



## Message from the President

– Iulia Vann, MD, MPH



Dear Members of the North Carolina Public Health Association,

I am honored and humbled to address you as the new President of the North Carolina Public Health Association. As we embark on this journey together, I am excited to bring your attention to a momentous development that will undoubtedly shape the future of healthcare in our great state: Medicaid Expansion, set to commence on December 1, 2023.

For years, many North Carolinians have advocated for Medicaid Expansion, recognizing the tremendous potential it holds to improve the lives of our fellow citizens. Finally, the day is fast approaching when we will witness this significant change come to fruition.

### A Milestone in Healthcare

Medicaid Expansion represents a monumental milestone in the history of healthcare in North Carolina. It will extend Medicaid eligibility to more low-income individuals, ultimately covering hundreds of thousands of previously uninsured residents. This expansion will bring a host of benefits, including:

**Improved Access to Care:** Medicaid Expansion will grant access to essential healthcare services for those who previously couldn't afford them. Routine check-ups, preventive care, and management of chronic conditions will become more accessible, thereby enhancing the overall health of our communities.

**Economic Boost:** By expanding Medicaid, North Carolina will receive additional federal funding. This financial infusion is anticipated to stimulate the state's economy, creating jobs and spurring economic growth. This will not only benefit the healthcare sector but also have a ripple effect throughout various industries.

**Health Equity:** Medicaid Expansion will play a crucial role in reducing healthcare disparities. Low-income individuals, many of whom belong to

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## INSIDE:

Message from the President  
page 1

Executive Director Update  
page 4

Legislative Updates  
page 5

Public Health News  
page 6

NCPHA Member  
Introductions  
page 8

FEC Conference Recap  
page 12

NCPHA Section News  
page 13

## Continued... Message from the President

marginalized communities, will be able to access the care they need. As an organization dedicated to public health, it is our responsibility to support initiatives that promote health equity and inclusivity.

**Enhanced Public Health:** Medicaid Expansion aligns with our mission to protect and promote the health of North Carolinians. It will help reduce the burden on emergency rooms, enhance disease prevention, and improve population health outcomes. Ultimately, it will enable us to allocate resources more efficiently and provide better health services to our communities.

**Fiscal Responsibility:** Expanding Medicaid is not only a compassionate choice but also a fiscally responsible one. By covering more low-income residents, we can reduce the costs associated with uncompensated care and create a more sustainable and cost-effective healthcare system.

### Our Role as Public Health Advocates

As members of the North Carolina Public Health Association, we have a vital role to play in this historic transition. Our association has always been at the forefront of advocating for policies that promote public

health. With Medicaid Expansion, we have the opportunity to make a significant impact on the lives of our fellow North Carolinians.

I encourage all of our members to get involved and stay informed about the upcoming changes. We must work together to ensure that Medicaid Expansion is implemented effectively, equitably, and in a manner that truly benefits the health of our state. Your engagement, insights, and support will be invaluable in the coming months.

In closing, Medicaid Expansion marks a positive step forward for North Carolina's healthcare system and public health. As we embark on this new chapter, I have every confidence that, together, we will make the most of this opportunity, promoting better health and well-being for all our residents.

Sincerely,

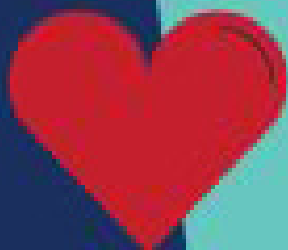
Iulia Vann, MD, MPH

President, North Carolina Public Health Association



**THANK  
YOU,**

Public Health  
Professionals!



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
*For science. For action. For health.*

# Executive Director Update

– Patrick Brown, NCPHA Executive Director



I had originally planned a different written update for this newsletter. Then at our recent Executive Committee and Governing Council meetings, Dr. Vann asked our leadership members to share things that she felt like were worth

highlighting for NCPHA during a session that she was invited to at the APHA Annual Meeting. The amount of good work was so encouraging, and the moment for all of us to reflect on all the great things happening through NCPHA led me to change my update. As we rattled off a long list of accomplishments, I wanted to share the highlights here:

- With almost 1,500 members, NCPHA is the largest APHA affiliate in the country
- NCPHA recently held the first ever NC Public Health Data Summit, and is in the planning stages for another data summit in May 2023
- NCPHA was a founding member and financial supporter of Care4Carolina, a key advocacy organization that helped drive North Carolina forward toward Medicaid Expansion

