

2024  
ANNUAL REPORT



# KENTUCKY PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION



Prepared by the KPHA  
Communications Committee

**"To promote healthy communities through advocacy, education, and leadership."**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members and Partners of the Kentucky Public Health Association,

As we step into a momentous year, celebrating the 76th anniversary of KPHA, I am profoundly honored to serve as your first Black female president. This milestone is not just a reflection of personal achievement but underscores our collective commitment to addressing the profound challenges that racial inequities continue to pose to public health.

Our journey over the past years, especially amidst the declaration of racism as a public health crisis, has steered us towards intentional conversations and actions. It is essential to recognize that racial disparities in health are the result of individual or isolated phenomena deeply embedded in the structural and systemic fabric of our society over generations.

In 2024-2025, my focus will be on amplifying our efforts toward racial equity as a cornerstone of public health. This approach is multi-pronged, recognizing that solutions must address the various dimensions of systemic racism via myriad formulae:

**Data-Driven Policies:** We will prioritize collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data to better understand and address the disparities affecting our communities illustrated in the Kentucky Department for Public Health's Health Equity Dashboard. This will inform our strategies and interventions, ensuring they are effective and equitable for vulnerable, disenfranchised, communities across the Commonwealth.

**Community Engagement:** Strengthening partnerships with community organizations that work directly with populations affected by health inequities will enhance our outreach and impact. These collaborations are vital in crafting culturally sensitive and impactful health initiatives.

**Educational Empowerment:** We will continue to invest in the education and training of current and future public health leaders, focusing on the importance of racial equity in all aspects of public health education and practice.

**Legislative Advocacy:** Advocating for and supporting policies that promote health equity and dismantle systemic barriers to healthcare access and quality is crucial. We will engage more actively with policymakers to promote laws and regulations that advance racial equity.

As we build on the strong foundation laid by our predecessors, our values of inclusion, integrity, excellence, and collaboration will guide us. We will uphold these ideals and actionable commitments in every decision and initiative.

Together, we can forge a path toward a healthier, more equitable Kentucky. I urge each of you to join us in this vital mission, whether through volunteering, partnership or simply advocating within your own circles. Change starts with us, and together, we are unstoppable.

Looking forward to what we will achieve together,

Dr. Danielle King  
President, Kentucky Public Health Association

# 2024-2025 KPHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Executive Committee



**Danielle King, LP.D, MPH**  
President



**Joshua Horton,  
BS, MS, MBA**  
President-Elect



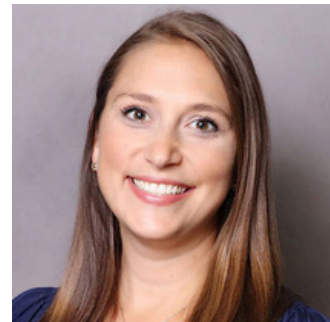
**Meagan Hurst, MPH**  
Immediate Past President



**Lisa Pollock, BSA, BBA**  
Treasurer



**Jessica Austin, MPH**  
Secretary



**Emily Childers**  
Executive Director

Executive committee members are elected by organization membership and serve varying terms of office. The executive committee is responsible for ensuring that all organization business is conducted in compliance to the Bylaws and Articles of Corporation, as well as required activities as sanctioned by the American Public Health Association. The executive committee works to uphold the ideals of the organization and continue providing opportunities for membership through advocacy, education, and leadership.

# 2024-2025 KPHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Directors at Large



**Tyler Caldwell, MPH**



**Laura Foley, CAP**



**Jim House, MEP**



**Laurie Larkin, PhD**



**Stephanie Lokits,  
DNP, APRN, FNP-BC**



**Allison Napier,  
RN, MBA**



**Elizabeth Poynter,  
MPH**



**Sara Robeson, MPH**



**Paul Royce, B.Acc**



**April Thomas, MPH**



**Jon Vorbeck, MPH**



**Andy Waters,  
RS, MPH**

Directors at Large are elected by membership of the Kentucky Public Health and are responsible for the oversight of all official business of the association. Directors at Large serve a term of four (4) years and must participate on at least one KPHA committee. Directors at large represent the voice of KPHA membership on the Board of Directors and serve the organization by engaging the mission, vision, and values of the Kentucky Public Health Association.

