

Spring 2024 Edition

THE COMMUNITY CUE

OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
North Carolina

Public Health



Upcoming Events & Trainings

April 22, 2024

Earth Day Education Session

10:30AM-11:30AM

Southview Recreation Center

[**Click Here to Register**](#)

April 23, 2024 - June 18, 2024

Chronic Disease Prevention & Management Series: Heart Disease & Diabetes

[**Click Here to Register**](#)

May 18, 2024

AIDS WALK Charlotte

9:00AM-12:00PM

Truist Field

324 South Mint Street

Charlotte, NC 28202 USA

[**Click Here For More Information**](#)

JUNE 15, 2024

Queen City Juneteenth Parade & Cultural Celebration

10:00AM-12:00PM

8120 Grier Rd, Charlotte, NC 28213

MAKING HEALTH EQUITABLE

Our Community Resource Team reaches residents throughout the County to promote the 40 programs MCPH offers across the five divisions. To advance health equity in Mecklenburg County, these programs and services protect marginalized populations within the County's priority population areas. By providing educational workshops, trainings and outreach, the MCPH Community Engagement Program supports the Department's health equity mission by connecting County residents with the public health programs and services they need.

Community Engagement is a recently restructured program under the Office of Health Equity at Mecklenburg County Public Health. This program is staffed by our Community Resource Team of Public Health Educators who serve as liaisons by connecting community members to Mecklenburg County Public Health programs, initiatives, and services in order to advance health equity throughout the County by reducing health disparities in our priority populations.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Aubrielle Wallace, MPH, Health Equity Fellow

Aubrielle is a graduate of UNC Charlotte where she earned a B.S. in Kinesiology and Master of Public Health (Go Niners!) Her goal and passion as a public health professional is to improve the health and well-being of the community through advocacy, education and health equity. She is a member of community health coalitions, and her certifications include being an American Heart Association Healthy For Life Facilitator, Adult Mental Health First Aid, QPR Gatekeeper Facilitator, and Resilience & Thriving Facilitator.

Amore' McCullough, BA, Public Health Educator

Amore' is a recent graduate of UNC Charlotte where she earned her Bachelors of Arts in Communication Studies with a concentration in Health. She is also a proud alumni of the Health Career Connection (HCC) Internship Program. Amore' is a creative and has a passion for wellness and health education. She approaches healthcare from a humanities prospective. Her primary goal as a public health professional is to incorporate the arts into health and wellness education to aid individuals in improving their overall well-being. Amore' has earned many certifications such as Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid, QPR Certified Facilitator, Resilience & Thriving Certified Facilitator.



Jaramial Lee, MPA, Public Health Educator

Jaramial is a graduate of Winston-Salem State University where he earned a B.S degree in political science and sociology, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Connecticut. No newcomer to the field of public service, in previous roles Jaramial has provided administrative and outreach support in the areas of Health and Human Services & Child Support Enforcement. Jaramial has a heart of gold and is a natural and genuine servant with a humble heart and spirit that does not crumble. In addition, Jaramial has served in leadership roles with enrichment and summer programs, local shelters, and academic institutions. He holds a host of health certifications, and volunteers his time on health and wellness committees, boards and community coalitions.



Brandy Foreman, CCHW, Public Health Educator

Brandy began her career in the hospitality industry where her passion for helping people was founded. She was able to transfer that passion to the arena of community engagement. First starting as a Covid Health Educator, she then transitioned onto the restructured Community Engagement Team, as a Public Health Educator. "Meeting people where they're at", is the motto that Brandy lives by. Her certifications include being a Certified Community Health Worker, Adult Mental Health First Aid, Resilience and Thriving Facilitator, and Certified QPR Gatekeeper Facilitator.



PROGRAM RECAP



January:

Mecklenburg County Public Health was one of 100 community organizations represented in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day Holiday Parade. It was MCPH's inaugural debut walking in the parade, with over 30 staff members who attended. The Community Engagement staff helped increase MCPH participation which included highlighting our mobile units to increase community access.

February:

In honor of American Heart Month, we coordinated Heart Healthy events for our internal MCPH staff and our community members. The events included Go Red Day, Build your heart healthy SUPER BOWL, and a Heart Healthy Cooking Demo.



On Wednesday, February 7th, we observed National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) to acknowledge how HIV disproportionately affects Black people. Racism, discrimination, and mistrust in the health care system may affect whether Black people seek or receive HIV prevention services, treatment, and care. NBHAAD is an opportunity to increase HIV education, testing, community involvement, and treatment among Black communities.



MCPH's HIV/STI and Communicable Disease teams organized events throughout the week to meet community where they are and offer onsite testing on the Mobile Units. In addition, the HIV/STI team hosted a screening of the film "Endgame: AIDS in Black America" on Wednesday, February 7th, at the Independent Theater. Following the film, there was a guided discussion facilitated by our Community Engagement team for further education and engagement.



PROGRAM RECAP



February (cont.):

On Saturday, February 24th, Mecklenburg County Public Health in partnership with Central Piedmont Community College hosted an inaugural “Give Kids A Smile Day”. A dental care delivery day with health services, educational awareness, and interactive activities for kids of families who are uninsured and underserved. Give Kids A Smile Day had over 500+ attendees, 90+ volunteers, 15+ internal/external programs, services, and initiatives represented and dental services provided to 175 children.



March:

In March our Community Engagement team facilitated a total of 10 health education sessions and supported six community engagement events.

Our Public Health Educators connect with community members during their weekly outreach at various Mecklenburg County Parks & Recreation Sites such as, Albemarle Rd. Recreation Center, Southview Recreation Center, Tyvola Senior Center and West Charlotte Recreation Center. Some examples of the sessions facilitated included MCPH Health Screenings and Services, HIV/STI education for Seniors, and a Mental Health Rapid ReSET tools session to cope with stress.



In honor of National Nutrition Month, our Health Equity Fellow facilitated four “Healthy For Life” Nutrition Demos for the community. The Healthy For Life program was created by Aramark and American Heart Association to educate and empower people to make healthy food, nutrition and lifestyle choices.



HEALTH OBSERVANCES

Here are some important health observances for the months of April-June!

Click the buttons for tips and resources!

National Public Health Week
(April 1st - 7th)
nphw.org/

National Minority Health
Month (April)
nimhd.nih.gov/programs/edu-training/nmhm/

Mental Health Awareness
Month (May)
nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Mental-Health-Awareness-Month

Women's Health Month
(May)
cdc.gov/women/nwhw/index.htm

Men's Health Awareness
Month (June)
aawellness.org/charlotte-north-carolina/



STAY CONNECTED

**Interested in educational and training classes?
Click below for more information**

[Thereasea C. Elder Community Health
Leadership Academy](#)



**Want to know more about our organization and
program?**

[Mecklenburg County Public Health Website
Community Engagement](#)



**Need MCPH support at an upcoming community
event?**

Click [HERE](#) if you would like to be added to our Community Engagement Listserv!
or email CE@MeckNC.gov