

66th Annual Eastern District Education Conference
“From State to Community: The Ripple Effect in Public Health”

May 13 – 15, 2026

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

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| 8:00 am – 4:00 pm | Registration (<i>Registration closed 11:30 am – 1:30 pm</i>) | |
| 9:30 am – 10:30 am | Executive Committee Meeting | |
| 11:15 am – 1:30 pm | Awards Lunch and Opening Session | |
| | Presiding | Victoria Hudson, President, EDNCPHA |
| | Invocation | Lynn Godette, Pastor Alliance Chapel AME Zion Church |
| | Welcome | John O’Daniel, Town Manager Atlantic Beach |
| | Greetings from NCALHD | Jennifer Greene, President North Carolina Local Health Directors Association |
| | Greetings from NCPHA | Nina Beech, President North Carolina Public Health Association |
| | Awards Presentation | Trey Wright, Awards Chair |
| | Life Member Awards | Djuana Register, Membership Chair |
| | Scholarships | Trisha Tant, Scholarship Chair |
| | Special Awards | Djuana Register, Special Awards Chair |
| 1:30 pm – 1:45 pm | Break | |

Afternoon Session

1:45 pm -2:45 pm **Panel Discussion: “From State to Community: The Ripple Effect in Public Health”
Moderated by Stacie Saunders, MPH
Deputy Director, Division of Public Health**

Panelists

Dan Gerlach, MPA, Consultant

Larry Michael, MPH, REHS, State Environmental Health Director Section Chief

Ashley Stoop, MPH, Health Director, Albemarle Regional Health Services

Marianne Waldrop, Carteret County Commissioner

2:45 pm- 3:00 pm Stretch Break

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Panel Discussion: Changes in Accreditation Standards
Moderated by: Jerry Parks, MPH
Retired Health Director, Albemarle Regional Health Services**

Panelists

Tommy Jarrell, PhD, Retired Health Director, Richmond County
Accreditation Site Coordinator

Margaret Nemitz, Accreditation Administrator, Senior Program Manager
NC Local Health Department Accreditation Board

Daniel Ortiz, REHS, Environmental Health Director II
Cumberland County Health Department
Accreditation Site Visitor

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm Break

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm **Business Meeting**

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Presiding | Victoria Hudson, President |
| Secretary’s Report | Miranda Keel, Secretary |
| Treasurer’s Report | Djuana Register, Treasurer |
| Bylaws/Handbook Changes | Robert Bowen, Vice President |
| Slate of Officers | Trey Wright, Past President |
| Door Prizes | Karen Price, Door Prize Chair |

5:00 pm **Dinner on your own**

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm **Networking Social**

Thursday, May 14, 2026

8:00 am – 9:30 am. Morning Java Junction

Health Education and Nursing Section

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

8:30 am – 9:00 am **Welcome/Icebreakers and Introductions**

Jamika Lynch, BA
Alliance for a Healthier Generation

9:00 am – 9:45 am **Convening as Intervention: Strengthening Rural Health Through Connection**

Nicole Crews, MPH, PMP, Senior Program Manager
Rachel Marquez, BA, MPH, Senior Director
Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation

9:45 am – 10:00 am **Break**

10:00 am – 11:15 am **Health Educators as Translators: Turning State Guidance into Local Change**

Amy Smalls, Opioid Program Coordinator
Onslow County Health Department

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 **2025-2030 North Carolina Cancer Plan**

Travis Greer, BA Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Coordinator
Cancer Control and Prevention Branch
NC Department of Health and Human Services

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm **Well-Being: Whose Job is it Anyway?**

Danielle Jusko, MPH, Coordinator of Prevention and Recover
UNC-Wilmington
Daniel Passonno, MPH, Health Educator
NC State University

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm **From Campus to Community: Starting the Ripple Early in Public Health Education**

Tanya M. Bass, PhD, Med, CHES, CSE, Clinical Instructor
NC Central University – Department of Public Health

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Break – Spotlight on Exhibitors**

3:30 pm – 4:50 pm **From Campus to Community: Starting the Ripple Early in Public Health Education – Cont.**

Tanya M. Bass, PhD, Med, CHES, CSE, Clinical Instructor
NC Central University – Department of Public Health

4:50 pm – 5:00 pm **Closing**

Environmental Health Section

- 8:00 am – 8:30 am **Java Junction and Networking**
- 8:30 am – 9:30 am **Food Safety has a Personality: Aligning Traits with Retail Program Standards**
Melissa G. Ham, REHS
Cabarrus Health Alliance and NC Retail Program Standards Network Coordinator
- 9:30 am – 10:15 am **Legislative, Section, and Branch Updates**
Larry Michael, MPH, REHS
State Environmental Health Director Section Chief
NC Division of Public Health, Environmental Health Section
NC Department of Health and Human Services
- 10:15 am – 10:30 am Break – Meet the Exhibitors
Silent Auction Begins – Make your Bids!!
- 10:30am – 11:15 am **Use of Technology in Onsite Wastewater Site Evaluations**
Erik Severson, PhD, Biology
Onsite Wastewater Management Training Program Director
North Carolina State University
- 11:15 am – 12:00 pm **What happens When Things Go Wrong: Common Septic Installation Problems and Solutions**
Scott Green – REHS, LSS
Regional Soil Scientist
Division of Public Health, Onsite Water Protection
NC – DHHS
- 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch on your own**
- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **S.W.I.F.T. Team as a Resource**
Wilson Mize, REHS
Branch Head, On-Site Water Protection

