

The Florida Public Health Advocate

A publication of the Florida Public Health Association

From the President's Desk...



May 2018

Florida Public Health Association

14646 NW 151st Blvd.

Alachua, FL 32615

Phone: (386) 462-1551

Email: fpha@srahec.org



As I prepared to write this article, I scrolled through FPHA newsletters from the past, some dating back to 2008, when I first became active with the Florida Public Health Association. There have been recurring themes throughout the years in our articles, based on what is happening in public health at

that time. These themes are: *what is public health and why do we need it, do more with less, and the importance of partnerships to reach our goals.* Health issues may change from year to year, or decade to decade, but our mission as public health professionals and FPHA stays the same. We are here to create a healthy state and to support the public health workforce in their drive to reach their professional goals. I have met many wonderful people through FPHA and I have seen the dedication our members have for public health. I want to thank you all for the contributions you have made, and continue to make, to our state. Throughout 2018, I hope we continue to build on the foundation we have through greater partnerships and advocacy.

Newsletter Features

- **Bios for Potential Board New Board Members & Voting Instructions**
- **New Members**
- **Annual Educational Conference Updated Agenda**
- **Continuing Education Opportunities**



To submit content to the newsletter, please reach out to us at fpha@srahec.org

Board Nomination Biographies

1st Vice President

Jessica Weissman—Dr. Weissman has been a highly committed and dedicated Board Member of FPHA since 2015 when she began her two year term as Secretary for the Board of Directors. Dr. Weissman was the Chair of the planning committee for a Miami regional conference during her term as Secretary. This conference was comprised of a full day of oral and poster presentations including a presentation from Florida’s Surgeon General Dr. Celeste Phillip. She was so successful and attentive to FPHA that during the 2015-2016 year, she was awarded with both the FPHA Presidential Award and the 2016 FPHA Graduate Student Scholarship. Dr. Weissman has continued her involvement with FPHA by serving as an (2017 and 2018) Annual Education Conference Planning Committee Member and Chairperson of the 2017 Poster Committee. She currently serves as FPHA’s Second Vice President and Chair of the Advocacy Committee.

With respect to her academic and career, Dr. Weissman earned a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Public Health from Florida International University (FIU) in 2018. She earned a Masters of Science (MS) degree from FIU's Dietetics and Nutrition Program in 2010. Dr. Weissman is well published and has given more than 20 presentations at state and national conferences. Dr. Weissman is currently the Program Director and Full Time Faculty Member/Instructor at Keiser University (Melbourne, FL).

2nd Vice President

Udigit Mehta- Hello, My name is Udigit Mehta. I believe I would be the best candidate for one of the FPHA Officer positions due to my extensive background in public health in the State of Florida and the prior experience and education in management and business that I attained prior to my working for the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County.

Over the last 12 years I have served as Administrative Services Director II, Assistant Finance and Accounting Director, and as well as a budget analyst for the Florida Department of Health. In these capacities I have met and overcome the challenges that public health faces of reduced funding by applying quality improvement techniques and leading efforts in strategic planning, community health assessments and budget forecasting. In addition to an MBA I have received professional-level training in Lean Six Sigma and Kaizen quality improvement which have provided me with valuable skills to address challenges that I have experienced throughout the Florida Public Health system. Additionally, I have well-developed interpersonal skills and have interfaced extensively with all levels of public health practitioners ranging from front-line staff to clinicians to clients, community partners, managers and executives. I was a member of the FPHA for 5 years, president of the Business Manager’s Association of Central Florida and a Florida Sterling Examiner. My diverse experience, innovative engagement with managers and staff, and responsiveness to a variety of public health scenarios make me uniquely qualified to be an FPHA Officer. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mark Lander—I currently serve as chair of the FPHA Special Interest Group for Public Health Leadership and have been an active member of FPHA since 2014. I regularly participate on the monthly board member calls and am on the annual education conference committee and strategic planning group for FPHA. I believe the goals set in our new strategic plan will strengthen our organization and being selected for Second Vice President will allow me to continue to work on implementing these strategies. Having worked in Public Health for over 27 years serving in various capacities such as Environmental Health, Business and Operations Management, and as Health Officer for both small and large county health departments has allowed me to develop a skill set focusing on the advancement of our profession. I am dedicated to the mission and vision of FPHA and will serve and support Florida’s public health professionals and students as we strive for excellence in Public Health.

