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

As we approach the end of my term as your TPHA President, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the opportunity to serve and lead our organization. With May upon us, I am excited to welcome the warm weather and the upcoming 99th Annual Education Conference (AEC) in San Antonio.

I hope this message finds you in good spirits and ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that come with our commitment to public health. In the past year, our organization has demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and dedication to improving the health and safety of Texas, which is something we should all be proud of.

Our 99th Annual Education Conference, set to take place from May 22-24, 2023 in San Antonio, promises to be an exceptional event. With the 2023 AEC Call for Abstracts receiving an overwhelmingly positive response, our conference will feature an impressive lineup of speakers, workshops, and sessions. This event will be an excellent opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, foster collaboration, and advance our shared goals in public health, leadership, and personal growth.

Please also take the time to explore the TPHA website and learn about the different sections and opportunities to get involved. Your active participation in our organization is vital to our collective success and growth.

As this will be my last newsletter update as your President, I want to extend my gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to TPHA. Together, we have made significant strides in improving the health and safety of Texas, and I am confident that our organization will continue to thrive.

Thank you for allowing me the honor to serve as your President, and I wish you all a prosperous and healthy future. I look forward to seeing you at the 99th Annual Education Conference in San Antonio!

Warm regards,
Elizabeth

From our TPHA Executive Director, Terri Pali

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 Texas Public Health Association txpha@aol.com with any questions or comments.

To our current members, THANK YOU!! We are grateful for your continuing participation and contributions to TPHA!
Administration & Management
Shannon Medrano  Raul Barron  Carol Huber
Roberto Garcia  Christopher Haggstrom  Amy Fagan
Daniel J. Jimenez  Yaziri Gonzalez  Marla Kay Bailey
Gerard E. Carrino  Logan McAllister  Claude A. Jacob
Antonio Caldwell  Isaac Mancillas  Itzel Cardenas

Aging & Public Health
Marissa Eugene Huntley  M. Melissa Scarborough  Andrew Mauney
Maurice Moss  Arlette Chavez  

Community Health Worker
Liam Peterson  Christie Cofer  Rita Davidson
Ricardo Garay  Tania Degtoff  Shelby Thundercloud
Lizbeth Mendoza  Brenda Garza  Phoebe Seale

Epidemiology
Divya Pillendla  Sonali Sarkar  Keila Villarreal
Alfredo Sanchez  Russell Hopkins  John Onderdonk
Glenda Lopez  Michelle Jones  Diego Cardenas
Chiamaka Okonkwo  Dan Aristide  Onyekachi Ahaiwe

Health Education
Uche Chukwuemeka  Brittny Bratcher-Ramus  Casandra Jones
Taylor Dusek  Esmeralda Flores  Perla Mercado
Lakeshia Brown  

Public Health Nursing
Misti Carraway  Gayle Daniels  
Rahmatu Mansaray  Courtney Crowell  

Vision Care
Mistii Carraway  Gayle Daniels  

Student
Amani Lewis  Mariah Alvarez  
Ghada Khawaja  Christian Carbajal  
Kristin Dinh  Jorge Puentes  
Asha Collier  Blair Zdenek

Encourage Your Colleagues to Visit Our Website at Join TPHA and Together We Can Build Healthier Texas Communities!
TPHA has a **NEW** Institution/Agency Member.

Texas Public Health Association WELCOMES our new Institution/Agency Member

Join as an institution/agency member here:

***

**TPHA Welcomes Additional Staff of Two of Our Current Institutional Members**

**San Antonio Metropolitan Health District**
- Kathleen Shields  
- Anayanse Garza  
- Norma Santos  
- Leslie Pastrano  
- Sandra Imery  
- Amanda Wilson  
- Patricia Kittle  
- Stacy Maines  
- Ashley Steubing  
- Erica Haller-Stevenson  
- Jessie Higgins  
- Amanda Manzello  
- Peter Stranges  
- Sian Elmore  
- Patricia Cunningham  
- Cara Hausler  
- Kori Eberle  
- Ellen Spitsen  

**Waco-McLennan County Public Health District**
- Deyanira Mendez  
- Christina Tuell  
- Lisa Baker  
- Sarah Martinez  
- Ernestina Sandoval

Build a Stronger Public Health Workforce Through an Agency Membership in TPHA!

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**Institution/Agency Memberships**

- ¼ page advertisement in 4 issues of the Texas Public Health Journal  
- Quarterly TPHA newsletter updates  
- Complimentary job announcements on the TPHA website  
- Listed as an agency member on the TPHA website  
- Many opportunities to contribute to public health policy/advocacy work  
- Opportunities to participate in TPHA committees and sections  
- Reduced annual education conference registration fees for staff TPHA members  

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Contact Terri Pali at info@texaspha.org

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In Other TPHA News, TPHA Continues to Expand to Best Serve Texas Communities!

