



Macon County Public Health

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Press Release

Macon County Public Health is Awarded "Small Local Health Department of the Year" by National Organization of Peers

Franklin, NC (July 9, 2014) – Macon County Public Health was honored at the 2014 annual conference of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in Atlanta with NACCHO's Local Health Department of the Year Award. The award recognizes and honors the outstanding accomplishments of small, medium, and large local health departments for their innovation, creativity, and impact on their community. This year's winners were recognized for their adoption of outstanding internal or external policies.

Macon County Public Health was selected for this national award for its recent efforts toward establishing a county ordinance limiting the use of tobacco products at county parks and recreation facilities. This step to protect public health, particularly the health of youth, was cited for its innovative involvement of youth, its ability to secure private funding to eliminate costs to the county, and creativity in building community support among the general public and key stakeholders.

"We are proud to receive NACCHO's Local Health Department of the Year Award. The award is evidence of our commitment to developing responsive and innovative public health programs that improve the health of local residents," said Jim Bruckner, Health Director for Macon County Public Health.

Macon County Public Health was chosen as the winner for the small category out of 25 nominees demonstrating outstanding external policies that focuses on the geopolitical jurisdiction of the local health department. These policies are designed to improve community health by making the healthy choice the easy choice, or by making changes in the systemic or structural context in which individuals live (e.g., housing, employment, or the environment). This might also be accomplished through establishing and enforcing regulation or laws or by using community coalitions to educate, support, motivate, and engage the public.

Macon County Public Health is located at 1830 Lakeside Drive in Franklin and operates outreach clinics in Highlands and Nantahala. Macon County Public Health has over 30 programs which include the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, environmental health, laboratory, dental health, school health, and personal health services (communicable disease, community health, immunizations, foreign travel,

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prenatal, child, and women’s preventive health, and adult health clinics). Macon County Public Health also houses the public health emergency preparedness program and offers health education and wellness services to local schools, work sites, churches, civic groups, and the general public. Visit Macon County Public Health at www.maconnc.org/healthdept or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MaconPublicHealth .

For more information about the Local Health Department of the Year Award and to view a list of other award winners, please visit www.naccho.org.

PHOTO CAPTION:

Macon County Public Health has been awarded the “Small Health Department of the Year” Award by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). This national award was presented to Health Director, Mr. Jim Bruckner at the NACCHO National Conference in Atlanta on July 9th. Macon County Public Health received the award for its successful efforts to enact tobacco control policies in Macon County. Shown with Mr. Bruckner is Dawn Wilde, Community Health Promotions Supervisor, at Macon County Public Health.