Thank you for consideration.

Board Nomination Biographies, Continued

Member at Large

Berthline Isma- Hello, My name is Dr. Berthline Isma. I believe I would be the best candidate for one of the FPHA Officer positions due to my extensive background in public health in the State of Florida and International. Prior to my work experience, my education and my hands on in the field of Public Health field. I am currently teaching at a Private University in Boca Raton Florida.

Dr. Ism holds a PhD degree in Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology, Masters in Public Health (MPH), Master of Business Administration (MBA), and a B.S. in Biology (Pre-Med). Coupled with her academic credential, Dr. Isma brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of HealthCare. She has over twelve years of hands on experience in the field of Healthcare, Strategic Planning, STD/TB and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Isma is certified by the State of Florida as an Environmental Health Professionals (CEPH). Her activism is guided by the passion to help people who are disenfranchised not only in the USA, but also around the world. Her passion has led to the founding of Impact on The World Through Healthcare (IWTWC), a non-profit organization aimed at helping people around the world by reducing health disparities, increasing awareness and providing access to much needed healthcare services. In her spare time, Dr. Isma likes to travel and spends time with her family.

Jeremy Gifford—My name is Jeremy Gifford, and I am honored to be considered for the member-at-large officer position. I have dedicated my professional life to the field and practice of public health, and am confident that I will exemplify this level of dedication for the Florida Public Health Association.

I have a solid background in environmental science and research, and brought this experience to the Florida Department of Health in Columbia County in 2009, as an Environmental Specialist. This program would expand to include four counties, of which I served. My interest in population health led me to pursue an MPH from the University of Florida. There I specialized in Public Health Practice with a concentration in Epidemiology and Environmental Health. Most recently, I have accepted the Public Health Preparedness Planner position, for both Columbia and Hamilton County.

While my professional experience has been focused on Environmental Health and Preparedness, my interests include a wide array of public health disciplines including; epidemiology, health equity, social and behavioral science, and disease intervention.

I am passionately devoted to serving the people of Florida, and to finding innovative ways to provide the best quality of services to those that need them the most.

Allison Rapp- I am pleased to accept the nomination for Member-at-Large and look forward to serving FPHA in a formalized capacity. When I moved to Florida in 2014, one of the first things I did was to get involved with FPHA as I found great value in my experience with the South Carolina Public Health Association. In 2017, I worked to bring the Tampa Bay Healthcare Collaborative together with FPHA to host a regional conference. As the Healthy Community Strategist for Special Olympics Florida I am continually networking with public health professionals and various stakeholders to identify health and wellness opportunities specifically for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I believe this will serve to be helpful to FPHA as well in broadening and connecting members to improve the health of all Floridians. I look forward to developing as a public health professional in taking on more and more responsibility with FPHA over the next few years.

Debbie Hogan- As a Public Health Nurse who has worked in Florida for the past 23 years, I understand the importance of the Florida Public Health Association in supporting the mission of those who work in the field of public health and its goal of promoting public health protections to all of our citizens and visitors. As a member for the past several years, I have participated in the educational programs that FPHA offers, and have seen first hand the important role the organization plays in public health advocacy. Now, as a retired nurse, I hope to serve as a Member at Large to continue to support that public health advocacy and to strive to meet the needs of the members. Thank you for your support!

