

**Thank you for joining us for the 64th Annual Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association Conference!**



**The 64th Annual Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association Conference**

***“Public Health: Recruit, Develop, and Retain a Strong Public Health Team”***



**DoubleTree by Hilton  Atlantic Beach, NC**

**April 24-26, 2024**



*"Acquiring the habit of note-taking is therefore a wonderfully complementary skill to that of listening."* — Richard Branson



### Our History

The first recorded annual meeting of the Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association was in 1961. It was organized in 1960 with Dr. L.E. King and Charlie McCotter as co-chairs. EDNCPHA is comprised of 55 counties in the eastern part of North Carolina. Members include Public Health Professionals who work to educate, promote, and improve the health of all North Carolinians. Today, the Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association is committed to protecting and promoting the public and personal health of the citizens of Eastern North Carolina. We strive to promote a closer working relationship between and within local health departments and allied agencies.

**Would you like to be a part of our history and future? We encourage you to complete an interest survey that was included in your packet or reach out to anyone on the EDNCPHA Leadership team to learn more.**

*"A smile is a curve that sets everything straight"* — Phyllis Diller



*"Going in one more round when you don't think you can. That's what makes all the difference in your life."* — Rocky Balboa

*"In the book of life, The answers aren't in the back."* — Charles M. Schulz

# Save the Date

## 65th Annual Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association Conference

April 30th- May 2nd, 2025



### DoubleTree by Hilton Atlantic Beach

For more information, visit our website or Facebook Page

[www.easterndistrictpublichealth.org](http://www.easterndistrictpublichealth.org)

[www.facebook.com/EDNCPHA](https://www.facebook.com/EDNCPHA) or search Eastern District NCPHA

## Welcome

### Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association

#### President's Message



It is my utmost pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you at this year's Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Conference. As we gather under the theme "Public Health: Recruit, Develop, and Retain a Strong Public Health Team," we embark on a journey that underscores the vital importance of our human resources in shaping the future of public health.

Recruiting, developing, and retaining a robust public health team is not merely a goal; it is the cornerstone of our collective success. In a world marked by evolving challenges and complex health crises, the strength of our workforce stands as our greatest asset. It is through the dedication, expertise, and tireless commitment of our professionals that

we can effectively navigate the ever-changing landscape of public health.

Recruitment serves as the gateway to innovation and progress. As we seek to expand our teams, let us remain steadfast in our pursuit of diversity, inclusivity, and excellence. By casting a wide net and embracing individuals from diverse backgrounds, we enrich our talent pool and foster a culture of innovation that propels us forward.

However, recruitment is but the first step on our journey. Development is the key that transforms potential into proficiency. Through ongoing training, mentorship, and professional growth opportunities, we empower our team members to reach new heights of competence and confidence. Investing in their development is an investment in our shared future—a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence.

Yet, recruitment and development alone are insufficient without retention. Retaining our talented professionals is not merely a goal but a necessity. As we confront the challenges of the modern world, continuity, and institutional memory are indispensable. By fostering a support, recognition, and work-life balance culture, we cultivate an environment where our team members feel valued, respected, and empowered to thrive.

In the days ahead, let us engage in meaningful dialogue, share best practices, and forge lasting connections. Let us draw inspiration from one another as we work tirelessly to advance the cause of public health. Together, we have the power to effect meaningful change, improve countless lives, and build a brighter, healthier future for generations to come.

Once again, I sincerely thank each of you for your unwavering dedication and commitment to public health. May this conference be a source of inspiration, knowledge, and collaboration as we strive to recruit, develop, and retain a strong public health team.

With warm regards,

Andrea R. Freeman, MPA, CLGFO  
EDNCPHA President 2023-2024



## President-Elect's Message

I welcome you to the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association Annual Education Conference located at North Carolina's Crystal Coast. Wow, 64 years! It is said that every great tree started from a small seedling buried deep within the soil, with that, I hope we can take some time to reflect and thank those that came before us in Public Health that have paved the road for our journey today. It is our responsibility to live up to the hard work of those who came before us by doing all that we can do to help those who come after us. To the executive committee, chairs, and public health workers before us – we thank you for providing us with the opportunity to celebrate 64 years of EDNCPHA.

The theme for this year's conference, "Public Health: Recruit, Develop, and Retain a Strong Public Health Team," is vital to ensuring that future public health practitioners can continue the hard work that carries on. This theme goes well beyond that of any human resource department we all have, but what can "WE" do to better our staff (and recruit new staff). The protection of our community's health hinges on the ability for public health to maintain a sufficient number of workers that are capable of delivering essential public health services. The recruitment of qualified and capable individuals into the field of health and the retention of these individuals within the public health workforce are two indispensable elements public health organizations must address to fulfill their responsibilities to the public.

The workforce of Public Health has become very dynamic and not only do we find ourselves competing with other counties for staff members, but also the private sector. Many years ago, while local government salaries were not as competitive with the private sector and health systems, we were able to tout pension plans, 401k, employer paid health coverage, and the coveted retiree health insurance. Fast-forward to today, many employers offer the same, if not better benefits as well as "flexibility." How can Public Health evolve to compete with the demands of current and future staffing?

