From our TPHA president, Elizabeth Cuevas, BS, MS, PhD, LP (2022-2023)

As summer is drawing to a close, schools are back in session and fall is just close enough that I can almost taste the pumpkin spiced everything!

As schools are starting back, I am encouraged to see so many districts adopting a curriculum like the Sandy Hook Promise. This curriculum encourages educators, administrators and students to speak up and be an “upstander” to potential school violence rather than be a “bystander” and alert officials of concerning behavior before another tragedy strikes. In public health, we are trained in prevention, and I know we can support the efforts to reduce gun violence and promote mental health in the same ways that we have addressed so many other public health issues including tobacco, polio and even preventable traumatic mortality (tourniquets).

I want to thank everyone who attended our Annual Education Conference in May, and to all of those behind the scenes who made this event a true success. I am very excited to share that the 2023 Annual Education Conference will be an in-person event in San Antonio, Texas! I could not be more excited to have our next AEC in partnership with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health Department. Details are being finalized and I hope you will watch for the “call for abstracts” to be coming soon! What a privilege it will be to reunite, in person, with our friends and public health colleagues after such a trying few years.

TPHA has offered me so much since I joined, and I hope that you choose to engage, explore and make this YOUR organization - the more you participate, the more benefit you receive. Meet your colleagues, share and learn from each other in sections focusing on different public health arenas. Be sure to check the TPHA website www.texaspha.org/page/AboutSections to find out more.

As we keep moving forward with our mission in mind, I appreciate your support so we can continue “Improving the health and safety of Texas through leadership, education, training, collaboration, mentoring and advocacy.”

From our TPHA Executive Director, Terri Pali

Welcome to our Newest TPHA Members!

Welcome to our newest TPHA Members! We are so thankful you chose TPHA as your professional association! Please take a couple of minutes to browse our website and see what we have to offer you. We offer this newsletter as a method of networking with your fellow TPHA members. We have a quarterly peer-reviewed, indexed journal for professional development, and many public health-oriented groups we align with.

Our strength is our membership and the diversity among our members. Member diversity spans race/ethnicity, levels of experience, and disciplines of expertise. 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?

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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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A Call to Leadership for 2023!

Become a voice for public health in Texas.

Harness the energy of public health advocacy - run for office in TPHA!

The Texas Public Health Association is looking for dynamic new LEADERS and we need your help! We are looking for TPHA member volunteers to run for and, if elected, serve in the following positions: Governing Council (3 three-year positions will be available) AND President-Elect.

The TPHA Bylaws provide the following descriptions of and the requirements for each of the Association leadership positions.

President-Elect: The office of the President-Elect shall be responsible for the development of programs which will occur during his/her year as president. (S)He shall function as ex-officio member of the program committee. The President-elect shall, in consultation with the Policy & Advocacy committee, establish legislative policy for the coming year. Requirements to run for President-Elect: For nominations to the office of President-elect, an individual shall be an active member in good standing for the preceding five (5) consecutive years, a current Fellow in the Association, a present or past member of the TPHA Governing Council, and a participant in two or more annual meetings.

Governing Council: Three positions available (3 year term each): There shall be a Governing Council which shall consist of the officers of the Association; the Executive Board; nine (9) members to be elected from the membership consistent with Article Two for three (3) year terms that are staggered so that one-third (1/3) retire each year; the Chair of each Section; one (1) representative to be appointed by each affiliated society; and the affiliate representative to the Governing Council of the American Public Health Association. Such representatives to Governing Council shall be members of the Association. The President of the Association shall serve as Chair of the Governing Council.

The terms of the Governing Council members shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected and terminate at the close of the annual meeting at which their respective terms expire. A quorum of the Governing Council shall consist of a majority of the Council members.

Once a quorum is determined to be present, that quorum shall be assumed for the remainder of a meeting. If a member must leave a meeting prior to the finish of business, (s)he should, if possible, select a proxy from qualified Association members in the audience.

A proxy must be written by the Governing Council member and shall be presented to the Executive Director prior to the meeting, or during the meeting for members excused as described in Section 4.03.1 of the bylaws.

There shall be three (3) regular meetings (one in the Spring, one in the Fall, and one during the Annual Meeting) of the Governing Council annually to be designated at the first regular meeting of the incoming Governing Council at the annual meeting by the incoming Governing Council at its organizational meeting during the Association’s annual meeting.

