Protecting Communities and Improving Population Health through Transformational Leadership

2019 was a year full of public health challenges, engaging all communities across the country and pushing them to do more. By early October, ten weather- and climate-related events, including storms, cyclones, and flooding, had each led to losses exceeding $1 billion. Air pollution continued to be the greatest environmental risk to health. Antimicrobial resistance and sexually transmitted diseases were on the rise, along with inadequate primary health and maternal care, the opioid crisis, and measles outbreaks that nearly cost our nation its elimination status. Our ability to handle public health threats will continue to be tested every year in new and perhaps extraordinary, unforeseen ways.

Local public health departments have seldom been called to respond to so many crises in so short a time—and each time, our colleagues proved a powerful match to the challenges before them. Through it all, public health guides the way, and continues to expand on its resourcefulness, creativity, and deep reserves of expertise that grow every year. Much of this has to do with the people who choose to work in our field, and leadership is a big part of that.

As local health departments face increasing challenges, the importance of transformational leadership in communities across the country has been made clear. Transformational leaders unite their communities, address critical issues, and work to improve population health. They can also serve as pivotal players in their towns and cities, as they embrace the role of Community Health Strategist, to weave all the strands of public and private services, organizations, and partners in a seamless net of community care.

So as we wrap up 2019 and begin a new decade, it is clear: our members are our greatest resource. From dedicated local health officials leading the way, to skilled disease intervention specialists, community educators, public health nurses, epidemiologists, emergency personnel, and everyone in between: your work has been exceptional. We support you, and we’re inspired by you every day. As your partner, NACCHO will continue to develop, support, and promote evidence-based and promising practices to empower our members to better protect the communities you serve, while being your voice and advocate. We want to thank you all for your expertise, your striving to do better than your best, your enthusiastic engagement, and the grace you bring to your work every day. We simply cannot do our best work without you.

Lori Tremmel Freeman, MBA
Chief Executive Officer

George T. Roberts, Jr., MHA, FACHE
NACCHO President and Chief Executive Officer
Northeast Texas Public Health District
Recognizing Outstanding Work in Local Public Health

Each year, NACCHO’s annual awards program recognizes the excellent work of local public health agencies and professionals across the country. At NACCHO Annual 2019, NACCHO presented 53 Model Practices and 76 Promising Practices Awards. Seven local health departments (LHDs) won Local Health Department of the Year Awards, including:

- Bernards Township Health Department, NJ
- Champaign-Urbana Public Health District, IL
- Dakota County Health Department, MN
- Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County, FL
- Laurel County Health Department, KY
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, CA
- Salt Lake County Health Department, UT

Carol Moehrle, RN, BSN, Director of Public Health at the Idaho North Central District, received the Maurice “Mo” Mullet Lifetime of Service Award.

Dr. Anthony L-T Chen, Director of Health at the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department in Washington, was honored with the 2019 National Advocate of the Year Award for his outstanding accomplishments in advocating for better health policy.

Recipients of the 2019 National Health Security Award included: Skagit County Public Health in Washington; Washoe County Health District in Nevada; and Philadelphia Health Department in Pennsylvania.
Innovative Convenings to Move Public Health Forward

In March, a record-breaking 1,900 emergency preparedness and health professionals convened in St. Louis for the 2019 Preparedness Summit. The conference theme, “The Evolving Threat Environment,” focused on building the sustainable capacity and capabilities needed to adapt preparedness infrastructure and processes to address emerging and evolving public health threats, such as chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons, cyber warfare, emerging infectious diseases, and catastrophic natural disasters.

In July, over 1,300 local public health professionals and their partners came together in Orlando for the 2019 NACCHO Annual Conference, making it the most attended annual conference in NACCHO history. The conference theme, “Improving the Nation's Health through Public and Private Partnerships,” focused on how local public health professionals can build strong, effective cross-disciplinary partnerships.

“This is my third NACCHO Annual conference, and one of the reasons I keep coming back is to network with my colleagues at other SACCHOs. I find that very valuable and it’s really important for me to be able to hear what other folks are doing around the country.”

—THERESA ANSELMO
COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

LHIT CONFERENCE

On September 25, the NACCHO IT and Web Team hosted its first-ever virtual conference to bring together local health IT staff. Attendees of the Local Health IT (LHIT) virtual conference heard from leading speakers in cybersecurity, website accessibility, informatics, and federal health IT. It also highlighted a local health project in Florida that is working to expand telehealth to more counties across the state.

NACCHO was also able to secure four industry sponsors, which resulted in more than $8,500 in revenue.