# 2024-2025 KPHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Committee Chairs



**Laura Foley, CAP**  
Advocacy Committee



**Brandi Gilley, MPH, RDN, LD**  
Communications Committee



**Meagan Hurst, MPH**  
Elections Committee  
Governance Committee



**Lisa Pollock, BSA, BBA**  
Finance Committee



**Becki Casey**  
**Brittany Parker, MPH**  
Conference Committee  
(Brittany Parker also serves as Co-Chair  
of the Finance Committee)



**Jennifer Gulley, MPH**  
Scholarships and Awards  
Committee



**Janie Cambron, RS, MPH**  
**Tammi Thomas, PhD, MSSW**  
Student Engagement  
Committee



**James House, MEP**  
**Jon Vorbeck, MPH**  
Workforce Development  
Committee



Committee Chairs shall serve on the Board of Directors and report on the activities of the committee at each meeting of the Board and at the Annual Meeting, in person or by written report. Committee Chairs are appointed by the President and serve a term that shall coincide with the term of the appointing President.

# Committee Members

We would like to thank the following individuals for their contribution to organizational growth on our individual committees. Committee membership is voluntary and open to all membership.

For more information on how to join a KPHA Committee, visit [www.kpha-ky.org](http://www.kpha-ky.org).

Advocacy	Awards	Communications	Conference
Meagan Hurst Danielle King Julie McKee Monica Mundy Brittany Parker Jesse Parker Lisa Pollock	Carissa Adams Jessica Austin Carrie Conia Kelly Giesbrecht Meagan Hurst Crystal Miller Lisa Pollock	Tyler Caldwell Meagan Hurst Brandon Link Lisa Pollock Brittany Parker Elizabeth Poynter Kendra Steele	Carissa Adams Daniel Bell Janie Cambron Carrie Conia Kelly Giesbrecht Brandi Gilley Jennifer Gulley Meagan Hurst Laurie Larkin Lisa Pollock Sara Robeson April Thomas Madison Yerges
Finance	Governance	Student Engagement	Workforce Development
Lisa Cornett Brittany Parker Ron Cimala Chris Crum Kim Flora Laurie Heddleson Meagan Hurst Joshua Horton Paul Royce Andrew Waters	Julie Brooks Meagan Hurst Lisa Pollock Danielle King	Nicole Barber Michelyn Bhandari Lindsey Brewer Tyler Caldwell Linda Dillman Xiuhua Ding Kelly Giesbrecht Elizabeth Gordon Anna Hallahan Meagan Hurst Danielle King Grace Lartey Lisa Pollock Sara Robeson Miranda Sanford-Terry Laurel Schwartz Madison Yerges	Deena Bell Deniece Bell Lyndsey Blair Julie Brooks Janie Cambron Ashley Carroll Carrie Conia Drew Dingeldein Rudrani Ghosh Brandi Gilley Stephanie Goff Jennifer Gulley Anne Hatton Meagan Hurst Tom Kollmer Karen Lencki Brittany Parker Lisa Pollock Marcy Rein Laurel Schwartz Madeline Tomlinson Sharon Trivette

# LEARN ABOUT KPHA COMMITTEES

## **ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**

The Advocacy Committee shall recommend policy and advocacy priorities to the Board of Directors, and work to advance the priorities selected by the Board of Directors. The President shall appoint the Chair(s) and other members of the Advocacy Committee, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors. The Immediate Past President and President-Elect may serve as members of the Advocacy Committee.

Laura Foley serves as the chair of the Advocacy Committee.

## **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Communications Committee shall be responsible for managing internal and external communication of the Association, including social media campaigns to promote public health, establishing a branding policy for the Association, and compiling the mid-year and an annual report of Association activities. The President shall appoint the Chair(s) and other members of the Communications Committee, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors

Brandi Gilley serves as the chair of the Communications Committee.

## **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

The Elections Committee shall consist of five (5) members of the Association whose duties shall be to identify persons qualified for and interested in serving as officers of the Association. The President shall appoint the Chair(s) and other members of the Elections Committee, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

Meagan Hurst serves as the chair of the elections committee.

## **AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Awards and Scholarship Committee shall be responsible for soliciting nominations for the annual awards of the Association, shall review the nominations and determine the awardee. The awards shall be presented at the annual conference. The Awards and Scholarship Committee shall be responsible for advertising available scholarship opportunities, accept applications for scholarships, and award scholarships based on available funding. The President shall appoint the Chair(s) and other members of the Awards and Scholarship Committee, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

Jennifer Gulley serves as the chair of the Awards and Scholarship Committee.

## **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

The Conference Committee shall plan, promote, and execute the conferences and annual meeting of the Association. The President shall appoint the Chair(s) and other members of the Conference Committee, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

Brittany Parker and Becki Casey serve as co-chairs of the conference committee.



