

Patrick Lenihan, PhD, Receives 2015 Maurice “Mo” Mullet Lifetime of Service Award



Patrick Lenihan, PhD

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is pleased to recognize **Patrick Lenihan, PhD**, as the recipient of the 2015 Maurice “Mo” Mullet Lifetime of Service Award. This award honors current or former local health officials for noteworthy service to NACCHO that has reflected the commitment, vigor, and leadership exemplified by Mo’s distinguished career.

A Public Health Pioneer

Patrick Lenihan’s career in local public health has spanned more than 25 years. Lenihan was one of the longest-serving deputy health commissioners in the history of the Chicago Department of Public Health, where he led the policy, strategy, planning, and information systems functions of the nation’s third-largest local health department from 1985 to 2005. During that time, Lenihan pioneered the use of planning as a strategic tool of local public health practice, which positioned the department as a national leader in tackling emerging public health issues.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention touted the Chicago AIDS Strategic Plan, developed under Lenihan’s leadership, as a model for how local health departments could play a leadership role in addressing HIV not only as an infectious disease but also as a major public health challenge of social, economic, and political dimensions.

Regional Collaboration

While at the Chicago Department of Public Health, Lenihan founded one of the first regional public health organizations, the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium (NIPHC). NIPHC members represented nearly all health departments serving the larger Chicago metropolitan area. NIPHC established a robust presence for local public health in Illinois and demonstrated regional collaboration among local health departments in epidemiology, informatics, and emergency preparedness. In addition, NIPHC effectively garnered legislative support and funding for local public health initiatives statewide.

After leaving the Chicago Department of Public Health, Lenihan became NIPHC’s first executive director in 2005. In this role, he formalized the regional effort to establish joint local public health emergency preparedness capacity, which NACCHO recognized as the first Project Public Health Ready regional site.

Service to NACCHO

Lenihan’s involvement with NACCHO has influenced public health professionals nationwide. His leadership and service included the following:

- NACCHO President;
- Member, Board of Directors;
- Chairperson, Metro Forum;
- Founding Member, Public Health Informatics Workgroup;
- Member, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Workgroup;
- Member, Awards Committee; and
- Faculty Member, Survive and Thrive.

As NACCHO president, Lenihan managed NACCHO’s response to bioterrorism and the selection process of a new executive director. In addition, he advanced local public health practice by directing the first evaluation of MAPP through the University of Illinois at Chicago and directed the first regional designation for Project Public Health Ready for NIPHC. Lenihan also directed the production of three editions of the Big Cities Health Inventory, a compendium of health statistics published by NACCHO.

Innovation in Public Health

In 2006, Lenihan became executive director of the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (PHIMC), which helps local health departments reach beyond the constraints imposed on public entities in hiring, fundraising, and engaging in strategic innovation. The Chicago Department of Public Health, Cook County Department of Public Health, and other organizations in the Chicago-area public health system have used PHIMC to test innovative approaches to public health service delivery and attract funding streams. Lenihan has advised several NACCHO members on establishing similar entities for their jurisdictions.

Academia and Public Health

Lenihan remains highly active in local public health while currently on faculty at the University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health, where he directs the Doctor of Public Health Leadership Program. He

Congratulations to Patrick Lenihan, Recipient of the 2015 Mo Mullet Award

recruits up-and-coming local public health leaders to enroll in the program and uses NACCHO materials in the curriculum as a demonstration of the evidence that public health practice can produce. In addition, the National Network of Public Health Institutes appointed him a representative to the Council on Linkages between Academia and Public Health Practice. In this capacity, he has reached out to former public health officials who are now faculty at schools of public health to play a more active role.



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.

Know someone you would like to nominate?

Visit <http://naccho.org/membership/mo-mullet-award.cfm> to learn more.

NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health



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.

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