- NCPHA has established a strong and growing BIPOC Caucus to make sure that black, indigenous and people of color working in public health are supported and celebrated within our association
- Our Young Professionals Section has used their time and energy to conduct fund raisers and charity drives during our fall educational conference
- Our Social Work Section recently raised sufficient funding to establish an endowment for the Kelly Spangler Public Health Social Work Scholarship
- NCPHA has recently received grant funding to participate in the All of Us Research program, a first-ever environmental/climate impact program for NCPHA in partnership with the City of Charlotte, and has recently applied for additional grant funding to support our advocacy efforts

This list is not comprehensive, and I'm sorry to all of you working on other great things that I missed. I'm staggered by all of this work, and I'm so thankful for all of our NCPHA members and for the work that you all do to make this association great. I'm thankful to work for you.





# General Assembly Takes a Break—Funds Several NCPHA Priorities in 2023 Budget



The North Carolina General Assembly has finally taken a break after one of the longest “long” sessions in recent years. The legislature convened in mid-January and recessed in late October. Normally the legislature would adjourn after so many months work, but this year they are breaking for one-month periods in case there is a need to return to consider veto overrides or other urgent business. The General Assembly will reconvene on April 24, 2024, for the “short” session.

The short session is generally intended for budget adjustments and a few pieces of unfinished legislative business, however, legislative leaders are already talking about several major legislative initiatives for 2024, including casino gambling and legalization of medical marijuana. It remains to be seen if the short session will truly be short. NCPHA’s Advocacy Committee will be actively involved in advocating for important public issues in the coming session.

The legislative session of 2023 proved to be a fairly good year for public health with several important initiatives supported by NCPHA contained in the budget bill.

With the approval of the state budget in early October, North Carolina will expand Medicaid to cover hundreds of thousands in the coverage gap. Medicaid Expansion is a tremendous investment in the health of our state, and it means that billions of dollars will come to North Carolina each year to provide health insurance and to help keep doors open to health departments, clinics, facilities, and providers in rural communities. Medicaid Expansion has taken over a decade of work by a large coalition of advocates, including NCPHA. On December 1st DHHS will begin taking applications from adults ages 19-64 who qualify for Medicaid. For information and assistance with

applying: [medicaid.ncdhhs.gov](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov)

On the tobacco control and prevention front, the state budget appropriates \$11,250,000 in nonrecurring funds in each year of the biennium from the State’s settlement with JUUL Labs, Inc. for evidence-based electronic cigarette and nicotine dependence prevention and cessation activities. This will allow the state’s Tobacco Control Branch to continue its work to prevent and reduce youth smoking and electronic cigarette use.

The budget also includes \$3 million in recurring funds plus an additional \$3 million in nonrecurring funds in the first year of the biennium to offset the reduced-price breakfast and lunch programs in schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. Clearly, access to nutritious meals in the school setting is an important aspect of childhood health and learning.

In addition, Local Health Departments will receive a \$4.3 million appropriation in each of the next two years, divided equally as \$50,000 per health department. These are flexible funds intended to be used to meet any public health need. NCPHA and NCALHD advocated for a larger recurring appropriation for health departments during this session, but are encouraged to receive this funding and will continue to advocate for public health funding in future sessions.

The Division of public health also received recurring funding to establish a travelling training team for the CIT training program. The availability of this training team should allow for a reduced time to train local environmental health staff and will help with quicker onboarding of local environmental health workforce.

# All of Us Research Program



## The future of health begins with you.

The *All of Us* Research Program is inviting one million people across the U.S. to help build one of the most diverse health databases in history. We welcome participants from all backgrounds. Researchers will use the data to learn how our biology, lifestyle, and environment affect health. This may one day help them find ways to treat and prevent disease.

NCPHA entered a partnership with APHA to promote the All of Us Research Program led by the National Institute for Health (NIH).

The All of Us Research Program is inviting one million people across the U.S. to help build one of the most diverse health databases in history. We welcome

participants from all backgrounds. Researchers will use the data to learn how our biology, lifestyle, and environment affect health. This may one day help them find ways to treat and prevent disease. It's an ambitious effort to accelerate research that may improve health in our country. To sign up and learn more, go here: [allofus.nih.gov](https://allofus.nih.gov)

## Mecklenburg County PH collaborates with AC&M

— Michelle Partridge-Doerr, MS, Health Program Supervisor, Mecklenburg County Public Health



Mecklenburg County Public Health is working with AC&M Cultural Marketing to design an educational campaign promoting both flu and updated COVID-19 vaccines to County residents. The media campaign will share this message using digital ads on social media, radio and television, and electronic displays and print ads in newspapers, magazines, and large outdoor displays including billboards and public transit.

