

The Florida Public Health Advocate

A publication of the Florida Public Health Association

From the President's Desk...



At the end of March I attended the Tampa Regional Conference on Health Equity. This was organized by FPHA and Tampa Bay Healthcare Collaborative and was hosted by the University of South Florida, College of Public Health. It is beyond pleasing to

see such partnership. But there is more.

One statement I heard and can't get out of my head is this, "Your zip code is a better predictor of your health than your genetic code." I believe it was originally suggested by James S. Marks from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation who blogged about this on the Huffington Post back in 2009. For those of us in public health, we know intuitively what it means. Where you live matters.

Health equity and health disparities begin with the community. And being such a complex issue requires many public health professionals working together to try to understand and overcome the barriers. It is why being a member of FPHA is so important for public health because it brings like-minded people together.

The afternoon conference session had a break out for groups to discuss how they could work together to resolve health equity problems they are encountering in their communities and are facing every day. It truly exemplified the theme of "Joining Forces to Achieve Health Equity". Where else can you meet so many people in the same field as you which you would otherwise miss? FPHA is our association and it is what brings us together.

FPHA President

Dr. Rick France



April 2017

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Jessica Weismann's FIU
award

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Public Health Stories

Public Health Stories is a section where members are given the opportunity to share personal experiences and benefits of FPHA membership. This month features Linda Lacombe-Williams BSN, MPH. Linda is Chair of the FPHA Public Health Nurses Section and Jessica Weissman, MS, RD, LDN, PhD Candidate, Department of Health Promotion & Disease Prevention, Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work, Florida International University. Jessica is FPHA Secretary 2015-2017

Linda stated that “FPHA is a wonderful organization for collaboration, networking, meeting new friends, and scholarship opportunities. For me, FPHA has also offered me opportunities for networking with many nurses from all over Florida. It helps keep me current on nursing activities and learning opportunities in Florida. The “brown bag lunches” have provided great learning experiences and a chance to connect with friends from other disciplines.”

Jessica stated “I have been a student member of FPHA since summer 2015. Since the very first contact made with FPHA, I have been welcomed with open arms. Accordingly, I have been serving as the Secretary on the Board of Directors and have been serving in this position for about a year and a half. I have made many new lifelong friends and collegial connections. I have even been presented with job opportunities at the Annual Educational Conference. However, what I get most out of FPHA is being able to do what I love: public health. For example, in April 2016, I took the lead as Chairperson for the South Florida Regional FPHA Conference. This endeavor allowed me to plan a full-day conference with outstanding oral presenters and poster presenters including Florida’s Surgeon General, Dr. Celeste Phillip. Planning the conference gave me leadership experience and skills I will need when I re-enter the job market after finishing my PhD in public health. I know these skills will be useful, valuable, and marketable. I have since taken on many other responsibilities and leadership positions with FPHA and each one has provided me with valuable experiences. Finally, I was rewarded for my dedication the FPHA at the 2016 Annual Educational Conference with a Graduate Student Scholarship and the Presidential Award. I appreciate this honor and look forward to continuing my work with this outstanding Association. I am no doubt a lifelong FPHA member.”

If you would like to share your *Public Health Story*, please email Ethel Edwards, Chair: Membership Committee at woly9848@gmail.com

FLORIDA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2017 PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Students seeking a **Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree in Public Health or a Master's or Doctoral Degree in the field of Public Health** may apply for an FPHA Scholarship which includes \$350 award to be presented at the 2017 FPHA Annual Conference, free Registration to attend the 2017 FPHA Annual Education Conference, and a one year student membership beginning in July 2017. Active or student members of FPHA are eligible. Awardees will commit to serving on, and being active in an Interest Group; and remaining in Florida for at least one year to contribute to Florida's Public Health System following graduation.

Applications must include:

- Narrative (1-2 pages) that explains professional goals and reasons for seeking Master's or Doctoral degree;
- Curriculum vitae;
- Two original letters of recommendation for this scholarship from 2 non-family (preferably faculty members) references;

Copy of current transcript showing Grade Point Average.

Undergraduate Students working on degrees in health-related or public health programs may apply for an FPHA Scholarship which includes a \$150 award to be presented at the 2017 FPHA Annual Conference, free Registration to attend the 2017 FPHA Annual Education Conference, and a one year student membership beginning in July 2017. The student does not need to be a member, but must be nominated by an Active FPHA member. Awardees will commit to actively serve on the Student Interest Group.

