



Academic Practice Based Research Section



Every year the Academic Practice Based Research Section (APBR) provides an opportunity for students, practitioners, and academic researchers to present their work in either an oral/podium presentation or via a poster presentation during the Fall Educational Conference. All presentation abstracts go through a peer review process to ensure quality and rigor. It is an honor to be selected by your peers to present at this conference and all the presentations this year at the 2020 Fall Conference were outstanding. In addition, our section provides a cash award for the winners in two categories: 1) Oral/Podium presentation - Student and Practitioner and 2) Poster presentation - Student and Practitioner.

This year our winners at the 2020 Fall Educational Conference were:

Oral/Podium Presentation

Lindsey Yates – Student
Ashton Johnson – Practitioner

Poster Presentation

(tie) Kaitlin Frey – Student and Abby Mintz Hall – Student
Rachel Stewart – Practitioner

We thank all our presenters for their work and hope all who are conducting primary or translational research or a quality improvement project, in any public health setting, consider submitting an abstract for the 2021 Fall Educational Conference. A Call for Abstracts will be announced in the Spring 2021 via the [NCPHA website](#). If you have any questions on this process, please contact Dr. Cheryl Kovar RN (Co-chair) at kovarc15@ecu.edu or Dr. Torica Fuller RN (Co-chair) at skeetandrica1@aol.com or Amy Belflower Thomas MHA, MSPH, CPH (2021 FEC Planning Representative/Advocacy Liaison) at amy.b.thomas@unc.edu

Contact Us

Executive Director: Katye Griffin
Kim Dittmann, Operations Officer, E-mail: kdittmann@ncpha.org
222 N. Person Street
Suite 208
Raleigh, NC 27601
Phone: 919-828-6201 Fax: 919-828-6203 Website: ncpha.memberclicks.net



facebook.com/ncpha
twitter.com/NCPHA



NCPHA E-Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Thomas, [North Carolina Institute for Public Health](#)
Graphic Designer: Zannie Gunn, TypeColorShapes.com