Special meetings of the Governing Council may be called by the President, the Executive Director at the request of the President, or at the request in writing by twelve (12) Governing Council members. In the latter case, the call-to-meet shall be issued at least thirty (30) days in advance and shall state the purpose of the meeting.

The Governing Council is the governing body of the Texas Public Health Association. Functions of the Council shall include but not be limited to the following:

- The Governing Council shall establish and amend the bylaws of the Association.
- The Governing Council shall establish the goals, policies, and procedures for the Association.
- The Governing Council shall establish the Sections of the Association, combine or discontinue them when
necessary to maintain coordination among them, and to approve general rules governing the policies of the Sections.

- The Governing Council shall approve all resolutions of the Association and submit them to the membership for a vote.
- The Governing Council shall elect the elective members of the Executive Board.
- The Governing Council shall approve all new members of the Association.
- The Governing Council shall receive and approve the report of the membership committee for elective members of the Governing Council and officers of the Association.
- 4.05.8. The Governing Council shall ensure that annual elections are held in accordance with the procedures of the Association.
- The Governing Council shall approve the annual budget of the Association.
- The Governing council shall approve all actions of the Executive Board.
- The Governing Council shall refer all fiscal considerations to the Executive Board for a recommendation.

Any elective member of the Governing Council who misses three (3) consecutive Council meetings without arranging for a proxy will be removed from the Council. The unexpired term will be filled by the individual not elected but receiving the next highest number of votes among the elective Governing Council candidates on the most recent ballot.

For more information about either the Governing Council or duties of the President-Elect go HERE to read the Association Bylaws.

Nominees will be asked to submit a short biography. These documents will become part of the association records. Elections will be held and results announced at the TPHA Annual Education Conference 2023.

To nominate someone (or yourself), obtain their permission to be placed on the ballot then submit their name and contact information prior to December 31st to: Terri Pali TxPHA@aol.com

Please consider this very important challenge to become a leader in TPHA!
TPHA Volunteer Opportunities: TPHA Needs You!

Membership Recruitment, Engagement and Development Committee

The Texas Public Health Association is seeking a member to chair the Membership Recruitment, Engagement and Development Committee. The committee is made up of chairs-elect of each of the sections, or other section member as assigned by the section. The committee is responsible for reviewing recruitment and retention of members; research and recommend to the Association’s governing bodies items related to member benefits; coordinate the Association’s internal training activities including, but not limited to, leadership training, member orientation, officer’s training, disseminate information of public health interest to the public and to members of the Association; promote careers in public health through education, and recommend plans for marketing the Association. The committee is also responsible for recommending a slate of officers from among qualified candidates to the Governing Council at the fall quarterly meeting. Additional duties include actively seeking scholarship applicants, reviewing applications, and making recommendations to the governing bodies of the Association regarding the granting of scholarships.
If you are interested in lending us your expertise on this essential committee, please contact Terri Pali at info@texaspha.org or by phone at (903)309-3380.

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Invitation to join the Policy & Advocacy Committee

If you are interested in advocating and facilitating for public health improvements, please consider serving on the TPHA Policy and Advocacy Committee! To get involved, please contact Terri Pali at info@texaspha.org or call (903)309-3380. The committee is chaired by Maram Museitif.

The Committee on Policy & Advocacy duties include, but are not limited to, the following: actively solicit ideas and proposed resolutions from the membership, policy statements from the Governing Council, and maintain records of resolutions and policy statements in order to assist the governing bodies of the Association in determining the policies of the Association. Additional duties include coordinating legislative functions for the Annual and Regional Meetings; tracking legislation that may impact TPHA and public health; tracking policy issues and developments; liaison with other public health and local policy committees and groups; development of government affairs plan; policy forum planning; provide information to TPHA members on impending policy issues and recommending policy direction to Governing Council; monitoring State and national policy events and developments; educating elected officials and the public on matters of public health interest; and building coalitions with other health-related organizations. Other duties shall include making recommendations to the Governing Council concerning proposed resolutions and policy statements.

