

Board of Health Training Modules

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)

Video Moderator:

Karen M. Landers, M.D., F.A.A.P., District Medical Officer

Dr. Landers is a board certified pediatrician and career public health officer with almost 37 years dedicated to the ADPH. She has been recognized by several organizations, including two Special Achievement Awards from the American Academy of Pediatrics, for her distinguished career in healthcare.

Bureau of Communicable Diseases:

Burnestine Taylor, M.D., Medical Officer for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Taylor has served as with the Bureau of Communicable Diseases since June of 2017. Dr. Taylor is a Family Medicine Physician with extensive clinical experience. She is passionate about patient care and reducing communicable diseases in Alabama.

Sherri L. Davidson, Ph.D., M.P.H.; Interim State Epidemiologist and Director of the Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Branch/Infectious Disease & Outbreaks Division; Bureau of Communicable Disease

Dr. Davidson has served as Interim State Epidemiologist for the past 2 and one-half years. She recently completed her Ph.D. In addition to her 17 years of dedicated public health service, Dr. Davidson serves the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists on several committees and workgroups, including chairing the Surveillance/Informatics Surveillance Policy Committee.

Kelly M. Stevens, M.S., Director of Infectious Diseases & Outbreaks

Ms. Stevens has a Master of Science degree focusing on Entomology and Acarology. She began her career in public health in 1992 serving as the Entomologist and then Entomologist/Director of the Mobile County Health Department, Vector Control Program. She later served as the Director of Environmental Protection, managing the Vector Control, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Childhood Lead, and Emergency Preparedness programs. Ms. Stevens joined the Alabama Department of Public Health in 2009, and directs the Infectious Diseases & Outbreaks Division.

Jennifer P. Owes, R.N., B.S.N., Nurse Manager, Infectious Diseases & Outbreaks, Bureau of Communicable Disease

Ms. Owes is a bachelor's prepared nurse with 21 years of experience in an array of medical arenas. She came to the department 5 years ago with a private sector perspective but has since come to know and appreciate the important role that public health plays in the lives of Alabama's residents.

Pam Barrett Scanlon, L.B.S.W., CPM, Alabama TB Controller, Division Director

Ms. Barrett Scanlon has held various positions within the Division of TB Control, and became director in 2009. She has served the department for almost 25 years, starting with TB Control in Tuscaloosa. She is closely involved with the National TB Controllers' Association and the Southeastern National TB Center. Ms. Barrett Scanlon is a licensed social worker.

Mary Scisney, M.S.N., P.N.P., STD Nurse Consultant

Ms. Scisney is a nurse manager within the Division of STD. During her 26 years with the Department, she has served as the Alabama Newborn Screening Director, State Systems Director, and Child Health Director. She is a strong advocate for patients knowing their health status in order to lead their best possible lives.

Sharon V. Jordan, MPH, Director, Division of HIV Prevention and Care

Ms. Jordan has devoted her career to Public Health for over 36 years, of which 30 years have been working with HIV programs and services. In 2015 she was recognized by her colleagues as a “Southern Shero” for her commitment to HIV work.

Cindy Lesinger, B.S., H.S.A., Immunization Division Director

Mrs. Lesinger has been with ADPH for over 29 years as a Disease Intervention Specialist. In her career, she served 4 years as the Immunization Division Director, 5 years with Epidemiology, 4 years with Emergency Preparedness, 14 years with Immunization Services, and 2 years within Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Bureau of Family Health Services:

Grace Thomas, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., Medical Officer for Family Health Services

Dr. Thomas is a board certified obstetrician/gynecologist with over 30 years of experience in women’s healthcare. She practiced obstetrics and gynecology for over a decade in New York City and is recognized as one of the first female obstetricians to establish a practice in Harlem, NY. Dr. Thomas has special interest and experience in diseases of the lower genital tract and was recently honored by the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology for over 20 years of support.

Beth Allen, FNP-C, M.S.N., C.R.N.P., Nurse Practitioner Director, Family Health Services

Mrs. Allen is a certified family nurse practitioner, currently serving as NP Director, and has served in all districts statewide for total service approaching 22 years. Her career started with UAB, led to Mobile County Public Health, and continued for Alabama Department of Public Health to current day.

Rachael Montgomery, B.S.N., R.N., Newborn Screening Program Director, Family Health Services

Mrs. Montgomery has over 20 years of nursing experience and has dedicated 13 of those years to serving the babies of Alabama within the ADPH. Part of her advocacy is ensuring appropriate testing and follow-up for the infants of Alabama.

