

# Informing **Health** Policy

annual report 09



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INSTITUTE

Research. Policy. Education

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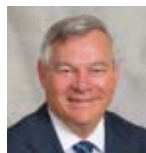
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# fphi board chair



**James T. Howell, MD, MPH**  
*Chair, Department of Rural Medicine  
and Professor of Public Health  
Nova Southeastern University College of  
Osteopathic Medicine*

Dr. Howell earned his Bachelor of Science degree from St. John's University in New York in 1962 and his Doctor of

Medicine degree from the New York Medical College in 1966. Following an internship, he served as Captain in the Medical Services Corps of the United States Army and Chief of the Preventive Medical Division at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

After completing a preventive medicine residency in Palm Beach County, Dr. Howell earned a Masters degree from the Harvard School of Public Health and completed the program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. He has served in numerous public health positions in Florida, including that of State Health Officer and Secretary of the Florida Department of Health.

Dr. Howell joined the faculty at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine as Chair of the Department of Rural Medicine in 1999. In that position, he coordinates and supervises the clinical rotations undertaken by students at community health centers, physician offices and the Florida Department of Corrections. He teaches courses in rural medicine, lectures in public health and organizes educational programs that address unique aspects of rural and global medicine.

Dr. Howell played a key role in the founding of the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness at Nova Southeastern University. The Center has evolved into one of five national centers funded in part by the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

In addition to FPHI, Dr. Howell serves on the Board of Directors of Glades General Hospital, and is Vice-Chair of the Palm Beach County Health Facilities Authority. He also serves on the Tobacco Education and Use Prevention Advisory Council of the Florida Department of Health. He has been a long time member of the Palm Beach County Medical Society, is a past President of the Palm Beach County Medical Society Services and is a past Chair of the Project Access Leadership Committee. Dr. Howell serves as a delegate to the Florida Medical Association and is a member of the FMA Public Health Council. He has been a member of the Florida Public Health Association for many years.

In 2009, Dr. Howell was selected as the recipient of the South Florida Business Journal's Excellence in Health Care Awards Lifetime Achievement award.

# executive director



**Claude Earl Fox, MD, MPH**  
*Executive Director*

Claude Earl Fox, MD, MPH is a public health physician who has headed federal, state and local agencies in a greater than three-decade career dedicated to equal access to health care. He is currently a professor in the Department

of Epidemiology Public Health at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and the founding director of the Florida Public Health Institute. Dr. Fox is also one of six people (the only one from North America) serving on an internal pandemic influenza advisory committee to Roche Labs in Basel, Switzerland. He was previously the first permanent director of the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute and Professor of The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with joint academic appointments in the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and School of Medicine.

Dr. Fox has been a leader in public health at the federal, state and local levels. From November 1995 to March 1997, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health in the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Before that, he served as HHS regional health administrator in Philadelphia, overseeing federal health and human service programs in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware and the District of Columbia. He was Alabama's state health officer from 1986 to 1992 and Mississippi's deputy state health officer from 1983 to 1986 and also has served as President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

A member of President Obama's transition team, Dr. Fox spent seven years in the Clinton administration, including the last four years as administrator of the federal Health Resources and Services Administration in the Department of Health and Human Services, the nation's second-largest public health agency after the National Institutes of Health. While there, Fox co-chaired the development and implementation of the State Child Health Insurance Program, which led to health care coverage for millions of children.

Dr. Fox is a graduate of Mississippi College, earned his medical degree at the University of Mississippi and received a master's of public health from the University of North Carolina in 1975. He performed his pediatric residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the University of Mississippi. He is board certified in Preventive Medicine and Public Health. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine and the American Academy of Pediatrics. In addition, Dr. Fox is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Network of Public Health Institutes and sits on the Advisory Board of University of Florida's School of Public Health and the University of Kentucky Health Systems Research Board.

## fphi staff



**Debora Kerr, MA**  
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# mission statement

The Florida Public Health Institute  
advances the knowledge  
and practice of public health to promote,  
protect and improve the health of all.

## Letter from the top

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a long and eventful year since our last report in 2008.

