From our TPHA president (2024-2025) Lisette K. Osborne, RN/NCC-E, MSN, ECPA, CHEP, FTPHA

Hello to all and thank you for your confidence in allowing me to lead this association again this year. What an amazing time we had in Galveston at our 100th birthday bash. Between the ocean views, the conference presentations, the pool party, and the awards dinner and dance off, I don’t think anyone came away disappointed.

My theme for this year is partnerships. As public health professionals we all know the importance of partnerships which can range from the ever-elusive funding challenge, to program development, implementation, evaluation, and everything in between. Our partners are also diverse in nature coming from the general public, other agencies, associations, or businesses, public officials, for profit and not-for-profit entities, academia, and more. And as you know, some of these partnerships and opportunities are found in areas least expected.

Partnerships take work. My mother always said friendships were like gardens... you have to cultivate them, feed and care for them. Partnerships are like that. Partnerships between entities with similar missions may be easier to find, develop, and maintain than those that are a reach requiring ingenuity to find the win-win to hold each other’s interest. Everyone comes to the table with their own agenda. Making the agendas match is the challenge.

I have four goals related to partnerships for this year:

Membership

Under Dr. Oden’s presidency we initiated our first student chapter at the University of Texas at Arlington. I would like to assist in the development of promotional materials for that student chapter, determine what worked well and what needs improvement, and work with other TPHA champions in academic settings to recruit additional schools for student chapter participation.

We also secured institution/agency affiliate membership from several groups this year: Angelina County and Cities Health District, Texas A&M School of Public Health (College Station), Texas A&M University San Antonio, Bell County Public Health District, and the Texas Association of City and County Health Officials (TACCHO). This is another area I would like TPHA to explore, champion, and recruit.

And of course, increasing our general membership is always a goal. We have a small, but mighty, membership committee who would welcome others to join and bring fresh ideas to increasing membership in the association.

Mental Health Section

Over the past year there has been interest voiced in starting a mental health section. There is no doubt this is a needed area for public health focus. Starting a section requires 20 current member who are willing to affiliate with the new section and at least 10 additional people who choose to affiliate with the new section as new members. For our mental health section to get off the ground, we still need members in both categories. Membership in a primary section is a part of the membership dues, each additional affiliation is $5.00.
Planning Section

This one is on my wish list. We have been courting the TX Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) for several years. Many of our past conferences have included a mobile workshop in which participants are provided a firsthand view of how urban planning and public health intersect. In Fort Worth we saw efforts at curbing the issue of food deserts. Two San Antonio conferences highlighted hike and bike trails – one in northwest San Antonio and last year, close enough to our conference location to walk the trail. This year in Galveston we were afforded the opportunity to see Galveston’s efforts at assisting their marginal and homeless populations. All excellent examples of the intersection of public health and planning. I would like to pursue a greater link with the TX Chapter of the APA this year for ongoing partnership.

Highlighting TPHA Fellows

If you are a TPHA Fellow, you know you are part of an elite group. There are other members who qualify as fellows (5 years continuous membership, holding a role in public health, and in good standing in the association) who could, and should be recruited, nominated, and approved as fellows in the association. But what is lacking in ongoing communication within the group. At our annual Fellows and Past Presidents Luncheon I announced my plan to hold bimonthly meetings with this esteemed group of individuals. There is so much to learn from each other. If you were at the closing session, I looked for the “last man standing” to see where the longevity of our association lies. There was one table that had four or five fellows seated, each with over 40 years of public health experience. That is an amazing accomplishment. I want to seek out those members who are eligible to join this group of accomplished professionals.

So much to do, so little time. Dr. Melissa Oden, our Immediate Past-President recently posted this Henry Ford quote on her Facebook page – timely for my message on partnerships - “Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.” Let’s do this!

From our Immediate Past President (2023-2024) Melissa Oden, DHEd, LMSW-IPR, MPH, CHES®, CEO, DMO Enterprises, LLC

Greetings, TPHA Members!

