



2018 CityMatCH Board Election

CityMatCH is pleased to present a slate of outstanding candidates for the 2018 Board of Directors election. Each candidate was offered the opportunity to submit a personal statement and a photograph, which is enclosed in this document. To cast your vote, use the link provided in the email.

Regions and Candidates for Consideration

North East Region (Select 1)

<p>Sara Kinsman, Director Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health Philadelphia Department of Public Health</p>	<p>Heavenly Mitchell, Director Healthy Start Systems Boston Public Health Commission</p>
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North Central Region (Select 1)

<p>Stephanie Graves (Incumbent), MCH Coordinator Minneapolis Health Department</p>	<p>Unopposed</p>
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South Central Region (Select 1)

<p>Sherry Williams (Incumbent), Director Waco-McLennan County Public Health District</p>	<p>Marisol Berrios, Coordinator Prematurity Prevention Program Tarrant County Public Health</p>	<p>Bruce Parsons, Assistant Health Director City of El Paso Department of Public Health</p>
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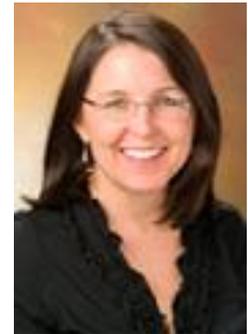
At Large Region (Select 2)

<p>Deb Kaplan (Incumbent), Assistant Commissioner Bureau of Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene</p>	<p>Kiko Malin (Incumbent), Director Family Health Services Alameda County Public Health Department</p>	<p>Judy Southern, Nursing Director Clinical Services Guilford County Department of Public Health</p>
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North East – Sara Kinsman

As Director of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health’s Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health, I am committed to furthering *CityMatCH's mission to strengthen public health leaders and organizations to promote equity and improve the health of urban women, families, and communities.*



Prior to joining the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, my clinical care and teaching at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania, focused on helping clinicians-in-training work collaboratively to care for adolescents with respect, high-expectations, and a focus on the teen’s unique strengths. With Kenneth Ginsburg, I co-authored and co-edited: *Reaching Teens: Strength-based Communication to Build Resilience and Support Healthy Adolescent Development*, which was awarded First Place by the American Medical Writers Association in the Health Care Professionals Category in 2014.

The lessons learned from my clinical work and teaching have translated well into my service in public health, where I have supported a diverse, multi-disciplinary, passionate, community-driven team that works with partners throughout the City to change and improve care systems to better address the needs of women, children and families in Philadelphia. Philadelphia’s Maternal, Child and Family Health Division (MCFH) provides service, education, and supports policies that enhance knowledge of and access to reproductive, preconception and prenatal care. Integral to all Philadelphia’s MCFH’s activities is focus on reducing racial and economic health disparities.

MCFH’s PDPH Healthy Start Program, in partnership with Einstein and Maternity Care Coalition Healthy Start programs, created the Philadelphia Maternal and Infant Community Action Network (CAN), a collective impact initiative that is addressing perinatal depression (ppdphilly.com), inclusion of fathers in “maternal and child” health (Real Dads, Strong Families Video forthcoming), and the development of a centralized citywide referral system for home visiting services. In addition, CAN members have helped develop and support the “Same Room, Different Beds” Safe Sleep Campaign (safesleepphilly.org). Working together, partners in maternal and child health throughout Philadelphia are making important progress collectively.

Combining my skills as a clinician, educator, and public health leader, I am looking forward to working with CityMatCH partners to bring together our knowledge and expertise to further improve the health and wellbeing of urban families.



North East - Heavenly Mitchell

**Heavenly R. Mitchell, MHA, LSW
Director of Healthy Start Systems
Boston Public Health Commission**



Professional Preparation

Heavenly R. Mitchell is a native Boston, MA. She is a graduate of the University of MA (Bachelor of Arts –Social Psychology), Lesley University (Master of Science -Health Care Administration), Certified in Maternal and Child Health (Boston University School of Public Health, Credentialed in Family Development Leadership (Tufts University) and is a Licensed Social Worker.

Ms. Mitchell has worked in the health and human service field for over 25 years. She is an employee of the Boston Public Health Commission for which her employment spans over 20 years. She is currently the Director of the Healthy Start Systems.