Andy Blethens, REHS
SWIFT Team/Private Well Program Team Leader
- 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm **Groundwater Education/Outreach Programs for the Public and Realtors**
Michael Ranck, PG
Groundwater Program Manager
Wake County Government
- 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Break – Spotlight on Exhibitors**
Silent Auction – Make your Bids!! Open to Everyone

EH Cont.

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Foodborne Illness Investigations

Michael Roberson, REHS
Environmental Health Regional Specialist
Southeastern NC Division of Public Health
Food Protection and Facilities Branch
NC-DHHS

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Business Meeting/Awards/Door Prizes

5:00 pm

Adjourn

Health Director's Section combined with FAMI

8:00 am – 8:30 am

Java Junction and Networking

9:00 am - 9:50 am

Agreement Addendums – Importance, Improvements, and Future

Stacie Saunders, MPH
Deputy Director, Division of Public Health
NC Department of Health and Human Services

10:00 am-11:30 am

Utilization of State Funds – Panel Discussion

Moderator – Battle Betts, Jr. MPA
President and CEO, Obici Healthcare Foundation

Panelists:

Lisa Macon-Harrison, MPH., Health Director
Granville Vance Public Health

Steve Strickland, Assistant Health Director
Johnston County Public Health

Nicole C. Barnes, MPH, Health Director
MTW District Health Department

Cinnamon Narron, MPA, Health Director
Wilson County Health Department

11:30 am- 1:00 pm

Lunch on your Own

1:00 pm- 3:00 pm

County Billing and Revenue Maximization

Moderator – Jennifer Greene, MPH, DrPH
Health Director, AppHealthCare

Panelists:

Ashley Stoop, MPH, Health Director
Albemarle Regional Health Services

Billie James, Lead Biller
Granville Vance Public Health

Andrea Freeman, MPA, CLGFO, Administrative Officer III/Finance Officer
MTW District Health Department

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Break-Spotlight on Exhibitors

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm

Section Business Meeting

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm

Regional Collaboration with the NE Partnership for Public Health

Megan Vick, MPA, BSHed, Health Director
Northampton County Health Department

Finance, Admin., Management, and Information Technology (FAMI) Section combined with Health Directors

8:00 am – 8:30 am

Java Junction and Networking

9:00 am – 9:50 am

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Deputy Director, Division of Public Health
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Johnston County Health Dept.

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MTW District Health Department

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Wilson County Health Department

11:30 am- 1:00 pm

Lunch on your own

FAMI cont.

1:00 pm- 3:00 pm

County Billing and Revenue Maximization

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Health Director, AppHealthCare

Panelists:

Ashley Stoop, MPH, Health Director
Albemarle Regional Health Services

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Granville Vance Public Health

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MTW District Health Department

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Break-Spotlight on Exhibitors

3:30 pm-4:30 pm

**Billing Risk, Revenue, and Batch Reporting Readiness
What Health Directors & Billing Staff Need to See Together**

Brandy Lanier, Public Health Consultant
NC Department of Health and Human Services

4:30 pm-5:00 pm

Section Business Meeting/Debriefing

Evening Activities

5:30 pm – until

**First Annual Sit-A-Thon (Depending on Tide Table)
Proceeds to support Scholarships**

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Dinner – Potato Bar
Music Bingo**

Friday, May 15, 2026

8:30 am – 9:30 am Breakfast Buffet

9:30 am – 10:00 am Closing Session

Presiding Victoria Hudson, President

Recognition of Section Award Winners

Announcements Victoria Hudson, President

Installation of Officers Trey Wright, Past President

Plaque Presentation Nina Oliver

Incoming President Nina Oliver

Past President Comments Victoria Hudson, Past President

10:00 am – 10:15 am Break and Hotel Check Out

10:15 am – 11:15 am “Stand the Watch: How to Stay Alert, Stay Connected, and Stay Focused in a Changing Environment”

James Epps, Jr., Master Gunnery Sergeant, US Marine Corps Veteran
Leadership Trainer, Marine Corps JROTC Instructor

11:15 am – 12:00 pm Closing Remarks Nina Oliver, President

Door Prizes Karen Prince, Door Prize Chair

Adjourn Nina Oliver, President

****Mandatory Training for New Officers and Section Chairs will be conducted at the conclusion of the conference.**