As I write this message, I have been home exactly one week from my trip to Galveston and our 100th Annual Education Conference, and oh my what a time we had together! Truth be told, I am still basking in the afterglow of it just a little bit. Not only did we experience wonderful educational breakout sessions, but we also spent time in celebration of this association’s 100th anniversary, dancing the night away on Monday (left below - that Conga line with the Tall Man was off the chain!!!) and having fun pool side at our host hotel on Tuesday (photo below to the right). What an incredible time it was. I believe we were successful in ushering in our next 100 years! For those of you who were there, thank you so much for coming and for your amazing support! For those of you unable to attend, please consider
joining us next year! I have said for years and years now that this is a family and, as a part of our family, you were missed!

Here are some highlights from our centennial TPHA Annual Education Conference. Before the dancing started on Monday evening, May 20, 2024, we enjoyed a buffet dinner prior to our Awards Ceremony. As a non-profit, mostly-volunteer association, we rely on our outstanding volunteers to help us reach our goals. We do thank them ALL of the time, but once a year we honor them in the presence of the TPHA members they serve. One of the fun parts of my job last week was to present the 2024 TPHA Awards to those folks who keep TPHA the premier public health association in Texas. Be sure to extend your congratulations to these outstanding public health practitioners and TPHA members! It was a pleasure to be able to talk about their accomplishments and present their awards to them. Great job, everyone!

Pictured above is Glenna Laughlin Gibson with Dr. Jennifer Shuford, the DSHS Commissioner of Health, who were recognized for the support that DSHS gives us with obtaining the many Continuing Education Credits (CEU) we offer every year.

**Legislator of the Year.**

This award may be presented to both a state representative and state senator who has shown special interest in public health issues. Nominees must have demonstrated an interest in public health issues, shown a concern for the recruitment and retention of high-quality health care workers, supported legislation which emphasized prevention and health promotion, and facilitated legislation supporting preventive health care, health care professionals, and options of health care. The 2024 Legislator of the Year was awarded to Representative Toni Rose of the 110th District.

**President’s Award.**

This award can be given to a member or non-member of TPHA. It is given to someone who the President feels has supported the President personally, or, in some way, the Association. This year’s awardee played an integral role in not only my development as a public health practitioner, but also in the development of my leadership skills. I have no doubt that is partially why I was able to complete two successful terms as TPHA President. He is a mentor but, more importantly a friend, and I will be forever grateful for everything he has invested in me as a public health practitioner and as a person. The 2024 President’s Award was presented to Dr. Bob Galvan.

**Outstanding Service Award:**

This award is given to a member of the association who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve and promote the association. The person who is being awarded this year, has most certainly done just that. This person has been invaluable to both me and Terri from the very beginning of the planning period for this conference. This person is kind, calm, efficient, prompt, creative, and one of the best problem-solvers I have ever worked with. And I can guarantee you that without this person, we would have been hard-pressed to get this conference off the ground. The 2024 TPHA Outstanding Service Award goes to Leslie Stalnaker.
Dr. Catherine D. Cooksley Excellence in Service Award. This award is presented annually to a member of the Texas Public Health Association who has demonstrated a drive and passion for excellence in service to the association through a drive and passion for public health. Service examples include, but are not limited to, serving as an association officer, serving on the Executive Board or Governing Council, chairing a section, volunteering for special projects, serving on committees, assisting with the annual education conference, etc. This award is named for past president and retired Texas Public Health Journal editor, Dr. Catherine Cooksley, who has served the association in various roles over the past 42 years. The 2024 Dr. Catherine D. Cooksley Excellence in Service Award was presented to Dr. Debra Flores.

James E. Peavy Award. This award is presented annually to the public health worker in Texas who has made significant contributions to the advancement of public health knowledge or practice or who has demonstrated a genuine concern for the health needs of society. This award is the Texas Public Health Association’s highest accolade for outstanding health professionals; it consists of a $500.00 honorarium and plaque. The award serves as a living memorial to James E. Peavy, M.D., who served as Commissioner of Health in Texas from 1959 until his retirement in 1975. Dr. Peavy was an active member of the Texas Public Health Association for 39 years and was made an Honorary Member in 1969. The 2024 James E. Peavy Award was presented to Dr. Subi Gandhi.