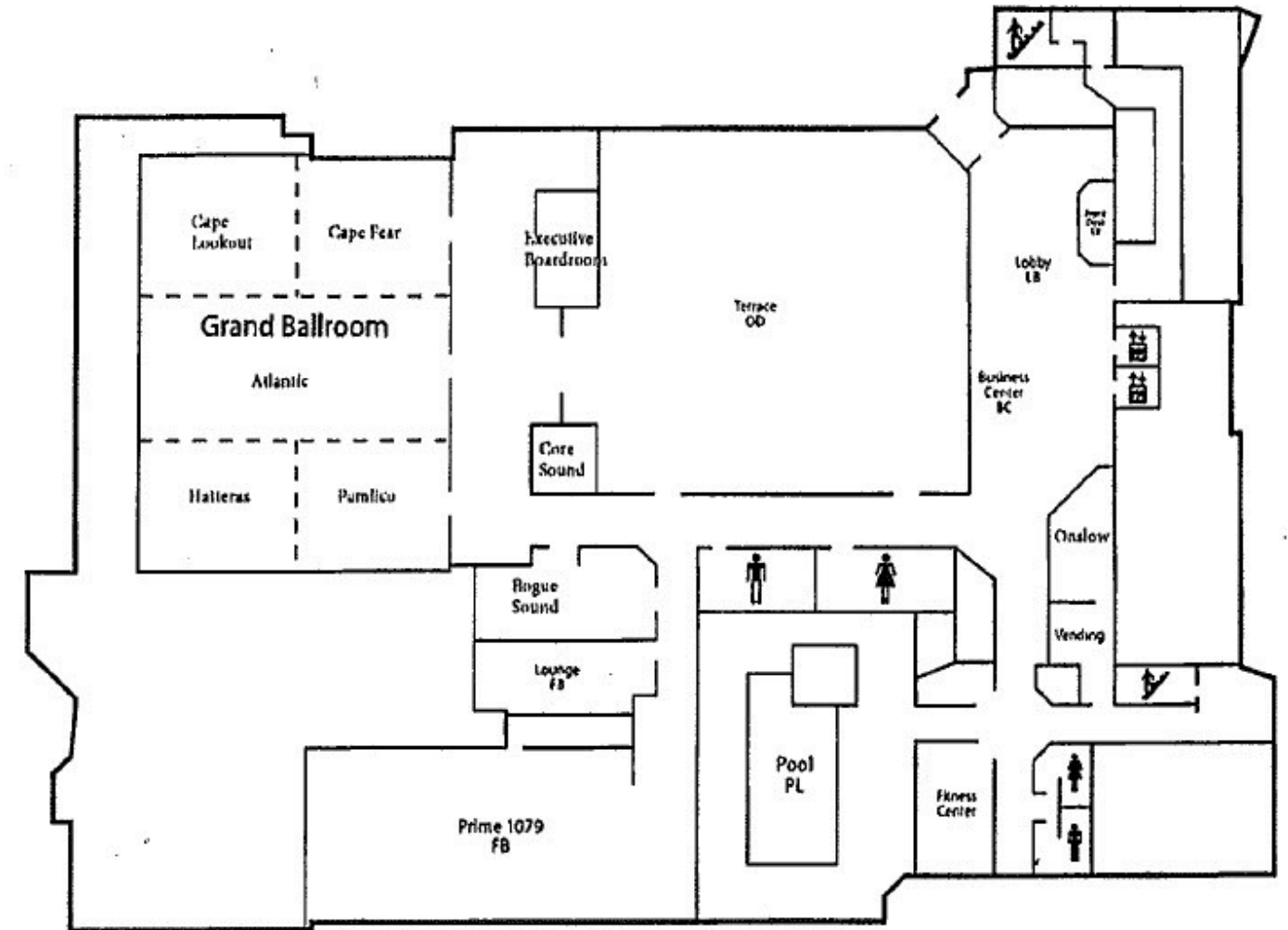
The planning committee has worked extensively to provide some relief and answers to many of the questions that plague us when it comes to retaining, recruitment, and development of public health staff. Our conference will begin with a presentation on workforce modernization followed by a panel of Public Health Leaders from clinical, administrative, environmental health, and health education who will discuss how they work within their departments to ensure they have the best staff possible. Thursday provides wonderful opportunities to grow your staff and department with the changing landscape of public health. On Friday, we will conclude our conference with motivational speaker, Keesha Star, who will remind us of human connection that often gets overlooked in retaining staff.

Closing, I'd like to thank each of you for attending this year's conference and bringing your knowledge and experience to our gathering. You, as public health professionals have weathered the storm of the pandemic and now onward to staffing. The agencies we represent, the services we provide, and the community we serve are only as good as the people we employ. Thank you for ensuring public health services and staff will be here for another 64 years.

In faith, hope, love and pirates,

Trey Wright

# Meeting Space Layout



**DoubleTree by Hilton 2717 West Fort Macon Road Atlantic Beach, NC 28512**

Enjoy all the area has to offer visit: [atlanticbeach-nc.com](http://atlanticbeach-nc.com)

# Counties Comprising Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association

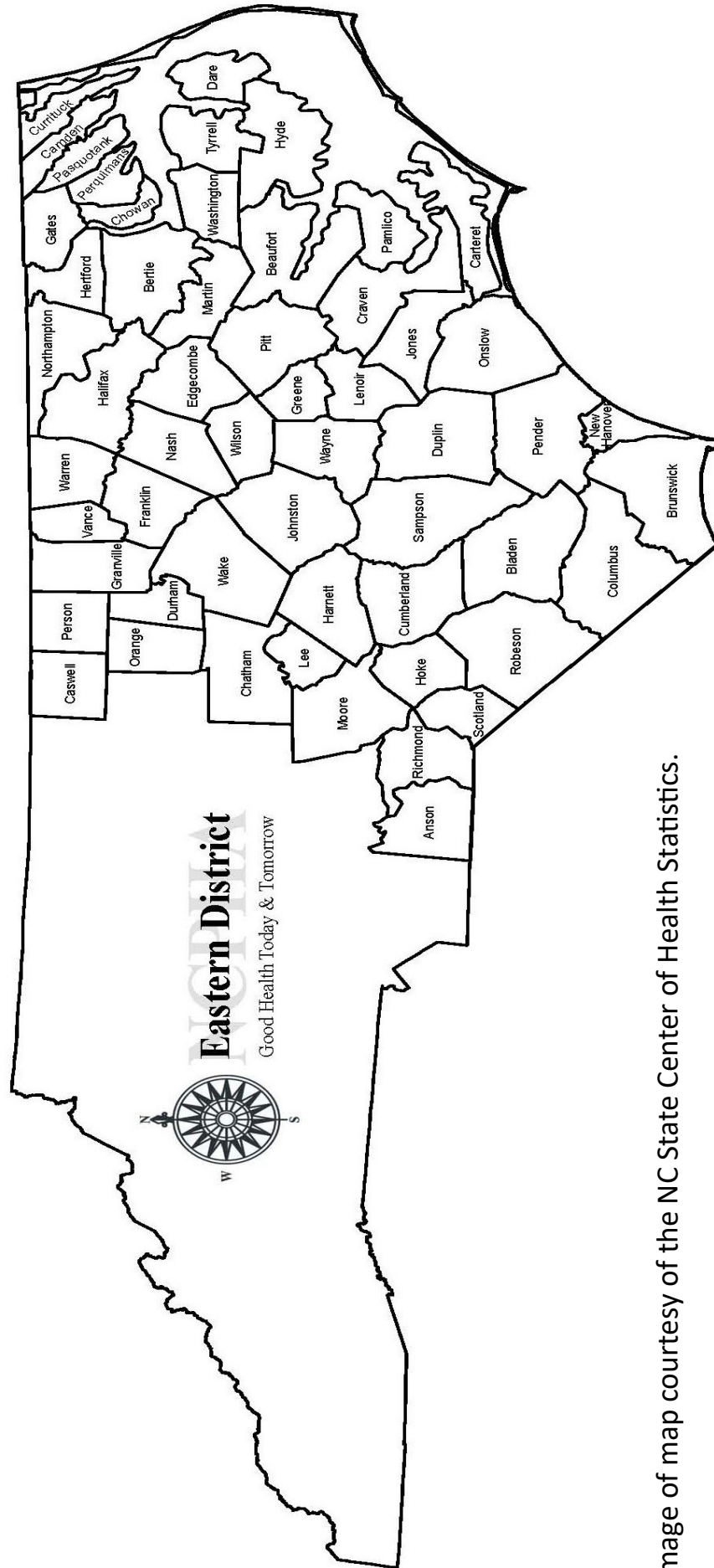


Image of map courtesy of the NC State Center of Health Statistics.