Applications must include:

- Narrative (1-2 pages) that explains professional goals and reasons for interest in health or public health;
- Curriculum vitae;
- Two original letters of recommendation for this scholarship from 2 non-family (preferably faculty members) references.

Copy of current transcript showing Grade Point Average.

Individuals may send applications **postmarked/mailed** no later than **June 23, 2017** to:

**Florida Public Health Association
14646 NW 151st Blvd.
Alachua, FL 32615**

**Phone (386) 462-1551
Fax (386) 462-1601**

email address: fpha@srahec.org

For more information about the Florida Public Health Association membership visit: www.fpha.org

FLORIDA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION 2017 AWARDS

Nominations for **FPHA Awards** must be postmarked/mailed by June 23, 2017. Any FPHA member* may submit a nomination for an Association Award. Awards may not be given in each category every year. Send award nominations to:

Florida Public Health Association

14646 NW 151st Blvd.

Alachua, FL 32615

Phone (386) 462-1551

Fax (386) 462-1601

email: fpha@srahec.org



ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Meritorious Service Award – One award annually to an FPHA member who has a record of outstanding contributions to FPHA in the field of public health for several years. Nomination from FPHA member by letter with justification and detailed narrative of achievements.

Homer D. Venters Award – One award annually to a public laboratory worker and FPHA member with less than 10 years experience in the field. Nomination from FPHA member by letter with biosketch, including education and work experience.

Hall of Memory – One award annually to a public health or allied health worker (deceased at least 2 years) who made a significant contribution to public health. Nomination from FPHA member by letter; short reading of eulogy with family invited to attend.

Outstanding Reporter – One award annually to a Florida newspaper reporter who went beyond the call of duty to report public health concerns that furthered health promotion or disease prevention. Nomination from FPHA member by letter with documentation including article(s), date, time, story or series and detailed justification.

Outstanding News Publication – One award annually to a Florida television station or reporter who showed leadership and excellence when covering major health events or publicizing an aspect of public health in the news. Nomination from FPHA member by letter identifying publication, publisher, editor, and detailed justification.

FLORIDA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2017 AWARDS

Legislative Award - Two awards annually to members of the Florida or U.S. Senate or House for outstanding leadership advocating, supporting, or enacting legislation, thereby promoting public health policies and programs. Nomination from FPHA member by letter detailing nominee's history and accomplishments, specific legislation or legislative activity, benefits, etc.

Robert D. May, M.D. Award - One award annually to a public health worker and FPHA member who has demonstrated significant accomplishments advancing public health at local or state levels. Nomination from FPHA member by letter with nominee's information including professional status, experience and the special accomplishment that justifies nomination. This award is a good opportunity to recognize "best practices" in local efforts.

J.Y. Porter, M.D. Award - One award given annually to a health educator and FPHA member to recognize outstanding contribution to health promotion profession or activities. Nomination by FPHA member by letter outlining justification for award.

Richard Hosking Award for Distinguished Service in Domestic Violence Prevention - One award annually to a public health worker and FPHA member who has demonstrated significant accomplishments in prevention of domestic violence and family preservation at local or state levels. Nomination by letter from FPHA member outlining accomplishments and justification.

***Membership information may be viewed on the FPHA website at www.fpha.org.**

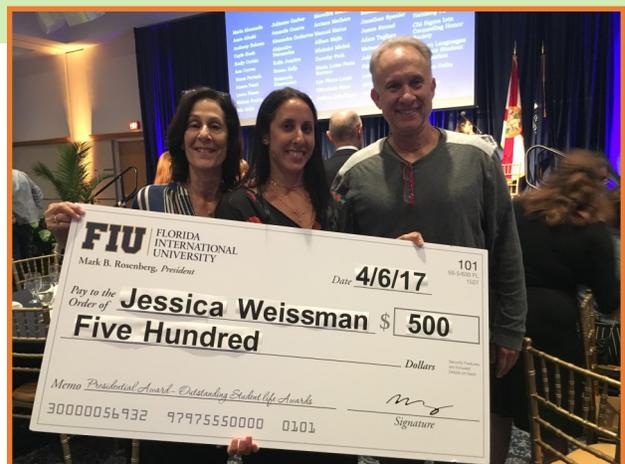
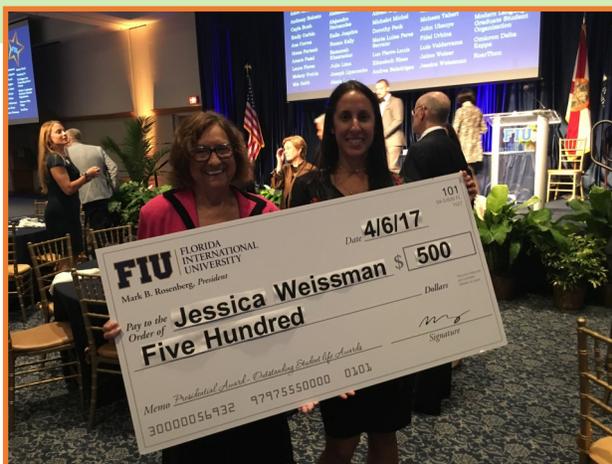
Joining Forces to Achieve Health Equity