The campaign launches as we head into fall and winter, when flu and COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses circulate more and we travel and gather to celebrate holidays. Vaccination can keep illness from disrupting our lives and our celebrations. Flu and COVID-19 vaccination is especially important for older adults and people with pre-existing conditions who are at higher risk of developing serious complications from these viruses, but even healthy people can experience long-term health problems. Vaccines reduce the risk of all negative outcomes for all people, from the very young to the young at heart.

## 2024 Public Health Social Work Conference

The 2024 Public Health Social Work Conference, presented by the North Carolina Public Health Social Work Continuing Education and Training Advisory Committee (CETAC), has been renamed to the Kelly Spangler Public Health Social Work Conference. This is in memory of Kelly Spangler, NC Public Health Social Worker, CETAC and NCPHA member and fierce advocate for the citizens of North Carolina.

The next conference will be on March 28, 2024 at The Conference Center at Guilford Technical Community College in Colfax, NC. The planning committee, comprised of several NCPHA Social Work section members, is working to provide a day of learning and networking for public health social workers.

*Stay tuned as registration details are coming in December 2023.*

# Save the Date!

*The North Carolina Public Health Social Work  
Continuing Education and Training Advisory Committee (CETAC)*

**KELLY SPANGLER**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE**

**March 28, 2024**

The Conference Center at Guilford Technical Community College  
7908 Leabourne Road, Colfax, NC 27235

**SOCIAL WORK**  
**BREAKS BARRIERS**

**Registration begins December 2023**



# NCPHA

# *Member Introductions*

This issue we meet **Nina Beech**, Healthy Living Department Director, Cabarrus Health Alliance, **Torica Fuller**, DAdvanced Practice Provider (APP)/FNP Clinical Bound Transition Coordinator, Cumberland County Department of Public Health/Frontier Nursing University, and **Travis Greer**, Health Educator II, Brunswick County Health Services.



# NCPHA Member Introductions



**Nina Beech**

*Healthy Living Department Director*

Cabarrus Health Alliance

**Hometown:** Lumberton, North Carolina

**Education:**

- University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Bachelor of Science in Public Health
- Currently working on Masters in Health Administration

**How long have you worked in public health:**

9 years.

**What do you like most about your job:**

My awesome team and the work we are able to do for the community each day!

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

Michelle Obama, Leonardo DaVinci, and Jesus Christ

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

Increased equitable access for community members to access programs and services with a broader reach.

**FAVORITES:**

**Hobby:** Crocheting

**Food:** Italian

**Movie:** The Shining

**Song/Artist:** The Isley Brothers

**Sport/Team:** Football/Steelers

**Color:** Black

**Book:** Under the Skin, Linda Villarosa



# NCPHA Member Introductions



## **Torica Fuller DNP, MSN, FNP-BC, FNP-C, WHNP-BC, CDP, CGRN, CPN, NRCME**

*Advanced Practice Provider (APP)/FNP Clinical  
Bound Transition Coordinator (CBTC)*

Cumberland County Department of Public  
Health (CCDPH)/Frontier Nursing University

**Hometown:** Fremont, North Carolina

### **Education:**

- East Carolina University, BSN and DNP
- Indiana Wesleyan University, MSN – Nursing Administration and Post-MSN - Family Nursing Practitioner
- Post Graduate Certificate (PCG) – Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner (WHNP)

### **How long have you worked in public health:**

8 years.

### **What do you like most about your job:**

Providing care to underserved, under-insured and uninsured population, being the access to care for the community.

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

Jesus, Tabitha Brown, and my Mom

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

It would be my desire to expand healthcare to anyone that desired it with no cost especially preventative healthcare such as cancer screenings for men and women.

### **FAVORITES:**

**Hobby:** Shopping, did I mention shopping.

**Food:** Grilled chicken in the air fryer.

**Movie:** Black Panther (One and Two)

**Song/Artist:** Maverick City Music – Any of their gospel songs.

**Sport/Team:** Cowboys (My husband’s team)

**Color:** Pink

**Book:** Bible and a good medical book.



# NCPHA Member Introductions



**Travis Greer**

*Health Educator II*

Brunswick County Health Services

**Hometown:** Fullerton, California

**Education:**

- University of North Carolina - Wilmington, Bachelors of Science Community Health Education

**How long have you worked in public health:**

11 years.

