



*Georgia Department of Public Health*

# **Board of Public Health Meeting**

Tuesday, October 13, 2015



*We Protect Lives.*

# Commissioner's Update

Brenda Fitzgerald, MD  
Commissioner, DPH

**Virginia Apgar  
Prematurity Campaign Leadership Award**

Seema Csukas, MD, PhD  
Medical Director, Maternal and Child Programs  
Georgia Department of Public Health

# Background

- ASTHO – Healthy Babies President’s Challenge
- March of Dimes – Prematurity Campaign
- Prevent preterm births and infant mortality



# REDUCE

PREMATURITY

A pie chart with a light yellow background and a blue slice representing 8%. The text '8%' is written in large blue font over the chart. Below the chart, the text 'by 2014' is written in red.

8%

by 2014

## The Goal

Reduce the rate of premature birth by **8% by 2014** (measured against 2009 data)





# Award Presentation

**Cheryl T. Monkhouse**

*Director of Communications*

March of Dimes

**Julie Zaharatos, MPH**

*Director of Program Services &  
Government Affairs*

March of Dimes - Georgia Chapter

# Tobacco-Free Initiative

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**Tyra Brown, MPH**  
**Public Health Information Specialist**  
**Georgia Hospital Association**



# Call to Action

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- Tobacco use
  - Is leading preventable cause of death in Georgia –
    - more than 11,000 deaths annually.
  - Annual Costs to Georgians
    - \$1.8 billion in healthcare costs
    - \$3.2 billion in lost productivity
- To reduce the burden of tobacco use and create safer, healthier environments that set a good example for the public more hospitals need to adopt a tobacco-free hospital policy.

# Initiative – Tobacco Free Hospital Campus

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- Partnership - Georgia Hospital Association with Georgia Department of Public Health
- Encouraged adoption of tobacco free campus policy
- Updated Tobacco-free Hospital Campus list
  - Direct calling and letters to hospital's CEO
- Provided technical assistance to hospitals that want to become a tobacco free campus

# Findings

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Georgia Hospitals with tobacco-free campus policies

Before

–109

After

– 130

(Excludes veteran hospitals and hospital closures)

# Break down - Who are they

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- 130 Tobacco-Free Hospital Campuses
  - 7 specialty hospitals
  - 26 critical access hospitals
  - 94 acute care hospitals
  - 3 psychiatric/behavioral health hospitals
- 16 hospitals smoke free campus designation - allows the use of tobacco in designated areas
  - 1 critical access hospital
  - 9 acute care hospitals
  - 6 specialty hospitals
- 39 hospitals are unclassified with status unknown
  - 5 acute care hospitals
  - 3 critical access hospitals
  - 10 specialty hospitals
  - 21 psychiatric/behavioral health hospitals

# Findings

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- Behavioral and rehabilitation hospitals – population is “different” are “residents”
- Smoke-free hospitals that have not yet adopted a tobacco free hospital campus policy – community and employee constraints
- Some hospitals felt that additional staff is needed to enforce a tobacco-free policy in their facility

# Recommendations and Lessons Learned

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- Community support is required
- Culture change
- Leadership has to be supportive of the tobacco free policy to effectively enforce it among staff and the public
- Myth Busters
  - Additional staff is not needed to implement a tobacco free policy
  - Individuals with mental health issues and or residing in rehabilitation facilities are receptive to tobacco cessation

# Hancock County Telehealth Project

Jean Sumner, MD

# Volunteer Health Program

LaKieva Williams, MPA, MNM, EHMP  
Volunteer Program Director  
Georgia Department of Public Health



# GEORGIA RESPONDS



- GeorgiaResponds.org is the volunteer website that allows both medical and non-medical volunteers to register.
- At this portal you can connect to ALL DPH volunteer programs
- Medical providers credentials (licenses) are automatically verified.