Special Recognition and “THANK YOU!”

The awards ceremony concluded with my heartfelt thank you and congratulations to our own rock star Executive Director, Terri Pali, for her 40 years of amazing service to this organization! If you have been with our association any length of time at all, you know that Terri is the heart and soul of it. She is the one who keeps this opera from falling apart. She spends countless hours making sure that every wheel and gear of our day-to-day operations is not only moving but moving smoothly. As TPHA’s only full-time employee, she is a one-woman show extraordinaire and, honestly, I really don’t know how she does it. But she does, and she does it to perfection. Terri, we love and appreciate you so much and we gently remind you that you can never retire! Terri adds “I began my career with TPHA as a volunteer leading up to the 1984 annual meeting held in Austin, TX. I was soon after hired as administrative assistant to Kati McQuerry-George and later worked as assistant to Ray Reeves before being hired for the position of Executive Secretary (later changed to Executive Director.) Thank you, President Melissa Oden, for recognizing my anniversary with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and surprise VISA gift card. Oh my, do I have plans for that card!”

On Tuesday, after a busy morning of excellent scientific presentations, many of TPHA’s past presidents joined together with our elite group of TPHA Fellows for lunch. I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to Dr. Jason Rosenfeld (right, with Past President, Dr. Elizabeth Cuevas) for becoming our newest TPHA Fellow! Congratulations, Dr. Rosenfeld! Thank you so much for your service to TPHA. You are truly appreciated! I know that our incoming president, Lisette, desires to grow our Fellow members this next year so be watching for communication from her about that. If you would like to apply for Fellowship, please look at the requirements here: https://www.texaspha.org/page/TPHAMembershipLevelsandFees.
This year attendees noticed that something new was being implemented in the exhibit hall. Among the outstanding education posters and our supporting partner exhibits, The TPHA Job Connections Board was added. Thank you to those of you who participated in this new experiment! One of the things I will do in this year as Immediate Past President is work on improving this benefit of being a TPHA member, so be watching for further information about this!

The last thing I was tasked with doing on Wednesday afternoon was to turn the gavel over to our once-and-future Incoming President, Lisette Osborne. I know Lisette well, and I know her heart, and I can assure you that this association is in excellent hands this year. I have given Lisette my full support and I am asking that you all do the same. She has an incredible year planned for us!

To all of you who have spoken any words of support to me, either via email or in the hallways at the conference last week, THANK YOU. I appreciate your kind words of affirmation more than you could possibly know. It has been an honor and pleasure being your President again this year. My year as President has ended but my fond memories of this year will remain. Thank you for all that you do for TPHA and for the advancement of public health in our great state. Together, we can accomplish our vision of a safe and healthy Texas.

Note: The professional pictures that were taken last week WILL be available for you to peruse shortly. You will receive an email when those are ready. I have a feeling there will be some epic moments captured in those pictures! If you would like to watch the 100th Anniversary video I put together for the opening plenary session, you may check it out here: https://vimeo.com/932712386/2af9dd50c0?share=copy

From our TPHA Executive Director, Terri Pali

Welcome to our Newest TPHA Members!

We will do our best to make sure your membership is a rewarding and useful experience! Please take a couple of minutes to browse our website at Texas Public Health Association (texaspha.org) and see what we have to offer you. Take advantage of this newsletter as a method to connect with your fellow TPHA members. We also have our own quarterly peer-reviewed, indexed journal, the Texas Public Health Journal, for professional development. Additionally, we partner with many public health-oriented groups and are constantly looking for more partners.

There are so many ways that you can make this association better for you and your colleagues. Get involved! Join a section, join a committee, submit items to this newsletter, and consider submitting a public health practice or research manuscript/article to the Texas Public Health Journal.

