



NCPHA Eastern District

Good Health Today & Tomorrow

NOVEMBER ISSUE 1

Officers

President: Wes Gray
MTW District Health Department
Plymouth, NC

President-Elect: Travis Greer
Region 8 Tobacco Control
Cumberland County Health Department
Fayetteville, NC

Vice-President: Andrea Freeman
MTW District Health Department
Plymouth, NC

Secretary: Monica Short Owens
Cumberland County Health Department
Fayetteville, NC

Treasurer: Djuana Register
Retired
Dunn, NC

Past President: Rhonda Ashby
NC DHHS
Winterville, NC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Eastern District!

Thank you to all who participated in our first virtual EDNCPHA Conference. It was a well attended conference and our program on "Saving Lives During the Opioid Pandemic" was excellent. Also, I would like to congratulate the Communicable Disease Branch on their Special Award and to our new Life Members, Judi Northcott, Julie Gooding and Debra Springer.

The Eastern District Executive Committee is starting to get busy planning our Spring Educational Conference that is sure to have something for everyone. Start making plans to attend now. The dates are April 6- 8th and will be at the DoubleTree Atlantic Beach. The theme of the conference is **"Public Health: Post COVID—What is on the Horizon"**. We hope you will attend and participate in the many events offered. This is a time for a much needed self renewal, make new friends and to see old friends while learning about Public Health opportunities for growth.

Over the past year and a half, we've seen how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all levels of public health and has taken not only a physical but a mental toll on so many that are passionate about their jobs. Having the opportunity to participate in a public health conference goes a long way to keeping the public health spirit alive, sharing experiences from the past 18 months, gaining insight on opening windows to new ideas, and gaining information and knowledge from mentors and presenters. Several opportunities are available to attend not only the Eastern District NCPHA conference; but also the North Carolina Public Health conference. NCPHA will be holding their annual conference April 26 - 29th. Not everyone can attend every conference, but everyone should be afforded the chance to attend at least one. Please work within your departments and with your Health Director to make these conferences available to each member of your staff.

I personally challenge all North Carolina public health to enthusiastically promote and encourage membership in our public health organizations. Strong support of the organizations provides a stronger voice to ensure the needs of public health are met. Our public health organizations have been building leaders and providing mentors, aiding in professional development and creating lifelong friendships for over a century – won't you join us?

Wes Gray, President

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Message from President-Elect Travis Greer:

It is my pleasure to serve as President-Elect for the Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association for 2021-2022. I have been a member of Eastern District for several years and I must say, it is an excellent network of professionals to be a part of. It was great to see and hear all the wonderful people at our first virtual conference in August. Nidhi Sachdeva and her colleague Steve Manager presented on public health saving lives during the opioid pandemic. One thing I took away from the conference was one word: Syndemic. It was a term I had not heard of nor fully understood until it was explained. Once the term and concept sunk in, it made perfect sense. Public health has always been battling various syndemics, it is what we do. For the past 22 months, COVID has taken most of our time, energy, and resources. How in the world did we sustain ourselves personally and professionally? One word again, Synergy! This word prevailed for me during the time I worked in response to this public health crisis. COVID has brought about a great sense of synergy and some divisions like I have never seen before. I have built new relationships and partnerships that I wouldn't have if it weren't for COVID. Synergy is the anchor to making public health work and improving health outcomes of North Carolinians. Synergy is also how I would describe my Eastern District family. We will be celebrating 62 years of the Eastern District Public Health Association in April 2022.

The Executive Committee and program chairs are working hard in the planning and development of a live, in person Spring Conference in Atlantic Beach, NC. Our goal is to have a conference that will bring about a great sense of renewal and synergy to us all. I can't wait to see your smiling faces there and hand out some warm, sanitized handshakes or some solid fist bumps.

Travis



Coming soon—We will be at the Double Tree by Hilton, Atlantic Beach. The rate will be \$119.00 plus tax. . Please make your plans now to attend our 2022 Conference! Look for more information coming soon.

