



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact

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NACCHO Announces the 2019-20 Officers and Board of Directors

Washington, DC, July 23, 2019 —The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is proud to announce the 2019-20 election results for [NACCHO Officers and Board of Directors](#). The following public health leaders began their term as NACCHO officers on July 1, 2019:

- **George T. Roberts, Jr., MHA, FACHE**, Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Texas Public Health District in Texas, became President.
- **Jennifer Kertanis, MPH**, Director of Health of the Farmington Valley Health District in Connecticut, became President-Elect.
- **Sandra Elizabeth Ford, MD, MBA**, District Health Director of Dekalb County Health Department in Georgia became Vice President.
- **Kevin G. Sumner, MPH**, Health Officer and Director of the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission in New Jersey became Past President.

An additional three board members were elected to serve on the board's Executive Committee joining the four officers. They are elected by their Board colleagues to this small governing body that helps guide the board over the course of the year. They are:

- **Lisa Harrison, MPH**, Health Director, Granville Vance Public Health in North Carolina.
- **Joe Iser, MD, MPH, MSc**, Chief Health Officer, Southern Nevada Health District.

- **Margaret (Margy) Jahn, MS, MPH**, Health Officer, Freehold Area Health Department in New Jersey.

As the governing body, the Board of Directors establishes NACCHO's strategic direction and initiatives, ensures that annual goals are met, sets the annual legislative agenda, and provides financial oversight. The Board is NACCHO's public face and represents its members in matters of policy, public health practice, and collaboration with health partners in the public and private sectors.

George T. Roberts, Jr., has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Texas Public Health District since November 2006. The Northeast Texas Public Health District is a local Health Department and is a political subdivision under the State of Texas established by the City of Tyler and Smith County. Mr. Roberts has over 35 years of health care experience, the majority of which was spent in hospital administration, having previously served at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Texas, and Henderson Memorial Hospital in Henderson, Texas. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University in Dallas and a Master's Degree in Health Administration from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri.

Jennifer Kertanis is the Director of Health for the Farmington Valley Health District serving a population of approximately 110,000 in ten towns west of Hartford, Connecticut. Ms. Kertanis has 30 years of public health experience serving in multiple capacities in non-profit, state, and local public health agencies. She was appointed Director of the Farmington Valley Health District in September 2012. Prior to joining the Health District, Ms. Kertanis served for ten years as the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH), a SACCHO affiliate of NACCHO. During her tenure at CADH she co-established the Connecticut practice-based research network and was a contributing architect of the Health Equity Index, a tool that measures the relationship between social conditions and health outcomes. Prior to her position at CADH, Jennifer worked for eleven years with the Connecticut Department of Health in environmental epidemiology working with communities to assess the health implications

of hazardous waste sites. During this time, she wrote several peer reviewed health assessments and advanced a number of health outcome studies.

Sandra Elizabeth Ford, MD, MBA is District Health Director of Dekalb County Health Department. Dr. Ford has served as the District Health Director and Chief Executive Officer of the DeKalb County Board of Health since February 2005. She manages a diverse array of public health programs that serve over 730,000 people who live in the county, with is part of the metro Atlanta area.

Under Dr. Ford's leadership, the DeKalb County Board of Health has successfully applied for more than \$15 million in federal funds to address health disparities, including \$5.6 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to promote smoke-free environments, physical fitness and improved nutrition. More recently the agency received a Minority Youth Violence Prevention: Integrating Public Health and Community Policing Approaches grant from DHHS and the U.S. Department of Justice aimed at curbing violence and improving the health and well-being of underserved and distressed communities. The agency also recently received a Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. Ford has been a member of NACCHO since 2006, and have served on the Membership Committee for many years, first as a member and currently as its Chair. In 2017, she was elected as an at-large member of NACCHO's Board of Directors.

Kevin G. Sumner is the Health Officer/Director for the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, a local health agency providing public health services to four municipalities in Somerset County, New Jersey with a population of 35,000. He has been employed by the Commission for over 30 years in varying capacities including environmental health specialist, health educator, and health officer. As President of NACCHO, Mr. Sumner has helped highlight the challenges of smaller health departments and placed a strong emphasis on collaboration with public health partners. In communicating about these initiatives, he has stressed the need to amplify the public health voice by telling stories; emphasizing the art and not just the science of public health. Mr. Sumner is also a Past-President of the New Jersey Health Officers Association and has

been an officer in that Association since 2006. In his capacity as President he created 'PHACE,' the Public Health Associations' Collaborative Effort, a collaborative of the leadership of the state's many public health associations with a focus on creating a single voice and face for public health in NJ, which helped inform his national partnership initiative. He is a 2006 Scholar of the Northeast Regional Public Health Leadership Institute, and recipient of the 2009 Health Officer of the Year Award and a 2016 Certificate of Recognition from New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association, and the 2013 Osborne Award for Meritorious Achievement in Public Health.

The complete list of the NACCHO Board of Directors is noted below.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES (TERM OF SERVICE: JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2021)

- **Damon Chaplin, MBA**, City of New Bedford, MA
HHS Region 1: ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT
- **Margaret (Margy) Jahn, MS, MPH**, Freehold Area Health Department, NJ
HHS Region 2: NY, NJ
- **Michael Kilkenny, MD, MS**, Cabell-Huntingdon Health Department, WV
HHS Region 3: PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, WV
- **Lisa Harrison, MPH**, Granville Vance Public Health, NC
HHS Region 4: NC, SC, KY, TN, GA, AL, MS, FL
- **Gretchen Musicant, RN, MPH**, Minneapolis Health Department, MN
HHS Region 5: OH, IN, MI, IL, WI, MN
- **Raganald (Reggie) Ivey, MHR**, Tulsa City-County Health Department, OK
HHS Region 6: AR, LA, TX, OK, NM
- **Pramod Dwivedi, DrPH (c), MS, MSW, MA, BSc**, Linn County Public Health, IA
HHS Region 7: MO, NE, IA, KS
- **Emily Brown, MPH, CPH**, Rio Grande County Public Health, CO
HHS Region 8: ND, SD, CO, WY, MT, UT
- **Joe Iser, MD, MPH, MSc**, Southern Nevada Health District, NV
HHS Region 9: AZ, NV, CA, HI

- **Andre Fresco, MPA**, Yakima Health District, WA
HHS Region 10: ID, OR, WA, AK

AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVES (TERMS ENDING JUNE 30, 2021)

- **Kanzoni N. Asabigi, PhD, MD, MPH, MBA, CPH**, Senior Public Health Advisor, Detroit Health Department, MI
- **Christopher Dobbins, MPH**, Gaston County Department of Health & Human Services, NC
- **Kim Engel, MBA**, Health Director, Panhandle Public Health District, NE
- **Philip Huang, MD, MPH**, Director/Health Authority, Dallas County Health and Human Services, TX
- **Karen Koenemann, MA, MAT**, Public Health Director, Pitkin County, Aspen, CO

TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVE (TERM OF SERVICE: JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2021)

- **Scott Sjoquist, MS, RS**, Mohegan Tribe, CT

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

- **Blaire Bryant, MPH**, National Association of Counties
- **Dalen Harris**, U.S. Conference of Mayors

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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.