With many industries struggling during this economic downturn, FPHI is enacting its vision to evolve into an institute with multiple governmental and private funding sources to further champion changes in health related policy and implementation. These increasing affiliations are bringing intellectual capital that are enhancing health care services and improving the health system fabric throughout the state and nation.

FPHI continues to develop innovative projects focused on workforce retention, community mitigation and preparedness, primary care and oral health services for the uninsured and under insured populations, online training, courses, electronic community messaging and environmental and safe water related issues. These initiatives are focused on finding new ways of working with the business community.

Adversity is often accompanied by opportunity. The economic crisis is impacting Florida — which means state and local government is also affected. With possible funding reductions looming, now is the time to evaluate programs and prioritize accordingly. Instead of viewing this as a time of adversity, FPHI chooses to look at this time as an ideal opportunity to reevaluate and reprioritize. We have the opportunity to focus our efforts on results-oriented programs and projects that can and will put Florida in the forefront of health policy.

FPHI continues to participate as a collaborator with state and local health departments, private business, communities and universities, while being a vehicle for positive health system change wherever the opportunity may arise.

We look forward to continuing to provide annual updates of our progress and milestones.

Here's to opportunity and having a positive impact on healthcare policy!

Sincerely,

James T. Howell, MD, MPH  
Board Chair

Claude Earl Fox, MD, MPH  
Executive Director

# fphi summary

## history & accomplishments

The Florida Public Health Institute (FPHI) was incorporated in 2001 as the Miami-Dade Public Health Institute and modified to the FPHI in 2007. The initial funding of \$1.25 million came from the Quantum Foundation and the National Network of Public Health Institutes/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to expand the Institute's infrastructure and program development capabilities.

The objective of FPHI is to apply a multi-sector systems approach as a neutral convener for public-private partnership development of health-related matters for the citizens of Palm Beach County, the State of Florida and the national community. Its mission is to "...advance the knowledge and practice of public health to promote, protect and improve the health of all."

FPHI will promote improvements in health through health advocacy, education of the community, training of the health workforce and through basic and applied research. The Institute is promoting the formulation of improved health through public health policy.

FPHI is working on retaining and recruiting workers in the public health field, educating the public on the links between oral health and chronic diseases like diabetes, establishing more federally qualified health centers, and studying the impact climate change will have on the quality and quantity of safe drinking water.

The Lake Worth-based Institute's other goals are to keep locally trained medical professionals working within Florida, promote the development of a Palm Beach County Academic Medical Center, create a Master's of Public Health degree program at FAU, increase training in public health statewide and expand an existing FPHI two-week course in applied public health offered in five sites across the state.

FPHI has brought together leaders to begin the dialog about positive health system change. Partners include; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resource & Services Administration (HRSA), National Association of City & County Health Officers

(NACCHO), Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), California Public Health Institute, Florida Department of Health, Florida Public Health Association, Louisiana Public Health Institute, Michigan Public Health Institute, New Hampshire Public Health Institute, University of Florida, Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Florida State University,

University of Miami, University of North Florida, Nova Southeastern University, University of South Florida, Palm Beach Community College and County Health Departments.

Since its inception, FPHI has expanded its board to fifteen members, developed a five year strategic plan, created and executed a sustainability plan, increased and diversified its funding sources, enhanced internal information technology infrastructure and developed several projects for each of its five Centers of Excellence. These five centers include: Workforce Development, Bio-Preparedness and Health System Readiness, Primary Care and Prevention, Research, Education and Training, and a Center for a Sustainable Environment and Safe Water.

FPHI has made great strides by bringing together leaders from academia, city, county and state government, foundations, business and industry and the local communities.

## driving policy/change

FPHI, with a variety of partners, is positioning the Institute as a vehicle for positive health system change wherever the opportunity may arise. Positive health system change, for example, will be done in part by working through state and federal collaborations to increase access to healthcare. FPHI will provide non-biased information to state and local governmental and legislative officials on pertinent and late-breaking health topics.

FPHI hopes to collaborate with foundations statewide to increase its policy activities. Institute staff recently attended policy training provided at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. This training will serve as a template for a series of workshops on health to elected officials at the state and county government level.