We already have 2 new Mental Health Section members (see the list of new members above). If you are working or interested in improving the mental health of your community, this is the section for you!

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Help Us Grow! TPHA Needs YOU!!!

Lend Us Your Expertise and Chair our Membership Recruitment, Engagement and Development Committee!

We need a dynamic TPHA member like you, to step up and help us grow our association! Please take the challenge and volunteer to chair our Membership Recruitment, Engagement and Development Committee. You will be assisted by the chairs-elect (or other members) of each of our TPHA sections. We want to ensure that our recruitment and retention strategies are top notch. You will have the lead in finding and developing our future leaders from among our members. If you are one of those who love to “Rally the Troops” and inspire enthusiasm, we need you! For details and more information please contact Terri Pali at info@texaspha.org or by phone at (903)309-3380. We are standing by to hear from YOU!

***

Give the Gift of Membership

Do you know a student, recent graduate or colleague who could benefit from being part of Texas’ leading public health organization? A TPHA membership is the perfect gift! Take a few moments to follow the steps below, and your favorite public health professional will be networking with public health peers across Texas in no time!

How to Give a TPHA Membership
Step 1: Gather the contact information of the person you wish to receive the TPHA membership, including full name and email address.

Step 2: Determine which category of membership your gift recipient should receive based on the following: Student $30, Emerging Professional $40, Active/Associate $75, Retired Active/Associate $50 see membership page for full details and restrictions (type of membership purchased is subject to approval by TPHA staff).

Step 3: Purchase the gift membership of your choice HERE, be sure to enter the name and email address of the gift recipient where prompted. Note: This will be a one-time, non-recurring membership gift.

Step 4: Watch your email for a transaction receipt for your gift. Your gift recipient will also receive an email detailing the new membership gift and will be asked to complete the membership form.

Step 5: Encourage your gift recipient to complete the registration process when notified so that they can receive access to TPHA professional development opportunities like the Annual Education Conference and much more!

Thank you for giving the gift of TPHA!

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TPHA’s Annual Education Conference is Quickly Approaching!
Things to Remember...

Ballots Are Due by May 18, 2023!

By now you should have received an email from Executive Director, Terri Pali, with a link to the 2023 TPHA ballot. All paid TPHA members are eligible and encouraged to vote on resolutions and to select our leaders for the coming TPHA year, 2023 – 2024! All results and our new leaders will be announced at our upcoming Annual Education Conference, May 22 – 24, 2023. Please email Terri at Info@texaspha.org if you did not get the link.

Learn more about the TPHA leadership positions as described in our TPHA Bylaws. For information on how to step up and run for a leadership position in our dynamic Texas Public Health Association next year, contact Terri for more information!

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Bring an Item to Donate to Our Silent Auction!

In addition to the excellent sessions, we have planned some fun events! A popular fundraising event is the TPHA Silent Auction. Come “shop” with us and help us raise funds to support TPHA activities! Get in the competitive spirit and start thinking of the most exquisite items you can bring to donate! Large or small – all donations are welcome!

Some suggestions include themed gift baskets, gifts for the home or office, personal items, and/or unique items [i.e. if you’re a musician, donate playing a song; if you’re an artist, donate a drawing or painting]. Feel free to think outside the box with your donated items. Here are some ideas to engage your creativity!
Beginning Sunday, May 21 from 3-5 pm through Monday, May 22 8 am – noon, drop off your donations in the Jenny Room of the Embassy Suites and complete the donation form.

The excitement will begin on Monday, May 22nd at 4:00 pm when the hunting and bidding on those perfect items start! You will have until Tuesday, May 23rd at 5:15 PM to check on and update your bids so you can get the items you cannot live without! Then, go grab your checkbook or visit the ATM, and pick up your items at the registration desk by 11:00 AM on Wednesday, May 24th. Failure to pick up your items by then will result in the item being offered to the next highest bidder.

*Come join in the fun of our silent auction! Did we mention that all proceeds will help fund the programs that TPHA offers, such as student scholarships, continuing education opportunities, and advocacy? See you at the bidding table!*

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**TPHA Awards!**

Every year TPHA honors dedicated public health professionals for their contributions to TPHA and to building healthier Texas communities. We hope you signed up to attend the closing Awards Luncheon where you can show these deserving individuals how much their efforts are appreciated! For information on how to nominate someone you know for an award for next year, visit our website at [TPHA AWARDS](#).