Next page for additional Member at Large Bios

Board Nomination Biographies, Continued

Member At Large, continued

Venita Morell- I am a family physician and a proud public health professional. My diverse career has been interesting and always focused on public service and public health. I hope to bring my experience and passion to work for the members of the Florida Public Health Association as a board member-at-large. I served as a military physician in the USAF followed by tenure as an academic physician at the Wake Forest School of Medicine. During that time I served as medical director of the physician assistant program and the CME director for the Northwest AHEC. After moving to Florida in 2003, I have been involved with education through our local public schools and community college system as well as the Florida State University College of Medicine. I have worked as the medical director for two county health departments and provided primary and specialty care to HIV patients in the Ryan White Clinic. I am currently the medical director of the Walton County health Department where I work in an innovative partnership with a Federally Qualified Health Center housed within the Walton County health department. Our clinic provides Title X family planning services and prenatal care as well as integrated mental health, pediatric and adult comprehensive services. We also work closely with local dental and pharmacy schools. I am excited about the advocacy and networking provided by the FPHA and look forward to being an active part of the FPHA board to assist in furthering the important mission of this organization.

Alexis N. LaCruce—

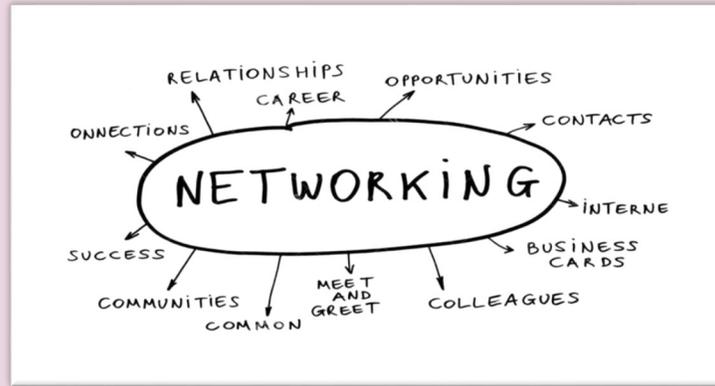
Treasurer

Brenda Brown- I am currently serving as your FPHA Treasurer and I wish to continue in this role for the 2018-2020 term. I have been a member of FPHA since 2014 and have actively participated as a board member for the past 2 years. In addition to attending the monthly FPHA Board of Directors calls, I am currently on the annual education conference committee and strategic planning group for FPHA. I am excited about our new strategic plan goals and remaining on the board will allow me to continue to work closely with the Executive team on implementing the strategies we have developed to strength our association. I am dedicated to our mission and vision to serve and support Florida's public health professionals and students to strive for excellence in public health.

I have been with the Department of Health for over 27 years and currently serve as the Sr. Public Health Manager for DOH Columbia and Hamilton Counties. In addition, I am the interim Business Manager for Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy counties. In my position, I am responsible for all financial and operational aspects of the Health Departments. I have served as President, Treasurer and Regional Representative of the Florida Association of County Health Department Business Administrators and have worked with FPHA for several years in coordination between the 2 associations for the annual conferences.

Voting Instructions

1. Carefully read the bios for each of the board seats available on the previous pages
2. Visit https://suwanneeahec.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_20aVS18dl7WGWfX to cast your ballot
3. Only select one person per position



Welcome to our new members!

Binita K.

Marci R.

Anuja D.

Mary H.

Leslie M.

Anne M.

Sheri S.

Jeannie N.

Sara B.

Dwayne M.

Nicholas A.

Tayllor P.

We are glad to have you as part of FPHA! Hope to see you soon at one of our events!