## Honoring Past Presidents

The first recorded annual meeting of the Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association was in 1961. It was organized in 1960 with Dr. L.E. King and Charlie McCotter as cochairmen. They drew up the constitution and bylaws after the meeting in 1960. Prior to that time, there were Eastern and Southeastern Public Health Workers' Conferences. The Eastern Conference voted at a meeting July 1, 1960, at the Biltmore Hotel in Morehead City to apply for affiliation with the North Carolina Public Health Association and to ask the Southeastern Conference to join them.

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1960-1961 *Dr. L.E. Kling & *C.J. McCotter | 1994-1995 *Mrs. Susan O'Brien        |
| 1961-1962 Dr. J.L. Campbell                | 1995-1996 Mrs. Margaret P. Allsbrook |
| 1962-1963 *Mrs. Agnes Olmstead             | 1996-1997 Mr. Michael U. Rhodes      |
| 1963-1964 *Dr. J.R. Black                  | 1997-1998 Mrs. Rosemary P. Goddard   |
| 1964-1965 *Dr. Quinton Cook                | 1998-1999 Mrs. Debra Harris          |
| 1965-1966 *Dr. W.H. Craneford              | 1999-2000 *Ms. Deborah Barmann       |
| 1966-1967 *Mrs. Davis Clark                | 2000-2001 Mrs. Eunice Inman          |
| 1967-1968 Dr. M.F. Eyerman                 | 2001-2002 Ms. Laura Gammons          |
| 1968-1969 Mrs. Margaret C. Neal            | 2002-2003 Mrs. Djuana Register       |
| 1969-1970 *Mr. J.S. Canaday                | 2003-2004 Mrs. Nita Britt            |
| 1970-1971 Mrs. Maye S. Myers               | 2004-2005 Mr. Wayne Raynor           |
| 1971-1972 *Dr. Verna Barefoot              | 2005-2006 Mrs. Mary Jane Sauls       |
| 1972-1973 Mr. Ghurman Ange                 | 2006-2007 Mrs. Emily Smathers        |
| 1973-1974 Mr. Van Jenkins                  | 2007-2008 Mr. George O'Daniel        |
| 1974-1975 Mrs. Martha Jacob                | 2008-2009 Mr. John Peebles           |
| 1975-1976 Mrs. Terry Lawler                | 2009-2010 *Mr. James Roosen          |
| 1976-1977 *Mr. Eddie Pierce                | 2010-2011 *Mr. William (Bill) Smith  |
| 1977-1978 Mr. Joe Powner                   | 2011-2012 Mr. Scott Harrelson        |
| 1978-1979 Dr. Richard Murphy               | 2012-2013 Mrs. Kristi Nixon          |
| 1979-1980 *Mrs. Lottie Daw                 | 2013-2014 Mr. Robert (Bob) Winstead  |
| 1980-1981 Ms. Jane Matthis                 | 2014-2015 Mrs. Len Gilstrap          |
| 1981-1982 *Mrs. Helen Ray                  | 2015-2016 Mrs. Yulonda McLean        |
| 1982-1983 Ms. Patricia O'Leary             | 2016-2017 Mrs. Carolyn Moser         |
| 1983-1984 *Mr. Bill McQueen                | 2017-2018 Ms. Julie Gooding          |
| 1984-1985 *Mr. Jess Berman                 | 2018-2019 Mrs. Melissa Packer        |
| 1985-1986 *Mr. Robert Parker               | 2019-2020 Mrs. Rhonda Ashby          |
| 1986-1987 Ms. Terri Sutton                 | 2020-2021 Mrs. Rhonda Ashby          |
| 1987-1988 Mr. Jim Higdon                   | 2021-2022 Mr. Wes Gray               |
| 1988-1989 Mr. Frankie Barnes               | 2022-2023 Mr. Travis Greer           |
| 1989-1990 Ms. Debra Springer               |                                      |
| 1990-1991 Mrs. Deborah J. Warren           |                                      |
| 1991-1992 *Mr. Harry Whitley, Jr.          |                                      |
| 1992-1993 *Mr. Robert Fulcher              |                                      |
| 1993-1994 Mrs. Delance Ellis               |                                      |

\* Deceased

**SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE  
April 2024  
OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

Andrea Freeman  
MTW District Health Dept.  
Plymouth, NC

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Trey Wright  
Rockingham County Health Dept  
Wentworth, NC

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Victoria Hudson  
Orange County Health Dept.  
Hillsborough, NC

**SECRETARY**

Monica Short-Owens  
Cumberland County Health Dept  
Fayetteville, NC

**TREASURER**

Djuana Register  
Bladen County Health Dept., Retired  
High Point, NC

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Travis Greer  
Brunswick County Health Services  
Bolivia, NC

**SECTION CHAIRS**

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE**

Vacant Chair

**HEALTH EDUCATION**

Co-Chairs  
Travis Greer - Brunswick County Health Dept.  
Jamika Lynch - Columbus County Health Dept.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

Laura Lerch  
Durham County Health Dept.  
Durham, NC

**FAMI**

Co-Chairs  
Andrea Freeman - MTW District Health Dept.  
Wanda Steed - Warren County Health Dept.

**HEALTH DIRECTORS**

Co-Chairs  
Trey Wright - Rockingham County Health Dept.  
Dr. Margaret Blake - Warren County Health Dept.

**NURSING/PHYSICIAN EXTENDERS**

Vacant

**Notes:**



## Thank You to the Eastern District NCPHA Executive Committee!

As President of the Eastern District NCPHA, I want to thank our Executive Committee for their unwavering dedication and commitment to public health. Your tireless efforts and strategic leadership have been instrumental in advancing our mission and serving our community.

Thank you for your vision, hard work, and dedication to the Eastern District NCPHA. Together, we will continue to impact the health and well-being of our community positively.