More than 159 people participated in the conference throughout the day. #LHIT19 made more than 1.14 million impressions over the course of National U.S. Health IT Week.

The LHIT conference was the result of a year-long initiative to grow a community of local health IT professionals and to get ahead of issues including cybersecurity and website development in American communities.
Making Your Voice Heard on Capitol Hill
Six NACCHO members served as expert witnesses at congressional hearings and briefings. Topics included the public health budget, preparedness, rural suicide, vaccines, and environmental health.

In 2019, NACCHO developed two important policy statements: “Local Health Department Preparedness,” which calls for increased federal and state funding to support local public health preparedness programs and staff, and “Comprehensive Immunization Programs: Addressing Immunizations Across the Lifespan,” which recommends that the federal government provide sufficient funding through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Section 317 Program for immunization services.

Resources for Public Health
NACCHO worked hard to help ensure strong federal funding for key public health priorities in fiscal year 2020, including almost a 9% increase in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with directives to help that money reach more local communities.

NACCHO and Big Cities Health Coalition File Joint Amicus Brief to Support LHD
In October 2019, NACCHO and the Big Cities Health Coalition jointly filed an amicus brief in support of the Seattle–King County case—in Washington State—regarding notifiable conditions and a hantavirus case resulting in death. The brief discussed the importance of applying public health expertise to notification decisions, as opposed to issuing notifications solely out of fear of tort liability.
Key Legislative Win: Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act (PAHPAI)

The law recognizes the paramount importance of emergency preparedness for the safety of the public and makes important changes to improve the flexibility and effectiveness of emergency preparedness programs. NACCHO worked on this law for over two years, providing feedback to policymakers informed by LHDs experiences to improve federal public health preparedness programs.

Signed into law in June 2019, PAHPAI:

- Reauthorizes the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant program and Hospital Preparedness Program to keep the nation’s emergency preparedness infrastructure strong;
- Strengthens the National Health Security Strategy, including global health security;
- Authorizes the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise, including a role for input from stakeholders, including LHDs;
- Reauthorizes the Strategic National Stockpile and places additional requirements on how development, procurement, and deployment decisions are made;
- Clarifies state liability laws for volunteers in the Medical Reserve Corps or involved in the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals;
- Establishes the children’s preparedness unit at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and authorizes advisory committees on children, people with disabilities, and seniors; and
- Clarifies language for the public health emergency rapid response fund to make it easier to provide funding for the immediate needs resulting from a potential public health emergency.
Earning Media Coverage of Local Public Health Issues

In 2019, NACCHO generated extensive print, radio, and broadcast news coverage for the organization, its members, and the field of public health on a wide range of topics. In the spring, NACCHO dominated news coverage of the measles outbreaks appearing in the Associated Press, Bloomberg News, the Louisville Courier-Journal (a USA Today newspaper), Fox Business News, HealthDay, and U.S. News and World Report, among others.

NACCHO was also featured in coverage of sexually transmitted diseases by Kaiser Health News (reprinted by People Magazine, CBS News, and dozens of other publications), Politico, The Atlantic, and TIME Magazine, as well as African-American interest publications including, BET (Black Entertainment Television), The Root (The Washington Post’s African-American interest website), and Madame Noire.

In addition, NACCHO was part of the national vaping discussion with interviews published by CNN and the Associated Press (syndicated in over 100 publications). NACCHO was also featured in stories on mosquito-borne disease, birth defects, antimicrobial resistance, environmental health, opioids, and hepatitis A.

For the first time, NACCHO generated television and radio coverage for its conferences and has driven local media coverage of LHD member projects, especially around Model Practices.

Lastly, CEO Lori Tremmel Freeman was featured in a leadership profile by Forbes.
Supporting Local Efforts to Increase Vaccine Confidence and Immunization Coverage

As vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks and vaccine misinformation persist, addressing vaccine confidence and increasing immunization coverage rates are vital public health priorities. To reinforce immunization as the safest and most successful public health measure to control vaccine-preventable diseases, NACCHO hosted a webinar in which CDC shared new research on how to talk about vaccines; developed a compendium of stories from the field to highlight the efforts of LHD immunization programs to provide comprehensive immunization services across the lifespan; and co-hosted a congressional briefing that featured testimony from a local health official.