# VOLUNTEER HISTORY LESSON 101



6/07 2006-394 © John Dechbaum

# What is ESAR VHP?

- ESAR VHP- (Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals)
  - A federal program to establish and implement guidelines and standards for the registration , credentialing, and deployment of medical professionals in the event of a large scale emergency.
  - The program is administered under the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (ASPR) within the Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations.

# ESAR-VHP Requirements

- Offer **web-based registration**
- Ensures volunteer information is **collected, assembled, maintained** and utilized in manner **consistent** w/ all Federal, State, and local laws.
- Ensures that each State ESAR-VHP system is backed up on a regular basis.
- The electronic system must be able to register and collect the credentials and qualifications of health professionals

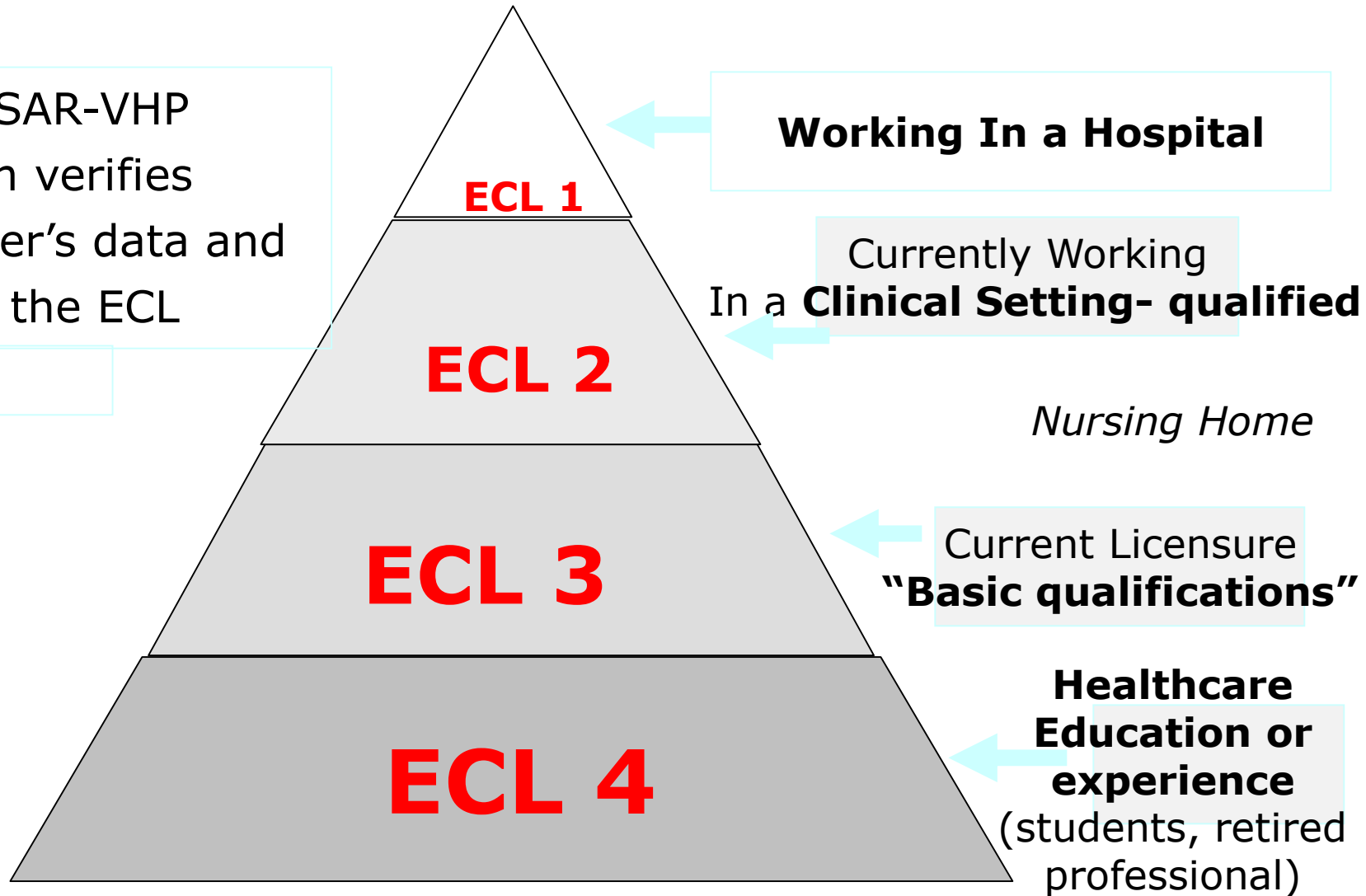


# ESAR-VHP Requirements cont.

- Electronic system must be able to assign volunteers to all four ESAR-VHP levels.
- The system must be able to record **ALL** volunteer health professional/ emergency preparedness affiliations of an individual, including local, State, and Federal entities.
- The electronic system must be able to **identify** volunteers willing to participate in a Federally coordinated response.
- Each state must be able to update volunteer information and re-verify credentials every 6 months.



# Emergency Credential Levels (ECL)



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# What is SERVGA

- **S**tate **E**mergency **R**egistry of **V**olunteers in **G**eorgia (SERVGA)
- SERVGA integrates government-sponsored, local, regional and statewide volunteer programs to **assist** emergency response and public safety organizations during a disaster.
- SERVGA is a statewide secure database of pre-credentialed **healthcare professionals** and **other volunteers** who want to help in case of a public health emergency.



# Why is SERVGA Vital?

- Experience has proven that effective emergency response requires volunteers to be **organized** and **pre-credentialed before** a disaster or event occurs.