Andrea

2023-2024 President, Eastern District NCPHA



## EDNCPHA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

### **AUDIT**

Trisha Tant  
Orange County Health Dept.

### **AWARDS**

Trey Wright  
Rockingham County Health Dept.

### **BYLAWS/HANDBOOK**

Victoria Hudson  
Orange County Health Dept.

### **DOOR PRIZES**

Karen Prince - Co-Chair  
Warren County Health Dept

Barbie Britt - Co-Chair  
Robeson County Health Dept.

### **SPONSORS**

Melissa Packer  
Robeson County Health Dept.

### **TIME & PLACE**

Travis Greer  
Brunswick County Health Services

### **LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS/HOSPITALITY/ ENTERTAINMENT**

Melanie Dixon - Co-Chair  
Dawn Jones - Co-Chair  
Pamlico County Health Dept.

### **FINANCE**

Djuana Register  
Bladen County Health Dept., Retired

### **LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS**

Nina Oliver - Co-Chair  
Carteret County Health Dept.

Wes Gray - Co-Chair  
Pitt County Health Dept.

### **SPECIAL AWARDS**

Djuana Register  
Bladen County Health Dept., Retired

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Djuana Register  
Bladen County Health Dept., Retired

### **NEWSLETTER**

Orange County Health Department

### **NOMINATING**

Travis Greer  
Brunswick County Health Services

### **REGISTRATION**

Traci Bruce  
Robeson County Health Dept.

Yulonda McLean  
Robeson County Health Dept.

### **PROGRAM**

Trey Wright  
Rockingham County Health Dept.

### **MARKETING/PUBLICITY/SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Rhonda Mushaw - Co-Chair  
Warren County Health Dept.

Julie Gooding - Co-Chair  
NC DHHS, Retired

Travis Greer - Co-Chair  
Brunswick County Health Services

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Trisha Tant  
Orange County Health Dept.

### **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

Rob Richardson  
Wake County Environmental Services

### **PARLIMENTARIAN**

Helene Edwards  
Hoke County Health Dept

## Things to Keep in Mind

- ⇒ Please visit all of the exhibits. The exhibitors have spent a lot of time and money to share their products and services. Complete your Exhibitors' Passport to be eligible for a prize.
- ⇒ There is a NO TOBACCO USE policy in all Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association meeting rooms.
- ⇒ Name tags must be worn at ALL Eastern District meetings and social functions or admittance will not be allowed. Name tags must be worn for admission to the Friday Breakfast and closing session. **Name tags are used for door prize drawings at conclusion of conference. Sergeant-at-Arms will attend each function to enforce this policy.**
- ⇒ Masks are recommended based on your personal risk assessment and comfort level.
- ⇒ During meetings, please adjust your cellular devices to the proper silent setting.
- ⇒ *"Change happens at the speed of trust!"* During the conference, build relationships, build trust, and create change.

### **Conference WIFI (subject to change)**

**username: Hilton Honors  
password: Starfish**







## A healthier nation is *our* inspiration.

At HMA, every project, every initiative, and every success are part of a bigger goal: a healthier America for all. Whether we're addressing communities' most basic needs, such as clean water and safe shelter, or analyzing complex healthcare delivery systems, our inspiration is the equitable access to a healthier life for everyone in our nation.

- » Medicare
- » Behavioral Health
- » Clinical Services
- » Delivery Systems
- » Health Equity
- » Justice-Involved Healthcare
- » Long-Term Services & Supports
- » Managed Care
- » Opioid Crisis Response
- » Public Health
- » Social Determinants of Health
- » Quality and Accreditation Services



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## Opening Keynote Speaker

### John Eller



John Eller has over 23 years of public-sector experience in health and human services and local government administration. Currently serving as a Managing Principal at Health Management Associates, Inc., John offers expertise and advice to improve business operations and strategy for public health and human service organizations. He excels in gathering, organizing, and analyzing information and data for problem resolution, as well as developing policies and procedures to enhance processes. Previously, as the Director of Social Services for Mecklenburg County Government, he demonstrated effective governance and operational management for a budget exceeding \$216 million and over 1,300 staff members. John also served as the County Manager for Davie County Government where he oversaw an annual budget of more than \$78 million and partnered with schools, municipalities, and private sector partners to promote holistic service delivery. He has partnered with decision-makers at the local, state, and national levels to assure program effectiveness and disseminate best practices. His work has spanned several sectors to foster unique partnerships that develop innovative services, programs, and policies aimed at building healthier communities and serving vulnerable populations. He has participated in various community needs assessments during his career and notes the importance of hearing those who have lived experience in planning efforts. He also sees the connection that the social determinants of health, program integration, and collective impact models have with serving the “whole” person. He has a passion for system alignment and successfully integrated a behavioral health, school health, public health, child welfare, and federally qualified health center (FQHC) model to maximize funding and reduce duplication among systems to achieve better outcomes for children and families. John has held numerous community involvement roles and board affiliations. He has served on many state workgroups to help support managed care plan expansion for special populations in North Carolina. John was appointed as a member of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine. He served as president of the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services and president of the North Carolina Guardianship Association. He served two terms on the North Carolina General Assembly’s Joint Study Commission on Aging and two terms on the North Carolina Human Resources Commission. John received the Presidential Volunteer Award from President George W. Bush for his work in disproportionately affected communities in Mecklenburg County (Charlotte). He also served as an adjunct instructor for graduate students in public administration programs at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and Appalachian State University. John is a graduate of the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia-Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service and a credentialed manager with the International City & County Management Association (ICMA). He earned a Master of Business Administration from the McColl School of Business at Queens University and his bachelor’s degree in social work from Appalachian State University.

## Wednesday Moderator

### Stacie Saunders, MPH



Stacie Turpin Saunders is currently the Deputy Director for NC Division of Public Health and Section Chief of Local & Community Support. She began her Public Health career in 2007 and has previously served as a Local Health Director in Alamance and Buncombe counties before her role at NC DPH. Stacie served as an officer in the NC Association of Local Health Directors from 2018-2022. She has also served on numerous local and state boards and advisory councils including the NC DHHS Vaccine

Advisory Council, NC IOM Task Force for the Future of Local Public Health and Upstream NC Advisory Committee. Stacie attended Radford University for her undergraduate studies and received a Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

## Closing Keynote Speaker

### Keesha Starr



A John Maxwell Certified Leadership Coach, Behavioral Specialist, Author, and accomplished Keynote Speaker. For over 25 years, Keesha Starr has been building teams in every type of business. Her training in Ministry & Leadership from the New Life Drama Company and traveling for 7 years as a team coordinator then led to the non-profit sector. Building teams and leading in everything from churches to community centers led to the for-profit space coaching companies like McDonalds, Walgreens, Hilton, WalMart, Target, Brookdale, Olive Garden and Fedex. Keesha has brought her expertise, experience, and compelling delivery to inspire and unlock potential in companies of all sizes. After completing her certification and joining The John

Maxwell Team, in 2018 K Starr Coaching was born. Keesha's passion is to help each of us adjust our perspective and live out our purpose. Through her experiences in leadership and coaching she has found that human nature is all the same, we are all unique and uniquely predictable. Keesha has a way of connecting that inspires, motivates and then moves us to action as we influence the world around us.

