

Association of
North Carolina
Boards of Health

3420 Ridge Road
Durham, NC 27705-5538
(704) 300-1365
ancbh@ancbh.org

President
Robert R. Blackburn

Past-President/
Treasurer pro tem
Lorraine S. Salois-Deane

Secretary
Jane Nicholson

Emeriti Representative
Barbara Ann Hughes

DIRECTORS

Lee Kyle Allen
Edna Hensey, Ex-Officio
Darryll Defus Loring
Susan McWhorter
Michael Norins
Debbie Tripp

LIAISONS

East Carolina University Area
Health Education Center
Ruth Little

North Carolina Department
of Health and Human
Services
Dennis Harrington

North Carolina Association
of Local Health Directors
Carmine Rocco

North Carolina Association
of County Boards of
Social Services
Open

North Carolina Citizens for
Public Health
Edna Hensey

President's Message

The Association of North Carolina Boards of Health continues to represent public health on the local level.

We are completing a database of all board of health members in North Carolina, which will enable us to do a better job of communicating with, and meeting the needs of, local boards of health. The legislature is in session and we continue to deal with obesity and smoking issues.

New issues have arisen in the areas of a new health plan for the state and putting the accreditation program on hold for a year, which we oppose (see The Future of Accreditation on the back page for more information).

We are working with our many public health partners in dealing with these problems.

Robert Blackburn, President, ANCBH

Scholarship Established

ANCBH has established a \$1,000 scholarship at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduate student in the school's Public Health Leadership Program. The ANCBH Vaughn Upshaw Scholarship in Public Health is named for a former member of the faculty at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health who was instrumental in developing the Public Health Leadership Program.

"Naming this annual award as the Vaughn Upshaw Scholarship in Public Health is truly a tribute to the vision and dedication of an outstanding leader who has contributed so much of her time and knowledge to building the capacity of boards of health in North Carolina and the nation," said Ned Baker, co-founder of the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH). Upshaw, who teaches in the UNC School of Government, said, "I am both humbled and proud of this honor."

NALBOH Conference Scholarships

ANCBH has awarded four \$500 grants to attend the NALBOH 17th Annual Conference July 1-3 in Philadelphia, PA.

In the NEWS

Lorraine Salois-Deane represented ANCBH at the recent SALBOH/Ned Baker lecture meeting in Bowling Green, Ohio, April 1-2. ANCBH member Lee Kyle Allen attended the meeting as the Southeast Regional Director of NALBOH.

Robeson County Board of Commissioners Chair Noah Woods and Orange County Health Department Director Rosemary Summers have agreed to serve on the N.C. Local Health Department Accreditation Board.

Dr. Leah Devlin is serving on the national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Joy Reed, Rachel Stevens, David Stone, Mary Davis, and Robert Blackburn serve on PHAB committees.

Robert Blackburn and Rick Barnes, a professor of health education at East Carolina University, presented a paper at the April 2 AASHPERD National Convention in Tampa, FL, titled "Advocating to the Health Decision Makers – The Role of the Board of Health and the Board of Education in Working Together."

Craven County reports their Board of Health has had a quorum for their meetings for 17 consecutive years.

Accreditation News

The Future of Accreditation

North Carolina's budget crisis has legislators considering suspending the N.C. Local Health Agency Accreditation Program. ANCBH is working with others across the state to inform decision makers of the impact this action could mean.

Consider this:

North Carolina's nationally recognized program has successfully accredited 44 of 85 local health agencies and is a model for the nation.

Suspending funding of the program for one year would result in staff layoffs and closure of the program as there are no other funding sources to support staff salaries or program operations. Suspending funding would end the extraordinary momentum and accomplishments of the past five years.

Data shows that the accreditation program improves the performance of local health agencies and has been instrumental in bringing in new funds to support local health agency operations.

Closing the accreditation program will weaken the public health system in North Carolina and send the wrong message to local health agencies that have not been accredited, that accountability for the quality and performance of their local health agency will not be a priority for the state. As a result, the health of the public will suffer.

Harnett and Craven County Health Departments Re-accredited

The Harnett County Health Department and the Craven County Health Department were recently re-accredited by the N.C. Local Health Department Accreditation Board. Congratulations to these health departments. Forty-four health departments in North Carolina are now accredited. The Accreditation Board postponed adoption of re-accreditation requirements to ensure that all partners have every opportunity to provide input into those requirements. The re-accreditation requirements will be considered at the July 9 board meeting.



Members of the Harnett County Health Department site visit team and health department representatives are, from left, Debbie Williams (Harnett County Health Department Agency Accreditation Coordinator), Ann Absher (Public Health Nurse Site Visitor), Dicke Sloop (Environmental Health Site Visitor), Bill Browder (Board of Health Site Visitor), John Rouse (Harnett County Health Department Health Director), and Barry Blick (Public Health Administration Site Visitor).



Members of the Craven County Health Department site visit team and health department representatives are, from left, Brittan Williams (State Accreditation Coordinator), Scott Harrelson (Craven County Health Department Director), Maria Sutton (Craven County Health Department Agency Accreditation Coordinator), Beth Lovette (Public Health Administration Site Visitor), Barbara Chavious (Board of Health Site Visitor), Teresa Ellen (Craven County Health Department Director of Nursing), Alan Clapp (Environmental Health Site Visitor), and Beth Ricci (Public Health Nursing Site Visitor).