- By registering with SERVGA in advance, you become part of an alert system that enables **you** to respond when your services are needed!



# ***...It's vital because we're not exempt from disaster/ public health emergencies***

- July 2015 - Water Shut Down (**DeKalb County**) : 700,000 DeKalb residents and healthcare facilities were under a boil water advisory.
- June 2015- **Albany** Nursing Home Fire: 130 Residents evacuated
- June 2015 5 tornadoes strike Metro Atlanta and North Georgia
- January 2015 - **Alma** tornados
- December 2014 -**Valdosta** Tornado
- October 2014 -**Alpharetta** EF 1 Tornado
- 2014- and beyond- Ebola Virus Disease
- June 2014- **Jefferson** County Hospital Evacuation : Toxic Chemical Exposure
- June 2014 **Troup** County Tornado
- May 2014- **Eastman** Tornado : Heart of Georgia Nursing Home
- February 2014 Snow/Ice Event
- January 2014 Snow/Ice Event
- May 2013- Shooting at **Tift** Regional
- February 2013- 27 **Dublin** Car Accident on
- January 2013- Adairsville Torndo : 2 Fatalities; 17 injuries

# SERVGA Verification

## **SERVGA is currently integrated with:**

- Georgia Composite Medical Board
- Boards of Dentistry and Pharmacy
- Secretary of State (SOS)
- Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services (GA EMS)

## **National and Federal databases:**

- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Office of Inspector General (OIG)

# SERVGA can be used daily...

- Remember people who are **familiar** with a system are more comfortable with using it during an emergency.
  - Use SERVGA to communicate and better manage your volunteers- robust notification system
  - Use SERVGA to verify your volunteers licenses every 30 days
  - Use SERVGA for their reporting features
  - SERVGA can be accessed from anywhere
  - SERVGA is SECURE and tracks all of your training and can be customized

We have more volunteer opportunities!!! Located in....



# Medical Reserve Corps



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# Who are the MRCs?