2018 Annual Educational Conference

DRAFT Agenda as of 5/30/2018

Tuesday, July 24, 2018			
7:00 – 7:30 AM	Exhibitor and Poster Set-Up <i>Mezzanine & Salon 1</i>		
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration Open/Silent Auction		
7:30 – 8:45 AM	Continental Breakfast Coffee with Exhibitors, Posters, and Silent Auction <i>Mezzanine</i>		
8:45 – 9:00 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks* Jennifer Waskovich – FPHA President Georgia Heise – SHA President <i>Salon 2</i>		
9:00 – 10:00 AM	State of the State Address Celeste Philip, MD, MPH - State Surgeon General <i>Salon 2</i>		
10:15 – 11:00 AM	Networking Break – Visit Exhibits, Posters, and Silent Auction <i>Mezzanine & Salon 1</i>		
11:00 - 12:00 PM	State Health Update Jennifer Johnson <i>Salon 2</i>		
12:00 – 1:30 PM	LUNCH - Sponsored by USF College of Public Health <i>Legends 1 – 1st floor</i>		
1:45 – 2:45 PM	SHIP/CHIP and Accreditation Panel Jennifer Johnson, Karen Chamber & Claudia Blackburn <i>Salon 2</i>		
2:45 – 3:30 PM	Networking Break Visit Exhibits, Posters, and Silent Auction <i>Mezzanine & Salon 1</i>		
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Dr. Stanek <i>Salon 2</i>	<i>Salon 3</i>	<i>Forum West 1 & 2</i>
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Networking Event with Exhibitors <i>Mezzanine</i> <i>Cash Bar Only</i>		

2018 Annual Educational Conference

DRAFT Agenda as of 5/30/2018

Wednesday, July 25, 2018			
7:00 – 7:30 AM	Poster Set-Up <i>Mezzanine & Salon 1</i>		
7:30 – 5:30 PM	Registration Open <i>Mezzanine</i>		
7:30 - 5:30 PM	Silent Auction and Exhibitors Open <i>Mezzanine East</i>		
7:30 – 8:45 AM	Continental Breakfast Coffee with Exhibitors, Posters, and Silent Auction <i>Mezzanine</i>		
8:15 – 8:45 AM	FPHA Business Meeting* <i>Salon 2</i>		
8:15 AM – 8:45 AM	SHA Business Meeting <i>Forum West 1&2</i>		
8:45 – 9:00 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks* Sandon Speedling-FPHA Incoming President <i>Salon 2</i>		
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Data Driven Discussion of Health Equity and Community-Based Strategies Dr. Joseph Pepe <i>Salon 2</i>		
10:00 – 10:45 AM	Networking Break – Visit Exhibits, Posters, and Silent Auction		
10:45 – 11:45 AM	Disaster Preparedness – SHA Sponsored Sandon Speedling, MHS, CPM – Moderator Samantha Cooksey, Christie Luce, Patti Holmes, Bob Eadie <i>Salon 2</i>		
11:45 AM – 1:30 PM	Lunch - <i>Legends 1 – 1st Floor</i>		
1:45 – 2:45 PM	Practice & Preference Differences between Medical Marijuana & Recreational Marijuana Users Andrew Fiore <i>Salon 2</i>	<i>Salon 3</i>	<i>Forum West 1&2</i>
2:45 – 3:30 PM	Networking Break – Visit Exhibits, Posters, and Silent Auction Announcements <i>Salon 1 and Mezzanine</i>		
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Overdose Prevention & Naloxone Training Ji'Lynda Brown <i>Salon 2</i>	<i>Salon 3</i>	<i>Forum West 1&2</i>
3:30 - 5:00 PM	Payments due for Silent Auction Items – Registration Desk in Forum East 3		
4:35 – 5:00 PM	Moving Forward with FPHA and Poster Presentation Awards Sandon Speedling – Incoming FPHA President Jennifer Waskovich – FPHA President <i>Salon 2</i>		

Looking for More Continuing Education Opportunities?

DID YOU KNOW?

An estimated 1.5 million Americans have lupus, with approximately 16,000 new cases per year ...and there are only 15 rheumatologists in North Central Florida

TREATING LUPUS IN A RURAL SETTING

AUGUST 6 | 12-3PM | PUTNAM HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JOIN DR. MYINT THWAY & FREDDA STEIDLE FOR A PRESENTATION AND Q&A:

Get connected with a rheumatologist

Know lupus signs & symptoms

Find out what to do if lupus is suspected

Learn when to elevate lupus in the differential diagnosis when presented with individuals in groups that have a high risk for lupus

Register today at

<https://bit.ly/2soW0gy>

RAHEC

This program is geared towards physicians, physician assistants, and nurses in the rural healthcare setting