She has served as Delegate at Large for the Greater Boston Association of Black Social Workers, advisory board member and volunteer at numerous educational, social, health, civic and recreational organizations: The Greater Boston Urban League, Colonel Daniel Marr Boys and Girls club (Boys and Girls Club of America), Home for Little Wanderers and Union of Minority, Neighborhood Health Plan and Roxbury YMCA.

Why do I want to serve on Reason the Board of Directors (the Board)?

I would like to serve on the Board to assist CityMatCH in reexamining its mission and guiding principles and to create the roadmaps to accomplish those identified. I would like to assist the Board in looking at CityMatCH’s Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats in being proactive for sustainability.

What can I contribute to CityMatCH as a leader.

I have over 25 years in Maternal and Child filed that has afforded me the opportunity to work on local state and federal projects and with the partners to work towards achieving healthy equity in the field to include paternal involvement. I have served in “boots on the ground taking the pulse” to leadership positions. I am passionate about Maternal and Child Health especially as a public health professional

Honors

Massachusetts House of Representative’s recognition	March 2013
Massachusetts House of Representative’s recognition	February 2010
Women of Color Honoree	February 2010
Boston Public Health Commission Paul Revere Award	2009
Boston Public Health Commission Outstanding performance	2001



North Central – Stephanie Graves

Stephanie Graves, BSN, PHN, MA
MCH Coordinator
Minneapolis Health Department



Stephanie Graves is the Maternal and Child Health Coordinator for the Minneapolis Health Department. She has worked for the Minneapolis Health Department for fifteen years. During the first few years she worked on the Twin Cities Healthy Start project and worked extensively on infant mortality prevention in the American Indian and African American communities. She assisted in implementing culturally specific educational classes and materials into the Twin Cities Healthy Start sites. In her current position she works on a number of maternal and child health issues such as; home visiting services for pregnant and parenting young families, early childhood screening and intervention, school readiness, barriers to affordable housing, substance abuse prevention during pregnancy. Issues affecting communities such as health inequity for communities of color, autism rates in the Somali community, and infant mortality in the African American and American Indian community.

Ms. Graves participates in a variety of community and health care committees relating to maternal and child health, the Minnesota Maternal and Child Health task force, Minnesota Home Visiting advisory group, the Department of Human Services child mortality task force, the Civil Rights Housing Advisory committee for the City of Minneapolis, to name of few. Ms. Graves is a member of the state Region 11 Interagency Early Intervention Committee, and is on the advisory board of the state Office of the Ombudsperson for Families.

As a longtime member of CityMatCH, she successfully completed the City Leaders program which provided new leadership qualities to her repertoire. Ms. Graves has participated as a mentor for the City Leaders program for a few of the emerging leaders of the CityMatCH. She also serves as co-lead for the CityMatCH Equity Action group which reviews topics such as housing, health care access, racial bias through an equity lens, in order to develop strategies that will have a positive impact on communities.

Ms. Graves received her initial nursing degree from St. Mary’s College and her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Augsburg College, and recently received her Master’s degree from St. Mary’s University. Stephanie Graves is an Ojibwe from the Red Lake Band; the mother of four children, grandmother of five. She and her family opened their home as foster parents for over 20 years. Ms. Graves and her husband have been part of each other’s lives for over 45 years.

There are a few of areas she is currently focusing her efforts; one is on policy changes, to address the high rates of out of home placements for American Indian children, another is affordable housing for families with young children. Another area includes, incorporating and supporting fathers when providing home visiting to at risk families.

There are great disparity gaps in health status of populations across the United States, especially in populations of color and American Indians. The adverse rates of health disparities are similar in Minnesota. The administration at Minneapolis Department of Health, where I am employed, are aware of the inequities in health status for certain communities and the department provides a significant amount of funding and



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personnel to improve the health landscape for Minneapolis residents, of which I play a role as the Maternal and Child Health Coordinator. Participating on the CityMatCH board would allow me to network on a national level, to share and learn from others, and have a broad approach while working to improve awareness, address policy issues, and potentially improve the systems that may interfere with individual health choices and healthy opportunities



South Central Region Candidate – Sherry Williams

I have been a registered nurse for over thirty-seven years. For thirty-six of those years I have been employed at the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District. I began my career at the Health District as a Public Health Nurse, working basically with women and children. After approximately two year as a Public Health Nurse, I was promoted to Public Health Nurse Manager and worked in that role until July 2011, at which time I was asked by the Assistant City Manager of the City of Waco to serve as the Interim Director for the Health District. I was officially selected to serve as the Director of the Health District in January 2012, and am so honored to do so.