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We Will See YOU Soon!
News from TPHA Boards, Committees and Sections

TPHA Editorial Board Report
Submitted by Mathias Forrester, Editor, and Osaro Mgbere, TPHA Editorial Board Chair

The Texas Public Health Association (TPHA) Editorial Board is working on compiling content for our Summer 2023 Texas Public Health Journal (TPHJ) issue that is due out in early July 2023.

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](https://www.texaspha.org/page/Journal). Information for authors, including the submission guidelines, can be found at [https://www.texaspha.org/page/Authors](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.

TPHA Epidemiology Section Report
Submitted by Diana Cervantes, Chair, Epidemiology Section

DEADLINE EXTENDED! The deadline to submit your name for one of the two open TPHA epi section leadership positions has been extended to Wednesday, May 17, 2023. Please submit your name today! The TPHA Epi section is the largest and the best (just a little biased!) section and this is a great opportunity to get involved and get to know great people!

Call for EPI Section Nominations!!!! Click here for position descriptions. Email your nominations to Montserrat.Ayala-Ramirez@bcm.edu by Wednesday, May 17, 2023!

### Eye on Epidemiology: Spring 2023

Catch up on Epi section events and members!

### Thirsty Thursday! (5/18/2023 at 7 PM)

In lieu of the Epidemiology Section Meeting at the in-person conference, we will hold a virtual meeting of the section the week before the conference. Please join us to vote for leadership, learn more about the future of our section, and provide feedback to improve the section.
TPHA Vision Care Section (VCS) Report
Submitted by Viviana Gonzalez, OD

The vision care section is very proud to announce their section award recipients!

2023 TPHA VCS Award Recipients
VCS Advocacy Award - Half Helen
VCS Distinguished Service Award - See to Succeed
VCS Outstanding Faculty Leadership Award - Andrew Kemp, OD, FAAO

Submitted by Gabriela Camacho

Arch4Resilience

Gabriela has recently launched Arch4Resilience LLC. Arch4Resilience strives to provide resources for rural communities to prepare, respond, and recover in the event of a natural disaster improving infrastructure, socio-economic status and social determinants of health throughout the population in need.

We understand the overwhelming impact a disaster has on a community's infrastructure, homes, and necessities, especially in impoverished areas where resources and support are already limited. Our mission is to be a helping hand in these situations and provide the necessary tools and resources to help communities become more resilient. We believe that every community deserves support, and we are committed to ensuring that every community we work with can rebuild stronger, better, and more resilient.

Gabriela Camacho RN, BSN
CEO/President Arch 4 Resilience LLC.
Co-founder Partners for Rural Resilience Non-Profit
Gcamacho@arch4resilience.org

Submitted by Carlea Patrick and Kim Bush, The University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine, Center for Community and Rural Health Education

- 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 Course will begin on August 21, 2023. 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.
For more information, visit: Community Health Worker Training Center – The University of Texas at Tyler Health Science Center (uthct.edu).

➢ 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 four (4) virtual meetings over a two (2) week period which are each 1.5 hours long in addition to self-paced course work using the Moodle platform. Upon certification, Certified Lifestyle Coaches will also receive ongoing connection and collaboration opportunities with the State of Wellness team. More information can be found using this link: The University of Texas at Tyler Health Science Center (uthct.edu).

Submitted by Kara Marshall, Member of TPHA’s Administration and Management Section

UTMB Special Pathogens Excellence in Clinical Treatment, Readiness, & Education (SPECTRE) is offering a Paper Patients Webinar for your organization: TAKING CARE OF THE SPECIAL PATHOGENS PATIENT: WHAT CAN YOU DO WHERE YOU ARE? Please contact us at spectre@utmb.edu to inquire.

Submitted by Gayle Daniels, Member of TPHA’s Vision Care Section

In July 2022 Better Vision Better Hope launched our apprenticeship program, Optical Technician, in Fort Worth, TX. The program is a competency-based program that includes on-the-job training and classroom/lecture learning. Our goal with Optical Technician is to provide training to individuals that can be used in standard optical retail or private practices. Upon successful completion, apprentices can transition into full-time employment with experience.

Better Vision Better Hope would like to recognize Jamie St Marie as the first graduate of our apprenticeship program! Jamie completed the 12 months of the competency-based program which includes 2,000 hours of on-the-job training and 144 hours of classroom/lecture learning. She has become instrumental to Better Vision Better Hope, and we are proud of her accomplishments.

Congratulations Jamie! Your commitment and dedication do not go unrecognized, and we can’t wait to see your growth in your new profession!
The Texas Health Institute announces two upcoming educational opportunities!

- **Webinar | Why Care: Best Practices in Collecting Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression (SOGI) Information.** June 21, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:30pm CDT

  Why Care: Best Practices in Collecting Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression (SOGI) Information, is a part of the US Department of Health and Human Services initiative is to address COVID-19 related health disparities and advance health equity by expanding state, local, US territorial, and freely associated state health department capacity and services.