News from TPHA Boards, Committees and Sections

TPHA Editorial Board Report

Submitted by Catherine Cooksley, Editor, and Mathias Forrester, Co-Editor and Past TPHA Editorial Board Chair

The TPHA Editorial Board reports that the transition of our Editorial Board Chair, Mathias Forrester, to the role of Editor of the Texas Public Health Journal (TPHJ) is progressing. The Board is also very pleased to report that our search for a new Editorial Board Chair has resulted in securing Osaro Obari Mgbere, PhD, MS, MPH, Program Lead, Grants, Research and Special Projects, Disease Prevention and Control Division, City of Houston Health Department, as our new Chair. Dr. Mgbere will begin transitioning into his new role immediately. Welcome Dr. Mgbere!

In other TPHA Editorial Board news, our most recent quarterly board conference call resulted in a decision to change our current policy of recommending submitting authors to provide a list of potential reviewers to requiring that authors provide a list. This is because our current reviewer database often does not include professionals with the background required for some articles. As well, given that the public health professionals in our current database are often not available to help us review manuscripts for our journal, having additional potential reviewers to approach will dramatically speed up the review process. The board determined that requiring our submitting authors to provide the names and contact information of at least 3 potential reviewers will not unduly burden authors. Potential reviewers should have expertise in the
manuscript topic area and have had no involvement in the project or manuscript development. This new requirement will hopefully free up the valuable time of our editorial board members, who manage each manuscript, as well as the submitting authors who must wait on our review results before the publication process can proceed to completion and publication.

Publish With Us! Attention TPHA members! Think of the Texas Public Health Journal (TPHJ) as the venue to which to submit your Texas focused public health manuscripts! Please encourage your colleagues to submit too; submitting authors need not be a TPHA member. Do your students need to build publication experience? Our TPHJ just may be the venue for them. The TPHJ provides an opportunity for new researchers to gain experience publishing their research. We are actively seeking manuscripts describing original public health research and public health practice programs, commentaries on public health issues, brief reports on pilot projects or hot topics, and public use database, book, or software reviews. Do you have other Texas public health information you wish to publish? For example, public health historical items and veterinary public health items. Contact us and we will perform an initial review for suitability. General information on the TPHJ can be found on the TPHA website at https://www.texaspha.org/page/Journal. Information for authors can be found at https://www.texaspha.org/page/Authors. If anyone has questions about submitting a manuscript, they can contact the TPHJ Editorial Board at tphajournal@gmail.com, subject line: “submission question”. We are waiting for your submission!

TPHA Epidemiology Section
Submitted by Diana Cervantes, MS, DrPH, CPH, CIC, Chair, Epidemiology Section

Hello fellow TPHA Epi Section Members! Every quarter the TPHA Epi Section releases a short, online newsletter highlighting TPHA Epi Section events, our members, and our students. Please see the link below to access the Summer 2022 Eye on Epidemiology!

https://sites.google.com/texaspha.org/epidemiology/home/eye-on-epidemiology

You can also access our general site to get more info about the TPHA Epi Section including our section leadership and strategic plan: https://sites.google.com/texaspha.org/epidemiology/home.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the next Thirsty Thursday virtual get together on 9/8/22 at 7 PM. Join us on Zoom to hang out, chat, and drink your favorite beverage with your epi peeps! More info coming soon!!

It is a privilege to serve TPHA and the epi section with you all, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions, comments or suggestions for our section! Email me at Diana.Cervantes@unthsc.edu.

TPHA Oral Health Section
Submitted by Dr. Ana Neumann, Chair, Oral Health Section

The TPHA Oral Health section is pleased to convey that for the first time the faculty of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene, has accomplished a crucial step in tobacco cessation. Six faculty members of the UTHealth School of Dentistry are now certified as Tobacco Treatment specialists after completing the Certified Tobacco Treatment Training Program at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2022. Faculty participants include the following who are pictured below:
At UTHealth School of Dentistry, this is the first time a cohort of dental and dental hygiene faculty has had the opportunity to receive formal tobacco cessation training and credentialing. This initiative is a novel inter-professional collaboration between the School of Dentistry, MD Anderson Tobacco Treatment Program, and the Department of Health Services Research. MD Anderson is one of 25 sites accredited by the Council for Tobacco Treatment Training Programs to provide a five-day class for individuals interested in earning TTS credentials. The collaborative aims to improve population health by incorporating evidence-based strategies for tobacco cessation and lung cancer screening in dental offices.