Assessing and Building Capacity to Prevent and Control Infectious Disease Threats

LHDs play a critical role in infection prevention and control, and are increasingly responding to issues related to healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and antimicrobial resistance (AR). To support these efforts, NACCHO conducted an assessment to evaluate LHD capacity for and engagement in HAI/AR prevention and response; provided funding and technical assistance to help three LHDs address the emergence of novel or targeted multi-drug resistant organisms; and developed case studies highlighting innovative examples of health center and health department coordination of tuberculosis (TB) services and programs to improve screening, testing, treatment, and care. NACCHO also conducted a National TB Stakeholder Consultation to inform strategies to improve collaboration on TB prevention and control.

Combating Epidemics and Prioritizing Innovative Strategies to Advance Sexual Health

In 2019, the HIV, STI, and Viral Hepatitis Program continued to lead strategies to end HIV and reverse crisis levels of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). To advance efforts to end the HIV epidemic, NACCHO’s Southern Initiative funded four health centers to implement community health worker models to improve HIV-related outcomes in high-morbidity Southern jurisdictions, and also led participants through a tailored Roots of Health Inequity course to improve service delivery to oppressed populations. To respond to rising rates of STIs, NACCHO released a best practices document identifying lessons learned from a project evaluating rapid syphilis testing in four LHD demonstration sites; developed an issue of NACCHO Exchange to highlight efforts of LHDs—and their national, federal, and state partners—to curb STD rates; and engaged the media to garner extensive coverage, including on People.com, which elevated local public health’s critical role in advancing sexual health.

Including People with Disabilities in the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships Process

NACCHO released the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Resource Guide for Disability Inclusion to provide guidance on how the MAPP process can be inclusive of people with disabilities. The guide gives health departments tools and resources to actively engage people with disabilities and the agencies that serve them in the MAPP process, particularly for inclusion efforts to support community health assessments and development of community health improvement plans.

Food Service Guidelines Action Institute

In June, NACCHO hosted the inaugural Food Service Guidelines Action Institute in Washington, D.C. Four local teams including Allegheny County, PA, Cuyahoga County, OH, Erie County, NY, and Multnomah County, OR were competitively selected to attend. The goal was to prepare interdisciplinary teams to adopt healthy food procurement
practices in a variety of community-based institutions, such as universities, parks and recreation centers, juvenile detention centers, and retail settings. The Institute provided hands-on technical assistance to empower local health officials to work with decisionmakers from government and community institutions that run large food service operations. The end goal is to increase fresh, healthy options, while remaining financially viable.

**Cardiovascular Health Community of Practice**

The chronic disease team led a new community of practice focused on cardiovascular health that brings together over 100 representatives from national partners and LHDs across the county working on community-level cardiovascular disease prevention. Through this community of practice, participants learn and share through targeted webinars, resources, and technical assistance activities. They also can connect to subject matter experts and other municipalities doing similar work. Key activities included quarterly webinars, publication of three success stories, and an issue brief highlighting the challenges, successes, and needs of LHDs as they advance their work in cardiovascular health.

**Tobacco-Use Prevention and Control**

NACCHO conducted an environmental scan with rural LHDs; the results were quoted in CNN.com and The New York Times. The scan published six rural health success stories. With support from the CDC, NACCHO hosted a webinar, “Leveraging Cross-sectoral Partnerships to Advance the Implementation of Smoke-Free Public Housing,” with 350 registrants, and another webinar, “Rural Health Tobacco Prevention and Control,” which drew over 630 participants.

**Establishing Continuity of Care to Promote Breastfeeding**

NACCHO’s breastfeeding team completed a four-part national webinar series, “Weaving a Lactation Safety Net.” The CDC-funded series offered continuing education credits and attracted over 1,500 registrants. NACCHO awarded grants to four health centers that built successful, sustainable breastfeeding models by implementing organizational policy, systems, and environmental change, and by establishing key community partnerships. The team convened a national Continuity of Care Blueprint Workgroup, which meets monthly to strategize on the development of a national blueprint. The team also published two peer-reviewed articles in the Journal of Human Lactation, and these were among the most-read articles in the journal.
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Building Mosquito and Tick Control Capacity at the 2019 Vector Summit
The second annual Vector Summit, held April 16–18 in Pittsburgh, brought together nearly 200 people from 37 states and territories to increase the capacity of local mosquito and tick management professionals to detect, prevent, prepare for, and respond to vector-borne disease. Through peer exchange of best practices and practical strategies, the summit provided a collaborative learning environment for all levels.