**What do you like most about your job:**

The variety of scenes, situations, and people that I get to support and build relationships with to improve public health.

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

Phil, Silas, and Jase Roberston

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

That each public health department would be required to have a full-time PIO-Communications Officer.

**FAVORITES:**

Sweet Spicy Chili Doritos, Chic-Fil-A Chocolate Chip Cookies

**Hobby:** Hunting, Fishing

**Food:** Italian food

**Movie:** The Great Outdoors or any John Candy movie

**Song/Artist:** Philip Bowen

**Sport/Team:** Carolina Hurricanes

**Color:** Hunter Green

**Book:** Bible



# NCPHA Fall Conference Recap and Awards

*Thanks to all who joined us for the Firearm Safety Pre-Conference and the Fall Educational Conference September 27-29 in Concord!*

## Just a few stats:

549 Attendees for the Fall Educational Conference, 150 for the Firearm Safety Pre-Conference

35 Exhibitors

122 Speakers

90 sessions

*Plus a whole lot of networking, earning of CEU's, dancing, and having of good times by all!*



## NCPHA Major Award Winners:

**Reynolds Achievement Award:** Rod Jenkins, Durham County Department of Public Health

**Rankin Legacy Award:** Suzanne Knight, Cabarrus Health Alliance

**Distinguished Service Award:** Michaela Penix, March of Dimes

**Partners in Public Health Award:** Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners

**Dr. Sarah Morrow Health Departments of the Year:**

Orange County Health Department

Warren County Health Department

## NCPHA Scholarship Award Winners:

**Graduate/Undergraduate:** Monica Short-Owens, Cumberland County Health Department, Shaelyn Hawkins, UNC-CH, and Maebelle Mathew, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

**Associate/Technical:** Yvonne Cross, Albemarle Regional Health Services

**Child of Member:** Caitlin Amorocho, child of member Vanessa Gailor, NCDHHS

**Robert Parker Leadership:** Nina Beech, Cabarrus Health Alliance

## NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Awards:

**Local Health Department Award:**

Orange County Health Department

Cabarrus Health Alliance

Gaston County Health and Human Services, Child Fatality and Protections Teams

## Lifetime Achievement:

**Sally Herndon**, Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch, NCDHHS

## Individual Award:

**Amy Phillips**, Catawba County Public Health

## Public Health Staff Award:

**Amanda Deaver**, Scotland County Health Department

## Dr. Ann Wolfe Mini-Grant Award Winners:

Forsyth County Department of Public Health

Duplin County Health Department

Harnett County Health Department

Rockingham County Division of Public Health

# Academic/Practice Based Research Section



The APBR section had some informative and exciting sessions at the NCPHA annual meeting in Concord in October. We heard from two thriving Academic Health Departments about how this model can help advance mutual goals for local health departments and academic institutions. In addition, we had some excellent, top-quality poster and podium presentations, and would like to honor the winners here:

**Practitioner Podium Presentation:** Irini McCarthy from Mecklenburg County Public Health presented "Using Mind Maps to Cultivate Discussion Around Youth Vaping and Mental Health"

**Practitioner Poster Presentation:** Fisher Carlton from NC Injury and Violence Prevention Branch presented "Alcohol-Induced Deaths Among Adults in North Carolina (NC); An analysis of Urban-Rural Differences, 2012-2021"

**Student Podium Presentation:** Aaron Carpenter from UNC Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health presented "The Whole Student: A systemic analysis of the mental health landscape on college campuses"

**Student Poster Presentation:** Ashley Woodburn from Campbell University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences presented "Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Adherence in Rural and Urban United States"

New officers were selected during the annual meeting. Rose Byrnes from North Carolina Institute for Public

Health will be replacing Amy Belflower Thomas as the Academic Co-Chair. We want to extend a big thank you to Amy for her years of dedicated service to the APBR section. Bonnie Coyle will continue as the Practice Co-Chair, and Josh Fisher from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Animal Care and Control will continue to serve as our Secretary/Treasurer. Ashley Jarrett from Burke County Health Department will join the team to serve as the Fall Education Conference planning representative.

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!

