

Association of
North Carolina
Boards of Health

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President's Message

The Association of North Carolina Boards of Health continues to be on the front line as we face numerous problems in public health because of the statewide budget crunch. As questions on effectiveness of programs, accountability, and quality control arise, they must and will be addressed.

ANCBH will continue to focus this year on statewide advocacy and creative marketing of public health to key decision makers and to the public. We will collaborate with all public health partners to educate the state leadership about the value and scope of public health.

The "Prevention for the Health of North Carolina: Prevention Action Plan" is now available online from the N.C. Institute of Medicine at www.nciom.org. This is a key document for boards of health to use in planning, along with the "Essential Public Health Services." Another new useful report released in October is the "2009 Portrait of Adolescent Health in North Carolina," which is available online from Action for Children-North Carolina at www.ncchild.org/. Click on "Publications" then select "Health." The Child Health Report Card also is available from this website.

There was some good news following the state's budget deliberations. Healthy Carolinians was funded in the current budget. Many groups worked together advocating for this to be included in

the budget. The N.C. Local Health Department Accreditation Program was funded at a very minimum level, but will continue work at a basic level thanks to support from the Institute of Public Health. All members of the N.C. accreditation board will undergo ethics training to be covered under the N.C. State Ethics Act.

More information on the accreditation program is available in an article online at <http://nciph.sph.unc.edu/accred/MgtMomentSeptOct2009.pdf>.

Congratulations to the Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County, Inc. of Kannapolis for being selected as one of the Public Health Accreditation Board's accreditation beta test sites for the national accreditation project.

As of mid-October, 93 percent of N.C. health departments had renewed their membership with ANCBH. Thanks for all your support.

Robert Blackburn
President, ANCBH

Seeking Future ANCHB Board Members

The ANCBH Nominations Committee is seeking individuals to fill future vacancies on the ANCBH Board of Directors. Membership is open to any duly sworn member of a county or district Board of Health, public health authority, or county or district

Board of Human Services whose board holds institutional membership in ANCBH. To nominate an individual to serve on the ANCBH board, contact Lorraine Salois-Deane at lsalois-deane@nc.rr.com.

Call for Awards Nominations

The ANCBH Nominations Committee is accepting nominations for the Outstanding Board of Health, Carl Durham, and Robert Ed Strother Partnership awards. The awards will be presented in January 2010 in Raleigh at ANCBH's Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the annual North Carolina State Health Director's Conference. The nomination deadline is Jan. 8, 2010.

The Outstanding Board of Health Award recognizes a board's leadership in public health accomplishments. Nominees for the award must be an institutional member of ANCBH.

The Carl Durham Award is presented to an institutional, individual, associate, or emeritus member of ANCBH and recognizes significant

contributions to public health and effective advocacy public health at local, regional, and/or state levels.

The Robert Ed Strother Partnership Award recognizes an individual who has established and/or fostered a public-private partnership that has improved public health for the community.

For more information about the awards and a nomination form, visit <http://www.ancbh.org/awards.cfm> or contact Lorraine Salois-Deane at lsalois-deane@nc.rr.com or 919-403-8182.

Public Health News from Around the State

Mobile Unit Increases Public Health Outreach

The Wilkes County Health Department has taken delivery of its new Mobile Expanded School Health (MESH) van, which will be on the road during the 2009-10 school year. The van and staff offer basic medical services to students at the five county high schools who otherwise might not have access to medical care and counseling. Sports physicals for the four county middle schools will also be offered during the year.

The van was designed to meet specific needs, according to Beth Lovette, director of the Wilkes County Health Department. The van has a private exam unit that is separated from the other areas, leveling and stabilization arms, a clerical area for records, and a waiting area. The health department has installed wireless computer hubs at each of the schools so that records can be obtained and updated instantly. The van's heating and air conditioning unit can maintain a constant temperature, meaning staff can leave lab equipment onboard overnight.

Health in Action

Can you find healthy food to eat in your community? Students at Fuquay-Varina High School and Wake Technical Community College spent a year using computer and GPS technology to map convenience stores, grocery stores, and other businesses near schools, parks, and recreational areas that sell healthy food. Their work was supported by a \$55,000 grant awarded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina to Advocates for Health in Action. The goal of the project is to convince storeowners to stock healthier snacks and expand the purchase options for students and others in Wake County seeking healthy snack options.



New Wilkes County Mobile Expanded School Health (MESH) van.

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.