



**MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (MPHA)  
86<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND BUSINESS MEETING  
VICKSBURG CONVENTION CENTER  
NOVEMBER 13-15, 2024  
CONFERENCE AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY November 13, 2024 – Pre-Conference Activities**

- 1:00-5:30pm**      **Youth Mental Health First Aid Training**
- Provided by Funding from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the University of Mississippi**
- Meeting Room 3**
- 2:00-5:00pm**      **Cultivating Healthy Relationships Across Dividing Lines**  
**Brian Crawford, CEO, Mission Mississippi**
- Meeting Room 1**
- 3:00-5:00pm**      **Exhibitor Setup**  
**Exhibit Hall A**
- Silent Auction Setup**  
**Meeting Room 4**
- 6:00-9:00pm**      **MPHA Board of Directors Meeting and Dinner**

**THURSDAY, November 14, 2024**

- 8:00- 5:00**            **Registration – Front Lobby**
- 8:00 –9:30**            **Exhibitor Opening/Continental Breakfast**  
**Exhibit Hall A**
- Public Health Professional Poster Session Opens**  
**Exhibit Hall A**

**Silent Auction Opens  
Meeting Room 4**

**9:45am**

**Opening General Session  
Exhibit Hall B**

**Welcome - Karin Thurman, MPHA President  
Invocation – Rev. Lazarus Taylor III  
Presentation of Flags- Vicksburg High School JROTC  
Welcome- Mayor George Flaggs**

**Daniel Edney, MD, State Health Officer  
“The State of Public Health in Mississippi”**

**Ms. Ella Greene Moton, APHA President  
“Creating E-Zones at the Community Level”**

**Healthy Conference Activity**

**Rochelle Thompson, Director  
Health Promotions, Eastern, American Lung Association**

**12:00pm**

**MPHA Business Meeting, President Karin Thurman Presiding**

- **Presentation of Candidates for Offices**
- **Presentation of Topics for 2025 Legislative Session**
- **Presentation of Bylaws Changes**

**Break for Lunch and Visit Exhibits and Posters**

**1:30-2:30pm**

**Concurrent Workshops**

**Session 1A: “Be the Source for Better Health: Improving Health Outcomes Through Our Cultures, Communities and Connections”**

**Danielle Fastring, PhD, MS, MPH, Director of Student Research and Associate Professor of Preclinical Sciences  
College of Osteopathic Medicine, William Carey University**

**Jude Haney, PhD, MPH, RHIA, Program Director, and Associate Professor  
Health Information Management, William Carey University**

**Sandra Melvin, DrPH, MPH, MLS, CEO, Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health**

**Meeting Room 1**

**Session 1B: Cultivating, Connecting, and Collaborating  
around Climate Health**

**Ashlyn Jackson, MS, Meteorologist, Aviation/Climate/Hydro  
Focal Point, National Weather Service, WFO, Jackson, MS**

**Gerri A. Cannon-Smith, MD, MPH, FAAP  
Medical Society Consortium Climate and Health Equity Fellow  
Steering Committee**

**Berneece Herbert, PhD, Chair of the Department of Urban and  
Regional Planning at Jackson State University**

**Meeting Room 2**

**Session 1C: Developing Your Personal Brand**

**Shawn Rossi, DHA, FACHE  
Vice President of Communication & Member Engagement  
MS Hospital Association**

**Meeting Room 3**

**3:00-4:00pm**

**Concurrent Workshops**

**Session 2A: Understanding BRFSS and PRAMS**

**DeGarrette Tureaud, DHSc, MPH, MBA, CPM, CHES  
Jessica Chiadika, MPH  
Office of Vital Records and Public Health Statistics  
MS State Department of Health**

**Meeting Room 1**

**Session 2B: Improving Maternal Health Quality Outcomes  
through the AIM Initiative**

**Vernesia Bracey Wilson, PhD, MPH  
Director & Epidemiologist, Maternal and Infant Health Bureau  
Mississippi State Department of Health**

**Meeting Room 2**

**Session 2C: Reducing Infections by Supporting Knowledge  
(RISK): A Mississippi PrEP Story**

**Jarrold E. Gant, DHA, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, RNFA  
Nurse Practitioner and Instructor  
Pearl River Community College**

