

# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

## NACCHO Press Kit:

1. About NACCHO
2. What's New at NACCHO?
3. 2008-09 Executive Board and Board of Directors roster
4. Biography of NACCHO Executive Director Pat Libbey
5. Biography of NACCHO President Gary Cox
6. Biography of NACCHO President-Elect Bruce Dart
7. Biography of NACCHO Vice-President Carol Moehrle

For more information about NACCHO or to schedule an interview with an expert on local public health, please contact Becky Wexler, Burness Communications, at (301) 280-5729 or [bwexler@burnesscommunications.com](mailto:bwexler@burnesscommunications.com).



# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

## About NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is the national organization representing local health departments. NACCHO supports efforts that protect and improve the health of all people and all communities by promoting national policy, developing resources and programs, seeking health equity, and supporting effective local public health practice and systems.

NACCHO is governed by a 33-member Board of Directors, comprising health officials from around the country elected by their peers, and including ad hoc members representing the National Association of Counties, of which NACCHO is an affiliate, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. NACCHO's Executive Committee includes the four NACCHO officers and the chairs of the three NACCHO forums—the Metro Forum, County Forum, and City Forum.

## Program Areas

NACCHO's media relations staff can connect you with spokespeople who can provide the local health department perspective on a variety of public health issues, including:

- *COMMUNITY HEALTH* topics such as: adolescent health, chronic disease, community design, health and disability, infectious disease, injury prevention, maternal and child health, mental health, rural health, tobacco, health equity, and traffic safety
- *ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH* topics such as: climate change, environmental health assessment, safety of drinking water, environmental justice, food safety, chemical exposure, West Nile virus, and waste water mercury
- *PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEMS* topics such as: accreditation and quality improvement, community health status indicators, informatics, performance standards, public health law, and regionalization
- *PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS TOPICS* such as: medical reserve call, Project Public Health Ready, strategic national stockpile

## Media Contact

Members of the news media who need information about public health or NACCHO, including our programs and services, or who would like to request interviews should contact: Becky Wexler, Burness Communications, at (301) 280-5729 or [bwexler@burnesscommunications.com](mailto:bwexler@burnesscommunications.com).



## What's New at NACCHO?

Local health department leaders and NACCHO national staff are in the news and on the Hill all the time, talking about the need for new public health priorities and commenting on issues including food safety, global climate change, and preparedness. Here are a few highlights from recent press releases, Congressional testimony, and media coverage.

### **First Nationwide Survey of Public Health Departments Shows Lack of Resources, Health Challenge When Facing Climate Change**

Climate change is a concern to most local public health directors but few have resources to tackle the problem, according to a national survey conducted by National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and George Mason University.

The survey, included in the report *Are We Ready? Preparing for the Public Health Challenges of Climate Change*, is the first national one of its kind that assesses the perceptions and activities of local public health directors regarding climate change and public health. More than half of the surveyed directors are concerned about the health effects of climate change on their jurisdictions, though only a small group has been able to make adaptation or prevention a priority.

“Local health departments recognize that climate change imperils the health of their communities. It is essential that they gain the new knowledge and sustained resources needed to help them prepare for the increased severity of health-threatening problems that we can expect, from long-term heat waves to increased populations of disease-bearing mosquitoes,” said Patrick Libbey, Executive Director of NACCHO.

### **Measles: Local Health Departments' Role in Averting an Epidemic**

In early May 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that there were more measles cases reported in the first few months of 2008 than in any year since 2001. Health experts believe that measles has resurfaced due to a number of factors, including an increasing number of children who do not receive measles immunizations. Several of the recent cases were in non-vaccinated children who traveled to countries in which the disease still circulates.

In June, NACCHO held a press briefing to discuss the role of local health departments in identifying and managing measles outbreaks. In addition to NACCHO Executive Director Patrick Libbey, three local health officials with direct experience in addressing recent outbreaks in San Diego, Milwaukee, and New York City shared their experiences and answered reporters' questions.



## **(What's New at NACCHO cont.)**

### **Dutchess County (NY) Health Commissioner Testifies On Capitol Hill**

Dutchess County Commissioner of Health Michael C. Caldwell, MD, MPH testified in 2007 before a Congressional committee examining national preparedness for pandemic influenza. He described the high degree of cooperation in preparing for such a public health emergency among Dutchess County government and community agencies, under the leadership of County Executive William R. Steinhaus. The hearing was convened by the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology of the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Speaking on behalf of the National Association of County & City Health Officials, Caldwell said, "The combined efforts of local health departments and all our community partners will determine the ultimate impact of an influenza pandemic on the people of the United States."