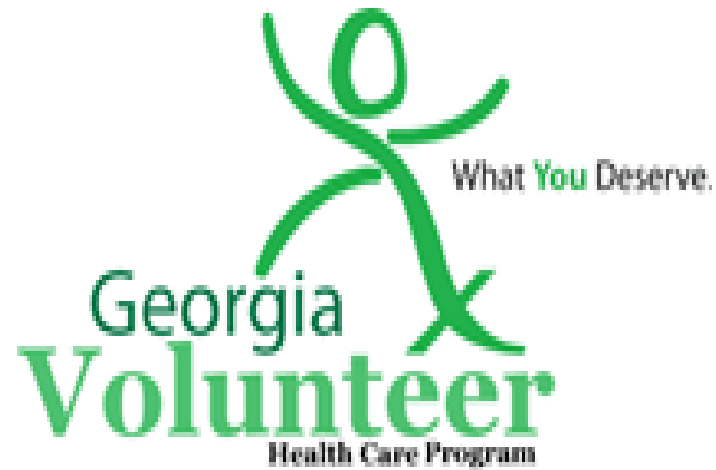
The Medical Reserve Corps volunteers work with local partners to build strong, safe, resilient communities through preparedness, planning, and ongoing health activities.



# Facts About Georgia MRCs

- Georgia currently has **18 MRC** units
- **110** counties currently have MRC units
- MRCs consist of both **medical** and **non-medical** volunteers
- MRCs participate in disaster mental health services, routine medical screenings, radiation training, immunizations, community preparedness activities, and more!
- Work toward bettering their local area's public health infrastructure and strengthening response capabilities in event of emergency.





# Georgia Volunteer Health Care Program

## GVHCP

*We Protect Lives.*



# Georgia Volunteer Health Care Program (GVHCP): Origin and Mission

- The mission is to increase and promote access to quality health care by providing **Sovereign Immunity (SI)** protection to health care professionals, clinics, and corporations who treat uninsured individuals **at or below 200 percent** of the federal poverty level.
- House Bill 166 enacted in 2005 and amended in 2006 with House Bill 1224, created the “Health Share Volunteers in Medicine Act”, to increase access to quality health care and encourage volunteerism.



# GVHCP: The Need

**Population of Georgia: 9,620,000**

**Number of uninsured Georgians: 1,283,600**  
(age 0-64 up to 200% FPL)

**Percentage of uninsured Georgians qualifying for GVHCP covered services: 13%**

(Data from [www.statehealthfacts.org](http://www.statehealthfacts.org) accessed 4.5.14)



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# GVHCP is...



**More than just  
a band-aid**

GVHCP is more than just a “band aid”. GVHCP partnering clinics take care of the people in **local communities with basic primary care, and managing chronic illnesses and diseases that take lives**. The clinics help defray cost of enormous E.D. bills that many patients could never pay for. The program saves hospitals money, and saves tax payers money.



***We Protect Lives.***

# GVHCP: Expanding our influence

## 📍 Develop access points

- 📍 Clinic development and expansion

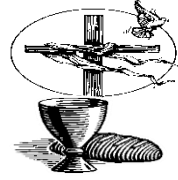
  - 📍 Free Standing, Mobile, Creative Models

- 📍 Private providers

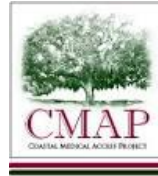
  - 📍 In office, phone consults, Telehealth/Telemedicine



*We Protect Lives.*



Good Samaritan Clinic  
Clinica el Buen Samaritano  
St. Joseph's/Candler



Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation



Community Health Mission  
WWW.CHMSAVANNAH.ORG



THE BEN MASSELL DENTAL CLINIC



Restoring Health. Saving Lives.



We Protect Lives.



# GVHCP: Outside the Box



- ⌘ “Volunteers in Medicine” and “Volunteers in Dentistry” licenses are available for retired or out-of-state Physicians and Dentists through their licensing boards
- ⌘ CME/CEU offered by some licensing boards (1 hour for every 4 of service up to 10 every 2 years)
- ⌘ Private corporations affiliated with the provider may also be protected

# GVHCP Statewide Impact

- 171,136 patient visits conducted FY 2013
- 99,930 hours contributed by licensed health care providers
- \$24,880,452 in donated health care services
- \$1,023,803 in services performed by non-licensed volunteers
- Increased access to affordable, quality health care in communities across the state
- Reduction in use of emergency rooms by patients needing primary care, thus reducing cost to tax payers
- Improved health outcomes as a result of timely access to care and prevention of disease progression



# Who can Volunteer?

Volunteers of **ALL** skill levels and backgrounds are needed during an emergency response.