A newly created Health Policy Bureau will span activities of all five FPHI Centers of Excellence. In addition, the Institute has recently established a Center of Sustainable Environment and Safe Water. This Center will explore policy issues around mitigating the effects of climate change and its effects on public health and the availability of safe water.



# collaboration **benefits**

## **Potential Benefits of Collaboration between the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP) at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Florida Public Health Institute (FPHI)**

The Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness at Nova Southeastern is a national center focused on interdisciplinary training, information dissemination, and technical assistance related to all-hazards preparedness in a global society.

Goal: Through synergistic and complementary activities, enhance the missions of FPHI and CBAP as well as collaborate in the identification and pursuit of potential public and private funding sources to support mutual goals.

### **Specific Initiatives**

- Plan, develop, and implement collaborative projects that lead to personal, business, and professional disaster preparedness plans.
- Plan, develop, and implement collaborative projects that reduce the impact of disasters and public health emergencies in the community and increase resiliency.
- Plan, develop, and implement evaluation of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and recovery initiatives.
- Identify Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from public sector and private sources (e.g., foundations) that can lead to the support of FPHI and CBAP collaborative efforts.
- Identify, plan, and implement collaborative projects that focus on disaster and emergency preparedness for vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations.

# fphi **master course**

## **An Introduction to Applied Public Health**

In June 2009, Florida Public Health Institute co-sponsored a two-week Master Course at five sites across the state with the Florida Department of Health, county health departments, various Florida universities and the A.G. Holley Florida State Hospital.

This course serves as an “Introduction to Applied Public Health” and provides an overview of core public health disciplines with hands-on exposure to its application in the field. The three-credit Master Course introduces students to the concepts and theories and their application in the practice of public health.

The Master Course outline utilized ten distinct core subject modules of learning experiences. The classes were conducted over two consecutive weeks (Monday through Friday), with 50% of the time spent in lectures/discussions and 50% consisting of field experiences that relates to the content presented in the lectures.



Lectures were presented in the mornings in an innovative distance-based learning setting at pre-selected sites around the state of Florida with experiential trips and/or directed simulated workshop activities conducted in the afternoon. The lectures were presented by Florida Department of Health (FDOH), A.G. Holley Florida State Hospital, University of Florida, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Florida State University, University of Miami, University of North Florida, Nova Southeastern University, University of South Florida, several county health departments, and the FDOH Bureau of Laboratories. The goal of the partnerships is to increase awareness regarding the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree programs and increase participation in the field of public health.



“The Intro to Applied Public Health course exceeded my expectations, which were high from the outset. I gained new insights from true leaders, scholars and practitioners in the field—including course participants—that have inspired me to pursue a career that merges epidemiology with public policy. Thank you FPHI for this incredible learning opportunity!”

CB Wohl, Grant Specialist,  
Palm Beach County Health Department

## President Obama's Transition Team

FPHI Executive Director, Dr. Claude Earl Fox, was selected last November as one of 350 people to serve on President-elect Obama's transition team. Dr. Fox was one of just 26 on the transition team's Department of Health and Human Services working group. The transition team is divided into smaller working groups and provided Cabinet-level appointees information to help them through the confirmation process and early days in office.

## FPHI: Health Policy Activities

Because education and training, policy development, networking, and dissemination are at the core of FPHI's mission, the Institute is currently developing a project to create a health policy center that, through a series of face-to-face meetings and focused educational sessions with legislators and staff, will become a source of impartial health policy information and a resource for future health policy research.

In June of 2009, Debora Kerr, Deputy Director of FPHI, and other representatives from Florida attended a policy institute orientation conducted by the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) located in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University in Atlanta. The training explored legislative relationship building, policy roundtable development, systems approach to legislative education and the creation of a curriculum for a legislative health policy certificate program. GHPC has instituted a certificate program for Georgia legislators that was well-received and the GHPC has offered to make their consultation services and materials available to FPHI.

FPHI will be working to develop policy papers on important issues facing state and local lawmakers. Working closely with academic institutions and their academic advisory committees, FPHI will draw on the expertise of Florida's universities in providing non-biased information to decision makers about important health policy issues.