  Data disaggregation is a prime example of intertwining quality improvement processes with health equity. By standardizing data handling across programs, health departments can improve the quality and generalizability of their data, more easily disaggregate it, and gain actionable insights into local health disparities including work with the LGBTQ+ community. Join Texas Health Institute and the National Network of Public Health Institutes for the upcoming session in the LGBTQIA+ Best Practices Virtual Learning & Conversation Series. Register now at:

  [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAucOCvpjMiGtPRw3lod80BPFlm2rknFlmF#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAucOCvpjMiGtPRw3lod80BPFlm2rknFlmF#/registration)

- **Convening | 11th Annual Texas Primary Care Consortium Summit** November 2-3, 2023 | Houston, TX

  Save the date for November 2-3, 2023, to join the Texas Primary Care Consortium in Houston, TX, at the 11th Annual Texas Primary Care Consortium Summit: Creating Stronger Primary Care Together for a Healthier Texas! The convening will continue in the shared pursuit of improving the health of Texans through accessible, equitable, and coordinated person-centered primary care.

  Participants from diverse backgrounds across the public health and health care spectrum convene to address the prioritization of primary care in our health care system. Attendees leave equipped with a more comprehensive understanding of today's health care challenges, best practices, lessons learned, and available resources to improve the health of Texans.

  Learn more at:


Submitted by TimMarie C. Williams, Chair of the Aging and Public Health Section

Dr. Williams announces the following faculty position opening!

**Assistant/Associate/Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics**

University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine
San Antonio, TX

The University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine (UIWSOM) is a private, non-profit institution in vibrant San Antonio, Texas. UIWSOM’s service-driven mission is to educate and train a diverse group of competent and compassionate osteopathic physicians. Faculty engage in a learner-centered, case-based curriculum that involves the collaborative development and implementation of competency-based, innovative, and integrated teaching and learning strategies within a clinical context. The Office of Clinical & Applied Science Education seeks a qualified individual for a full-time, open-rank, non-tenure track faculty position as an educator in Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

**Required Work Experience:**

- Evidence of teaching excellence and progressive leadership experience in a public health and/or health professions educational setting.
• Individuals considered for this appointment must have a track record commensurate with an appointment as an Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor.
• Practical experience with applying epidemiology and biostatistics knowledge and skills to teaching and research.
• Strong knowledge base and experience in his/her discipline as it relates to the practice of medicine and public health.
• Experience in developing formative, summative, and competency-based assessments in the basic medical sciences, specifically epidemiology and biostatistics.
• Experience working with a diverse student body and teams.
• Experience in computer-assisted delivery of course content.

Preferred Qualifications
• Experience with case-based and active learning methods in large groups and large group settings.
• Record of championing and implementing innovations in the area of expertise.
• Record of educational scholarship.
• Demonstrated flexibility in a new medical endeavor requiring adaptability.
• Fluent in Spanish.

UIW is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in employment, without regard to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, citizenship status, national origin, age, marital status, disability, genetic information, gender identity or expression, veteran status, pregnancy, and religion (except in limited circumstances when religious preference is both permitted by law and deemed appropriate as a matter of University policy).

Full description and online submission can be accessed at: https://jobs.uiw.edu/postings/21982

Submitted by Lisette Osborne, TPHA’s Immediate Past President

Lisette spoke with about 250 public health undergraduate students at the University of Texas at Austin on March 22, 2023. The presentation covered some general public health principles, the benefits of belonging to a professional association, and the power of networking. The students were engaged and had multiple questions following the presentation – many about internships in the public health arena.

We look forward to seeing some of those students at our upcoming meetings and events, and hopefully on future “New Member Lists”!

Thank you to all members who submitted their news! We look forward to receiving more brief announcements about the work you do and the achievements you have made! Our next newsletter is scheduled for late August, 2023.

Start gathering the information you want to share with the Texas public health community now! Help us keep all of our members informed about the important work being done everyday in every corner of this great state! Send your news items to us at tphajournal@gmail.com.
Don’t forget to include your TPHA section affiliation, or if you are a staff member with one of our institution/agency members, please include the agency name!

More information on submitting your news and copies of past newsletters can be found 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.

Please help TPHA achieve our mission of “A safe and healthy Texas through leadership, education, training, collaboration, mentoring, and advocacy”!

➢ **Become a leader!** Run for a leadership position next year!

➢ **Volunteer** to serve on one of our operational committees. TPHA needs your expertise!

**We need you!** Please contact our executive director, Terri Pali, today! info@texaspha.org