



Office of Primary Prevention

Our Mission

The Office of Primary Prevention helps Tennessee communities build a culture of health through livable and nurturing places and spaces so that everyone can reach their full potential.

Primary Prevention Plans

95

All 95 Tennessee counties develop and implement an annual Primary Prevention Plan to address community-identified health priorities.

Healthy Development Coordinators

7

Seven Regional Healthy Development Coordinators develop and coordinate built environment and health efforts in communities across the state.

Access to Health Grants

253

The Access to Health grants aim to increase access to publicly-accessible healthy places in local communities. These grant programs have invested a total of \$5.3 million in 253 projects across the state.

Healthy Language Development

1,719

Talk with Me Baby is a population-based initiative designed to ensure healthy language development. A total of 1,300 health department staff and 419 home visitors have been trained as TWMB coaches.

Tennessee Livability Collaborative

18

The Tennessee Livability Collaborative is a working group of 18 state agencies that aim to improve collaboration and alignment of resources to promote livable communities across the state.

Built Environment + Health Newsletter

1,000+

The Built Environment + Health Newsletter shares news, funding opportunities, resources, events, and webinars with subscribers in Tennessee and beyond.



Cross-Sector Collaboration



Health + Built Environment



Resource Development



Community Focus



Partnership Building



Grant Funding



Evaluation + Assessment



Projects

Built Environment

Access to Health Grants

The grants aim to increase access to publicly-accessible healthy places in local communities. Grants include both competitive and non-competitive awards to fund project construction, plans, convening, and programming and do not require matching funds. OPP and the department's Healthy Development Coordinators oversee the proposal review, management, and evaluation of all grants. To date they have funded playgrounds, walking tracks, outdoor fitness stations, greenways and trails, and other publicly-accessible spaces that promote physical activity and social life. Most projects are located in suburban and rural communities.

Parks, Greenways, and Trails Inventory

OPP is leading a multi-agency effort to develop a comprehensive inventory of all parks, greenways, and trails in Tennessee. The inventory will be publicly available as an interactive map to help promote their use, and data will be used to measure access and determine areas of need across the state.

ULI Building Healthy Places

OPP staff serve on Urban Land Institute (ULI) Nashville's Building Healthy Places Action Council to help promote health and equity in local real estate development and planning efforts, as well as engaging with ULI's health and resiliency work nationally.

Healthy Development Coordinators

The department's seven regional coordinators engage in built environment and health efforts in communities across the state, serving as a bridge between the public health and planning worlds. OPP oversees their work, helping to set priorities and provide training and support.

Built Environment + Health Newsletter

The bi-weekly email newsletter shares news, funding opportunities, resources, events, and webinars. OPP and the Healthy Development Coordinators create the newsletter and provide content.

Health in All Policies

Tennessee Livability Collaborative

Established in 2016, Tennessee's formalized Health in All Policies initiative is a voluntary working group of 18 state agencies that aims to improve collaboration and alignment of resources to promote livable communities across the state. The collaborative is facilitated by OPP.

County Health Councils

OPP participates in the strategic development of Tennessee's 95 multi-sector County Health Councils, and helped to develop an assessment to prioritize and evaluate the department's ongoing health council capacity-building efforts.

Tennessee Ambassador League Institute

Developed as a partnership between the Tennessee Livability Collaborative and the TN Department of Human Resources, this cross-sector learning institute provides training and information to front-line state government staff about services and resources available from state agencies in order to promote greater collaboration and alignment. OPP helps plan and implement the institute.

Health Equity Webinar Series

In partnership with the department's Division of Health Disparities Elimination, OPP hosts a series of topical webinars with a focus on social determinants and health equity. Topics include land use, housing, education, workforce development, parks, mental health, the arts, environmental exposures, and food security. Webinars are discussion-oriented and include panelists from government, non-profits, business, and academia.



Projects

Clinical Workforce Engagement

Primary Prevention Plans

All 95 Tennessee counties develop and implement an annual plan to address community-identified health priorities. OPP helps local health departments develop their plans, provides best practices, awards promising initiatives, and oversees plan reporting and evaluation.

Healthy Language Development

Talk with Me Baby is a population-based initiative designed to ensure healthy language development. Led by OPP, the Tennessee Department of Health partnered with the Georgia Department of Public Health to adapt their TWMB coach training for county health department staff.

Policy Training for Clinicians and Public Health Professionals

The training educates clinicians and local health department staff about opportunities and strategies for engaging in policymaking to address social determinants of health.

The trainings focus on housing, parks, schools, and other topics that impact health.

OPP is partnering with the Arkansas Center for Nursing and Tennessee Action Coalition on the project.

On the Horizon

Learning Management System

OPP is leading an effort to create an online learning management system that will house a variety of public health based curriculum available to staff. The courses will allow staff from a variety of health professions to engage in professional development and earn CEU hours. This effort is funded through the CDC's Workforce Development and Retention funding,

Housing and Hospitals

In partnership with a TDH Commissioner's Fellow, OPP developed a report outlining the connections between housing, public health, and healthcare, summarizing literature and case studies on housing and healthcare partnerships, and providing recommendations for ways TDH could support this work in Tennessee. OPP is partnering with the Governor's Office to develop a housing and healthcare summit to engage stakeholders and develop next steps.