Our strength lies in our members – member diversity in expertise and backgrounds enrich the association and we all benefit! Again, welcome and please contact Terri at txpha@aol.com with any questions or comments. To our current members, THANK YOU!! We are grateful for your continuing participation and contributions to our TPHA!
Encourage Your Colleagues to Join Us!

https://www.texaspha.org/general/register_member_type.asp?

**Benefits of TPHA Membership**

- All members receive the Texas Public Health Journal and Newsletter
- Reduced registration fees at the TPHA Annual Education Conference (up to a $65 savings depending on your category of membership).
- Continuing Education Credits (CEU) offered at TPHA Conferences/Events. This usually includes CME, CNE, CPH, CHES, RS, and CEU for Social Workers. Certificates of attendance are available to all participants.
- Networking opportunities with peers.
- Access to public health information, resources, planning and advocacy.
- Opportunities to showcase your work and compete for awards in the Public Health Presentations Competition, and the Special Student Award.
- Leadership opportunities, including service on the Governing Council, Executive Board, Section Council and Committees.
- Eligibility to join the Texas Health Credit Union
- Eligibility for scholarships.
TPHA Welcomes New Staff Working for Our Institution/Agency Members!

Heartland National TB Center Staff
Chelsea Hargrave
Delphina Sanchez

Waco McLennan County Public Health District Staff
Dee Gilley
Stephen Pettie
Clare Paul
Kenneth D. Reeves
Ravo Scott

TPHA Also Welcomes NEW Institution/Agency Members and Their Staff!

Texas Association of City & County Health Officials
Sharon Shaw

Angelina County & Cities Health District, Kristina Childress
Lindsey Christian
Kindrell Tucker

Texas A&M University School of Public Health
Heather Clark

Bell County Public Health District
Amy Yeager

Your Group Can Become an Institution/Agency Member of TPHA! See below!

For more information contact Terri Pali at info@texaspha.org
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Student Competition Winners!

As you can see from the conference summary above, our education conferences are packed with sessions and events! Conference planners strive to highlight each one of our TPHA sections and the incredibly valuable work that is done everyday by our Texas public health professionals and professionals-in-training. Several students competed at the podium in the Student Oral Presentation Competition. This year’s winner is Bibiana Toro Figueira, UT Health Houston School of Public Health. Her presentation was titled, "Fishing for Safety: A Look at Structural and Social Determinants of Health Within Dockside Communities". The presentation objective was to identify unique health challenges that face individuals within coastal job industries and evaluate different approaches catered to address the inequities that exist. Bibiana received a $100 cash award for her presentation. Congratulations Bibiana!

Student Stipends: TPHA knows that education beyond the classroom can lead to an enriched student population. To allow opportunities for students in public health related programs to network with seasoned public health professionals, TPHA offers stipends for TPHA student members to attend the Annual Education Conference. To receive one of the stipends offered for the conference held in Galveston in May, students were required to submit an application. Of those who met the criteria, the following students were awarded and accepted AEC stipends: Harvonya Perkins, Bianca Valenzuela, Marina Ali, Elizabeth Leass, Asha Collier and Mahima Viswanathan. Congratulations students!!!

News from TPHA Boards, Committees and Sections

TPHA Editorial Board Report

Submitted by Mathias Forrester, Editor, Texas Public Health Journal, and Osaro Mgbere, Editorial Board Chair

The Texas Public Health Association (TPHA) Editorial Board is working on producing our Summer 2024 Texas Public Health Journal (TPHJ) issue that is due out in early July 2024.

From TPHA conference abstracts to manuscripts: We hope those who attended the TPHA Annual Education Conference in May 2024 enjoyed the conference. Now that the conference is over, we hope that, if you presented an oral presentation or poster at the conference, you will consider turning your research presentation into a manuscript and submitting it to the TPHJ!

