

# NCPHA e-newsletter

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

MARCH 2010

## Census questionnaires will be mailed in mid-March

North Carolina was the 3rd largest growing state from 2008-2009 with over 134,000 new residents. Local governments use census information to plan for the future of our communities and where to place schools, hospitals, water/sewer services, roads, and emergency services. Completing the Census form helps bring federal funding to the state and to your community for programs that help your county and its residents.

So, why should public health care? What a great way to learn how your county has changed in the past 10 years! How can public health hope to impact the health and well-being of North Carolina residents unless we know the number of residents, the demographic changes, or their eco-social status? How can public health hope to accurately assess the health needs, to address such needs and assure the needs are met? And who can forget about funding?? Current census data impacts where the dollars go and what programs they are directed to. Plus local health directors cannot forget the challenging equity formula through the Division of Public Health!

We are represented on the Governor's Complete Count Committee by local health directors John Morrow and Carolyn Moser. There are also numerous local committees to aid in awareness and in which public health staff may get involved.

Make sure you and others complete the questionnaire and return it via the mail.



10 questions and 10 minutes –  
Complete the 2010 Census – Be counted!



## From Jones Street...

*An update from Executive Director Lynette Tolson*

I hope you enjoyed the 1st Edition of the NCPHA E-Newsletter. It will be a great tool for us to communicate public health news. The E-Letter will also be a great advocacy tool for us during the 2010 NC Legislative Session. Please share with me your thoughts on the E-Letter.

Mark your calendars for May 12th, the first day of the NC Legislative Session. This year is going to be a very hard year for public health due to the continued budget crisis. In 2009-2010, there was approximately a \$27 million dollar reduction from the General Assembly and another 5% hold back from the Governor in the state public health budget. Public Health is down to the bare bones in funding!

NCPHA will need your help this session. We need to speak in one voice and speak loudly to be heard over the other advocates whose programs are also reduced or eliminated. Legislative Alerts will be going out over our list-serve asking for your involvement in the budget process. To be on the list-serve, you must be a member of NCPHA. Tell your colleagues to join NCPHA and

be a voice for public health this session!

Mark your calendars for the NCPHA 1st Annual Spring Conference April 23 at the Hilton, RDU Airport. The breakfast session will be an advocacy program. On the panel is Representative Mickey Michaux, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. We look forward to hearing his comments regarding the budget. We want to make certain he understands the importance of funding public health. Others on the panel include Dr. Jeff Engel, State Health Director and Office of State Budget staff (invited).

Next month you will be receiving the quarterly newsletter. We are going green! We have no plans at this time to mail the quarterly newsletter as we have in the past. Please make sure we have your current e-mail address.

Lynette Rivenbark Tolson,  
Executive Director  
3000 Industrial Drive, Suite 140  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
Phone: (919) 828-6201  
Fax: (919) 828-6203  
E-mail: ltolson@ncapha.org

## Open Mike

By President Mike Reavis

Got the - I can't shake the winter time blues!? Snow, Ice, Freezing Rain, Gale Force Winds - Enough Already! What's your cure? Have you sought refuge in a warm cinema viewing Avatar for the 3rd time!? You can get a warm fuzzy feeling from visiting [www.ncpha.com](http://www.ncpha.com) and registering for the Spring educational offering or you could bask in a cozy day dream of sun and surf at the annual NCPHA Fall educational conference in Wilmington this October! Sign up and get the cure for what's ailing you!



## Salute!

*Levine award recognizes health director, business leader*



State Health Director Jeff Engel, Paul Stone, Beth Lovette and Dr. Ron Levine

Beth Lovette, Wilkes County health director since 2002, was presented with the Ronald H. Levine Legacy Award for Local Innovation in Public Health. Lovette is known for her tireless leadership in improving health in the community and state and for advocating with policymakers and legislators for public health issues.

Through boards and through partnerships with schools, hospitals, non-profits and other organizations, Lovette has worked to build collaborations, develop and implement action plans for the community's health, improve children's health and tackle childhood obesity, improve access to care for the uninsured, and address the high rate of accidental deaths due to pre-

scription drug overdoses, as well as to expand health care services and build a stronger health care system in the community. Under her leadership, the Wilkes County Health Department was accredited by the state in 2006.

Also recognized was Paul Stone, for his statewide impact on public health as president and CEO of the NC Restaurant and Lodging Association-- for supporting legislation protecting restaurant and bar workers, and patrons from second-hand smoke, and for developing tools for businesses to comply with the new smoke-free law passed in January.

The awards were announced at the 2010 State Health Directors Conference.

## Funding sources

### **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Active Living Research and New Connections Grant Opportunities**

Act fast to meet the April 14th application deadline. This grant program focuses on childhood obesity. Special emphasis is placed on strategies with the potential to reach children and youths ages 3 to 18 who are at highest risk for obesity: minorities, as well as children who live in under-resourced and lower-income communities. Go to [www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=21041](http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=21041)

### **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Public Health Law Research**

Another April 14th deadline. This is its second call for proposals (CFP) for studies that will examine the public health impacts of laws and legal practices, including innovative policy and legal approaches, and laws and regulations developed at the city or county level.

Go to [www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=21022](http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=21022)

### **Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, Health Care Division**

Through the Health Care Division, the KBR Charitable Trust responds to health and wellness needs and invests in solutions that improve the quality of health for financially needy residents of North Carolina. See: [www.kbr.org/health-care-division-fund.cfm](http://www.kbr.org/health-care-division-fund.cfm) Application deadlines: March 15th & September 15th.

### **National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO)**

See funding opportunities:  
[www.naccho.org/topics/funding/](http://www.naccho.org/topics/funding/)

## Contact Us

3000 Industrial Drive, Suite 140  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
Phone: 919-828-6205  
Fax: (919) 828-6203  
[mwagner@ncpha.org](mailto:mwagner@ncpha.org)

NCPHA E-Newsletter editor Bev Holt  
NCPHA E-Newsletter graphic designer Zannie Gunn  
NC Institute for Public Health

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The next NCPHA newsletter Spring edition will be sent via the NCPHA list-serve and posted on the NCPHA website only at [www.ncpha.com](http://www.ncpha.com).