From a licensed and certified healthcare provider to a retired professional or someone who just wants to help- we need you!



A close-up photograph of Tom Cruise, looking intense and shouting into a mobile phone held to his ear. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text "Show Me the System!" is overlaid in large, bold, red letters across the center of the image.

**Show Me the System!**

*We Protect Lives.*

# What you will see when you visit Georgia Responds...



click.  
connect.  
care.

[Home](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Resources](#)

## Welcome to Georgia Responds, Home of the Department of Public Health's Volunteers.

Effective medical response relies on volunteers. Volunteers need to be organized, pre-credentialed and ready to mobilize during both times of disaster and times of simple, clear community need. Whether you are a healthcare provider, administrative specialist, a retired professional - anyone ready to help in your community - Georgia needs you. Georgia Responds is the organization that serves as a gateway into Georgia's medical and volunteer health care programs. By signing up today, it's just a **Click, Connect and Care** away.



The **State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Georgia** integrates government-sponsored local, regional and statewide volunteer programs to assist emergency response and public safety organizations during a disaster. It is part of a national initiative to coordinate and mobilize volunteers to respond to all types of emergencies.

Experience has proven that effective emergency response requires volunteers to be organized and pre-credentialed before a disaster or event occurs. This alleviates the issues associated with non-certified and unprepared volunteers.

Username:

Password:

[Log](#)

[Forgot Username or Password](#)



*We Protect Lives.*

# Select your programs of interest

## Registration

① For the best experience, do not use the refresh, stop, back or forward buttons on the browser and only single-click buttons within a page.

② An asterisk (\*) indicates a required field. You will be alerted if the required information has not been entered.

③ For your security, all communications are encrypted and you will be logged out automatically if you are inactive for more than 20 minutes.

④ We recommend [Microsoft Internet Explorer for Windows](#) (8.0 or newer), [Mozilla Firefox for Mac or PC](#) (3.5 or newer), [Apple Safari for Mac or PC](#) (5.0 or newer) or [Google Chrome for Mac or PC](#) (16.0 or newer) with JavaScript enabled and pop-up blocker turned off to use this site. Please see your browser's help file for more information.

## Volunteer Opportunities

\* Are you interested in volunteering for the Georgia Volunteer Healthcare Program (GVHCP)? As a volunteer you will help increase access to healthcare for uninsured and underinsured Georgians. Sovereign Immunity (SI) is provided to licensed health and dental providers. *During an emergency or disaster your services maybe requested, however you are not required to volunteer.*  Yes  No

\* Are you interested in volunteering to assist emergency response and public safety organizations (MRC, CERT, GNAS, etc) during a disaster? State Emergency Registry of Volunteers (SERVGA) allows you to affiliate with a variety of organizations that are dedicated to emergency preparedness. Volunteers are utilized during both non-emergencies and emergencies.  Yes  No

## Account Information

# Select A County...

## Organizations


\* Select your county unless you are already a member of an MRC:

Bibb



Select Organization

## Account Information

 Creating an account is the first step in the SERVGA registration process. You will use your account username and password each time you log into SERVGA.

\* Username:

*The username must be at least six (6) characters long and cannot contain spaces. Acceptable characters include alphanumeric (A-Z, 0-9) and the symbols @, ., -, and \_ . Usernames are not case sensitive.*

\* Password:

\* Confirm Password:

- ✗ Password must be 6 characters or longer
- ✗ Password must contain a number
- ✗ Password must contain a letter
- ✗ Confirmation password must match

\* Secret Question:

Select



\* Secret Answer:

## Volunteer Agreement

\* Volunteer Agreement:

By checking this box, I indicate that I agree to the [GVHCP Volunteer Agreement](#) and/or the [SERVGA Volunteer Agreement](#) and have read and understand the [Privacy Policy](#)