Amy R. Stratton, R.N., B.S.N., C.L.C., State Perinatal Program Director, Bureau of Family Health Services

Mrs. Stratton has been an employee of public health since May 2007. She serves on multiple agency boards and committees such as the Alabama March of Dimes, Montgomery Children’s Policy Council, Alabama Breastfeeding Committee, and Alabama Public Health Association, among others. Mrs. Stratton is passionate about her work to improve the lives of women, infants, and families in Alabama.

Amanda Martin, M.S.P.H., WIC Program Director, Family Health Services

Mrs. Martin has worked with public health for 17 years, with almost 11 being in the WIC Program. She strongly believes in the mission of public health and is proud to work in a program that provides direct patient care to some of the most vulnerable Alabamians.

Denise P. Pope, M.S., R.D., Director of Nutrition Services, WIC Program

Denise has worked for the ADPH WIC program for over 30 years at the clinic, district and state level. Denise was awarded the D.G. Gill award by the Alabama Public Health Association recognizing her contributions to Public Health in Alabama through her work with the WIC program.

Bureau of Environmental Health Services:

Ron Dawsey, M.P.H., Deputy Director, Bureau of Environmental Services

Mr. Dawsey started his public health career as a county environmentalist in Barbour, Henry, and Russell Counties before transferring to the Central Office. He is the author of record for the Board of Health's Food Sanitation Rules, Hotel Rules, Body Art (Tattoo) Rules, and others, and is the designated representative for the State Health Officer on the Alabama Seafood Marketing Commission and the Shellfish Aquaculture Board.

Bureau of Health Provider Standards:

Mia Sadler, R.N., State Program Manager, Bureau of Health Provider Standards

Ms. Sadler has been employed with the Bureau of Health Provider Standards since 1991. She was inspired to enter a nursing career because she saw the important work being done in this field. During her over 27 years of service as a nurse, she has become a powerful advocate for quality patient care.

Center for Health Statistics:

Nicole Henderson Rushing, M.P.H., State Registrar and Director, Center for Health Statistics (CHS)

Mrs. Rushing began her career in public health as an Epidemiologist with CHS. Before becoming State Registrar and Director, Mrs. Rushing held several managerial positions in multiple units within the bureau over her 20-plus years with the ADPH.

Center for Emergency Preparedness:

Andy Mullins, M.P.A., Director of Operations, Center for Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Mullins' duties include overseeing the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) grants for Emergency Preparedness. He has worked extensively on the Alabama Smallpox Response Plan, the Alabama Pandemic Influenza Response Plan, and the Alabama Medical Needs Shelter Operations Plan. Among many other duties, he sits on the Alabama Homeland Security Task Force.

Legal Division:

Sancha Howard, J.D., Assistant General Counsel

Ms. Howard has devoted her legal career to public service. She began her career as a prosecutor, and for the last five-plus years, she has provided counsel to the Department to vigorously protect the public health and well-being of the citizens of Alabama.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program:

Nancy Bishop, R.Ph., State Pharmacy Director

Ms. Bishop is a registered pharmacist and has worked in public health for over 6 years. Ms. Bishop consults on a number of issues related to pharmaceuticals in the department. She has been instrumental in the advancement of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program in Alabama.

Video Communications and Distance Learning Division:

PRODUCTION STAFF:

Ryan Easterling

As Acting Director of the Video Communications and Distance Learning Division, Ryan manages both the daily operations and long-term planning specific to distance learning technologies and the department's initiatives. He is a native of the River Region, and graduated from Huntingdon College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Media Studies. Prior to joining the ADPH team, Ryan spent eight years at Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters located at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, where he was a Multimedia Production Specialist and later became a Protocol Officer. Before that, he interned and later worked in the production and news departments at WAKA — CBS 8 News.

Darren Gilley

Darren is responsible for recording and editing video projects, directing satellite conferences, running audio for programs and operating the satellite uplink truck in the Video Communications and Distance Learning Division at ADPH. Prior to this position, he worked as an Audio Visual Specialist at the Alabama Department of Education. Before that, he worked as a Photojournalist at WSFA-TV in Montgomery and a Production Assistant/News Photographer at WDHN-TV in Dothan. Darren is a 1997 graduate of Slocomb High School in Slocomb, and attended Wallace Community College in Dothan.

Nick Moss

Nick has been with the Alabama Department of Public Health since 1995. He is responsible for producing and directing satellite conferences and studio tapings for the Video Communications and Distance Learning Division. He is originally from Defuniak Springs, Florida, and graduated from Troy State University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Broadcast Journalism.

Danny Williams

Danny provides satellite uplink technical support for the Alabama Public Health Training Network. He is originally from Birmingham, Alabama, and currently lives in Montgomery. He attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham and began his career with the Alabama Department of Public Health in 1995. Danny was in the Air Force from 1969–1973, and toured all of Europe when he was stationed in England.