*Visit NACCHO's Press Room page at [www.naccho.org/press](http://www.naccho.org/press) for full versions of these statements as well as many other resources. Contact Becky Wexler at [bwexler@burnesscommunications.com](mailto:bwexler@burnesscommunications.com) to set up an interview with a local public health expert.*



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2008 - 2009  
Executive Committee

\*Term expires in July 2009

### **President (Metro)**

Gary Cox, JD  
Director  
Tulsa City-County Health Department  
Tulsa, OK

### **Immediate Past President (County)\***

Robert M. Pestronk, MPH  
Health Officer  
Genesee County Health Department  
Flint, MI

### **President-Elect (City)**

Bruce D. Dart, PhD  
Health Director  
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health  
Dept.  
Lincoln, NE

### **Vice President (County)**

Carol M. Moehrle  
Director  
North Central District Health  
Department  
Lewiston, ID

### **City Forum Chair\***

Epi Bodhi, MSPH  
Director of Public Health  
Amherst Health Department  
Amherst, MA

### **County Forum Chair\***

William J. Smith, MPH  
Health Director  
Robeson County Dept. of Public Health  
Lumberton, NC

### **Metro Forum Chair\***

Anthony Iton, MD, JD, MPH  
Health Officer  
Alameda County Public Health  
Department  
Oakland, CA



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS

### 2008 – 2009 Board Members

Terrance Allan, RS, MPH\*  
Health Commissioner  
Cuyahoga County Board of Health  
Parma, OH

John R. Baird, MD\*  
Health Officer  
Fargo/Cass Public Health  
Fargo, ND

Kim E. Barnhill, MS\*  
Administrator  
Jefferson and Madison County Health Depts.  
Monticello, FL

Paul Beddoe (Ex Officio)  
Associate Legislative Director  
National Association of Counties  
Washington, DC

Terry Brandenburg, MBA, MPA\*  
Health Commissioner  
West Allis Health Department  
West Allis, WI

Lou K. Brewer, RN, MPH\*  
Health Director  
Tarrant County Public Health Department  
Fort Worth, TX

Martin Fenstersheib, MD, MPH  
Health Officer  
Santa Clara County Public Health Department  
San Jose, CA

#### County Forum Vice Chair\*

Vonna J. Henry, MPH, BSN  
CHS Administrator  
Sherburne County Public Health Dept.  
Elk River, MN

John A. Horensky, MS  
Health Director  
Somerset County Health Department  
Somerville, NJ

#### City Forum Vice Chair\*

Steve Huleatt, MPH  
Director of Health  
West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District  
West Hartford, CT

#### Tribal Health Departments

Franklin "Pete" Jackson  
Director, Elders Services Division  
Gila River Indian Community  
c/o Department of Community Services  
Sacaton, AZ

Larry D. Jones, MPH, MA  
Health Director  
City of Independence Health Department  
Independence, MO

Paul Kuehnert, MS, RN  
Director  
Kane County Health Department  
Aurora, IL



## **Metro Forum Vice Chair\***

Yvonne S. Madlock, MAT

Director

Memphis & Shelby County Health Dept.  
Memphis, TN

Andrew Dennis McBride, MD, MPH

Health Director

Milford Health Department  
Milford, CT

Herminia Palacio, MD, MPH

Executive Director

Harris County Public Health and Environmental  
Services  
Houston, TX

Lillian Shirley, RN, MPH, MPA\*

Director

Multnomah County Health Department  
Portland, OR

Covia L. Stanley, MD, Mdiv

District Health Director

Region 6 Public Health Office  
Conway, SC

Matthew A. Stefanak, MPH\*

Health Commissioner

District Board of Health Mahoning County  
Youngstown, OH

Crystal D. Swann (Ex Officio)

Assistant Executive Director for Health and Human  
Services

United States Conference of Mayors  
Washington, DC

Ulder J. Tillman, MD, MPH\*

Health Officer

Montgomery County Department of Health and  
Human Services  
Rockville, MD

Adewale Troutman, MD, MPH\*

Director

Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and  
Wellness  
Louisville, KY

Pierre N. Vigilance MD, MPH

Health Officer / Director

Government of the District of Columbia  
Department of Health  
Washington, DC

Leon Vinci, DHA\*

Director of Public Health

Johnson County Public Health  
Olathe, KS

Richard L. Vogt, MD

Executive Director

Tri-County Health Department  
Greenwood Village,

John Wiesman, MPH

Director

Clark County Public Health  
Vancouver, WA



## BIOGRAPHY

### **Patrick M. Libbey Executive Director**

Patrick M. Libbey is the executive director of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the national voice of local public health serving nearly 3,000 local public health agencies nationwide. Under his leadership, NACCHO supports efforts that protect and improve the health of all people and communities by promoting national policy, developing resources and programs, seeking health equity and supporting effective local public health practice and systems.