# Select a Volunteer Opportunity Under Organizations- this can be a MRC, CERT, University, and More!!!

Organizations

\* Select your county unless you are already a member of an MRC:

Select Organization

### Organization Selection

-  Central Georgia Medical Reserve Corps
-  College Preparedness Student Volunteers
-  Disaster Mental Health Response Team
-  GA Nurse Alert System
-  GA Pharmacist Alert System
-  Georgia Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc.
-  Georgia Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps
-  Macon-Bibb EMA Volunteer Group
-  Refugees and Immigrants Ready to Serve GA

Select

Volunteer Agreement

\* Volunteer Agreement:

By checking this box, I indicate that I agree to the [GVHCP Volunteer Agreement](#) and/or the [SERVGA Volunteer Agreement](#) and have read and understand the [Privacy Policy](#)

# Congratulations you're registered!



## Attention Required

Alert 1 of 1

**Congratulations, you are now registered for SERVGA.**

Congratulations you are now a registered volunteer in Georgia Responds. Your initial registration for Georgia Responds is now complete. However, additional information is needed in order to make you eligible for potential deployments and/or volunteer opportunities. Please take the time to fill out all of the sections listed in your [Profile Summary](#).

This message will appear each time you return to the Home page until your profile is complete.

Your profile is:

36 % Complete

Administrative...

Account Status: Active

[Edit Account Status](#)

Organizations:

you know?

sources

get help with  
! Try one of the


n for your question in  
help. Just click  
n the upper right  
of the page.


a message to your  
istrator. Just use the  
ct Us link at the

bottom of the page.




# Easy to Find Volunteers.. Put them in a Pending, Researching, or Accepted Status Manually...

STATE EMERGENCY REGISTRY OF VOLUNTEERS IN GEORGIA

Welcome, Mary Mack (Log Out) [Change System](#) [Help Center](#)  


[Home](#) [My Profile](#) [Missions](#) [Messages](#) **Responders** [Administration](#) [Configurations](#)

[Responder Search](#) **Unit Affiliation** [Groups](#)

<< [Back to Units](#) PRINT VIEW 

## GA Nurse Alert System

[Members](#)

 Responders in the list below have indicated that they are either already members of a unit or are interested in becoming members of a unit. You can view a responder's profile by clicking on the responder's name in the table. You can change the status of a responder in the unit by clicking the "change" link in the Status column of the responder you wish to edit. Responders may also be transferred to another unit by using the transfer dropbox at the bottom of the screen.

Display Filter

Display Status:

Check All 1-14 of 14


<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Unit	Last Updated	% Complete	Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Close, Chris</a>	GA Nurse Alert System	01/25/2013	74	<input type="text" value="Pending"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Cohen, John</a>	GA Nurse Alert System	01/25/2013	77	<input type="text" value="Pending"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Crozier, Christopher</a>	GA Nurse Alert System	01/25/2013	83	<input type="text" value="Pending"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Francz, Lauren</a>	GA Nurse Alert System	01/25/2013	79	<input type="text" value="Pending"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Johnson, Alfred</a>	GA Nurse Alert System	01/25/2013	82	<input type="text" value="Pending"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Johnson, Cheryl</a>	GA Nurse Alert System	01/25/2013	76	<input type="text" value="Pending"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Kim, Colleen</a>	GA Nurse Alert System	01/25/2013	78	<input type="text" value="Pending"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Koller, Janaki</a>	GA Nurse Alert System	01/25/2013	76	<input type="text" value="Pending"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Lever, Winnie</a>	GA Nurse Alert System	01/25/2013	72	<input type="text" value="Pending"/>

1-14 of 14

Select an Action:   Results Per Page:



# Know their Affiliations Beforehand...

STATE EMERGENCY REGISTRY OF VOLUNTEERS IN GEORGIA

Welcome, Sissy Speck (Log Out) [Change System](#) [Help](#)

[Home](#) [My Profile](#) [Missions](#) [Messages](#)

