

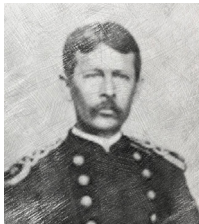
# A BRIEF HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN NEBRASKA

In honor of the 150th anniversary of Nebraska  
Prepared by the Public Health Association of Nebraska

**1867**-Nebraska becomes a state.

**1868**-The legislature authorizes cities of 3,000 or more to establish local boards of health.

**1880s**-Walter Reed is assigned to the western frontier at Forts Omaha, Sidney, and Robinson in Nebraska. His daughter, Blossom, is born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1883. A pathologist and bacteriologist, Reed led the experiments that prove that yellow fever is transmitted by the bite of a mosquito.



**WALTER REED**



**SUSAN LA FLESCHEPICOTTE**

**1889**-Susan La Flesche Picotte becomes the first Native American doctor (Omaha tribe). She mounts public health campaigns to eliminate communal drinking cups, promote screen doors that keep out disease-ridden flies and warns against the evils of alcohol abuse.

**1891**-The State of Nebraska establishes the first statewide Board of Health, headquartered in Lincoln.

**1913**-Dr. Oscar Dowling, president of the Louisiana State Board of Health brings his "Health Train" to Lincoln, Nebraska in February to a crowd of more than 6,000 people in frigid weather. The main purpose is to directly influence state legislation to advocate for the establishment of a state-supported bacteriological laboratory.

**1914**-The first state bacteriological laboratory is formed.

**1921**-Division of Child Hygiene is created in the Bureau of Health

**1930**-Public Health Law establishes county health departments.

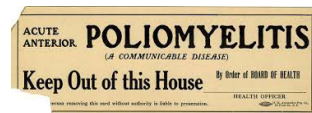
**1935**-Maternal & Child Health Fund and Narcotic Drugs Law and Hypnotic Drugs Law are enacted.

**1936**-Division of Sanitation and Division of Venereal Disease are created.

**1941**-Division of Public Health Education is established.

**1942**-Division of Public Health Nursing is organized.

**1942-1945**-Pamphlets are circulated that contain extensive information about diseases that are reportable to the state. They contain specific guidelines about infectious diseases and rules and regulations for quarantining and placarding homes and businesses where disease outbreaks have occurred.



**1949**-The Division of Dental Health is established.

**1950**-The Nebraska Public Health Association is established (later to be changed to the Public Health Association of Nebraska).

**1952**-The Public Health Laboratory in Nebraska is provided supplies necessary for testing specimens, such as culture tubes and media.

**1954**-The Division of Communicable Disease is combined with the Division of Venereal Disease.

**1959-1961**-The Nebraska Public Health Plan issues a biennial report that provides first-hand documentation of laboratory techniques.

**1961**-The Fluoridation Law is enacted.

**1964**-The Migrant Health Program is established.

**1967**-The Depressant and Stimulant Drugs Control Act and Metabolic screening for newborns are enacted.

**1969**-The Rabies Control Act and Inhalants Control Act are established.

**1970**-The Nebraska Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is established.

**1971**-The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality is created and the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and Family Planning Program are established.

**1973**-Mandatory immunization of school children begins.

**1975**-WIC (Women, Infants and Children) nutritional program begins.

**1979**-Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act is adopted.

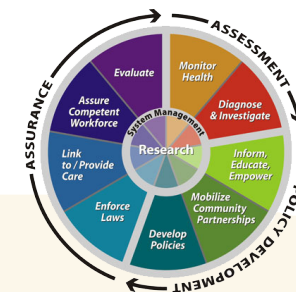
**1981**-Cancer and Smoking Disease Research Program is created.

**1982**-William M. Kizer, Chairman of Central States Indemnity, founds the Wellness Council of the Midlands as a non-profit organization focused on workplace wellness. It is headquartered in Omaha.

**1985**-AIDS Program begins.

**1987**-William M. Kizer founds the Wellness Council of America. WELCOA is headquartered in Omaha. It helps businesses improve employee health. In addition, the Cancer Control Program is created.