This program offers the highest quality tobacco treatment training, based on the most up-to-date evidence in tobacco cessation research and treatment strategies. This would not have been possible without the generous support of our institution and department chairs, Dr. Gary Frey and Anita Joy-Thomas, to allow our faculty to participate in this training. The UTH-MDA Population Health Initiative Collaborative Projects Fund is led by Ana Neumann, DDS, MPH, Ph.D., professor, and director of dental public health at the School of Dentistry; and Robert J. Volk, Ph.D., professor and director of the MD Anderson Decision Support Lab, and deputy chair of the Department of Health Services Research.

Contact Information: Ana.Neumann@uth.tmc.edu or +1 (713) 486-4079
Submitted by Charsha Crump, Member, Administration & Management Section

I would like to announce that I am the new Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator for Tarrant County in the Bioterrorism Division. I started my new position on yesterday at Tarrant County Public Health.

Submitted by Jeffrey Levin, MD, MSPH, DrPH, Member, Environmental and Consumer Health Section

UT Tyler Health Science Center invites applicants for the position of Department Chair of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

The Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at UT Tyler Health Science Center is seeking a Founding Chair within the mission and scope of UT Tyler’s new School of Medicine where these long-established programs will reside. This position will be an academic rank of Associate Professor/Professor (non-tenure track) commensurate with background, record, and experience.

Broadly responsible for the administration of strategic, academic, and clinical initiatives within the Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. The Chair will be responsible for the assurance of excellence in community engagement, education, and research within their department, as well as for partnership with UT Health system leaders in the delivery of top-quality clinical care (where applicable).

Applicants will be accepted until position is filled. For a detailed job description please contact Megan Akkerman, Physician Recruiter, at Megan.Akkerman@uthct.edu.

Submitted by John Lin, Member and Chair, Student Section

I'm currently handling the TPHA Twitter account. I just wanted to let everyone know that if you have any public health-related announcements, I'd be happy to share them on Twitter on behalf of the TPHA.

We are happy to share any of your public health-related announcements on Twitter! Our account is @TXPHA. Please email john_lin@brown.edu with your announcement, or tag @TXPHA in your tweet. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Submitted by Lisette Osborne, Immediate Past President

Lunch and Latte: Thank you to the TPHA members who attended the first "Lunch and Latte" (bring your own brown bag) zoom meeting held on Tuesday, August 8th. We had 5 members join the call. It was a great opportunity to meet members and learn about projects and activities taking place in and around Texas. Stop in to say hello during next month’s Lunch and Latte! We plan to meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 12-12:30 pm. Information for signing up is located on page 5 of this newsletter. We hope to see you there!
Submitted by Maryam O. Funmilayo, MPH, MA, Emerging Professional Member, Health Education Section

I am a research scholar with the Ronin Institute of Independent Research. I recently became a Certified Mental Health First Aider after taking 6 hours of intensive training by the Mental Health First Aid.

Submitted on behalf of Billy Philips, PhD, Member, Health Education Section

In May, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center announced the new Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health – the sixth school at the university, which officially resides on TTUHSC’s Abilene, Texas campus and offers students and researchers a collaborative educational experience, emphasizing research and use of large data sets to understand needs in health care delivery.

“We believe the formation of the Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health is a signature moment in our journey to expand inter-professional education opportunities for students across the university in all disciplines, and all schools” said TTUHSC Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Darrin D’Agostino, D.O., MPH. “We intend to remain steadfast in improving the health of all communities that TTUHSC serves by training innovative and collaborative health professionals who focus on health and wellness. This school, and establishing Abilene as its administrative home, is yet another important step in that mission.”

For more information, please contact Corey Patterson, Director of Admissions, Marketing, and Special Projects, Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health at Corey.Patterson@ttuhsc.edu.

Thank you to all members who submitted their news! We look forward to receiving more brief announcements from you about the work you, our members, are doing and the achievements you have made! Our next newsletter is scheduled for late November of 2022. Start gathering the information you want to share with the Texas public health community now and let us know what is going in your area of this great state! When you send us your news item, be sure to include your TPHA section!

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!

Disclaimer: The Editorial Board of the Texas Public Health Association has the right to exclude any materials, including but not limited to those that may jeopardize our non-profit status.
VOLUNTEER TODAY!

We all love public health and strive for healthy Texas communities. Help TPHA achieve our mission of “A safe and healthy Texas through leadership, education, training, collaboration, mentoring, and advocacy.”

Volunteer today! We need you!

Please contact our Executive Director, Terri Pali, at txpha@aol.com