

Association of
North Carolina
Boards of Health

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President's Message

The Association of North Carolina Boards of Health continues to make progress in advocacy, collaboration, communication, accreditation, and work with local boards of health.

Much of the time this summer was spent working on public health legislative issues. In "A Tale of Two Cities" Charles Dickens wrote, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." That quote sums up the recent legislative session in North Carolina. With a deficit facing the state, we faced challenges related to financial and public health issues, such as local aid to counties, a new state health plan, accreditation, Healthy Carolinians, case management, regionalization, and budget cuts. This fall will be a challenge for all health departments. Getting the message out

to the public and the legislative members about what health departments actually do is just one of the challenges we face in the fall. Meeting the opportunities we normally face with the addition of reduced funding and H1N1 flu will make this fall an interesting one for all public health leaders.

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is implementing a voluntary, national accreditation program for state, territorial, tribal, and local public health departments. Several North Carolinians are serving PHAB. Dr. Leah Devlin is on the PHAB Board, and Joy Reed, Rachel Stevens, David Stone, Mary Davis, and Robert Blackburn are serving on various PHAB committees.

Robert Blackburn, President, ANCBH

North Carolinians Attend NALBOH Annual Conference

A delegation of 11 board of health representatives and public health professionals from North Carolina attended the NALBOH conference in Philadelphia in July. They were Lee Kyle Allen, ANCBH and Craven County Board of Health; Loraine Salois-Deane, ANCBH; Dr. Robert Blackburn, ANCBH and Cleveland County Board of Health; Dr. Donna Dinkin, public health leadership consultant; Kaia Gallagher, Tri County Board of Health; Merle Green, Guilford County Health Department Director; Cheryl Lesneski, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health; ANCBH travel scholarship recipient Dr. Kim Larson, Wayne County Board of Health; and Tracy Patterson, Center for Creative Leadership, Greensboro campus.

Dr. Blackburn presented two programs at the conference: "Effective Coalition Building for Leadership in Public Health" and "Accreditation and Quality Improvement: Making the Connection with Boards of Health."

Accreditation Update

The North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation Board met Friday, July 17. The following health departments were approved for accreditation: Caswell County Health Department, Forsyth County Health Department, Northampton County Health Department, Madison County Health Department, Transylvania County Health Department, and Wayne County Health Department.

ANCBH Dues Information

Dues notices for 2009-10 will be mailed soon to ANCBH member boards of health and non-members. The association is proud to report that there has not been an increase in dues since ANCBH was founded almost 25 years ago.

Awards and Honors

Stoop Receives Upshaw Scholarship in Public Health

Ashley Hurdle Stoop has received the \$1,000 Vaughn Upshaw Scholarship in Public Health. Stoop is a Master of Public Health candidate in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and Public Health Preparedness Coordinator with Albemarle Regional Health Services.

Stoop received a BA in Journalism and Mass Communication from UNC-CH. She has been with local public health for almost four years, working in preparedness and response. Her primary focus is strategic national stockpile planning and pandemic influenza planning. She also coordinates other disaster response efforts and safety for her seven-county health department. As a member of the management team, she has been able to get a closer look at the operational side of public health.

"I have really enjoyed public health and feel I have found my niche," she says. "I have worked for non-profits and for government and I feel public health melds the two nicely. I know I would like to continue work in public health, whether that be local leadership or a state position. I have no doubt that as I continue to grow professionally, I will take on various roles that continue to challenge me—I love a good challenge."

Blackburn Receives NALBOH's Top Award

Dr. Robert Blackburn was awarded the National Association of Local Boards of Health's (NALBOH) Everett I. Hageman Award at NALBOH's 17th Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Blackburn is the second public health advocate from North Carolina to receive the award. Vaughn Upshaw received the award in 2002. Upshaw was instrumental in founding ANCBH and was one of the original founders of NALBOH.

The Hageman Award, named for another of the founding members of NALBOH, is the most prestigious award given to a current or past board of health member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership on a local board of health and commitment to, and enthusiasm for, local public health. Read more about Blackburn's honor on page 10 of the NALBOH NEWSBRIEF.

Wayne County Board of Health Member Receives ANCBH Grant to Attend NALBOH Conference

Dr. Kim L. Larson, a member of the Wayne County Board of Health, received a \$500 ANCBH grant to attend the annual NALBOH conference held in Pennsylvania. Here are her thoughts about the conference experience:

After attending a session on innovative financial management practices, two practices that could be helpful to our board of health are trend analysis (looking at data over a time period) and benchmarking (making comparisons between peer counties). Following a session on the core public health competencies in quality improvement, use of radar charts could help board of health members visualize performance gaps to better focus on improvement efforts.

In a session titled "How Boards of Health and Local Health Departments Can Attack the Leading Cause of Preventable Death," best practices for tobacco control and prevention were discussed. A Request For Applications (RFA) to develop capacity to support and sustain tobacco prevention and control efforts was released at this conference. The proposal, which is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), requires the participation of a local board of health member because of the increasing legal authority over tobacco control by the board of health. I believe our board is in a position to secure this funding.

Finally, I learned about the CDC's "Ladder to Leadership" program targeting eastern North Carolina, and a new method of team building called action learning. I heard brilliant public health leaders talk about relevant issues facing local boards of health and felt empowered.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to attend this conference thanks to the people and organizations who invest in public health leadership.

ANCBH provides leadership in health in North Carolina. To learn more about the organization, visit www.ancbh.org or leave a message at (704) 300-1365.