**1988**-Core functions of public health are developed: "The Future of Public Health" is released by the Institute of Medicine.



**1990**-The Nebraska Rural Health Association is formed.

**1990**-Nebraska Year 2000 Health Goals and Objectives are developed.

**1991**-CityMatCH, founded by PHAN member Dr. Magda Peck, becomes a national membership organization of city and county health departments' maternal and child health (MCH) programs and leaders representing urban communities in the United States. It is headquartered in Omaha.



**MAGDA PECK**

**1991**-Adolescent Health Program and School Nurse Program begin.

**1992**-Every Woman Matters Program and Office of Minority Health are established and Public Health Week is initiated in Nebraska.

**1994**-Lead Poisoning Prevention Program begins.

**1995**-Vaccines for Children Program begins.

**1997**-M. Jane Ford, then Director of the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department, becomes president of the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO). She later became Director of Public Health Solutions.



**M. JANE FORD**

**1998**-Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement dollars enhance the public health infrastructure across the state (LB1070 tobacco legislation is passed) and the Nebraska Minority Health Association is incorporated. In that same year Larry Hudkins, Lincoln-Lancaster County Board member, becomes president of the National Association of Local Boards of Health.

**1999**-Nebraska's first State Public Health Improvement Plan is approved by the Nebraska Community Health Partners Stakeholders Group; Nebraska Health Care Trust Fund is created; Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is implemented; and Hepatitis B vaccine and second MMR are added as school immunization requirements.

**2000**-The Nebraska Public Health Association is reorganized to change its name to the Public Health Association of Nebraska; the Office of Women's Health is established (LB480); and the Nebraska Educational Alliance for Public Health Impact (NEAPHI) is established.

**2001**-The Public Health Association of Nebraska is selected as the outstanding affiliate of the American Public Health Association (APHA).

**2001**-The passage of LB 692 provides dedicated state funding to local public health departments and leads to the creation of 16 new local public health departments in the state. Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) are established in Nebraska.

**2004**-The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accredits Nebraska's first graduate public health education program - a collaboration between the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

**2005**-Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute (GPPHLI) is developed and launched and Dr. Dick Raymond transitions from Nebraska's Chief Medical Officer to U.S. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food & Safety



**DICK RAYMOND**

**2008**-A revision of A Strategic Plan To Strengthen and Transform Public Health In Nebraska is published.

**2009**-The Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act requiring indoor workplaces in Nebraska to be smoke-free is implemented, and Dr. Bruce Dart, Director of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department becomes President of the National Association of County and City Health Officials.



**2011**-The Great Plains Public Health Training Center is formed to strengthen the technical, scientific, managerial, and leadership competence of a growing workforce in Nebraska's underserved areas. Also PHAN board member Ed Schneider becomes president of the National Association of Local Boards of Health.

**2012**-Region VII (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas) known as MINK is the second APHA region to hold annual public health regional conferences. In the same year Dr. Ayman El Mohandes, who at the time was Dean of the College of Public Health at UNMC, is elected to the Executive Board of the American Public Health Association.

**2013**-PHAN member Ira Combs is presented with a Champion of Change award at The White House.



**IRA COMBS**

**2014**-Temple University partners with NE DHHS to create the online LawAtlas that tracks laws and regulations on public health topics in Nebraska.

**2015**-The University of Nebraska Medical Center/ Nebraska Medicine, in collaboration with Emory University in Atlanta and Bellevue Hospital Center in New York City, is awarded a \$12 million grant to establish and co-lead the nation's National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC). In addition, UNMC Chancellor Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold and Dean of the College of Public Health and former Deputy U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Ali Khan, set a strategic goal to work with all health systems and private and community partners to help make Nebraska the healthiest state in the union by 2020. In addition, PHAN board member Margaret Brink becomes president of the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH).



**ALI KHAN**

**2016**-The University of Nebraska at Omaha becomes the first CEPH undergraduate accredited public health program in Nebraska. In addition, PHAN begins a policy development program and adopts a policy on climate change and public health.

**2017**-PHAN joins in celebrating Nebraska's 150th anniversary.