[Summary](#) [Identity](#) [Affiliation](#) [Deployment Prefs](#) [Contact](#) [Occupations](#) [Training](#) [Skills & Certifications](#) [Medical History](#) [Background Check](#) [Settings](#)

## Registration PRINT VIEW

### Affiliation

*The following are organizations you are affiliated with or would like to join.*

[Edit Information](#)

Unit	Status	
GA Nurse Alert System	Accepted	<a href="#">Withdraw</a>
GVHCP	Pending	





# Georgia Responds is the **Street** that the **SERVGA APARTMENT** is on.



- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
- Georgia Nurse Alert System (GNAS)
- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- Georgia Volunteer Health Care Program (GVHCP)
- Health Districts
- **And your organization...**

**You take a good... you take a bad...you take em' both  
and there you have... the FACTS of Life!**



[YouTube - The Facts Of Life Intro](#)



*We Protect Lives.*

# **La Kieva Williams**

Volunteer Director

Department of Public Health

Division of Health Protection

Section of Emergency Preparedness & Response

40 Pryor St, 1st FL

Atlanta, GA 30303

404-232-7821 (office)

404-736-8163 (cell)

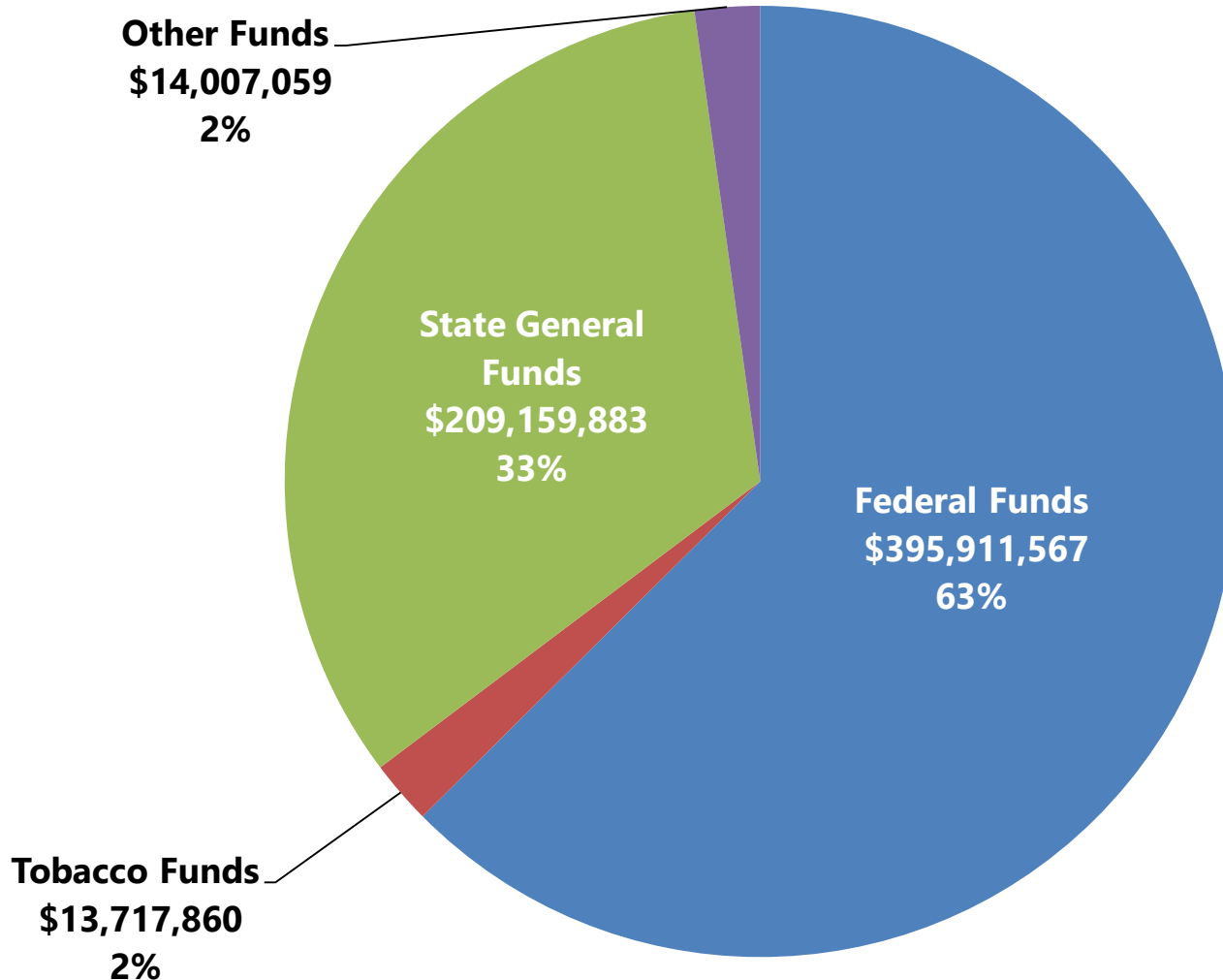
[LaKieva.Williams@dph.ga.gov](mailto:LaKieva.Williams@dph.ga.gov)