Our time will be spent reminding everyone of the main component of retention, human connection. Whether it's a boss, a leader, a co-worker or just a friend... a big lesson that we learned from the pandemic is our need to be valued and feel connected to other people. During our time together, we will be reminded of the need to establish and maintain the connection with those around us. This connection fuels our drive to provide exceptional care, our desire to stick around and reminds us that the needs we fill are bigger than any one of us can accomplish on our own.





In loving memory of  
**John Rouse Jr.,**

a cherished presence in Public Health, whose dedicated service spanned over three decades. Renowned for his approachable demeanor and kind-hearted nature, he was greatly respected for his strong leadership on critical issues within the field. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy serves as a beacon of

advocacy, mentorship, and leadership.



**Eastern District 64th Annual Conference**  
**April 24-26, 2024**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton, Atlantic Beach, NC**

**Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Registration <i>(Registration closed 11:30am-1:30pm)</i>	
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Vendor Setup	Foyer
9:30 am - 10:30 am	Executive Committee Meeting	Executive Boardroom
11:15 am - 1:30pm	Awards Lunch and Opening Session	Grand Ballroom
<i>Co-sponsored by Health Management Associates and Region 6 Health Directors</i>		
	<b>Presiding</b>	Andrea Freeman, President, EDNCPHA
	<b>Invocation</b>	Pastor Gene McLendon Executive Director, Hope Mission Ministries
	<b>Welcome</b>	Dr. Randall Williams, Director Carteret Health and Human Services Former State Public Health Director for NC  Sheriff Asa Buck Carteret County Sheriff's Department
	<b>NCPHA Welcome</b>	Amy Belflower-Thomas, MPH, MSPH, CPH President-Elect, NCPHA Director of Research and Evaluation Public Health Accreditation Board
	<b>NCALHD Welcome</b>	Quintana Stewart, MPA—President, NCALHD (virtual) Health Director, Orange County Health Department
	<b>Award Presentation</b>	Trey Wright, Awards Committee Chair
	<b>Life Member Awards</b>	Djuana Register, Membership Committee Chair
	<b>Scholarships</b>	Trisha Tant, Scholarship Committee Chair
	<b>Special Awards</b>	Djuana Register, Special Awards Committee Chair
1:30 pm - 1:45 pm	<b>Break— Meet the Exhibitors</b>	

**Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

**Afternoon Session**

**Grand Ballroom**

1:45 pm - 3:00 pm

**Workforce Modernization: What will the future of Local Public Health in NC look like?**

John Eller, BS, MBA  
 Managing Principal  
 Health Management Associates, Raleigh, NC

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 pm - 4:45 pm

**From Recruitment to Retirement - Keeping Public Health Ready**

Moderator

Stacie Turpin Saunders, MPH, Deputy Director/Section Chief  
 Local and Community Support, Division of Public Health  
 NC Department of Health and Human Services, Raleigh

Panelist

Lillian Koontz, MPA, REHS, Health Director, Davidson County Health Department  
 Daniel Ortiz, REHS, Environmental Health Director II, Cumberland County Health Department  
 Susan Young, BSN, RN, CPHN, Director of Nursing, Rockingham County Division of Public Health  
 Amy Underhill, MA, Deputy Health Director/PIO, Albemarle Regional Health Services

4:45 pm - 5:00 pm

**Business Meeting**

Presiding	Andrea Freeman, President
Secretary's Report	Monica Short-Owens, Secretary
Treasurer's Report	Djuana Register, Treasurer
Bylaws/Handbook Changes	Victoria Hudson, Vice President
Slate of Officers	Travis Greer, Past President
Door Prizes	Karen Prince, Door Prize Committee

5:00 pm

**Dinner on your own**

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Bubbles on the Beach - Memorial Fundraiser**  
 Hospitality Suite



7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

**Networking Social**



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Orange County Health Department

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## Thursday, April 25, 2024 Section Meetings

### Bogue Sound

8:00 am – 9:30 pm **Morning Java Junction** sponsored by Region 7 Health Directors

### Health Education and Nursing Section

**Grand Ballroom**

8:00 am – 8:30 am **Java Junction and Networking**

8:30 am – 9:45 am **Quality Improvement is a Team Sport**

Alice Schenall, DrPH, MPH, Director  
Cross Sector Leadership and Facilitation  
ASTHO

9:45 am – 10:00 am **Break – Meet the Exhibitors**

10:00 am – 11:15 am **Quality Improvement is a Team Sport (continued)**

Alice Schenall, DrPH, MPH, Director  
Cross Sector Leadership and Facilitation  
ASTHO

11:15 am – 11:45 am **Section Business Meeting**

11:45 am—1:00 pm **Lunch on your own**

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **Nurturing Mental Wellness: A Comprehensive Overview of Trillium Health Resources Training Programs**

Elizabeth Clifford, BA/QP, Training Coordinator  
Ashley Hicks, MA, Training Manager  
Trillium Health

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm **Purpose Driven Community Engagement**

Jamika Lynch, Health Educator II  
Columbus County Health Department

Travis Greer, Health Educator II  
Brunswick County Health Services

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm **Motivational Movement in the Workplace**

Dr. Leigh Lane  
Brunswick Wellness Coalition

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Break - Spotlight on the Exhibitors** sponsored by Regions 8 and 9 Health Directors

3:30 pm - 4:50 pm **Be the Change, Create the Buzz**

Dr. Leigh Lane  
Brunswick Wellness Coalition

## Thursday, April 25, 2024 Section Meetings

### Health Education and Nursing Section, continued

4:50 pm - 5:00 pm **Section Debrief, Questions & Answers, etc.**

Jamika Lynch, Health Educator II  
Columbus County Health Department

Travis Greer, Health Educator II  
Brunswick County Health Services

### Environmental Health Section

Hatteras/Pamlico

8:00 am – 8:30 am **Java Junction and Networking**

8:30 am – 9:30 am **Public Health in Action: Outbreak Investigation of Lead-contaminated WanaBana Cinnamon Apple Puree**

Ed Norman, REHS  
Environmental Program Manager  
NC Division of Public Health  
DHHS, Environmental Health

9:30 am – 10:30 am **18E Updates and Implementation**

Patricia Angoli, PE  
Environmental Engineer  
NC Division of Public Health  
Onsite Wastewater  
DHHS, Environmental Health

10:30 am – 10:45 am **Break - Meet the Exhibitors**

Silent Auction Begins - Make Your Bids!!