On Friday March 31st 2017, the Florida Public Health Association and the Tampa Bay Healthcare Collaborative “joined forces” to host a regional conference held at the University of South Florida’s College of Public Health. The conference titled “Joining Forces to Achieve Health Equity,” opened with Dean Donna Peterson providing a key-note address igniting a fire within attendees to tackle the issues around health equity. Following the Dr. Peterson’s presentation, attendees were given the choice of three different breakout sessions to attend. Dr. Daniel Plasencia discussed health equity through the lens of children with special healthcare needs and their challenges accessing quality healthcare. Dr. Plasencia and the St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital chronic Complex Clinic are pioneering a medical home model for their special patients. Candice Simon and Cynthia Tomlin addressed infant mortality disparities and how they are being addressed locally. Dante Ross, Lynnette Swain from the Pinellas county health department and Kamaria Laffrey an HIV/AIDS activist brought attention to the complexity of HIV/AIDS health inequities in the local community.

Following lunch, Jocelyn Howard from the Pinellas County Health Department demonstrated how the department uses their Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and a Health in all Policies approach to address health disparities. The 2017 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps were released Wednesday prior to the conference providing Allison Rapp and Carrie Hepburn an opportunity to showcase the resource.

One of the priorities of the conference was to bring the region together with actionable items to address health equity. Donna Elam of Elam Leadership Institute facilitated a discussion leading attendees to identify action items leveraging existing efforts and collaborating across communities to address health equity. The real work begins after the conference as the over seventy attendees were sent notes to follow-up on and take action.

Congratulations to Jessica Weissman For receiving FIU’s Presidential Award



FPHA Legislative Update

April 9, 2017

Christopher L. Nuland, Esq.

Happy Passover and Easter.

The 2017 Legislative Session has passed its midpoint, and with very little activity planned this coming week due to the Passover and Easter holidays, only three full weeks of full legislative activity remain.

That being said, this past week was an eventful one for Public Health, and the DOH Legislative Package (HB 1041 and SB 1144) passed both the House Health and Human Services Committee and the Senate Health Policy committees. As a result, the House version is on the House Floor, while the Senate version still has two committees remaining. Also adopted this week was a resolution promoting Spinal Injury Awareness.

While the coming week will be a light one, one major issue will be the Senate Appropriations Bill (SB 2500), which currently includes \$220 million for raises for state employees. This is a major difference with the House approach, which currently only calls for a one-time bonus.

As mentioned above, this likely will be a light week, so there will be no Legislative Committee call on April 14, and the next legislative update will be on April 21 at 11:00 am EST. If you would like to join the call, please use the following information:

FPHA Friday Legislative Call

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/830782429>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (571) 317-3122

Access Code: 830-782-429

First GoToMeeting? Try a test session: <http://help.citrix.com/getready>

FIU Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FPFA Florida Public Health Association

GILEAD

Florida HEALTH
Miami-Dade County

HOT TOPICS

in Florida Public Health

featuring

PrEP for Community and Providers
Alex Barros

Miami Idea Exchange: FL's first Needle Exchange
Emy Martinez

Friday, April 21st
12:30-1:30pm

Academic Health Center 3 Room 214
FIU Modesto Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th St
Miami, FL 33199

RSVP at <http://go.fiu.edu/hottopics>

*Lunch Provided by **GILEAD**

Please visit fpha.org for ways to get involved