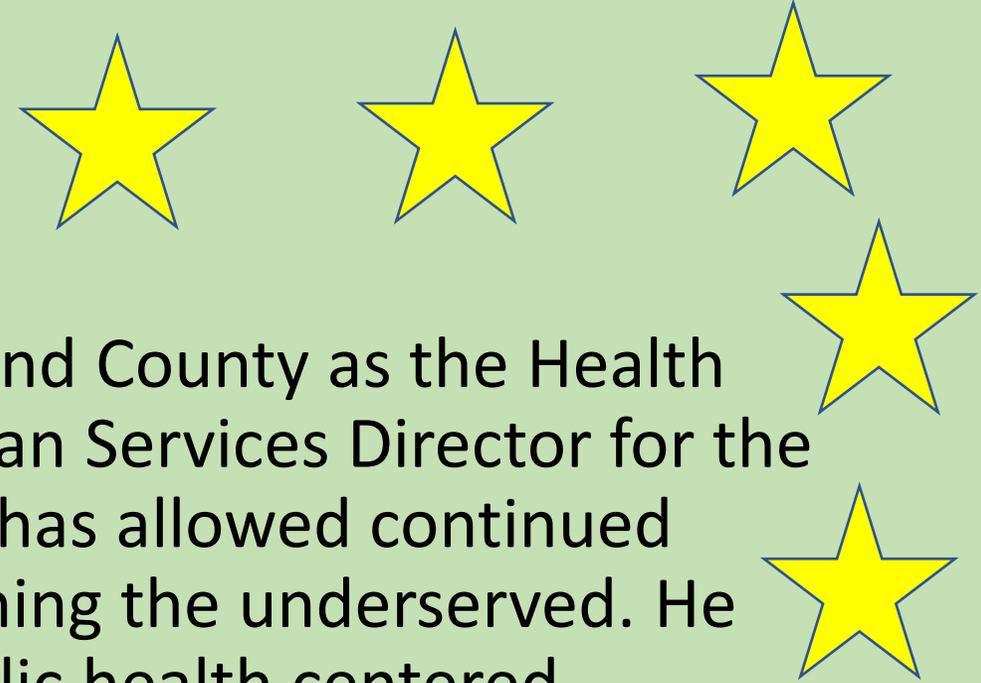


*2021  
Child Health  
Recognition  
Award Recipients and  
Nominees*



# Tommy Jarrell, PhD

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Dr. Jarrell has provided leadership in Richmond County as the Health Director for 30 years and served as the Human Services Director for the last seven years. His dedication and passion has allowed continued improvements in the county especially reaching the underserved. He has worked and implemented countless public health centered programs over the years. He has worked to secure dental care for children with Medicaid and the last months were filled combating the pandemic across the county. The Richmond County Health Department celebrates his leadership – and will miss him as he is retiring.

# Reina Rodriguez, Public Health Educator

Forsyth County Department of Public Health

Individual Recognition Award Recipient



Ms. Rodriguez has been primarily focused on Maternal and Child Health, until the pandemic. As a public health educator, she broadened her role to work as a Hispanic Community Liaison. Her work is helping connect many in the Hispanic community with the health department's outreach efforts. Her work efforts grew and attracted more agencies to the cause, which gave birth to the Hispanic Task Force of the Piedmont. In 2021, the Hispanic Task Force received a *Hanes Award* from the Hispanic League, and a *Governor's Service Award* for their work in the community.

# Zo Mpofu

Buncombe County Health and Human Services  
Public Health Staff Award Recipient

Ms. Mpofu led the Community Health Assessment process for the county for many years. In her health equity work, she leveraged health data to establish and accomplish specific goals and strategies. Her work to understand the root causes of health disparities within the county included strategies to engage the community in transformative programs and policies to improve health outcomes. Health inequities – racism, access, social support, and a whole host of social drivers impact health outcomes. The Board of Commissions passed a resolution naming racism as a public health and public safety crisis in the county.



# Forsyth County Department of Public Health

## *BeHealthy*

Local Health Department Recognition Award Recipient

The BeHealthy children’s health and wellness program is educating Forsyth County youth on the importance of health, nutrition, and physical activity. Collaboration with county organizations including Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and Winston-Salem Parks and Recreation staff has led to offering educationally rich, interactive programs for children in community-based settings. The BeHealthy program is a child and adolescent-based preventive health program.



# Jackson County Department of Public Health

## *Safe Routes to School*

Local Health Department Recognition Award Recipient



Children walking or biking to school in the rural Appalachian Mountains may seem impossible to some, but it was a challenge the Jackson County Department of Public Health's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) tackled. SRTS has integrated walking and biking into the district-level policies and procedures while focusing on teaching and promoting safety. The SRTS program serves Jackson, Haywood, Macon and Swain Counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian's Qualla Boundary in Western North Carolina. This program provides long lasting infrastructure improvements allowing over 14,000 students access to walk or bike to school.

