



National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NACCHO Honors the Local Health Department Advocates of the Year**

**Washington, DC, August 23, 2018** — [The National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO), representing the nation’s nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments, recognized outstanding member accomplishments related to advocacy and outreach to members of the United States Congress to better health policy outcomes this year with its inaugural Advocate of the Year Awards. The winners received their awards at [NACCHO’s 2018 Annual Meeting](#) last month in New Orleans.

“Strong public health policies and adequate funding for public health priorities are critical to the success of local health departments,” said NACCHO’s chief executive officer Lori Tremmel Freeman, MBA. “However, lawmakers are not experts in public health policy and financing, and they rely on constituents like local health department leaders to educate them and help craft legislation to keep Americans healthy and safe. A successful advocate develops meaningful relationships with Members of Congress and their staff and becomes a trusted messenger and resource on public health matters.”

### **Advocate of the Year (Individual)**

**Phil Maytubby BS RPS, Director of Public Health Protection, Oklahoma City-County Health Department**

The advocacy work of Phil Maytubby with [the Oklahoma City-County Health Department](#) (OCCHD) has supported efforts that brought the Surgeon General to a hosted symposium at OCCHD and continues to provide the platform for legislative visits, events,

committees, nationwide presentations and policy revisions focused on public health strategy. Mr. Maytubby has taken an active role in leading conversations to advance policy and decision making the state capitol. At the forefront of these dialogs, he led the team that presented health outcome data at a legislative breakfast, utilizing GIS mapping targeted at the district level. Information was distributed to all members of Congress in attendance to provide insight unique to their areas of responsibility, on health status and opportunities to integrate public health promotion. By establishing common data points with elected officials, OCCHD launched innovative programming strategies to address local and nationwide health crises, such as the opioid epidemic and public health resource sustainability, which Mr. Maytubby is greatly engaged in.

“You could not give a more meaningful award to those of us that are tasked with protecting our people from disaster and disease,” said Maytubby. “The most effective actions we can perform are to ensure accurate and effective policy when it comes to protecting our citizens and providing services to those that we serve. The Board of Health and Executive leadership at Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) are always seeking effective change through policy and we actively pursue this goal. NACCHO has been instrumental in advocacy by placing subject matter experts in the position to educate congress on what we do and why we do it and it is highly effective! I greatly appreciate and value this award and consider this to be a team award for OCCHD. Thanks for all of assistance that NACCHO has provided.”

Mr. Maytubby is a pivotal member on the National Association of Counties (NaCo), NACCHO Big Cities Preparedness Group, the PHEP Impact Workgroup, the State Representative for the NACCHO Preparedness Policy Advisory Group, and the NACCHO local representative for the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies.

### **National Advocate of the Year (Local Health Department)**

[Tri-County Health Department](#), Greenwood Village, Colorado. Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) is the local public health department (LHD) serving 1.5 million residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties in the Metro Denver area. TCHD

focuses on policy to improve population health and consistently voices policy concerns to Congress, advocating for evidence-based federal public health policies. TCHD also frequently leads Congressional communications for the Metro Denver Partnership for Health (MDPH), a collaboration joining all six Metro area LHDs.

TCHD's federal advocacy efforts during the 115th Congress have included more than 20 letters to Members of Congress and their staff; publication of an op-ed in 15 community newspapers; five in-person meetings with members of Congress in Colorado and Washington, DC; a tour of a TCHD clinical office for the U.S. Representative whose district spans all three TCHD counties; and social media posts. Replies from Congressional staff indicate TCHD has successfully positioned ourselves as a reliable source of public health information for Colorado's two U.S. Senators (one D, one R) and the four U.S. Representatives (two Rs, two Ds), who represent the "purple" TCHD area.

"Tri-County Health Department is honored to receive this prestigious award from NACCHO. Advocating for public policies to improve health on behalf of the communities we serve is an important role of public health," said Jennifer L. Ludwig, MS, Deputy Director of TCHD. "This award honors the tireless efforts of our team members and partners who daily work to improve health across the lifespan of our residents."

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### **About NACCHO**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit [www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org).