# LEARN ABOUT OUR COMMITTEES

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee shall be responsible for developing the annual operating budget of the Association, tracking all revenues and expenditures of the Association, identifying additional streams of revenue for the Association, and reviewing the membership fee structure. The Treasurer shall serve as the Chair of this committee. The President shall appoint the other members of the Finance Committee, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

Lisa Pollock and Brittany Parker serve as co-chairs of the Finance Committee.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Workforce Development Committee shall be responsible for increasing workforce development opportunities for public health professionals statewide, including identifying and developing opportunities for the Association to host and sponsor trainings. The President shall appoint the Chair(s) and other members of the Workforce Development Committee, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

James House and Jon Vorbeck serve as the co-chairs of the Workforce Development Committee.

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors with amendments to the bylaws, modifications to the policies and procedures of the Association, onboarding new officers and board members, and modifying the strategic plan. The President shall appoint the Chair(s) and other members of the Governance Committee, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

Meagan Hurst serves as the chair of the Governance Committee.

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Student Engagement Committee shall be responsible for promoting the interest and involvement of higher education students in Kentucky with a concern for public health. The President shall appoint the Chair(s) and other members of the Student Engagement Committee, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

Janie Cambron and Tammi Thomas serve as co-chairs of the Student Engagement Committee





# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

## 2025 Focal Areas

### Reimagining the student experience at KPHA annual conference

- Increase in student presence
- Sponsorship for Students to attend
- Proposal to bring back KPHA Student Ambassadors
- Increase the number of student interns/practicum that present their work via KPHA poster session
- Highlight academia and state/local partnership working for public health workforce initiatives
- Showcase more student work/spotlight during the conference
- Incorporate KPHA Student Preconference into actual conference for better engagement, networking, and exposure for students to practitioners, research and practice, and potential future employers

### Communication plan for student engagement at schools and programs with public health content

- Updates to website planned to include information on the chapters across the state, resources, etc.
- Toolkit planned in collaboration with KPHA Communication Committee for committee members and board members to be ambassadors for KPHA and help with student outreach



Students are vital to the success of KPHA! Students engage in oral and poster presentations, networking with professional partners and learn more about careers in public health!

# HELP ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN KENTUCKY



I don't think I've ever met a person who didn't have some vision of the future they would like to see come to pass. Perhaps something personal, like being able to pay their bills and not be hungry. Or perhaps something grand, like dreaming of a future with no disease and no war. The great thing about being individuals is that we all can have valid visions of the possible future for ourselves as individuals and for our communities and even for the entire world. The question then becomes, how? How can I help create the future I would like to see?

This is where advocacy comes into play. Our individual impact can only be multiplied with the assent of others—the more who share our vision, the more impact the advocacy will have. Those who disagree with us can advocate other paths, diminishing the possibilities for our own vision.

Advocacy can be used for great good or great evil. History is replete with stories of leaders who carved a path forward for their people and led them to safety and success. History also contains, tragically, examples of leaders who advocated for absolute evil and violence. They found followers, as well.

The one who advocates best often wins.

Public health advocacy must remain laser-focused on promoting the improvement of population health and it must do so in a way that nearly everyone can support—if we are to succeed.

The KPHA Advocacy Committee is an ideal place for all interested in promoting best practices and building legislative and other public support for public health.

Because each of us have a unique perspective and unique experiences, all willing voices are needed at the advocacy table. We invite you to join us.

Laura Foley, KPHA Advocacy Committee Co-Chair

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Kentucky Department for Public Health's (KDPH) Center for Foundational Health (C4FH) and the Education and Workforce Development Branch (EWD) partnered with the Kentucky Public Health Association's (KPHA) Workforce Development Committee to sponsor the Workforce Development (WFD) Exhibitor Booth at the 2024 Annual KPHA Conference in Louisville, KY, from March 6-8, 2024. The goal was to heighten awareness of career-enhancing prospects and highlight the collaborative efforts in recruiting, training, and sustaining a competent and diverse response-ready public health workforce for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. During the conference, participants had the opportunity to meet with key representatives from KDPH, KPHA, Eastern Kentucky University (EKU), University of Kentucky (UK), and University of Louisville (UofL). Staff manning the WFD Exhibitor Booth provided information to participants on public health career opportunities, upcoming leadership trainings, and workforce development initiatives happening across Kentucky.

Participants also had the opportunity to complete a survey titled, "KPHA Workforce Development Exhibitor Booth Survey" and become eligible to win a \$500.00 scholarship incentive through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Public Health Scholarship Program and/or an "I Love Public Health" mug. As a result of completing the survey, one person won the scholarship incentive and three persons won a "I Love Public Health" mug.

Based upon the thirty-five persons who completed the survey, 100% of them reporting that visiting the WFD Booth increased their awareness of existing WFD opportunities and that the KPHA Conference was beneficial to their public health career!



