

The Florida Public Health Advocate

A publication of the Florida Public Health Association

From the President's Desk...



December 2017

Florida Public Health Association

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'Tis the season for giving and as President of FPFA I would like to give the gift of an FPFA membership to one past, current, or new member of our organization. I have thought a lot about how I would select the individual and have received feedback from other FPFA Board members. Selection will be based on the following criteria (points given for each).

- Attendance at FPFA Annual Education Conferences or Regional Conference (1 point)
- Poster submission or presentation at Annual Education Conference (1 point)
- Current or past member of FPFA Board (3 points)
- Current or past member of a FPFA Committee/workgroup (4 points)
- Facebook post (2 points)
- Newsletter article submission (4 points)
- Attended a FPFA meet up or Brown Bag Lunch event (2 points)
- Other activities of public health advocacy (3 points)

Points will be tallied up and the membership will be provided for the person with the highest score. This does not need to be a current FPFA member, so please share with co-workers, friends, family members, etc. who are passionate about public health and are looking to become a member of FPFA. I am looking at sponsoring someone who has been active in public health practice and advocacy. If you would like a chance to get your membership fee paid for please email fpha@srahec.org. In the email share your completed list of items from above. Selection will be made January 31, 2018.

If you are looking for a gift for some of your co-workers, why not give the gift of an FPFA membership? Help us support public health professionals through increased strength in numbers for advocacy, professional development, and the sharing of best practices around the state of Florida.

-Jennifer Waskovich



To submit content to the newsletter, please reach out to Alyssa Moffitt at Alyssa.moffitt@flhealth.gov



We hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season!

We would like to thank you for your continued support to the

Florida Public Health Association.

From your Board of Directors!

“Give to FPHA”

As we end 2017, we are asking you to support our FPHA membership drive by *Giving a Gift of FPHA Membership* to a colleague or friend. What a great way to give back to FPHA!

As we reflect upon the last few years major public health issues such as disease outbreaks and more recently natural disasters, have affected our state and local communities. Florida Public Health Association according to our Mission serves Florida’s Public Health Professionals and Students through Advocacy, Professional Development, and Networking to Improve Florida’s Health. Your support of *Giving a Gift of FPHA Membership* campaign will increase and strengthen our membership and help us continue to meet the needs of public and community health professionals and agencies in the state of Florida.

Please use the following website <http://fpha.org/page-1828215> to access and complete the FPHA Membership Form. Also, be sure to indicate your name on the *Referred to FPHA by*_____.

Thanks for your support!

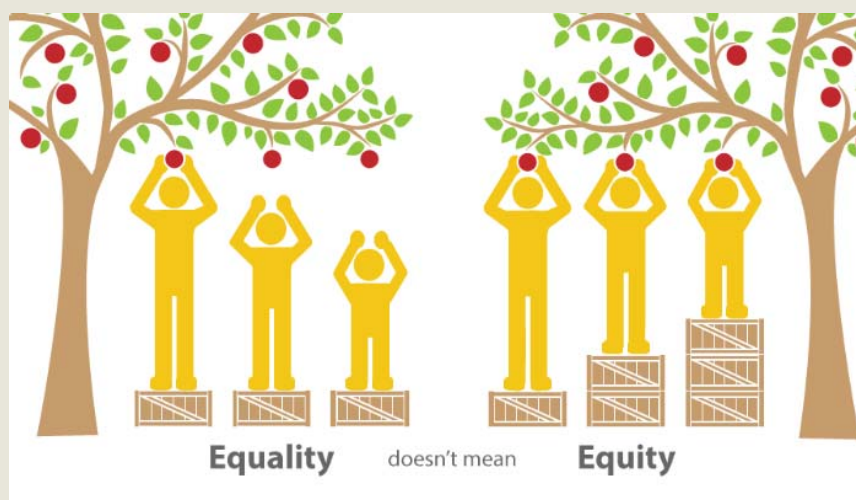
together

**WE CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

An Article from our Health Equity Interest Group Chair

Equality, Health Equity, and Health Disparities How do they fit together?

We can all agree that everyone has a right to be treated equally. However, in the world of public health, simple equality is insufficient to address the needs of many populations. As professionals we must move toward health equity to bridge the growing divide.



Graphic from: <https://www.emedeq.org/>

Health equity is a principal of human rights that we are ethically bound to consider when making program decisions. According to the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), “Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.”

[Healthy People 2020](#) define *health disparity* as “a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.”