Prior to joining NACCHO in September 2002, Libbey, who has 28 years of local public health experience, was the director of the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department in Olympia, Wash.

In addition to being the 2001-2002 president of NACCHO, Libbey has provided leadership to a variety of professional organizations. He has served as executive committee member and past president, Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials; past president, Washington State Association of County Human Services; and past chair, NACCHO County Forum. He was also actively engaged in developing Washington State's approach to public health, having served as: member, Washington State Core Government Public Health Functions Task Force; member, Public Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee; and chair, Performance Measures Technical Advisory Committee.

In 1993, he received NACCHO's Award for Excellence in Environmental Health and was a co-recipient of the First Annual Jim Parker Memorial Award for Washington State's systematic incorporation of core functions in its public health system. In 2002 he again was a co-recipient of the Jim Parker Memorial Award for work in developing Washington State's public health performance measurements. Libbey was also a Public Health Leadership Institute Scholar in 1994. Most notably, he is recognized for his work in the development of performance standards for public health practice.



## BIOGRAPHY

### Gary Cox, President

Gary Cox is president of the Board of Directors of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the national voice of local public health serving nearly 3,000 local public health agencies nationwide. Cox has been director of the Tulsa City-County Health Department since 1994. The Tulsa Health Department is a metropolitan Health Department serving over 550,000 in Tulsa County, Oklahoma.

The Tulsa Health Department is a progressive health department with an aggressive public health emergency preparedness effort. The Tulsa Health Department's Board of Health has established the Community Health Foundation, a public charity. The Tulsa Health Department also has a strong partnership with community based organizations and academic institutions.

As director, Cox serves as the public health chief executive officer for the City and County of Tulsa. Cox began his career as an educator. He has been privileged to serve in public health for over 34 years, beginning as an environmentalist. He received his law degree (Juris Doctor) from the University of Tulsa and was previously legal counsel for the health department, as well as adjunct professor of environmental law. Cox was previously assistant director of the Tulsa Health Department. Leadership responsibilities include: past president, Oklahoma Public Health Association; member of the American Public Health Association; Past President, Indian Nations Council of Governments; past president, Community Health Net; executive committee, Tulsa Turning Point and National Public Health Leadership Society. Cox also serves on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT) Emergency Responder Advisory Panel. Additionally, Cox served on the Community-Based Participatory Prevention Research Grant Review Panel for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is also a visiting associate professor at the University of Oklahoma, College of Public Health.

Cox has dedicated his career to improving public health, raising the level of awareness about health issues and seeking broad based support for public health initiatives.



## BIOGRAPHY

### **Bruce Dart, President-Elect**

Bruce Dart is president-elect of the National Association of County and City Health Officials. As director of the Lincoln-Lancaster County (NE) Health Department, Dart is responsible for the health of 275,000 Nebraskans.

Prior to coming to Lincoln, Dart served as the director of the Independence (MO) Health Department and Grand Island/Hall County (NE) Health Department. Dart was also employed at the Douglas County Health Department for 17 years in the Environmental Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Epidemiology programs. Dart has served as president of Nebraska's public health association and on numerous state and local public health/health services committees focusing on community health and health care access issues. He is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and former Nebraska Environmental Health Administrator of the Year. He is a Year 15 graduate of the National Public Health Leadership Institute and his team was honored as co-winners of the Martha Katz award for best project.

Dart received his BA in Biology from Drury University (MO) in 1977, his MS in Administration (Health Services) from Central Michigan University in 1989 and his Ph.D. in Health Services from Walden University (MN) in 2005.



## BIOGRAPHY

### **Carol Moehrle, Vice President**

Carol Moehrle is the vice president of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). For the past 16 years, Moehrle has served as the district director for a five-county Public Health District in North Central Idaho, which encompasses a population of approximately 110,000.

She has been active with NACCHO since 1992, having served as the County Forum Chair for two terms, the Executive Board, and Board of Directors as well as contributing to several NACCHO committees addressing a variety of public health topics. Moehrle also serves on the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), as well as the Board of the National Association of Counties (NACo) where she is chair of NACo's Public Health and Environment Subcommittee, and represents county public health on several NACo committees.

Locally she has served on numerous public, private and nonprofit boards, as well as local, state and national professional organizations and advisory boards.