10:45 am – 11:15 am **Body Modifications and Tattoos**

Alexandria Rimmer, REHS  
Orange County Environmental Health

11:15 am – 12:00 pm **Environmental Health Digital Dashboard**

Aminah Keys, MPH, CEHS  
Public Health Educator II  
NC Environmental Public Health Tracking  
Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch  
DHHS, Environmental Health

Colleen Tennant, MSPH  
Public Health Informatician  
NC Environmental Public Health Tracking  
Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch  
DHHS, Environmental Health

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch on your own**



# Careers 2 Make A Difference

**A Campaign for the future of Public Health!**



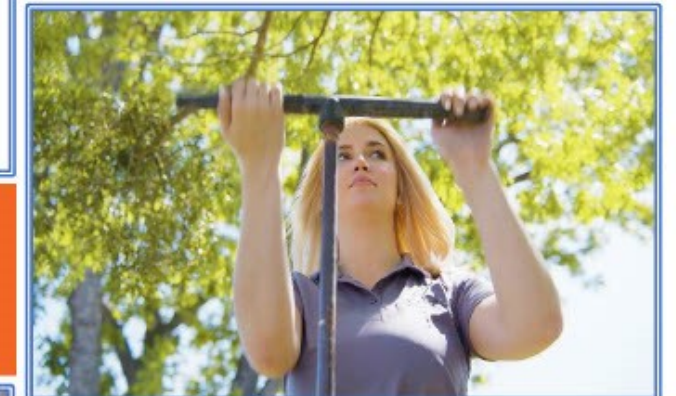
“ As a young girl, I always had the heart to help people. Public health makes me feel like a hero! ”

**Brittani**  
Environmental Health Specialist

Check out a public health career in Eastern North Carolina!



A joint workforce effort between the North Carolina local Health Department Agencies in Regions 9 and 10 and the Northeastern North Carolina Partnership for Public Health, funded through The American Rescue Plan Act.



“ Public health is a powerful force closing gaps and building healthier communities. I am proud to be a part of the process as a health educator. ”

**Hunter**  
Health Education Supervisor



[Careers2MakeADifference.com](https://careers2makeadifference.com)

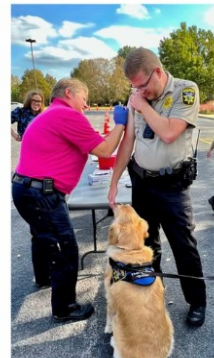
**Come find us during the Health Director's section on the 25<sup>th</sup>**

Check us out at [Careers2MakeADifference.com](https://careers2makeadifference.com) or scan the QR Code!





Protecting, Promoting and Assuring the Health of all people in Pitt County



## Thursday, April 25, 2024 Section Meetings

### Environmental Health Section, continued

- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **Plan Review in Food Service Facilities**  
Jennifer Edwards, REHS  
Wake County Environmental Services  
  
Laura Lerch, REHS  
Durham County Environmental Health
- 2:00 pm—3:00 pm **Legislative, Section, and Branch Updates**  
Jon Fowlkes, BS, REHS, Deputy Environmental Health Section Chief  
NC Division of Public Health  
DHHS, Environmental Health
- 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Break - Spotlight on Exhibitors** sponsored by Regions 8 and 9 Health Directors  
Silent Auction - Make your bids!! Open to everyone
- 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm **Recruiting, Retaining, and Training Environmental Health Specialists**  
Jonathan Godfrey, REHS  
Onsite Water Professionals
- 4:15 pm - 4:30 pm **Business Meeting/Awards/Door Prizes**
- 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm **Change Control Board Meeting Custom Data Processing - Pre-Supper**  
Mike Peth, Director of Sales and Marketing  
Custom Data Processing  
  
Trevor Cannon, Information Technology Project Manager  
Custom Data Processing

### Finance, Admin., Management, Information Technology (FAMI) Section

Cape Lookout

- 8:00 am – 8:30 am **Java Junction and Networking**
- 9:00 am - 11:30 am **Cost Settlement Separate Directed Payment Review**  
Steven W. Garner, MPH, Director  
Cost Reporting and Financial Consulting Services  
North Carolina Alliance of Public Health Agencies
- 11:30 am – 1:15 pm **Lunch on your own**
- 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm **Accreditation: You Need to Know What by When? How to Plan and Organize Using Best Practices!**  
Amy Underhill, MA, Deputy Director  
Albemarle Regional Health Services  
  
Megan Vick, MPA, Health Director  
Northampton County Health Department

## Thursday, April 25, 2024 Section Meetings

### Finance, Admin., Management, Information Technology (FAMI) Section, continued

**2:15 pm – 3:15 pm Medicaid Expansion: Opportunities for Health Departments and their Patients**  
Hollis Smith, Medicaid Expansion Outreach and Education Coordinator  
Care Share Health Alliance

April Morgan, Medicaid Expansion Outreach and Enrollment Manager  
Care Share Health Alliance

Nicholas Riggs, Director  
NC Navigator Consortium

**3:15 pm - 3:30 pm Break - Spotlight on Exhibitors** *sponsored by Regions 8 and 9 Health Directors*

**3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Embracing Your Inner Superhero: Activating Success**  
Sherita Sutton, MPH, MSW, LCSW-A, CHES  
Assistant Public Health Director  
Forsyth County Department of Public Health

**4:30 pm - 5:00 pm Section Business Meeting/Debriefing**

### Health Director's Section

Cape Fear

**8:00 am – 8:30 am Java Junction and Networking**

**9:00 am - 9:50 am Opioid Settlement and Harm Reduction Strategies**  
Tyler Yates, BSW, CADC, Community Overdose Prevention Initiatives Coordinator  
North Carolina Division of Public Health  
NCDHHS - Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

**10:00 am – 11:30 am School Based Oral Health Programs**  
Carteret County Public Health Dental Program  
Pitt County Public Health Dental Program  
Rockingham County Public Health Dental Program  
Wilson County Public Health Dental Program

