

NCPHA e-newsletter

E-Letter from the NC Public Health Association and the NCPHA Public Awareness Committee

FEBRUARY 2012



Future Focus: 2020 Spotlight on STDs & Unintended Pregnancy



Healthy North Carolina
A Better State of Health 2020

North Carolina's rate of new HIV infection diagnoses (per 100,000 population) has decreased from 24.7 in 2008 to 19.7 in 2009. This exceeds the Healthy North Carolina 2020 goal of 22.2.

North Carolina continues to seek effective ways to reduce the rate of new HIV infections, as we work toward our goal to be one of the healthiest states in the nation. The North Carolina Communicable Disease Branch, HIV/STD Prevention and Care Program works to eliminate morbidity and mortality due to sexually transmitted diseases (syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, HIV/AIDS); and assure that an up-to-date continuum of care services is available for all HIV-infected individuals residing in North Carolina. You can learn more at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/stds/program.html>. Check back here each month for more information about our state's health objectives at <http://publichealth.nc.gov/hnc2020>.

2012 Annual State Health Director's Conference

This year's conference emphasized partnerships.

More than 400 public health leaders and partners from across the state attended the 2012 Annual State Health Director's Conference in Raleigh in January. The theme, *Expanding Partnerships to Transform Health Outcomes*, was highlighted in plenary and workshop presentations on collaborative efforts between public health, municipal and community-based organizations to protect and improve public health.

A copy of the program agenda and links to presentations is available on the Division of Public Health website at <http://www.publichealth.nc.gov/shd/>.

A highlight of the conference was a presentation by U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin on the nation's first National Prevention Strategy (<http://www.healthcare.gov/prevention/nphpphc/strategy/report.pdf>). The plan encourages partnerships among federal, state, tribal, local, and territorial governments; business, industry, and other private sector partners; philanthropic organizations; community and faith-based organizations; and everyday Americans to improve health through prevention. Dr. Benjamin encouraged public health leaders to bring "the joy" back into health and even helped to lead a fitness break.

The conference concluded with the presentation of the Ronald Levine Legacy Award to William Pully, President of the North Carolina Hospital Association. In presenting the award, outgoing State Health Director Dr. Jeffrey Engel acknowledged Pully's leadership in the development of the North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool (NC DETECT), the North Carolina Health Information Exchange, and the Public Health and Hospital Collaborative.



SAVE THE DATE – MAY 22, 2012!

A message from President Gayle Harris

The countdown to our spring conference has begun – only three months before we converge on Raleigh and Jones Street for our 3rd Annual Spring Educational Conference! Our theme, *Preserving the Public's Health: A Day to Focus on Education and Advocacy*, says it all. The Public Awareness Committee has worked to assure that the day will enhance your skills, provide opportunities for you to network with your colleagues and advocate for public health priorities that will positively impact health outcomes, particularly those at the population level.

Last month, I shared the details of the morning session where we will hear from Lanier Cansler (*Health Reform: A New Vision for Public Health*), Norma Mills Houston (*Advocacy Training: What Can We Do?*), Peg O'Connell (*NCPHA's Policy Priorities*), and invited Legislators.

After lunch, conference attendees can either visit with North Carolina State Legislators at the General Assembly or attend concurrent sessions. The session presenters and topics are: Carolyn Dunn (*Obesity Prevention and Policy Change*); Nancy L. Winterbauer (*Practice-based Research & Evaluation: Tools, Tips, & Partnerships*); and Aidil Collins (*Youth as Advocacy Allies: A Framework for Involving Youth in Prevention Strategies*).

Wait, there's more! Pre-registration fees are: \$37 for members, and \$57 for non-members. On-site registration fees are \$52 for members and \$67 for non-members. NCPHA Student Member discount is 50% off registration. CEUs and contact hours will be offered for an additional fee of \$15. What a day and what a deal!

Mark your calendars! May 22nd at the Sheraton Raleigh.

See you there!

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