TN Department of Transportation Collaborations

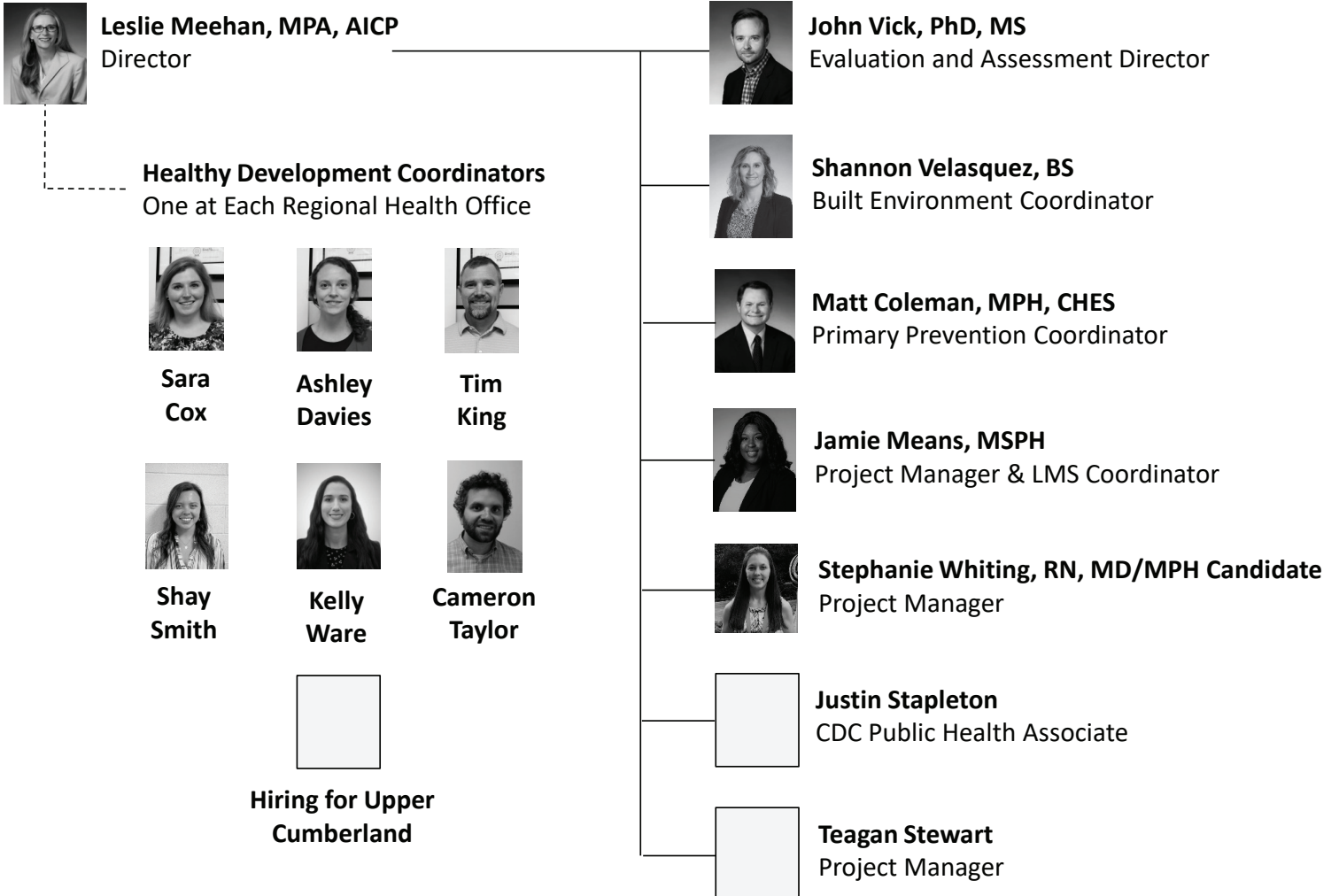
OPP is partnering with the Tennessee Department of Transportation on two projects: one examining asthma prevalence near high-speed roadways in urban areas, and the other examining travel distance to cancer treatment centers from patients' homes statewide. Together, these projects serve to establish a working relationship between TDOT's Division of Long-Range Planning and TDH on health and transportation initiatives.

Outdoor Recreation Health Impact Estimator Model

OPP is partnering with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to adapt a health impact model to estimate the health benefits and healthcare savings of outdoor recreation investments in Tennessee. The model was developed by faculty at Oregon State University, who is also a project partner.

Office of Primary Prevention

Staff and Affiliates



Publications and Media Featuring our Work

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. The State of Health in All Policies. Arlington, VA: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. 2018

O'Toole, T., Dreyzehner, J.D., & Vick, J. Preventing Childhood Obesity Through Healthy Communities. Public Health Review podcast series, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. October 18, 2018.

National Academy of Sciences (2017). Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity – Transportation.

National Academy Press (2017). Advancing Obesity Solutions through Investments in the Built Environment: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief.

Dreyzehner J (2017). The Big Four: Using Primary Prevention to Drive Population Health. Journal of Public Health Management and Practice. Jan/Feb 2017, Vol 23, No1.

VHB (2016). The Economic Promise of Healthy Community Design: Incorporating Healthy Community Design into the Planning and Design of Transportation Improvements. VHB White Paper. September 14, 2016.

2018 ASTHO Vision Award for the Tennessee Livability Collaborative