# STUDENT PRECONFERENCE 2024

The Second Annual KPHA Student Engagement Preconference was held on March 5, 2024. This event was hosted by the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH), in partnership with the Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA) Student Engagement Committee, the University of Kentucky College of Public Health (UKCPH) and the University of Louisville (UofL). This one-day preconference provided students an opportunity to learn more about public health careers, engage with fellow public health students and staff and begin building a professional network. KDPH led the student groups through an outbreak scenario that showcased different parts of the public health system and how integral each part was to the comprehensive response. Students were split up and grouped with other schools, which also contributed to networking.

## Snapshot

- 47 students attended
- Schools represented include:
  - University of Louisville
  - University of Kentucky
  - Kentucky State University
  - Simmons College
  - Murray State University
  - Bellarmine University

Students expressed gratitude for the opportunity to network with not only practitioners, but also those from other schools. Students also said they loved learning about careers within the public health system through the outbreak demonstration.



*KPHA President, Megan Hurst talking to UK College of Public Health Student about job opportunities.*



*KDPH Harm Reduction Team educating students on Naloxone.*



*KDPH Public Health Preparedness Team demonstrating emergency response efforts and speaking about patient tracking during disasters.*

# KPHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## "PUBLIC HEALTH FOR ALL"

**The 2024 KPHA Annual Conference was held in Louisville, Kentucky on March 6-8.**

Health equity should be at the forefront of our public health practice. To continue our work in addressing health inequities, KPHA welcomed keynote speakers Paster Edward Palmer, Sr. and Stever Haffner to engage with membership on effective communication and implicit bias. For more information on our keynote speakers, visit [www.kpha-ky.gov](http://www.kpha-ky.gov).



**Pastor Edward L. Palmer, Sr.**

**Part 1: The Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, and Social Determinants**

**Part 2: Avoiding Cultural Collisions**

Pastor Edward L. Palmer Sr. is the visionary, senior pastor, and co-pastor with his wife Elizabeth (Angie) Palmer for The Sign of The Dove Church International located in Radcliff, Kentucky. He is a Certified Diversity Trainer and works to eliminate disproportionate minority contact within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Pastor Palmer is also a Disabled U.S. Army Veteran.

He has shared his passion for racial equality from Washington State to Washington D.C., to Princeton University, and many other locations across the nation. His implicit bias training was involved in a process of evaluation with John Hopkins University and proven to be effective.

**Steve Haffner**  
**From A-ha to TA-DA!**

Steve Haffner is a mind performance strategist, helping professionals elevate their performance in decision making, problem solving and goal achievement. After a successful 30-year corporate career as an I.T. professional, business analyst and executive, Steve launched his own business in 2011 as a magician, mentalist, and speaker. Combining his personal experience with insights from the fields of psychology, behavioral science, and magic, Steve reveals how to break through our own hidden illusions – the subconscious shortcuts, distortions and cognitive biases that can sabotage clear and effective thinking.



# 2024 SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

## Scholarships

### **Ellen M. Buchart Scholarship: Linde Eaton**

The Ellen M. Buchart Scholarship was named in memory and honor of Ellen Buchart who served Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA) in many capacities, including as a past President. This scholarship will be administered by KPHA in the amount of \$2,000 and is payable at the rate of \$1,000 per semester paid directly to the student's school to provide general academic assistance for one year.

### **Kentucky Public Health Workforce Development Scholarship: Kasey Burkhead**

The Public Health Workforce Development Scholarship will be administered by KPHA in the amount of \$2,000 and is payable at the rate of \$1,000 per semester paid directly to the student's school to provide general academic assistance for one year.

## Awards

### **Administrative Support Staff Award: America Wayne**

To honor someone who has made outstanding contributions in the field of administrative support for public health.

### **Helen B. Fraser Maternal and Child Health Award: Starlene Stucker, RN**

To honor an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the health and well-being of mothers and children in Kentucky. Dr. Fraser was state MCH director from 1956 until her death in 1965.

### **KPHA Group Award: Kentucky Department for Public Health Center for Foundational Health**

To honor a designated group or organization that has collectively contributed to public health program development, toward enhancement of public health in the Commonwealth.

### **Outstanding Epidemiologist of the Year: Carrell Rush, MPH**

To honor someone who is considered to have ongoing excellence in epidemiologic practice demonstrated by consensus of peers, leadership, or other colleagues AND either or both of the following impacts:

1. Significant impact in an area of expertise or on epidemiology practice across the state (improvement to epi practices in Kentucky, increasing the epi capacity to respond to public health issues, events or crisis, coordination of a significant or large-scale epi response, contributions to overall epi operations or processes in KY)
2. Significant impact on the health of the population of Kentucky (imputed or quantifiable reductions in morbidity or mortality for a particular outcome based epi practice, imputed or quantifiable improvements in health or health practices due to epi practices, significant epi contributions to apply practices that will have a long-term impact on the health of Kentuckians).

