

MEET OUR RESOURCE PARTNERS

Annual Meeting

November 1, 2004

*fit*together



Dorothy Caldwell

Coordinator, School Health Initiative

NC Division of Public Health / NCDHHS

Children and Youth Branch

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Dorothy Caldwell is coordinator of the North Carolina Division of Public Health's School Health Initiative and adjunct assistant professor in the School of Public Health at UNC - Chapel Hill. She came to North Carolina in 2001 to be coordinator of the Healthy Weight Initiative and was the primary author of the Initiative's report, titled "Moving Our Children Toward a Healthy Weight: Finding the Will and the Way".

Dorothy previously held several positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including serving as the team leader for the Healthy School Environment Initiative. In this role, she worked with five medical associations to develop a Call to Action outlining Ten Keys to Promote Healthy Eating in Schools. She also worked with 16 health and education organizations to develop a tool kit called Changing the Scene: Improving the School Nutrition Environment.

Dorothy has also served as State Director of Child Nutrition Programs for the Arkansas Department of Education and as Director of Child Nutrition for the Lee County, Arkansas School District. Under her leadership the Lee County Schools had no a la carte sales and participation in reimbursable meals exceeded 90% in secondary schools and 95% in elementary schools.

Dorothy is past president of the American School Food Service Association and the School Food Service Foundation. She is a registered and licensed dietitian and the recipient of the American Dietetic Association's Medallion Award and Cooperative Extension's 21st Century Families Award for enhancing the quality of life for Arkansas families and youth.

Kelly Povroznik

Child Nutrition Director, Cumberland County Schools

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Kelly Povroznik is the Child Nutrition Director for Cumberland County Schools. She began her work experience in North Carolina as a clinical dietitian at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton. Kelly was then hired as a Child Nutrition Supervisor with Cumberland County Schools where she supervised cafeteria personnel, planned menus, worked with nutritional analysis, food procurement, and special dietary needs. In March 2004, Kelly was promoted to her current position as Child Nutrition Director. Her new responsibilities include working more on grant funded programs and the overall operation of child nutrition programs within Cumberland County Schools.

In 2003, NC Prevention Partners presented Cumberland County Schools Child Nutrition Services with the first-ever NC Prevention Performance Award for Excellence in Schools. This award was created to recognize exemplary school districts that have implemented policies for providing prevention activities and programs inside and outside the classrooms.

Kelly's Team has successfully implemented Winner's Circle in all 84 Cumberland County schools. They are currently in their third year of a program which provides opportunities for students to try exotic and healthy fruits. They also have started a "Breakfast in the Classroom" program in five elementary schools.

Kymm Ballard

Physical Education, Athletics, and Sports Medicine Consultant Healthful Living Section, NC Department of Public Instruction

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Kymm Ballard is the Physical Education, Athletics and Sports Medicine Consultant with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. She provides guidance to schools and local boards of education to help them provide safe and quality athletic programs, as well as strong physical education curricula. Her professional experience includes more than a decade as a physical education teacher and several years as an administrator and co-developer of North Carolina's first high school demonstration school.

Kymm's direct service to children influences her work at the state level today. Recently, she wrote, advocated for and promoted the State Board of Education's Healthy Active Children Policy and the state's Standards for Physical Education. For her efforts, Kymm was awarded the National 2002 P.E. 4 Life Advocate of the Year Award for her work both in North Carolina and Washington, DC. Kymm is also North Carolina's first and only teacher to receive the Physical Education Teacher of the Year Award and the Health Education Teacher of the Year Award in the same year.

In addition to being Past-President of the Society of State Directors for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, Kymm also serves as part of the North Carolina Infrastructure Team to Promote Coordinated School Health. Currently, she sits on the Board of Governors and serves as the Public Relations Coordinator for the National Association for Sport and Physical Education.

Kymm is currently pursuing a doctorate in Education through the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Joy Storms Grady

Executive Director, Bladen HealthWatch

Bladen County Hospital

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Joy Storms Grady is the Executive Director of Bladen HealthWatch, a Healthy Carolinians nonprofit partnership organization, honored nationally for its innovative efforts in collaboration and health promotion. Bladen HealthWatch is best known for its community outreach network of volunteers called "HealthWatchers". The HealthWatchers at School Program, funded by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, provides prevention services at public school sites in a rural setting utilizing peer encouragers, professionals, school-based staff and volunteers. HealthWatchers at School is designed to encourage and empower students and their families to take greater responsibility for their health by adopting healthy lifestyle behaviors in the areas of physical activity, nutrition and tobacco use. The program's walking campaign has been very successful. In 2003, participants from Bladen County Schools logged more than 70,000 miles.