**Rose Byrnes, Academic Co-Chair:**

[rose.byrnes@unc.edu](mailto:rose.byrnes@unc.edu)

**Bonnie Coyle, Practice Co-Chair:**

[bonnie.ronco@mecknc.gov](mailto:bonnie.ronco@mecknc.gov)

**Joshua Fisher, Secretary/Treasurer:**

[joshua.fisher@cmpd.org](mailto:joshua.fisher@cmpd.org)

**Ashley Jarrett:**

[ashley.jarrett@burkenc.org](mailto:ashley.jarrett@burkenc.org)

# Advanced Practice Providers (APP) Section



As we reflect on the past year, one word that comes to mind is “AMAZING”. The Advanced Practice Providers (APP) has had a great year and let’s take this opportunity to reflect. The APP section was presented and approved by the NCPHA Executive Board and received votes of approval by the Governing Council in August 2022. The section has grown greatly over the past year. The APP section had the opportunity to participate in the NCPHA 2023 Fall Educational Conference held in September 2023 in Concord, BC. The section would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr. Wendy Smith, DNP, FNP-BC of Surry County Health and Nutrition Center for being our presenter for our inaugural session for the conference. Her presentation was entitled, “Embrace the Change: Addressing Public Health Concerns”. Dr. Smith provided us with the tools to recognize the needs and health threats of our community and encouraged us to take the lead as APPs to implement new programs to meet the needs of our community.

As we strive to move forward and grow as section, we would like to introduce the 2023-2024

## **APP section officers:**

**Chair:** Torica Fuller, DNP, FNP-BC, FNP-C, WHNP-BC, Cumberland County Health Department

**Co-Chair:** Audra Cave, DNP, FNP-BC, Frontier Nursing University

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Amanda Pollard, MMSc, PA-C, Johnston County Public Health Department

As the leadership team of the APP section, we are looking forward to representing you all. Please continue to recruit more APPs to join this section and becoming active in NCPHA. Please see the NCPHA and the APP section tab for more information. We are looking forward to more activities and meetings throughout the next year with our main educational offering at the 2024 Fall Educational Conference in September.

Looking forward to growth, collaboration, and promotion of public health.

Very respectfully,  
Torica, Audra and Amanda  
2023-2024 APP section officers



# Environmental Health Section

## NCPHA EH Section Awards

### Awards Committee

Every year the EH Section sends out a request for nominations for Rookie EH Specialist of the Year, EH Specialist of the year and the Bill Board Award. All nominees must be active members in good standing with the Environmental Health Section of NCPHA.

### Rookie EH Specialist of the Year to Glen Pugh



This year the EH Section of NCPHA is proud to present the Rookie EH Specialist of the Year Award to a deserving Environmental Health Specialist. The nominee for the Rookie EH Specialist of the Year Award shall have more than one year of active service in the field of Environmental Health and less than three years of active

service as of December 31 of the year for which the award is to be given.

This year's recipient started his career in Environmental Health with the Davidson County Health Department in 2021 and later began work at the Forsyth County Department of Public Health in 2022. During his first two years, he was able to achieve authorizations in food, lodging and institutions, childcare sanitation, and tattoos while becoming a Registered Environmental Health Specialist at the completion of his second year.

Previous to his career in Environmental Health, he was a professional chef and managed food establishments in various areas in the country for over 15 years. His prior work experience has been invaluable in his ability to learn and adapt to his new career path. This year's recipient exemplifies the character expected of an REHS.

*As President of the EH Section of NCPHA, it is my pleasure to award Glen Pugh as this year's recipient of the Rookie EH Specialist of the Year Award.*

### Scholarship Committee

Every year the EH Section sends out applications for several scholarship to ECU, WCU and the local health departments for those individuals majoring in the field of EH. This year the EH Section of NCPHA awarded one scholarship to a deserving student working on an environmental health education Education and professional development are critical to the sustainability of the EH workforce.

### Scholarship awarded to Shannon Maloney



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 Senior REHS working for the Forsyth County Health Department. She is authorized in food, lodging, institutions, and child care. She is pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Health at the University of NC Greensboro. She actively participates in educating the public through health education outreach. She is the lead instructor for Forsyth County's Tattoo EDU program that teaches safety and risks to 9th and 10th graders. She volunteers to serve as liaison to local universities to educate upcoming college graduates about the field of Public Health and Environmental Health.