Account Balances as of November 1, 2021

Checking - \$5,058.47

Savings - \$17,185.69

Current Membership—35 Paid Members

New Members—6

Renewals—29

MARKETING COMMITTEE

From The Marketing Committee:

Greetings EDNCPHA Members! Rhonda Mushaw and I are the Marketing Co-Chairs and we are interested in hearing your ideas on how we can promote the Eastern District NCPHA April meeting and increase our membership.

Please email us at: rhondamushaw@warrencountync.gov or Jgoodinghasty@gmail.com.

Thanks and I look forward to your ideas!

Rhonda Mushaw, Co-Chair
Julie Gooding, Co-Chair
Marketing Committee

Greetings from the Environmental Health Section

The Environmental Health Section met for a business meeting on August 11, 2021 following an excellent presentation by Nidhi Sachdeva on the Opioid Epidemic. The meeting was held virtually but did give an opportunity to conduct annual business, including a Treasurer's Report, and to push forward plans that were pending during COVID response.

Committee Reports and a full slate of officers were tabled until a future meeting and membership vote. Alexandra Perillo, Pender County, will move to the Past President position. Victoria Hudson, Orange County, has been nominated to serve as President until the vote scheduled for December. Moira Beck has left the Eastern District, and her current position as incoming Vice-President will be fulfilled by Thomas Privott, from Orange County. No other nominations have been received for the Treasurer or Secretary. New business was setting up 2022 program adaptations, plans to work on By-laws and new and edited procedure changes to document the COVID-19 suspension.

Rob Richardson presented Victoria Hudson, Orange County, with the Trenton Davis Award for 2021.

Victoria Hudson, REHS
Environmental Health Section Chair

HEALTH EDUCATION

Hello from the Health Education Section

This goes without saying, we really missed you all this year in person, but THANK YOU to everyone who attended this year's EDNCPHA conference virtually! We had an enlightening presentation about an ongoing public health issue that touches many of our personal and work lives daily—the opioid epidemic. Speaker, Nidhi Sachdeva, really moved us to dive deeper into what has led us to where we are and inspired us with hope in addressing the epidemic. A truly remarkable presentation!

We are excited to inform you all that this year we are back and planning our traditional in person shenanigans! This year the health education section is in the works to include some local organizations from the Outer Banks, the 410 on social media and advertising, a trip into what is happening in the tobacco world from the experts, and of course we are sprinkling in some networking and self-care opportunities. Although speakers aren't confirmed and topics solidified quite yet, we plan to make it a conference you don't want to miss, so be sure to sign up for our section membership today. We will see you there!

Let me know if you have any questions.

Monique Travise
Monique.travise@brunswickcountync.gov

Greetings from the Eastern District NCPHA FAMI Section:

The Finance, Administration, Management, Information Technology (FAMI) Section welcomes all new and returning members. We challenge every Eastern District member to solicit at least two people from your county or district to join not only Eastern District but the FAMI section. The purpose of FAMI is to provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas; to promote and foster professional skills and efficiency of the members; to provide a forum for the discussion and dissemination of information.

At the August 11, 2021 virtual meeting, the following members were installed to the FAMI executive committee:

Chair—Andrea Freeman, Administrative Officer III and HIPAA Privacy and Security Officer - MTW District Health Department

Vice Chair—Wanda Steed, Processing Assistant and HIPAA Coordinator - Warren County Health Department

Secretary—Tanisha Lyons, Office Assistant III—Warren County Health Department

Past Chair—Monica Short-Owens, Compliance Officer - Cumberland County Health Department

FAMI needs two members at large to complete the section executive committee. If you are interested or know someone that may be interested, contact Monica Short-Owens via email at mowens@co.cumberland.nc.us or Andrea Freeman at andrea.freeman@mtwdh.org.