Publish With Us! The TPHJ Editorial Board would like to remind TPHA members that they can submit manuscripts relating to public health in Texas to the TPHJ. The Editorial Board also asks TPHA members to remind their friends and colleagues that they, too, can submit such manuscripts even if they are not TPHA members. The TPHJ provides an opportunity for new researchers to gain experience publishing their research. Most importantly, our journal has no article processing charges. Types of manuscripts appropriate for the TPHJ include public health research and practice articles, commentaries, brief reports, contributions to regular columns, and reviews of books, software, and publicly available databases. General information on the TPHJ can be found on the TPHA website at https://www.texaspha.org/page/Journal. Information for authors, including the submission guidelines, can be found at https://www.texaspha.org/page/Authors. If anyone has questions about submitting a manuscript or wants to enquire about the suitability of their research for consideration by TPHJ, they can contact the TPHJ Editorial Board at tphajournal@gmail.com.
Although readers may be most familiar with regular articles, the following is more information on how to write and submit alternative articles such as Brief Reports and Commentaries.

**Brief Reports:** Brief reports are like regular research articles, only shorter—a maximum of 1,200 words, excluding Abstract, References, Tables, and Figures. A brief report should be divided into sections like regular research articles—Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion—although some sections, such as the Results and Discussion, can be combined. You might consider submitting a brief report if you do not have the time or the material (data) for a regular research article or if you have preliminary data.

**Commentaries:** The key components of commentaries are Introduction, Scene, Argument, Evidence, and Conclusion. The Introduction provides the topic or reason for the article. The scene sets the panorama and states the purpose of the article. This may be something like a “call to action” or a reaction to the passing of a law or new policy or a need for a new policy. The argument explains the above and expands upon why it is important. The evidence supports the interpretations and arguments and provides references. The conclusion wraps it up with a strong statement that restates the main points of your commentary. Also, some concluding paragraphs may include recommendations and propose solutions to problems discussed in the article or offer suggestions for further research.

Examples of brief reports and commentaries can be found in previous issues of the TPHJ. The TPHJ website at [https://www.texaspha.org/page/Journal](https://www.texaspha.org/page/Journal) has a link to the TPHJ table of contents.

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From our TPHA Members, Institutional/Agency Members, and Partners

**From Wei-Chen (Miso) Lee, PhD Member and Secretary of TPHA’s Epidemiology Section**

The Department of Family Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch is inviting cancer patients and survivors to help us better understand the decision-making process and experiences (or barriers to) of using telehealth. Please share this announcement widely!

**Study 1:** Face-to-Face interview (in person or by Zoom – see flyer to the right), 45-60 minutes, $40 reimbursement (gift card), contact weilee@utmb.edu

**Background:** The purpose of this study is to better understand the sources of health information and outcomes of using the information on decision making.

**Deadline:** July 31, 2024

**Study 2:** Online survey (anonymous, self-administered), 5 minutes, no reimburse, fill it out here: [https://utmb.us/az8](https://utmb.us/az8)

**Background:** The use of telehealth is growing, and your input will help us identify and address existing obstacles in enhancing the utilization of this vital resource.

**Deadline:** September 30, 2024
Submitted by Ursula Oguejiofor, American Public Health Association- All of Us Grant Funding Source

Embracing Pride Month with the All of Us Research Program!

This June, we celebrate Pride Month, a vibrant and uplifting time to recognize the contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals across the nation. APHA is thrilled to continue our collaboration with the All of Us Research Program during this exciting month.

The All of Us Research Program is a groundbreaking initiative to collect health data from one million or more people living in the U.S. to propel health research forward and enhance health outcomes for everyone. By participating you contribute your unique health data to a database that mirrors the immense diversity of our nation, including the LGBTQ+ community. These groups have often been left out of health research, leading to gaps in medical knowledge and care. The All of Us Research Program is dedicated to changing this narrative by ensuring that health research is diverse and benefits everyone, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation.

To learn more about the All of Us Research Program and how you can be a part of this inclusive effort, please visit bit.ly/3pWEduv.