## Medicaid Discussion

Medicaid is the Federal and State program that provides health coverage for many people who would otherwise be uninsured. FPHI has been and will be actively engaged in providing policy options for Medicaid spending based on return for investment to state and county governments. Billions of dollars in Medicaid are spent each year in Florida to improve health outcomes of vulnerable populations. FPHI plans to make both policy options for improvement of Medicaid services transparent for those making the decisions.

There is also a need to explore new third party funding opportunities for oral health services for mothers and children through Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP) for low income and especially vulnerable populations. FPHI plans to make policy options for improvement of Medicaid services transparent for those making the decisions.

## Immunization Debate

Immunizations, both childhood and adult, have decades of proven safety and effectiveness. However, some still question if vaccines

cause more harm than good. Debates at the state and local level around vaccine safety and utilization have life and death implications for our citizens and should be based on solid scientific evidence. FPHI has been and continues to be a source of evidence-based knowledge for immunizations as well as other essential health interventions.

## Oral Health Coalition

FPHI has been an active partner in the Florida State Coalition on oral health and is responsible for chairing its communication work group. The Florida Public Health Institute currently facilitates the Palm Beach County Oral Health Coalition (PBCOHC) whose mission, and ours is to improve the oral health of all residents in Palm Beach County in order to improve overall health.

The Coalition became a local initiative in 2007 as a result of information reported by local programs conducting oral health screenings/inspections (e.g., dental sealant, maternal-child system, early childhood education coalition, and school nurses) that identified high percentages of children as having a need for, but very limited access to, oral health services in Palm Beach County.

Realizing that the access to care issue that Palm Beach County faced was far greater than previously estimated, the Coalition began to research a variety of state and national coalition models. After careful review of the strategic plan of the State Oral Health Improvement Plan for Disadvantaged Floridians (SOHIP), the Coalition agreed to locally adopt parallel goals including prevention and education, early intervention and treatment, and advocacy.

In January of 2009, the Coalition held a strategic planning session and adopted its mission statement, "The Palm Beach County Oral Health Coalition's mission is to improve the oral health of all residents in Palm Beach County in order to improve overall health". The Coalition members also chose to enhance the three original goals for the upcoming year to: fluoridation/prevention, education/community messaging and access/treatment.

In 2000, the Surgeon General issued a report entitled "Oral Health in America." In the report, the Surgeon General focused on why oral health is important. "The mouth is the major portal of entry into the body... In the event that the integrity of oral tissues is compromised, the mouth can become a source of disease or pathological processes affecting other parts of the body."

According to the National Institutes of Health, "Oral health is an





# health policy (continued)

essential component of health throughout life. Poor oral health and untreated oral diseases can have a significant impact on the quality of life. They can affect the most basic human needs, including the ability to eat and drink, swallow, maintain proper nutrition, smile and communicate.” Such diseases know as dental caries (cavities) and periodontal disease (gum disease) are caused by specific bacteria and are considered infectious bacterial diseases. These diseases can lead to tooth loss and have been linked to various other diseases of the body such as heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, pre-term birth and recently pancreatic cancer.

FPHI has been an active partner in the Florida State Coalition on Oral Health and is responsible for chairing its communication work group. Presently the Coalition is working with more than twenty community partners as well as multiple state partners. Most recently the PBCOHC is updating the States Coalition Website, by developing a messaging toolbox that will promote oral health throughout the state. In addition, the Coalition partners have been working collaboratively on two community resources. The first is a Resource Guide that is presently housed on the FPHI/OHC website. The second is an educational web-based Resource Center that will launch its first phase this fall. This web-based Resource Center will be housed on the FPHI/OHC website as well as the Palm Beach Community College and the Palm Beach County Health Department websites.

The PBCOHC recognizes oral health disparities exist in all age groups. With this in mind, the Coalition has developed an Oral Health Promotion plan starting with the underserved and uninsured children in Palm Beach County. The plan eventually will be expanded to include all age groups and could be developed as a state model.

## sustainable

# environment & safe water



### **Public Health Policy: Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation**

In 2008, FPHI formed a water steering committee whose members include local leaders from private business and local and statewide government agencies. Current topics include forming a sister institute relationship with the Netherlands, sponsoring a symposium and trade show in 2010 and developing a water policy journal for publication.