# New Hanover County Health and Human Services *School Mental Health Program*

Local Health Department Recognition Award Recipient

New Hanover County Schools and the New Hanover County Health Department have joined together to provide mental health supports for students and their families. A Health Department licensed clinical therapist is available at school, to provide mental health services for children and adolescents with moderate to severe behavioral and emotional problems. Through the partnership 16 therapists serve 20 elementary and middle schools. The School Mental Health Program provides psychotherapeutic services to any student and no out-of-pocket costs are billed to the parents.



# Alexander County Health Department

## *Behavioral Health Program*

Local Health Department Recognition Nominee

Mental health is a top priority for Alexander County, and the county is medically underserved, faces economic challenges, disparities and continues to have a high suicide rate. The health department created an in-house behavioral health program to meet a previously unmet need for access to mental health services for children, adolescents and adults. The county's demand for pediatric services has increased since starting the program, and currently 24 percent of their clients are pediatric and adolescents. This program is positively impacting the lives of patients and several clients have credited it with helping to save their life.



# Catawba County Public Health

## *Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines*

Local Health Department Recognition Nominee



The health department partnered with local pediatric practices to lead the way in making the COVID-19 vaccine available for adolescents and teens. People listen to the recommendations of their personal physicians when it comes to making medical decisions, and the COVID-19 vaccine is no different. The partnership with pediatric practices allows pediatricians to talk with parents or caregivers about the vaccine. Hearing from a physician helps caregivers make decisions about their child's health and take action while in the clinic. This is a win-win partnership building immunization rates.



# Guilford County Department of Health and Human Services, *Child Care Health Consultant Program*

Local Health Department Recognition Nominee



The Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) staff work diligently to protect and maintain the safety of the children in Guilford County. CCHC staff ensure childcare directors and teachers receive continual education and training on health-related topics. During the pandemic, a special focus was established to get COVID-19 procedures in place. Adding a web-based portal to identify and track positive COVID-19 cases in childcare settings was one enhancement. The CCHC staff provides services to all licensed childcare facilities (centers and homes) throughout Guilford County.



# Guilford County Department of Health and Human Services, *School Health Nursing Program*

Local Health Department Recognition Nominee



The School Health Nursing Program is helping to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the Guilford County School System. Collaboration between School Health Nurses, Guilford County Schools and the Guilford County Information Technology Department established a new web-based COVID-19 reporting portal. Weekly meetings were set and included the Health Director, Medical Director, Guilford County Emergency Management Director, Clinical and Community Service Managers, the School Health Supervisor and Program Manager to review cases and COVID-19 protocols.



# Forsyth County Department of Public Health

## *Cribs for Kids*

Local Health Department Recognition Nominee



Forsyth County's Cribs for Kids program provides safe sleep spaces for infants in families who are unable to afford safe sleep spaces without assistance. Free education and resources about infant safe sleep are provided in English and Spanish at the health department. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program had to shift away from offering in-person education and walk-in services for families. The program created an online Cribs for Kids Safe Sleep Ambassador training so caregivers and families could learn about safe sleep from their homes. Partner organizations refer clients based on financial hardship and limited means.



# Onslow County Health Department

## *Immunization Clinic*

Local Health Department Recognition Nominee



Onslow's Immunization Clinic staff is working passionately for at-risk, vulnerable, and underserved unvaccinated populations. Their Immunization Tracker runs two specific benchmark reports from the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) that directs the work of the clinic. Clinic staff locate children under two years old and adolescents 12-14 years of age that need vaccines and coordinate with parents to get the needed vaccinations. This effort has brought about vaccinations for children that may have gone unvaccinated without the agency's persistence.



# Surry County Health and Nutrition Center

## *Pediatric Medical Clinic*

Local Health Department Recognition Nominee



The clinic approach includes a comprehensive behavioral health assessment utilizing input from the medical provider, parents, patient, schoolteachers and school administrators. This consultative team approach assures accuracy in diagnosis, selection of treatment focus, and monitoring of treatment efficacy. Young people seen at the clinic have a variety of childhood behavioral health challenges that are treated using evidence-based best practice protocols endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The clinic recognizes each child is a unique individual.



# Alice Stone, *Immunization Clinic Tracker*



Onslow County Health Department

Individual Recognition Nominee

Alice Stone has been the county's Immunization Tracker for the past 10 years. Her passion to assist at-risk, vulnerable, and underserved unvaccinated populations stems from an understanding of public health's principles and practices. She is noted for her devotion to reaching out, tracking, and offering vaccine preventable illness vaccine services. She runs two specific benchmark reports in the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) to locate children under 2 years old and adolescents 12-14 years of age in need of vaccines. Her efforts have brought about vaccines for children that may have not received.



# Kamilah Pleasants, RN, BSN, *Care Manager*



Forsyth County Department of Public Health  
Individual Recognition Nominee

The Forsyth County Care Coordination 4 Children (CC4C) team created a unique care management position in 2015. The Care Manager collaborates with the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Brenner Children's Hospital. This collaboration benefits NICU babies, their families and all CC4C programs across the state. Services needed by families often include medical resources, social resources like housing, economical support and mental health resources. Care is continued after the infant is taken home to help problem solve any areas of concerns.



Thank you to the  
2021 SELECTION COMMITTEE  
and  
NC Public Health Association!