### **Outstanding Public Health Nurse Award: Keila Mendez Galindo, RN, BSN**

To honor an outstanding nurse in our Commonwealth.

### **Paul Mason Memorial Award: Sidney Bisschop, MSW, CSW**

To honor a Kentuckian who has made a significant contribution to benefit our most vulnerable population – the indigent and uninsured.

# 2024 Scholarships and Awards

## **Russell E. Teague Meritorious Award: Dia Obonyo, DrPH**

To honor and recognize exceptional and meritorious achievement in the field of public health. Dr. Teague was Kentucky Health Commissioner from 1956-1970.

## **Sara C. Stice Health Education Award: Elizabeth Burrows**

To honor an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of health education in Kentucky. Sara C. Stice was state Director of Health Education from 1950 until her retirement in 1973.

## **Vivian A. Lasley-Bibbs “Changemaker” Award: Vivian A. Lasley-Bibbs**

This award is to honor the legacy of Vivian A. Lasley-Bibbs and her dedication to building a more equitable Commonwealth. The impact of her work will be felt for decades to come and we are better because of her efforts. Not only has she left an indelible mark on many of our hearts and minds, but she is the legacy of health equity in public health in the Commonwealth. This year, KPHA is honored to award the Vivian A. Lasley-Bibbs Changemaker Award in her memory.

## **William “Bill” Patton Environmental Service Award: Buddy Wilson, RS**

To honor a person who has demonstrated exceptional performance, outstanding achievements, and meritorious service in Environmental Services. Bill Patton worked tirelessly as an environmentalist in southeastern Kentucky from the early 1980's until his death in 2001. Bill truly believed that he could improve the environmental health of all Kentuckians.

### **Awards Selected by the KPHA Board of Directors**

#### **Industry Award: Kentucky AmeriCorps**

To honor and recognize an exceptional and meritorious achievement in Kentucky's public health by a business or organization.

#### **President's Award: Vivian A. Lasley-Bibbs, MPH**

Honors a person who has demonstrated exemplary leadership, support, and dedication to KPHA

#### **Student Engagement Award for Excellence: University of Kentucky Student Public Health Association**

The Public Health Workforce Development Scholarship will be administered by KPHA in the amount of \$2,000 and is payable at the rate of \$1,000 per semester paid directly to the student's school to provide general academic assistance for one year.

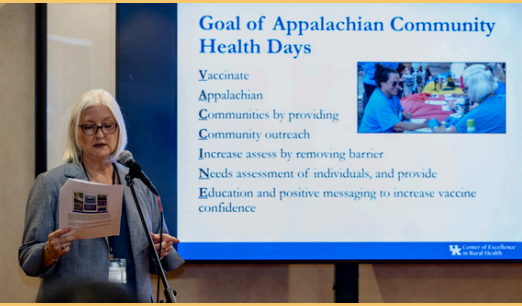
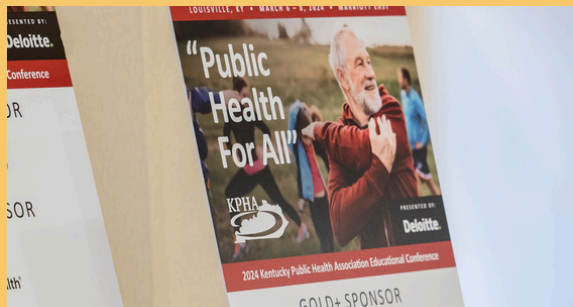
**We encourage you to nominate your peers for one of our awards in 2025.**

**To learn more about the scholarship and awards criteria, please visit [www.kpha-ky.org](http://www.kpha-ky.org)**



# Mark Your Calendar!

## 77TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE: MARCH 26-28, 2025







Kentucky Public Health Association is an affiliated association of the American Public Health Association (APHA). We have collaborated with APHA to grow stronger as organizations, to share expertise, influence, and resources, and to advocate for common priorities at the local, state and federal levels.

APHA is the national voice of public health and champions the health of all people and all communities. It is the only organization that combines a nearly 150-year perspective, a broad-based member community and the ability to influence federal policy to improve the public's health. Learn more at [www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org)

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KPHA!*

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**Email**



[info@kpha-ky.org](mailto:info@kpha-ky.org)

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