Submitted by Melanie Stone, DrPH, UT Health, San Antonio

Melanie Stone, Health Education Section, recently became a Texas certified Community Health Worker Instructor (CHWI).

Submitted by Catherine Troisi, PhD, Member of TPHA’s Epidemiology Section

Opportunities from the Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute

At TEPHI, we’re working to ready Texas for the next infectious disease outbreak. We’re proud to offer public health professionals numerous no-cost resources, education and training opportunities related to outbreak preparedness. Learn more below!

- **Subscribe to our newsletter** at tephi.texas.gov/subscribe for the latest info and events, and sign-up for our regular LitRep Report on infectious disease news.
- **Certificate in Pandemic Preparedness and Response**: Online, self-paced program that covers the fundamentals of preparedness through four courses and a capstone exercise.
  - Register: tephi.texas.gov/training
- **Grand Rounds Seminar Series**: Webinar focused on emerging and reemerging infections of interest in the state of Texas and beyond.
  - Register: go.uth.edu/TEPHIGR_Register
• **Infection Prevention and Control Seminar Series**: Webinar providing information on crucial infection prevention and control practices for healthcare settings.
  - Register: [go.uth.edu/TEPHI_IPC_Register](go.uth.edu/TEPHI_IPC_Register)

• **Public Health Mini Courses & additional learning opportunities**: [tephi.texas.gov/training/learning](tephi.texas.gov/training/learning)

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**Submitted by Rosalia D. Rey, DDS, New Member of TPHA Oral Health Section**

June is Oral Health Month! Join us in celebrating the importance of maintaining good oral hygiene for overall well-being. We highlight the significance of preventive care, regular dental check-ups, and adopting healthy habits. Good oral health not only ensures a bright smile but also contributes to a healthier body, reducing the risk of various diseases such as heart disease and diabetes.

This month serves as a reminder to schedule dental appointments, practice proper brushing and flossing techniques, and limit sugary snacks and drinks. Education plays a vital role, emphasizing the importance of oral hygiene from a young age and encouraging lifelong habits.

In celebrating Oral Health Month, let's prioritize our smiles and commit to fostering healthier mouths and happier lives. Remember, a healthy mouth is a gateway to overall health and well-being.

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**Submitted by Maryam O. Funmilayo, MPH, MA, CHW, Member of TPHA Community Health Worker and Health Education Sections, Pending Member of the Mental Health Section (when finalized)**

I have been accepted to participate as a Research Scholar in the Boston Congress of Public Health Research Scholars Program. Website info is: [http://hphr.org/](http://hphr.org/)

During the DFW-CHW Week (April 22-28, 2024), I participated in a joint video entry with my co-worker/supervisor, to showcase what we do as CHWs at Volunteers of America.

[https://voatexas-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/mventura_voatx_org/EcKsVLAKcMRkJ-P7cIO_VaeBQ5G12PFndX4i3LQyq4vfzQ?referrer=Outlook.Web&referrerScenario=email-linkwiththembed](https://voatexas-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/mventura_voatx_org/EcKsVLAKcMRkJ-P7cIO_VaeBQ5G12PFndX4i3LQyq4vfzQ?referrer=Outlook.Web&referrerScenario=email-linkwiththembed)

Families USA’s Health Equity Academy in System Transformation has a 10-month fellowship opportunity. Application information: [Applications Open For 2024-2025 Health Equity Academy in System Transformation - Families Usa](https://familiesusa.org/programs/health-equity-academy-in-system-transformation/

Community Health Impact Coalition is hiring a Director of Advocacy. Application information: [Director of Advocacy - Community Health Impact Coalition](https://joinchic.org)

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**Submitted by Carlea B. Patrick**

**Newsletter Item #1: Community Health Worker Training**

The University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine, Center for Community and Rural Health Education is a certified community health worker (CHW) training center. The CHW Certification Training Course has acquired a rich history of successfully developing highly skilled CHWs and a robust selection of continuing
education units (CEUs) for both CHWs and CHW instructors. The next 16-week Community Health Worker Training Courses will begin on August 26, 2024.