**11:30 am – 1:00 pm Lunch on your own**

**1:00 pm – 1:50 pm Engaging Community and Connecting the Dots with NCCARE360**  
Ayana N. Simon, MSW, MHA  
Director, NCCARE 360  
Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation

Nicole Crews, MPH  
Program Manager, NCCARE 360  
Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation



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# BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES



**Preserve, Protect, and Improve Community Health**  
**#WeArePublicHealth**

## Thursday, April 25, 2024 Section Meetings

### Health Director's Section, continued

- 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Behavioral Health Integrated with Public Health**  
Steve Strickland, BS, MPA, Assistant Health Director  
Johnston County Health Department  
  
Lisa Macon Harrison, MPH, Health Director  
Granville Vance Public Health
- 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Break – Spotlight on Exhibitors - sponsored by Regions 8 and 9 Health Directors**
- 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm Careers 2 Make a Difference**  
Julie Tunney, MPH, Coordinator  
Region 9 Public Health Workforce Development  
Northeastern North Carolina Partnership for Public Health  
  
Kellen Long, Special Project Coordinator  
Region 9 Public Health Workforce Development  
Northeastern North Carolina Partnership for Public Health
- 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm Section Business Meeting**

### Evening Activities

- Bogue Sound**
- 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Dinner - Cantina Taco Bar**  
Sponsored by Region 10 Health Directors
- Grand Ballroom**
- 8:00 pm - 12:00 am Dance**  
Jerry Newell, DJ  
Taz2 Productions



**Friday, April 26, 2024**

**8:30 am – 9:30 am Breakfast Buffet**

Co-sponsored by Region 5 Health Directors and the Communicable Disease Branch

Hatteras/Pamlico

**9:30 am – 10:00 am Closing Session**

Grand Ballroom

Presiding	Andrea Freeman, President
Recognition of Section Awards Winners	
Announcements	Andrea Freeman, President
Installation of Officers	Travis Greer, Past President
Plaque Presentation	Trey Wright, Incoming President
Past President Comments	Andrea Freeman, Past President

**10:00 am - 10:15 am Break and Hotel Check Out**

**10:15 am – 11:15 am 'Do You See Me??'**

Keesha Starr  
Executive Coach and Behavior Specialist  
Keesha Starr Consulting

**11:15 am - 12:00 pm Closing Remarks**

Door Prizes	Karen Prince, Door Prize Committee Chair
Adjourn	Trey Wright, President

**\*\*Mandatory Training for New Officers and Section Chairs will be conducted after the conference\*\***



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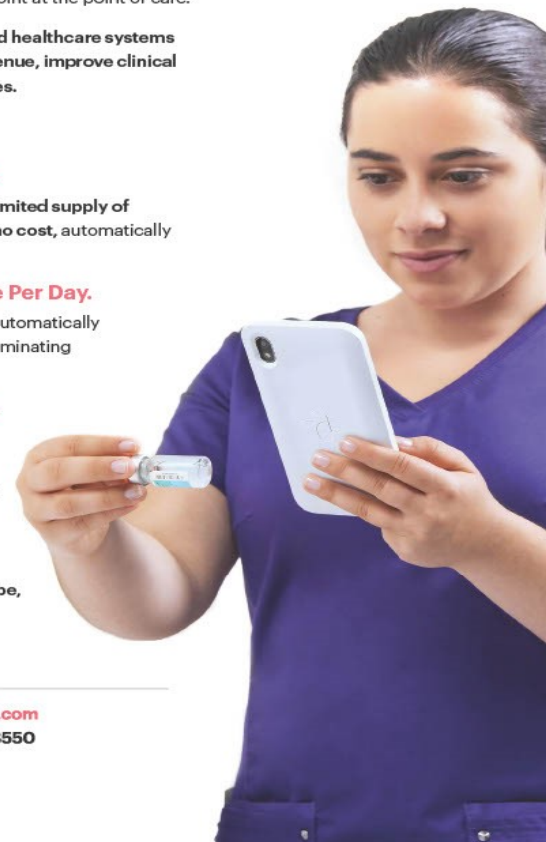
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EASTERN DISTRICT  
NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL AWARDS**

The Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association presents **Stacy H. Covil Individual Achievement, Outstanding Career Achievement, Outstanding Public Health and Scholarship Awards** at the Awards Presentation during the Annual Educational Conference. In 1994, the Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association began honoring life membership.

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Scholarships are presented to active public health workers and their children residing in the fifty-five counties comprising the Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association for graduate study, undergraduate study and technical/associate degree. These scholarships are presented on an annual basis.

**2023-2024 SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES**

Graduate (Master's and Doctorate)  
Graduate (Master's and Doctorate) - Child of Member

Undergraduate  
Undergraduate - Child of Member

Technical/Associate Degree or Certificate  
Technical/Associate Degree or Certificate - Child of Member

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL SCHOLARSHIP & AWARD RECIPIENTS!**





**Whatever Your Path, We Walk With You**

In the face of addiction and overdose, hope can feel lost. But in Carteret County, the Post Overdose Response Team (PORT) is a beacon of light. We are a team of Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPSS) who understand the challenges firsthand. We offer outreach, engagement, and resource navigation to individuals struggling with opioid and other substance use challenges, including those who have experienced overdose, return to use, or other emergencies. Call us at (252) 247-1129 for confidential support and information.



**252.247.1129**  
 post@team@carteretcountync.gov



**STACY H. COVIL OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The individual who receives this award will have demonstrated outstanding achievement in a specific health related project, program or activity within the past two years. Priority is given to selecting an individual who has been instrumental in providing significant local, regional or state impact, or the potential of such impact, as a result of implementing the project, program or activity.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AWARD RECIPIENT</u>
1985	Gaylen Hayes, Robeson County Health Department
1987	Dr. Robert Uebler, Washington County Health Dept
1988	Penny G. Wright, New Hanover County Health Dept
1989	Charles Snyder, Wayne County Health Department
1990	Libba Gantt, Development Evaluation Ctr, New Bern
1991	Bobby T. Waters, New Hanover County Health Dept
1992	Barbara Carey, Stonewall, NC
1993	Peggy Garner, Onslow County Health Department
1994	Joanie Hoggard, Bertie County Health Department
1995	Eunice Inman, Robeson County Health Department
1997	Kathryn Smith, Craven County Health Department
1998	Dee Worden, Wake Dept of Environmental Health
1999	Dr. Rodwell Drake, MD, Granville-Vance District
2000	Evelyn Coley, Wayne County Health Department
2001	Melissa Teachey, Harnett County Health Dept
2002	Debra Harris, Wilson County Health Department
2003	Sheila Alford, Halifax County Health Department
2004	Scott L. Allen, Wake County Animal Control
2005	Djuana Register, Bladen County Health Department
2006	Janet Clayton, Person County Health Depart
2007	Terry Chappell, Wake County Environmental Services
2008	Pamela Serrell, NCDHHS
2009	Carol Strickland, Bladen County Health Department
2010	Starr Baker, Wayne County Health Department
2012	Jon Harrison, Onslow County Health Department
2014	Gregory J. Bright, Wake Co. Environ. Services
2017	Paula Stanley, Carteret County Health Department
2019	Ernest Watts, Robeson County Health Department
2022	Wes Gray, MTW District Health Department

### **OUTSTANDING CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The individual who receives this award will have significant achievements during a career, which is characterized by exemplary and sustained service to public health.