**Meeting Room 3**

**1:15-4:00pm**

**Career Fair Open  
Meeting Room 5**

**4:15 pm**

**Section/Chapter Meetings**

**Nutrition Section  
Meeting Room 1**

**Epidemiology Section  
Meeting Room 2**

**Social Work Section  
Meeting Room 3**

**Health Administration Section  
Meeting Room 5**

**Public Health Education, Advocacy and Research Section  
Meeting Room 6**

**“Talk to MPHA Leadership”  
Meet with the MPHA President and President-Elect  
Networking Nook Outside Exhibit Hall A**

**New Community Health Worker Section Meeting  
All Other Sections Meetings  
Exhibit Hall B**

**Visit Exhibitors and Posters  
Exhibit Hall A**

**5:30pm**

**Public Health Professional Posters Close**

**Silent Auction Closes  
Pick Up Items in Meeting Room 4**

**Adjourn for the Day**

**Evening Event: “ Strolling on the ‘Sip”  
Vicksburg Main Street**

**FRIDAY, November 15, 2024**

**7:30-8:30am Registration  
Front Entrance Lobby**

**Continental Breakfast  
Students Set Posters Up  
Visit Exhibitors and Posters  
Exhibit Hall A**

**8:30am -10:30am Friday Opening General Session  
Exhibit Hall B**

**“Becoming a Behavior Smart Leader: Innovations in  
Brain Science and Leadership”  
Michael E. Frisina, PhD, Author of Influential Leadership**

**Innovations in Public and Rural Health in Mississippi**

- **Terrance Shirley, MPH, CEO, Community Health Center Association of Mississippi (CHCAMS)**
- **Ryan Kelly, Executive Director, Mississippi Rural Health Association**
- **Jennifer Gholson, MS, Director of the Center for Rural Health, MSDH**
- **Felisa Wilson-Simpson, PhD, FNP-BC, PPCNP-BC Director, Office of Community Health Worker, MSDH**

**10:30am-11:00am Exhibitor and Poster Session and Break  
Exhibit Hall A**

**11:00am- 12:00pm Concurrent Workshops**

**Session 3A: Linking Solutions to Violence: Communities,  
Hospitals, and Healthcare**

**Lei Zhang, PhD, MBA, Professor and Associate Dean for  
Research & Scholarship, School of Nursing  
Harriet G. Williamson Chair of Population Health Nursing  
University of Mississippi Medical Center**

**Laura Vearrier, MD, DBe, Associate Professor of Emergency  
Medicine  
University of Mississippi Medical Center**

**Matthew Kutcher, MD, MS  
Surgeon and Intensivist  
University of Mississippi Medical Center**

### **Meeting Room 1**

**Session 3B: Change Management: Evolve with Ease**  
**Chaka Turner BS, MBA**  
**Principal Consultant and Founder, Collab Air**

### **Meeting Room 2**

**Session 3C: The Future Public Health Workforce**

**Elizabeth Kidwell, MPH, CHES**  
**Training Specialist & Field Placement Manager, Region IV**  
**Public Health Training Center (PHTC)**  
**Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University**

**Angie Gainey, MBA, Convening Strategist**  
**Mississippi Public Health Institution**

**Alisa Habeeb Williams**  
**Deputy Administrator of Human Capital**  
**Mississippi State Department of Health**

### **Meeting Room 3**

**Session 3D: CSI: Clinical Science Investigations That Solve**  
**Public Health Puzzles**

**Daphne Ware, PhD, Director**  
**Mississippi Public Health Laboratory**

**Theresa Kittle, MPH, Director**  
**Office of Epidemiology**  
**Mississippi State Department of Health**

### **Meeting Room 4**

**12:00pm**

**Exhibits Close**  
**Posters Close**

**12:30 -2:30pm**

**President's Awards Luncheon and Celebration**  
**Exhibit Hall B**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Karin Thurman, MPHA President**

**Keynote Speaker**

**“Be the Voice You Want to Hear”**

**April Smith-Parkman**

**Awards Presentations**

**Special Recognitions**

**Announcement of Student Poster Winners**

**Announcement of Elected Officers**

**Passing of the Gavel**

**Adjourn**