This online course follows a set schedule where students will learn to master the 8 Core Competency Skills of a Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Certified CHW. Upon completion of the course, newly Certified CHWs will have access through the Center for Community and Rural Health Education to collaborations with other CHWs across the state of Texas, apprenticeship opportunities, and CHW CEUs which are required by DSHS to maintain certification. Texas Association of Promotores / Community Health Workers (TAPCHW) has been given funds to offer scholarships to pay for the CHW Certification in full. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please use the following link to complete an application. You will be notified of the application decision by TAPCHW as soon as possible. https://forms.gle/92ePFsf1EfAjiq7AA

For more information, visit: CHW Training Registration (uttyler.edu).

**Newsletter Item #2: Lifestyle Coach Training**

Become a Lifestyle Coach! The University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine, Center for Community and Rural Health Education, Lifestyle Coach Training Program uses the State of Wellness Lifestyle Coach Training curriculum. This curriculum follows the Center for Disease Control (CDC) National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) Lifestyle Change Program guidelines.

The virtual Lifestyle Coach training consists of two (2) virtual meetings which are each four (4) hours long in addition to self-paced course work. Upon certification, Certified Lifestyle Coaches will also receive ongoing connection and collaboration opportunities with the State of Wellness team. For more information, visit: Lifestyle Coach Training (uttyler.edu).

**Newsletter Item #3: 10th Anniversary Northeast Texas Community Health Worker Coalition Conference**

“Shine bright like a diamond” and join us in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Northeast Texas Community Health Worker (CHW) Coalition conference. We will celebrate on July 25th-26th at the Holiday Inn Conference Center – Tyler. The conference will offer Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) certified continuing education (CE) hours with topics focused on workforce, skill building, relationships, equity, care, networking, and collaboration.

All attendees will be offered a swag bag and t-shirt along with up to eight (8) Certified CEUs and up to two (2) non-certified CEUs for both CHWs and CHWIs. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

The Northeast TX CHW Coalition advocates on behalf of Texas CHW’s and CHW Instructors. Too often this vital role to communities, health systems, public health, and education is unknown, overlooked, or simply forgotten. The more we can promote the role of a CHW to be recognized and included at educational events, the better equipped Texas CHWs and CHW Instructors will be to utilize and maintain their certification status. This strengthens not only the CHW workforce, but also the communities in which they serve. The mission of the Northeast Texas CHW Coalition is to promote recognition among health professionals and the public value of a CHW and CHW Instructors to connect with other area groups. This mission has become more important than ever with the role of CHWs becoming more viable across the State.

Submitted by Dawn Ballosingh, RDN, LD, MPA

Waco WIC Program Announces Several Open Positions!
Certifying Authority [1 position], WIC Certifying Specialist [2 positions], IBCLC- Breastfeeding Coordinator [1 position], Registered Dietitian-Nutritionist Supervisor [1 position]. Please see our Website link https://www.waco-texas.com/Departments/Human-Resources/HR-Careers!
Submitted by Meghan Varghese, MSSW

Efforts to Advance Firearm Safety and Injury Prevention Through Primary Care

The Texas Primary Care Consortium (TPCC) is a multisectoral network focused on primary care, co-led by the Texas Health Institute and the Texas Medical Home Initiative. TPCC’s mission is to advance equitable, comprehensive, and sustainable primary care for all Texans through a three-pronged framework: educate, activate, and transform. We educate through sharing best practices, lessons learned, and replicable tools. We activate by facilitating partnerships as a neutral convener for shared and sustainable impact. We transform through generating policy and system changes.

TPCC engaged a group of community members and leaders with expertise in firearm injury prevention to examine Texas-specific data on firearm injuries and deaths as well as to gain a better understanding of the existing programs and services that focus on prevention of firearm injuries. Injuries and deaths due to firearms have been increasing in Texas. Firearms are now a leading cause of death among children and teens.