*Please help me congratulate Shannon Maloney as this year's Tim Hilton Environmental Health Specialist Scholarship recipient.*

# Nursing Section



The Public Health Nursing Section had a great Fall Educational Conference this year. Sessions ranged from our usual info-packed legislative session and our update from the Office of the Chief Public Health Nurse to sessions on harm reduction and reproductive coercion, as well as a new roundtable-format session this year which we dubbed Collaboration Station. We heard from our membership that there was an array of topics poignant to the current role of the public health nurse, and recognized that in many of these topic areas, we are our own best experts. We set up stations for facilitated conversation to share best practices and challenges about recruitment and retention, sheltering, and mentoring, along with art therapy and pet therapy stations to carve out an opportunity for self-care. The feedback received from this session was overwhelmingly positive, and we hope to continue to offer this platform for collaboration on relevant topics at future conferences.

During our Business Meeting, we elected a new slate of officers and held a vote to change the name of our section from Nursing to Public Health Nursing. This highlights our specialty as public health nurses and better aligns us as a state affiliate, mirroring the Public Health Nursing Section of the American Public Health Association. This section

name change was approved by the NCPHA Governing Council on November 9th.

Congratulations to Heather Willis and Jessica Hardy for receiving our Joy Reed Scholarship and Nursing Scholarship, respectively. Congrats also to Shenell Little for being the recipient of the Direct Service Award in recognition of her leadership. This year was the 50th anniversary of the Margaret B. Dolan Award, and it was an honor for our section to present this award to ALL North Carolina public health nurses. Given the leadership qualities celebrated by this award (commitment to quality care, accessibility, leadership, advocacy, and awareness), it only made sense to recognize our entire public health nursing workforce for the historic efforts we have put forth over the past several years to ensure our communities' health.

Our Public Health Nursing section leadership is looking forward to the year ahead, with plans for increased outreach to nursing students and educational opportunities for our membership. We welcome feedback and involvement from the membership in the weeks and months to come!

# Women and Children Section



## WOMEN AND CHILDREN SECTION WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

In the Women and Children Section we want to hear about the great things you are doing in your county or if there is a person you would like to highlight. Share the details to be featured in the next Women and Children Section Quarterly newsletter.

[Click link below](#)

### SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH US!

[Click here to share](#)

Hi! Welcome to the North Carolina Public Health Association's Women and Children Section!

#### Are you a member of the WCH section?

If you are not a member of the WCH Section, please consider joining our section. Please check out our WCH Section website: [Women and Children Website](#). We look forward to seeing you at our WCH Section Executive Committee meetings which are open to all WCH Section members.

#### Public Health Awareness

November has a couple of important public health awareness days, weeks, and months going on let's talk about them.

**November is Prematurity Awareness Month.** During the month of November, we focus our attention on the impact that prematurity births have on babies and families. Premature or preterm birth happens when a baby is born before 37 weeks of completed pregnancy the ideal gestation period is 40 weeks. Babies who are born prematurely may have an increased chance of experiencing breathing problems, feeding difficulties, cerebral palsy, developmental delay, and vision and hearing problems. November 17 is World Prematurity Day. On this day we echo the concerns the community has about premature births.

**For more information visit:** [March of Dimes Prematurity Awareness Month](#)

#### November is National Diabetes Month

National Diabetes Month is a time to raise awareness about diabetes. Diabetes is an important public health issue. During the month of November, we encourage people to take control of their health. This year, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is focused on taking action to prevent diabetes-related health problems. NIDDK has put together several resources for you to share with your community.

#### NIDDK's

- [Tips for Managing Diabetes](#)
- [National Diabetes Month toolkit](#)

#### Additional Resources

- [MyHealthfinder diabetes page](#)

**Healthy People 2030's [list of evidence-based resources](#) related to diabetes that you can use in your work.**



# SAVE THE DATES

## **NCPHA/Cleanaire NC Climate and Health Webinar**

Wednesday, December 13

12:00 – 1:00 pm

As the first step in NCPHA's efforts to do more related to climate change, the environment and health, we are excited to host a member webinar on Wednesday, December 13th at from 12:00pm – 1:00pm. During the webinar, NCPHA staff and partners will detail upcoming work by the association related to a recently awarded grant, and we will receive an overview on climate, environment, and health from our friends at CleanAire NC. Please save the date for now, a webinar link will be available soon.

## **Public Health Leaders' Conference**

Hilton Raleigh North Hills

March 14 – 15, 2024

Registration will begin in early December

## **Public Health Data Summit**

May 21-23, 2024

Location: TBD

Registration will begin in early March



## **Contact Us**

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