The Executive Committee looks forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Spring Conference April 6—8th at Atlantic Beach. The committee is putting together workshops on topics concerning Medicaid Transformation, Health Information Exchange, HIPAA compliance during COVID and much more.

I welcome the opportunity for questions, comments or ideas you may have to make the FAMI Section better. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email (listed above).

I look forward to working with each of you,

Andrea R Freeman, MPA
FAMI Section Chair

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONSTAY INFORMED, VISIT WWW.EDNCPHA.COM

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

ANNUAL DUES: \$25.00

NAME: _____

_____ New Member If new, recruited by: _____

_____ Renewal Previous Name (if remarried, etc.): _____

Present Position: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Employer: _____

Employer Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____

Make check or money order payable to EDNCPHA and mail to:

Djuana Register, Treasurer

EDNCPHA is composed of ten (10) Sections. An individual must be a member of EDNCPHA to qualify for membership in a Section. Please circle the Section or Sections to which you wish to belong.

Communicable Disease

Environmental Health

Health Education

Health Directors

FAMI

Nursing

Will you be eligible for Life Membership _____ Yes _____ No. (Life Membership requires retirement as of December 31, 2021, and twenty years of service in public health)

If you will be eligible, complete this section and return to the Treasurer by March 1, 2022.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

AWARDS

It is TIME for EDNCPHA members to consider nominating a member worthy of recognition during the Annual Educational Conference being held April 6th-8th at the DoubleTree Atlantic Beach. Eastern District has three awards that will be presented this year at the Awards luncheon on Wednesday.

There are many individuals and groups within the Eastern District Public Health Family that deserve to be nominated and there is no greater achievement than to be recognized by your peers for a job well done. We ask that you carefully consider potential candidates from your agency and submit a nomination for our consideration. Today, there is far too little opportunity to recognize our many outstanding public health professionals. You can change that by taking time to nominate an employee or department.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to nominate a deserving person or group.

CATEGORIES ARE:

STACY H. COVIL OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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

OUTSTANDING CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The EDNCPHA member nominated for this award should have significant achievements during a career that is characterized by exemplary and sustained service to public health.

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

The agency or program nominated for this award should have health programming that is considered creative, innovative, efficient and effective. The programming should have demonstrated community involvement and impact and has been or is planned to be an ongoing effort.

The nomination should be submitted in narrative form not to exceed two single-spaced typed pages. The deadline for receiving nominations is **March 8, 2022**.

SUBMIT TO:

Trey Wright
Chairperson of Awards Committee
Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association
e-mail: fwright@co.rockingham.nc.us

SCHOLARSHIPS

NOTICE OF SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABILITY

The Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association is again offering limited scholarships for continuing one's education. The scholarships will be available for the academic year 2022-23. One member and one Child of Member scholarship will be awarded in the following categories and amounts:

Graduate (Master's and Doctorate) – Member \$500.00/Child of Member \$500.00

Undergraduate – Member \$500.00/Child of Member \$500.00

Technical/Associate Degree or Certificate – Member \$250.00/Child of Member \$250.00

Potential applicants should complete the appropriate application with required materials and letters and return them to:

Djuana Register, Treasurer
EDNCPHA

*The deadline to apply is **March 4, 2022**.* Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered. All applications will be reviewed and awardees selected by March 20, 2022. Winners will be notified prior to the annual meeting, and scholarships will be available at the meeting.

Thank you for your interest and cooperation. Please Email me at edncpha@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Scholarship information and applications can be found under the Resources Tab on the Eastern District Website at easterndistrictpublichealth.org



First Executive Planning Meeting—we did have some that called in.

Pictures include —top left Presentation of President's plaque to Rhonda Ashby. Top right—passing the gavel to West Gray, 2021-2022 President. Middle left—Victoria Hudson 2021 recipient of the Trenton Davis Award. Middle right—officers for 2021-2022 and bottom left...Special Award Recipients—Communicable Disease Branch and bottom right—planning for the 2022 conference.