### **Water and the Global Economy**

Water is essential for everyday life. Homes, businesses, public and private institutions and industries all use one basic resource, water. The Florida Public Health Institute understands the challenges that are increasingly threatening the supply and safety of water on a national and global scale. Water is needed for political stability as it directly and indirectly affects the economic status of a nation through its water security issues: food supply, energy and economic growth. As the

population continues to grow exponentially, the demand for water will continue to increase. However, there is a limited supply of water on Earth's surface and a continued supply of potable, safe water is essential to public health. FPHI encourages government entities, public health agencies, private business and the community-at-large to provide leadership on water conservation, security and economic issues by increasing awareness, improving management and promoting investment and reform.

## other project

# updates & grants

In 2008, FPHI received official certification for sound, non-profit management. Non-Profits First awarded FPHI this designation after multiple site visits, internal review, and an outside audit.



### **Strengthening the Public Health Nursing Workforce**

FPHI continues to concentrate on public health nursing workforce issues and has collaborated with academic, business, community, and public health partners. FPHI has developed five continuing education courses that are offered at no-cost to public health nurses on the FPHI website, and they are approved for nursing continuing education credits in both Florida and Alabama. The course topics were developed in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health and include Bio-preparedness, Chronic Disease Management, Protecting Your Nursing License, Evidence-Based Programs, and Pharmaceutical Drug Update.

FPHI is currently managing a three-year grant program funded by the Palm Healthcare Foundation to identify public health nursing workforce needs. The project focuses on the quantification of Palm Beach County nursing workforce needs, and as a result, makes recommendations for a desired staffing pattern including numbers of full time equivalents (FTEs). Project outcomes will be evaluated and reported, and technical assistance provided so that these identified strategies can be implemented and adopted in other counties and states. In 2010, two to three additional counties in Florida will be chosen as pilot projects to evaluate program modeling.

### **Quantum Foundation: FQHC Technical Assistance**

FPHI is providing technical assistance to local “free clinics”, and any other interested parties needing process information to prepare applications to become a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or FQHC Look-a-Like sites located in Palm Beach County.

### **Legislation House Bill 33 I**

The Florida Legislature recently passed House Bill #33I which will provide opportunities for the State of Florida and the Florida Public Health Institute to work cooperatively to improve public health Governor Crist signed this bill into law in June 2009.

# centers of excellence

## Center for Bio-Preparedness and Health System Readiness

- Promote Innovative Programs in Bio-Preparedness
- Develop Community Mitigation Strategies
- Explore the Use of Computer Modeling in Disaster Preparedness

## Center for Workforce Development

- Assess Health & Public Health Workforce Needs
- Develop Recruitment & Retention Strategies

## Center for Preventive & Primary Care

- Increase Access to Care
- Promote Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Increase Knowledge of Medicaid/SCHIP Oral Health Policies
- Promote Use of Electronic Medical Records
- Promote Preventive Training in Graduate Medical Education

## Center for Education, Research and Training

- Promote Collaborations between Public Health & Academia
- Engage a Statewide Research University Consortium
- Support Development of Palm Beach County MPH Programs

## Center for Sustainable Environment & Safe Water

- Convene Sustainable Environment & Safe Water Committee
- Create a Public Health Position Paper
- Develop Economic Model Promoting Safe Water and Efficient Energy Use



# funding

The following organizations provide FPHI with funding and valuable resources. We are proud to acknowledge additional contributors over the past year.

- Quantum Foundation
- National Network of Public Health Institutes
- Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami
- Palm Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
- Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties
- Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Inc.



# donor information

We are grateful to our generous donors and we continue to recognize the spirit of collaboration and support that the Florida Public Health Institute has received to date.

We are currently seeking donations that will aid in shaping policy statewide and make our strategic vision a reality throughout Florida while building and bridging partnerships nationwide.

**Choose where your donation goes:**

- Centers of Excellence (indicate which Center):**
  - Center for Bio-Preparedness and Health System Readiness
  - Center for Workforce Development
  - Center for Preventive & Primary Care
  - Center for Education, Research and Training
  - Center for Sustainable Environment & Safe Water

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