Read more about our efforts in our recent blog post authored by Nishi Singhal, MPH, program officer, primary care.

Submitted by Alysia Wayne

The Heartland National Tuberculosis (TB) Center, San Antonio, Texas Announces recent awards.

Dr. Barbara J. Seaworth, MD, FIDSA wins the National TB Coalition of America Lifetime Achievement Award – This award is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of TB over a lifetime through mentoring, education and/or research. Recipients may be members of any profession. Dr. Seaworth is a Board-Certified Infectious Disease (35 years) Medical Consultant and is recognized as a domestic and international TB expert in MDR/XDR TB. She is Co-Medical Director of Heartland National TB Center and Professor of Medicine at the University of Texas at Tyler Health Science Center. She is currently an expert Medical Consultant for the State of Texas and the US Binational TB Program where she manages complex patients with MDR/XDR TB, pregnancy, and pediatrics. Dr. Seaworth co-authored the Clinical Standards for the Assessment, Management, and Rehabilitation of Post-TB Lung Disease in the International Journal of Tuberculosis Lung Disease (2021). She also served on national and international guideline committees for treatment of drug susceptible and MDR-TB and on the Advisory Committee for the Elimination of TB (ACET) for the CDC. As part of capacity building activities for the CDC TB COE, Dr. Seaworth worked to expand TB/PTLD education in partnership with additional expert TB clinicians who were identified by a variety of mechanisms over the previous 20+ years by state TB controllers, interaction with HNTC consultants, and participation in national meetings and guideline committees.
Dr. Lisa Y. Armitige, MD, PhD, FIDSA wins the National TB Coalition of America William Stead TB Clinician Award – This award recognizes outstanding commitment and performance by a clinician providing TB care, leadership, or mentoring. Dr. Lisa Y. Armitige is a Professor of Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Tyler. She serves on the staff of Heartland National TB Center as the Co-Medical Director and is currently Medical Director of the San Antonio, Texas TB clinic. In these capacities, she lectures nationally and internationally on tuberculosis and cares for both adult and pediatric patients with tuberculosis at a large metropolitan clinic. Dr. Armitige was previously at the McGovern Medical School in Houston where she did her residency in Med/Peds, a fellowship in adult ID and served as faculty there caring for both TB and HIV infected patients. In addition to participating in clinical studies involving treatment shortening regimens for latent TB infection (LTBI), Dr. Armitige conducts biomedical research in the pathogenesis of tuberculosis. Dr. Armitige received her undergraduate degree in biochemistry from Rice University, her medical degree from UT Medical School at Houston, and her PhD in Molecular Pathology from the UT Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston.

For tuberculosis medical consultation, educational events/activities, or resources, please visit our website at www.heartlandntbc.org or call 1-800-TEX-LUNG.

Submitted by Mickal Lewis, MPH, CHW

The Alzheimer’s Association Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Risk Reduction is hosting a webinar series called Community Matters: Understanding Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) to Reduce Dementia Risk. The first webinar in the series will take place on Wednesday, June 26th, 3:00-4:00p ET, focusing on understanding economic stability to reduce dementia risk and improve brain health.

Attendees will hear from public health experts about the link between SDOH and dementia risk reduction, learn from state and local health departments on integrating dementia risk reduction initiatives, and have the chance to engage in a discussion during the Q&A portion of the event.

Register now for the series and spread the word among your colleagues. Registration Link: https://bit.ly/PHCOEwebinar
The Texas Public Health Association has THE BEST MEMBERS! Thank you to all members who submitted their news and being involved in TPHA! We appreciate you and all of the work you do to keep Texas Healthy! We look forward to receiving more brief announcements from you about the work you do and about your achievements! Our next newsletter is scheduled for late July, 2024. Start gathering your TPHA news items now! Be sure to include your TPHA Section name or the name of your institution/agency!

Check out the information on submitting your news and view copies of past newsletters on our TPHA website at https://www.texaspha.org/page/Newsletters. Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues and encourage them to join us so their important announcements can be shared as well! 

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