

## Dr. Marty Wasserman Receives 2017 Maurice “Mo” Mullet Lifetime of Service Award



The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recognizes Dr. Marty Wasserman, MD, JD, as the recipient of the 2017 Maurice “Mo” Mullet Lifetime of Service Award. This award honors current and former local health officials for noteworthy service that reflects the commitment, vigor, and leadership exemplified by Mo’s distinguished career. NACCHO is grateful for Dr. Wasserman’s contributions to NACCHO and his service in the field of local public health.

With a career spanning nearly four decades, Dr. Marty Wasserman’s commitment to the field of public health and its development has been unwavering. Throughout his career, Dr. Wasserman has held important leadership positions in service of medically underserved communities.

In 1988, Dr. Wasserman was elected NACCHO President and served a four-year term. During his tenure, membership and funding doubled and the organization created several “named” leadership awards. Dr. Wasserman helped to develop NACCHO’s first National Profile of Local Health Departments study in 1990 through collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He also served as NACCHO Board Treasurer and helped launch NACCHO’s work in environmental health by securing a contract with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Dr. Wasserman worked closely with Dr. Mullet to establish the NACCHO Annual meeting and created resources to better align local health department nomenclature and services. Under his leadership,

NACCHO increased its visibility, which helped the organization effectively represent its members’ work in promoting wellness and preventing disease.

Dr. Wasserman served as County Health Director in Arlington, VA, from 1978 to 1987. As County Health Director, he integrated the work of external AIDS organizations into the health department and implemented programs to help raise awareness about prevention. Dr. Wasserman also established mental health and sex abuse programs within Child Protective Services in Arlington, further proving his dedication to bettering the lives of children.

While his professional interests have mainly focused on the improvement of children’s health, Dr. Wasserman was also instrumental in developing programs for underserved adult populations. During his time as Health Director in Montgomery County, MD, he successfully got the county to cover physicians liability insurance for low-income pregnant women who were uninsured. As Health Director in Prince George’s County,

MD, Dr. Wasserman expanded services to refugees and established a new health center to provide clinical care to underserved African-American communities. In all three counties, Dr. Wasserman implemented tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

After being appointed Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by the governor in 1994, Dr. Wasserman developed the Health Choice Program to initiate the state's Medicaid Managed Care Program, into which he soon incorporated the Maryland State Child Health Insurance Program. During his tenure as Maryland Health Secretary, he developed several quality improvement initiatives related to data collection, analysis, and reporting to advance better health outcomes. For this, he and his team received the Governor's Gold Award for Quality Initiatives.

Dr. Wasserman has been recognized by the Ford Foundation and the Kennedy School of Government for Innovations in State and Local Governments for "Project Deliver: Providing Care to Indigent Women" in

Montgomery County. He has also received the Nathan Davis Award, the American Medical Association's highest award. Because of his vast experience and expertise, Dr. Wasserman has spoken on a variety of medical and mental health issues to audiences through print and broadcast media, state legislators, and the United States Congress. His commitment to public health and the advancement of health equity has led to his involvement in a variety of public health organizations. He served as chairman of the Public Health Foundation for three years and president of the Public Health Law Association for two years. He currently serves on the Council of Advisors for the Partnership for Prevention.

Dr. Wasserman is currently the Medical Director at Provider Resources, Inc., where he has worked on several Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services projects that aim to eliminate early elective deliveries and reduce central line infections in newborns. Dr. Wasserman has also assisted in reviewing future medical and pharmaceutical opportunities through the Horizon Project.



### About the Award

The careers of Mo Mullet awardees demonstrate the following achievements:

- Leadership among local health departments, demonstrated by energetic volunteer service to NACCHO;
- Significant contributions to the field of local public health practice as a thoughtful leader and representative of NACCHO; and
- Commitment, skill, and effort demonstrated on behalf of NACCHO.

Interested in nominating someone? Visit <http://www.naccho.org/membership/awards>.

# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice with local health departments.

1201 Eye St, NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20005

P 202-783-5550 F 202-783-1583

[www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org)

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