# **AFY 2016 & FY 2017 Budget Update**

Kate Pfirmman, CPA  
Chief Financial Officer  
Georgia Department of Public Health

# FY2016

**Total Budget: \$632,796,369**



*Attached agencies not included*

*We Protect Lives.*

# FY2017 Request

## **PH Formula Grants to Counties**

**\$1,388,991**

Sixth-year phase-in for the general grant-in-aid formula to hold harmless all counties

## **General Obligation Bonds**

**\$5,456,000**

Clinical Billing Information Technology System

**\$4,800,000**

Decatur Lab

**\$656,000**

# FY2017 State Funds

Public Health Programs	FY16 Budget	DPH Request	Total
Administration	\$ 22,249,660		\$ 22,249,660
Adolescent & Adult Health Promotion	\$ 3,786,815		\$ 3,786,815
Emergency Preparedness	\$ 2,584,725		\$ 2,584,725
Epidemiology	\$ 4,446,985		\$ 4,446,985
Immunization	\$ 2,527,706		\$ 2,527,706
Infant & Child Essential Health Treatment Services	\$ 21,122,570		\$ 21,122,570
Infant & Child Health Promotion	\$ 12,838,479		\$ 12,838,479
Infectious Disease Control	\$ 31,696,391		\$ 31,696,391
Inspections & Environmental Hazard Control	\$ 3,776,351		\$ 3,776,351
Public Health Grants to Counties	\$ 100,343,948	\$ 1,388,991	\$ 101,732,939
Vital Records	\$ 3,786,253		\$ 3,786,253
<b>Public Health Programs</b>	<b>\$ 209,159,883</b>	<b>\$ 1,388,991</b>	<b>\$ 210,548,874</b>
<b>Attached Agency:</b>			\$ -
Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission	\$ 16,372,494		\$ 16,372,494
<b>Total State General Funds</b>	<b>\$ 225,532,377</b>	<b>\$ 1,388,991</b>	<b>\$ 226,921,368</b>
<b>Tobacco Settlement Funds</b>			
Administration	\$ 131,795		\$ 131,795
Adolescent & Adult Health Promotion	\$ 6,857,179		\$ 6,857,179
Adult Essential Health Treatment Services	\$ 6,613,249		\$ 6,613,249
Epidemiology	\$ 115,637		\$ 115,637
<b>Total Tobacco Settlement Funds</b>	<b>\$ 13,717,860</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 13,717,860</b>



QUESTIONS?

# Closing Comments

Phillip Williams, PhD  
Chair

The next Board of Public Health meeting  
is currently scheduled on  
Tuesday, November 10, 2015 @ 1:00 PM.

To get added to the notification list for upcoming meetings, send  
an e-mail to [huriyyah.lewis@dph.ga.gov](mailto:huriyyah.lewis@dph.ga.gov)