Addressing Childhood Lead Poisoning Using a Health in All Policies Approach
NACCHO and partners provided grants to the Allegheny County Health Department in Pennsylvania, Kentucky’s Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness, and the Houston Health Department to implement a Health in All Policies (HiAP) strategy into their respective lead prevention programs and activities. NACCHO’s partners on this project include the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), and the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH). The success of the project in year one led to a 200% increase in the number of grantees for year two.

Improving Water Emergency Preparedness Through a Tabletop Exercise
In July 2019, NACCHO, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and the CDC organized a tabletop exercise to promote collaboration across several agencies involved in responding to a water-related emergency. The exercise brought together 72 participants representing LHDs, emergency management, water utility companies, and other stakeholders.

Looking at the Role of Local Environmental Health Departments in Tick-Related Activities and Services
NACCHO conducted an assessment to find out what local environmental health professionals across the country were doing in tick control and surveillance. Through key informant interviews, respondents shared the strategies they use to conduct tick-related activities and maximize resources by collaborating with internal and external partners.

Public Health Crisis Response USVI—Novel Vector-Borne Diseases
NACCHO was funded to provide expert technical assistance to the United States Virgin Island (USVI) Department of Health’s (DOH) Vector Control Program (VCP). And provide capacity building support for USVI DOH to respond to vector-borne disease threats. Subcontractors were enlisted to develop the adult mosquito population suppression technology and larval surveillance tools specific to USVI. Over the course of the project, NACCHO increased USVI DOH’s access to resources, critical services, strategic partnerships, and communications.

“It has been a wonderful experience to be at the NACCHO Vector Summit. The amount of information we received and the incentive to go home and create an integrated mosquito management and vector management plan is just exciting, to know that we can do it on a low-cost budget and provide protection and assessment for homeowners, and the resources, the tools, the people that I’ve met have been wonderful.”

—MARY HELEN SMITH
PORTAGE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT (OH)
NACCHO’s Public Health Infrastructure and Systems (PHIS) programs build the capacity of LHDs to perform their core functions and provide essential services. This includes improving organizational efficiency and quality; working with community members and cross-sectoral partners to strengthen local health systems; increasing the competency of LHDs to fulfill their role as Community Health Strategists; and addressing the social and structural determinants of health and health inequities in the communities they serve through place- and evidence-based, informed strategies.

Health Equity Town Hall
During this dynamic standing-room-only session, leaders in health equity shared their experiences and expertise on strategies to address the root causes of health inequity. Dr. Richard Hofrichter, NACCHO Senior Director, explored the session’s major themes of building power and alliance; workforce training; leadership; and devising a compelling public narrative. Panelists included Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of the Los Angeles County Health Agency; Jonathan Heller, Co-Director, Human Impact Partners; and Dr. Aletha Maybank, Chief Health Equity Officer and VP, American Medical Association.

Local Health Department and Health Center Services Sharing
NACCHO partnered with the Center for Sharing Public Health Services to develop resources that support the sharing of clinical and nonclinical services between LHDs and health centers. These were designed to reduce the duplication of and increase
the coordination of health services, as well as improve access to public health and healthcare services. These tools, in consultation with the Bureau of Primary Health Care, were field-tested among a sample of LHDs and health centers to ensure their relevance.

Rural Social Determinants of Health Work
In 2019, NACCHO and CDC announced the inaugural Achieving Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Population Improvement in Rural Environments (ASPIRE) Award. The award’s goal is to recognize excellence in rural communities that are committed to addressing SDOH. The five winning LHDs were:

- Kittitas County Public Health, WA
- Meigs County Health Department, OH
- Richland County Health Department, MT
- Adams County Health Department, WI
- Idaho North Central District, ID

In addition to recognizing the accomplishments of these five health departments, NACCHO and CDC also strived to understand the drivers and facilitators of their work. Five primary themes emerged that were deemed essential in addressing the SDOH through upstream solutions: cultivating partnerships; considering the role of leadership in the work, particularly through identifying and developing champions; community engagement; data and evaluation, which serve as drivers and also as primary challenges due to the lack of rural data; and focusing the work within a formal process, such as a community health improvement plan.

Adaptive Leadership
Adaptive Leadership is a key element of NACCHO’s work in helping LHDs adopt the role of Community Health Strategist. Efforts in 2020 include assessing the longer-term impact of the course and building out the framework to best meet the needs of different stakeholders. NACCHO increased the leadership skills of over 55 LHD, health center, and hospital system staff through its highly rated Adaptive Leadership trainings. Through this online, six-week version of the course, organizations examined challenges in a way that distinguishes elements that are more technical in nature versus those without a clear solution, and that are generally driven by emotional underpinnings that guide individual behaviors and decisions.

Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships Evaluation
Launched in 2001, MAPP is one of the most widely used community health improvement planning frameworks in public health. With funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), NACCHO contracted with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) to conduct the first national evaluation to understand the value and utility of MAPP. The evaluation revealed that the framework creates fertile ground for communities to orchestrate strategic partnerships necessary to work together to improve population health; yet, opportunities exist to adapt the framework to meet real challenges communities face in sustaining partnerships to improve community health and equity. NACCHO is now engaging with multiple stakeholders to redesign the MAPP framework to better meet the evolving needs of communities.

Strong Systems, Stronger Communities
NACCHO, with support from the Center for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CSTLTS-CDC), competitively selected eight LHDs from across the country to participate in its inaugural Strong Systems, Stronger Communities (SSSC) technical assistance (TA) program. NACCHO provided each site with vigorous training and TA aimed at advancing skills in performance improvement processes and move “upstream” in community efforts to improve population health to address the social determinants of health. Project topics included reducing vaping among youth, mass prophylaxis, healthy vending, and access to WIC services.
Healthy People 2020 Makes Way for Healthy People 2030

The transition to Healthy People (HP) 2030, scheduled to launch in March 2020, has been fully supported during the project year. Not only was a preview of HP 2030 provided during NACCHO Annual, but ongoing efforts have continued around HP promotion, HP data for LHD performance improvement platforms, and the use of the HP SDOH in local public health policy.

Building Local Capacity to Conduct Disaster-Related Reporting

NACCHO’s Informatics Program supported ongoing recovery efforts from the 2017 hurricanes by hosting trainings to improve disaster-related death reporting and certification in collaboration with the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) Department of Health. While the trainings provided guidance for certification of deaths in the event of a natural, human-induced, or radiological and chemical disaster, it also delivered fundamental information on certifying death due to natural causes and certifying demographic information on death certificates. The trainings reached 39 USVI professionals and a subset will continue efforts by serving as trainers for their peers.

Helping Local Health Departments Create Local Policy Solutions to Improve Health

To gain insight into challenges faced by LHDs interested in using local policy to address the health of their communities, NACCHO collaborated with CDC’s Policy, Research, Analysis, and Development Office to create a local policy training experience for four communities focused on addressing physical activity. Using the CDC Policy Process as a framework, NACCHO developed a program to guide four health departments and their partners through a series of training activities aimed at determining a specific public health problem to address, identifying different policy options to consider, and developing strategies to get their chosen policy adopted by the community.
Strengthening the Capabilities and Deployment Readiness of Medical Reserve Corps Units

As part of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Deployment Ready Project, NACCHO collaborated with its MRC Advisory Group and seven MRC units to develop the 2019 *MRC Deployment Readiness Guide*, which includes resources that build MRC units’ capacity to manage volunteers and develop capabilities to support emergency response. Additionally, with the support of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), NACCHO awarded 202 Operational Readiness Awards—totaling more than $1.2 million in funding—to help MRC units strengthen volunteer emergency response capabilities and attend the 2020 MRC Leadership Summit to support their local communities.

Improving Local Radiation Preparedness

LHDs can be involved in a range of activities related to radiation preparedness, including preparedness planning, population monitoring, decontamination, population sheltering, and communications. In 2019, NACCHO coordinated with CDC to provide technical assistance to help Ohio’s Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County and the City of El Paso Health Department in Texas prepare for and execute full-scale Community Reception Center exercises. As part of the exercises, the LHDs evaluated their preparedness plans and capabilities and strengthened community relationships with participating partners, such as the fire department. NACCHO also issued a policy statement calling for increased support for radiation-specific preparedness planning at the local level.

Encouraging High Standards for Preparedness Planning

Launched in 2004, Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) is a criteria-based training and recognition program that assesses LHD capacity and capability to plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. In 2019, 14 local and regional health departments from Texas, Michigan, Florida, Connecticut, Arizona, Tennessee, and Utah earned PPHR recognition. These health departments join over 500 LHDs that have been recognized since the program’s inception. NACCHO also worked with its Preparedness Planning, Outcomes and Measures Advisory Group, whose members include preparedness planners from LHDs across the country, to review and update the PPHR criteria to ensure that it meets the high standards of readiness planning.
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**NACCHO’S FY2019 REVENUE**

![Chart showing revenue breakdown]

**TOTAL REVENUE**
$22,894,518

**NACCHO’S FY2019 EXPENSES**

![Chart showing expense breakdown]

**TOTAL EXPENSES**
$22,783,636
The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.

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