<b><u>YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>AWARD RECIPIENT</u></b>
1985	Maye Gurley, Wayne County Health Department
1986	Marian Duggins, New Hanover County Health Dept
1987	Helen Ray, Johnston County Health Department
1988	Robert S. Parker, New Hanover Health Dept
1989	Susan O'Brien, New Hanover County Health Dept
1990	Hugh G. Young, Edgecombe County Health Dept
1991	Nina Silverthorne, Wayne County Health Dept
1992	Maye G. Myers, Wayne County Health Department
1993	William "Eddie" Pierce, Jr., PPCC Health Dept
1994	Richard Clayton, Washington Regional , DENR
1995	Yvonne McKenzie, Robeson County Health Dept
1996	Virginia Newton, Granville-Vance Dist Health Dept
1997	Mamie Chase, Wayne County Health Department
1998	Dr. Patrick Gray, Harnett County Health Dept
1999	Harry Whitley, Children's Environmental Health
2000	Myra Johnson, Bladen County Health Department
2001	Dr. Ken Wilkins, Wayne County Health Department
2002	Betty Bissette, Nash County Health Department
2003	Don Womble, Hoke County Health Department
2004	Marvin "Fred" Parker, Dare County Health Dept
2005	Nilla T. "Dickie" Sloop, Wake County Human Svcs
2006	Deborah J. Warren, Harnett County Health Dept
2007	Dr. Stephen Gooding, Harnett County Health Dept.
2008	Lida Blalock, Wilson County Health Department
2009	Mary Jane Sauls, Harnett County Health Dept.
2010	Evelyn Foust, NC DHHS Comm. Disease Branch
2011	Nita Britt, Wayne County Health Department
2012	George O'Daniel, Onslow County Health Dept.
2015	Michael Rhodes, Greene County Health Dept.
2016	Gregory J. Bright, Wake County
2017	Evelyn Coley, Retired, Wayne County Health Dept.
2018	Pam Cook, Person County Health Department
2019	Djuana Register, Bladen County

# NCCARE360

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## NCCARE360

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Funded by a grant from the Administration on Aging.

### THE WILLIAM J. "BILL" SMITH OUTSTANDING PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

The public health program that receives this award will have health programming which is considered creative, innovative, efficient and effective. The program will have demonstrated community involvement, community impacts, and has been or is an ongoing effort.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AWARD RECIPIENT</u>
1985	New Hanover County Health Department
1986	Carteret County Health Department
1987	Wayne County Health Department
1989	Franklin County Health Department
1990	Pamlico County Health Department
1991	Robeson County Health Department
1992	Wake County Health Department
1993	Carteret County Health Department
1994	Wilson County Health Department
1995	Craven County Health Department
1996	Pitt County Health Department
1997	Craven County Health Department
1998	Robeson County Health Department
1999	Hoke County Health Department
2000	Harnett County Health Department
2001	Lee County Health Department
2002	Dare County Health Department
2003	Martin/Tyrell/Washington District Health Dept
2004	Onslow County Health Department
2005	Orange County Tobacco Reality Unfiltered Group
2006	Into the Mouths of Babes Oral Screening & Fluoride Varnish Program
2007	Robeson County Health Department
2008	Wayne County Health Department
2009	ADAP - NC Communicable Disease Branch
2010	Bladen County Health Department
2011	Plan Review & Rec. Sanitation Program - Wake County Environmental Services
2012	Health Education Section - Bladen County Health Department
2013	Robeson County Health Department
2015	Bladen County Health Department
2016	Northampton County Health Department
2017	Environmental Health Section, Cumberland County Health Department
2018	Environmental Health Section, Onslow County Health Department
2019	Environmental Health Section, Pender County

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The category of life membership was established in 1993 by the Association in order to honor retired individuals of the Eastern District NCPHA for their dedication and support to the association. The first Life Member was recognized at the 1994 Annual Educational Conference.

### LIFE MEMBERS

\*Kenneth Sigmon - Honorary

Rhonda Ashby

\*Deborah Barmann

Mike Bell

Chester Best

Betty Bissette

Battle Betts

Beverly Bizzell

Malcolm Blalock

Greg Bright

Nita Britt

Terry Chappell

Jimmy Clayton

Richard Clayton

Evelyn Coley

\*Stacy Covil

Neda Crites

\*Lottie Daw

Troy Dees

\*Lillie Dewitt

Margaret Dickens

Rebecca Edwards

Teresa Ellen

Delance Ellis

Mike Formy-Duval

Norman Franks

\*Bobby Fulcher

Ann (Len) Gilstrap

Rosemary Goddard

Julie Gooding Hasty

Debra Harris

Jon Harrison

Andrea Held

Jim Hidgon

Eugene C. Hines, Jr.

Eunice Inman

\*Charlie Jackson

Brenda Johnson

Janice Jones

Patricia Keeter

Ronnie Kennedy

Bill Lynch

Pam Mathews

\*Charlie McCotter

Pat McDonald

Terry McNeill

Jack Moore

Jim Mullins

Kristi Nixon

Judi Northcott

\*Susan O'Brien

Curtis Oden Jr.

Mitzi Parris

\*Carol Parsons

Terry Pierce

\*W.E. "Eddie" Pierce

Carolyn Pittman

Leon Powell

Wayne Raynor

Djuana Register

Sonja Remington

Michael Rhodes

Rebecca Sauls

Janet Sawyer

Sandra Smith

Debra Springer

Thomas Stich

Diane Stokes

Joan Taylor

Erma Thomas

Diane Vosnock

Deborah J. Warren

Don Watson

Carol Whitford

\*Harry Whitley

Jo Williams

Robert Wittman

Don Womble

Donnie Woolard





Neil Woolard

Judith Wright

\* Deceased



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