Joy brings 24 years of marketing, nonprofit management, and community development experience to her current position. She is also a graduate of the Healthier Communities Fellowship of The HealthCare Forum.

Latasha Sanders

Project Coordinator, General Baptist State Convention

General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.

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Latasha Sanders is the Project Coordinator for the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's "Faith and Health Initiative." The initiative, funded through the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, works to improve health behaviors and prevent chronic disease by increasing congregation members' knowledge about nutrition and physical activity. Latasha has successfully recruited 37 of the 88 churches within the General Baptist State Convention. Her team has worked to form Faith and Health Advisory Committees in each of the target churches. These committees take the lead in conducting congregational health assessments and developing action plans. They also advocate for policy level changes in their churches such as providing healthy food choices at church events and stretch breaks during meetings.

Aside from improving health behavior, one important aim of the Faith And Health Initiative is to increase the skill level of lay leaders in target churches to educate, mobilize and organize other congregation members to participate in nutrition and exercise initiatives. Latasha's team initially set a goal of training 60 volunteers as faith and health advocates. They surpassed this goal by recruiting and training 104 advocates who provide education and outreach to their fellow congregation members. The advocates are trained using a curriculum developed through the Faith and Health Initiative. The four-part curriculum includes an introduction and sections about nutrition, physical activity, and the faith-health connection. Currently, much of Latasha's work involves motivating Faith and Health Advocates, organizing quarterly meetings, advocating for policy change, and offering on-going training sessions.

Mott Blair, IV

Board Chair, NC Academy of Family Physicians

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Dr. Mott Blair is the immediate past president and the current board chair of the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians or NCAFP. He has an active interest in prevention and wellness, as demonstrated by his role as chairman of the NCAFP Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Council. Nationally, he is a member of the American Academy Family Physicians Committee on Rural Health.

Dr. Blair has been in private practice in his hometown of Wallace, North Carolina, located in Duplin County, since 1990. After noticing an increasing trend of inactivity, poor eating habits, and overweight among his patients, Dr. Blair decided to take action. He started talking to his patients, formed partnerships with other agencies in Duplin County, and even offered his office space after-hours for family-centered nutrition education.

Inspired by the success of this local model and recognizing a need across the state, Dr. Blair became a driving force behind the NCAFP's efforts to submit a grant to the Health and Wellness Trust Fund in 2003. The grant was awarded, and now the NCAFP is working with healthcare providers and their local partners across the state to develop successful and sustainable interventions to address childhood overweight.

Claudia Jones Graham

Project Coordinator, Strengthening the Black Family

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Claudia Jones Graham is a native of Raleigh, North Carolina and is employed with Strengthening The Black Family, Inc. Strengthening The Black Family was founded in 1980 and is a non-profit organization working to bring positive changes to the community, with specific emphasis on the black family. Claudia is the Program Coordinator for Strengthening The Black Family's Project SELF Improvement, funded by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. Through this program Claudia works in Wake County to assist the community with learning how to reduce risk factors associated with chronic illnesses through increased physical activity, improved nutrition and tobacco control.

Claudia is passionate about her work and has worked for several years in the community addressing health issues. Working toward disease prevention and the elimination of health disparities is very important to her. She is a member and Chair Elect of the Healthy Wake Coalition of Healthy Carolinians and she is currently taking course work toward the Duke University Certificate in Non Profit Management.

Hector Baez

Project Manager, Alamance County SALSA Project

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Hector Baez is the Project Manager for SALSA, which stands for Salúd Latina, Salúd de Alamance. SALSA, which is funded by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, is designed to reduce chronic illness in the Hispanic population of Alamance County, North Carolina. The overall goal of this project is to provide the Hispanic Community with improved access to services designed to improve nutritional behavior and physical activity.

SALSA provides health screenings, educational and physical activity programs, and other medical services in Alamance County for adults, teenagers, and young children. SALSA also serves as a liaison between the Hispanic Community and agencies such as the public school system, the Health Department, the YMCA, and the Parks and Rec Department.

As an interesting aside, Hector has been actively involved coaching men's basketball in preparation for the Olympics.

Michael Sanderson

Senior Advisor, N.C. Healthy Schools

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As Senior Advisor for Healthy Schools in the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Michael works hand-in-hand with the NC Department of Public Instruction to help build Coordinated School Health Programs across the state. Michael works closely with state and community school health partners to examine current school health policies, practices, and laws, which influence the health of North Carolina's students. He has worked in the field of Public Health for more than 15 years. His experience includes working with the non-profit sector, as well as local, state and national government agencies. Michael's first experiences working with school health was in 1988 as a Peace Corps volunteer in Central America.