As public health professionals, we see first-hand the impact health disparities have on our community and it is the hope of health equity that motivates us to work to eradicate these disparities. FPHA has recently organized a health equity group to support the profession in this endeavor. Please watch for additional contacts from us soon.

Op-Ed by Lillian Rivera, PhD and Tomás R. Guilarte, PhD

Date: November 20, 2017

Today is National Public Health Thank You Day. We want to thank everyone who works for the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County and all of the public health instructors and students at Florida International University's (FIU) Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work teaching and mentoring our future public health leaders.

In Miami-Dade County, Florida Department of Health employees respond to infectious disease threats from outbreaks like Zika, they protect children and adults with immunizations, and they operate shelters when our community is vulnerable to hurricanes. Stempel College trains graduate students to conduct research on preventing HIV/AIDS and substance abuse, to understand and decrease tobacco use, to track the source of communicable diseases, to understand the impact of environmental pollutants on human health, and to analyze health policies. These are just a few examples amongst the many topics that we teach and research. In short, our two organizations do a lot together to keep our communities safe from the many public health threats that we continually face.

Beyond our contributions, thousands of additional public health advocates deserve credit for their daily efforts. We want to thank the hospitals in our community for treating people when they are ill; the emergency first responders who prevent people from dying from the current crisis of opioid overdoses; the law enforcement units for keeping our neighborhoods safe so we have streets, parks and playgrounds to enjoy; the drug treatment agencies who treat individuals with substance abuse problems; and national organizations and societies that fight disease and promote healthy living.

Our collective health depends on an interconnected network and public health professionals hold this matrix together. Everyone in our community should have an opportunity to make choices that lead to healthy lives regardless of where they live, where they work, how much they make or where they go to school.

Thank a public health professional today for creating these opportunities for us all! And thank your elected officials for financially supporting public health initiatives that make our communities a safer and healthy place to live!



Dr. Lillian Rivera is the Administrator of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County. Dr. Tomás R. Guilarte is the dean of Florida International University's Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work.





Hot Topics in Florida Public Health

Active Shooting, Deferred Childhood for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and Immigration are all Hot Topics in Florida Public Health. The Florida International University (FIU) representatives of the Florida Public Health Association (FPHA) held a Hot Topics seminar to create awareness about FPHA and encourage faculty and students to join. In this seminar, public health topics that are currently generating great interest and very popular in Miami, are being discussed in an educational and nonthreatening platform.

For this year's lunch and learn Hot Topics event held on Monday, November 20, 2017, we had two informed guest speakers, Maureen Porras and Alazandria Cruze. Maureen Porras, Managing Attorney for the Church World Services (CWS) South Florida Offices – Immigration and Refugee office, talked about immigration experiences and services offered, informed the audience about free DACA renewal clinics and Temporary Protective Services for Haitians.

The second speaker was Alazandria Cruze, Public Health Preparedness Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Coordinator for the Florida Health Department in Miami-Dade County. She talked about Active Shooter Readiness, by informing attendees on ways to protect themselves in an active shooting incident, such as bolting the door and distracting the shooter.

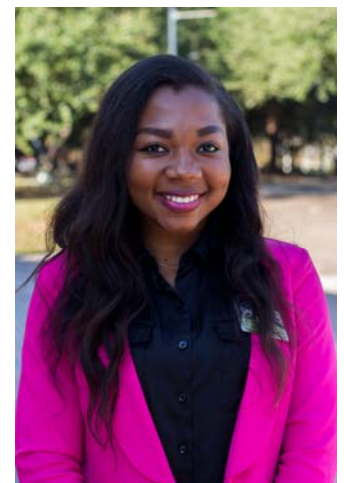
The turnout was great; we had about 50 participants in attendance. The students were well engaged as they asked questions and wished for longer presentations. Lunch was provided by the Stempel College.

The event coincided with the National Public Health Thank You Day in which the event showed appreciation to responders of Hurricane Harvey, Irma, and Maria. Dr. Virginia McCoy acknowledged the students who did most of the planning for the event and would like to thank the Planning Committee (Amanda Ichite, Etinosa Oghogho, Sharice Preston, Ari Hozman, Jessica Weissman, and Lori Jordahl) and other students' participation, Chintan Bhatt and Valerie Daniel. Thank you to the attendees as well.

Overall, the event was very successful and educational. Students are looking forward to the next event that will be held in Spring 2018.

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Be on the lookout for our January Newsletter with information about ***Florida Public Health Association's Annual Educational Conference 2018 Striving for Excellence in Public Health!***

