

## Purpose of this presentation is to inform and discuss Critical Public Health Issues Impacting Our Counties

**Facilitator: Jim Bruckner, MSHS, Health Director Macon County**

**We will be presenting on four topics, about 10 minutes each followed by an open panel discussion. We ask that you hold questions until then...**

### **Critical Issues Impacting Local Public Health**

- **Need for General Assembly to Restore Maternal & Children's Health and Women's Health Program Funds to Include Federal Block Grant Funds:** Reductions impacting Local Public Health Departments made by the General Assembly in SFY17/18 totaled over \$7 million. Speaker: MCH Block Grant Funding - Jim Bruckner, MSHS, Health Director Macon County
- **Need for General Assembly to Invest in the Local Health Departments Capacity to Address Rapidly Emerging Infectious Disease:** Preventive measures which many times must be implemented without delay. NCALHD requested \$7.5 million in SFY18. Speaker: Communicable Disease Funding. - Dr. Sue Lynn Ledford, RN, BSN, MPA, DrPH - Health Director Wake County
- **The Impact of Medicaid Transformation on the LHD's ability to continue a century-long history of providing health services to North Carolinians.** Medicaid Reform. Speaker: Lisa Harrison, MPH - Health Director Granville-Vance Health District
- **Opioid Use in North Carolina.** Speaker: David Jenkins, MPA - Health Director Carteret County

### **Funding of Local Public Health Services for Programs and Services Considered Mandated and/or Essential to the Public's Health Under NCGS 130A - 1.1 and 10A NCAC 46 .0201**

#### **Funding Perspective:**

- **A Funding Crisis for Public Health 2017.** Core federally funding for disease prevention and health promotion programs has declined by around \$580 million and has remained flat in states since 2010. Annual reviews of state and local health department budgets demonstrate that cuts to federal funds have not been offset by increases to state and local funding. Currently NC receives \$18.81 per capita from federal sources for Public Health Activities.<sup>1</sup>
- **NC currently spends an average \$14.30 per person in state funds on public health programs, compared to the national median of \$35.77 per person.**<sup>2</sup>
- **NC currently ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation regarding state funding of public health programs and 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation regarding overall health outcomes.**<sup>3, 4</sup> National study reports show the Return on Investment for public health evidence-based community-based disease prevention activities is \$5.60 for every \$1 invested.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Trust for America's Health. A Funding Crisis for Public Health and Safety: State-by-State Public Health Funding and Key Health Facts, 2017, Available at <http://healthyamericans.org/report/136/>

<sup>2</sup> Trust for America's Health. Investing in America's Health: A State-by-State Look at Public Health Funding and Key Health Facts. Available at <http://healthyamericans.org/report/126/>

<sup>3</sup> Trust for America's Health. Investing in America's Health: A State-by-State Look at Public Health Funding and Key Health Facts. Available at <http://healthyamericans.org/report/126/>

<sup>4</sup> Americas Health Rankings. Available at <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/NC>

<sup>5</sup> Levi, J. et al, Prevention for a Healthier America: Investments in Disease Prevention Yield Significant Savings, Stronger Communities, Trust for America's Health, Feb. 2009. Available online at: <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/prevention08/Prevention08.pdf>

- **Of the DHHS SFY 17 budget (+/- \$20 billion), the appropriation for NC Division of Public Health (NC DPH) is less than 5% (\$902,336,436); and**
  - **Of the NC DPH budget (\$902,336,436), the state appropriation is less than 1% (\$168,447,352); and**
  - **Of the NC DPH state appropriation (\$168,447,352), Local Health Departments receive 17% (\$28,636,050) or less than a quarter of one percent (0.14%) of total DHHS Budget.**
  
- **Local Health Departments are the Safety Net also known as the Provider of Last Resort with no designated safety net funding:** We are by statute in all 100 NC counties. LHD's provided services to more than 500,000 NC residents last year. Of those served by Local Health Departments approximately 76 percent or 383,778 were un/underinsured (185,115 uninsured and 198,663 Medicaid) and received 2.8 million services. Something to keep in mind is LHD's make up less than 1% of total Medicaid dollars expended in the state. **NOTE: We appreciate our County Commissioners for their support of LHD's.**