I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas in 1981. I became a Women’s Health Advanced Nurse Practitioner in 1995, through the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. I have been married for over forty-two years. I have three children and six grandchildren. My oldest daughter has also chosen a career in Nursing, following in her mother’s footsteps.

I have been a member of CityMatCH for approximately twenty one years where I have served on the Board of Directors for the last nine years and as a Co-Lead for the Equity Action Group for the four years. CityMatCH has been a tremendous asset to our Health District. I, along with other staff have found the City Lights newsletter to be very informative and timely with issues faced on a daily basis. We have also used the “Ask-a-Colleague” system to poll other health departments when trying to change and/or implement programs. Staff from the Health District was selected as a Data Use Institute (DUI) team in 2002. Our project dealt with the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) in community assessments. The annual conferences have always bee a terrific learning tool and I have had to privilege to attend for many years since becoming a member. My future goals for affiliation with CityMatCH include remaining an active member and utilizing CityMatCH’s resources especially as they relate to public health’s role in addressing health equity.

If selected as the South Central representative to the Board of Directors, I will continue to represent members to the best of my ability and to further engage and encourage their participation in the organization.

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South Central Region Candidate – Bruce Parson

How a society treats its most vulnerable populations speaks to its compassion and righteousness. But vulnerability is not limited to children and the elderly, those fragile folk at opposite ends of the age continuum. All populations, irrespective of age, race, ethnicity (and any other category or class), experience occasional or chronic vulnerability.



It is that common feeling of being at risk, whether regular or episodic, whether physical, emotional, or socio-economic, that links one to another, thereby creating the context for interdependence. In short, we need each other.

CityMatCH has a rich history of developing community capacity to retrieve and analyze health data, make sense of the numbers, and apply those understandings to policies and interventions for vulnerable populations. CityMatCH aspires to improve the health of moms and babies and, thereby, change the story of families. It is a big responsibility which cannot (and should not) be borne solely by a national advocacy organization or moms and their babies.

Rather, it is our collective job to create favorable conditions for new life. For those who are making babies, providing healthcare to pregnant women or infants, and/or evaluating outcomes, connection to the subject matter is obvious and natural. However, those who are not involved in any of the above need to understand that such stuff really does matter to them, as well. In other words, our role as proponents of good health for mothers and their children is to identify, engage, and maintain relationship with a broader base of stakeholders. CityMatCH is uniquely positioned to be that force for engagement. Through its goals of communicating, convening and catalyzing, CityMatCH reaches out and connects individuals and organizations that can influence birth outcomes. As a board member for CityMatCH, I would continue to build upon that outreach effort, exploring and developing relationships with new partners, both in and outside the box.

It has been a privilege to work on maternal and child health concerns for a professional lifetime. As a local health department director in Michigan and North Carolina and through affiliation with health organizations in south Florida, I worked with communities on articulating health issues for moms and babies, mobilizing the concerned to take action, and building appropriate and sustainable systemic responses including expansion of clinical services.

In my current administrative role with the City of El Paso Department of Public Health, MCH work is policy-oriented. The El Paso health department does not provide clinical care for pregnant women, infants, or children.

Focusing on population v. individual health presents its own challenges. Often, the price of a seat at the table is the shared economic and health outcome risk associated with provision of clinical services, i.e., the expectation you are a doer, not just a talker. As more local health departments transition from clinical services to needs assessment and health policy development, new skill sets must be acquired. These skills include data mining and analysis, strategic engagement, and stakeholder persuasion. CityMatCH can play a pivotal role in capacity-building for local health departments as their community role is redefined.

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South Central – Marisol Berrios

I would like to convey my interest in the CityMatCH Board of Directors open position. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Community Health and am pursuing a Master of Science in Health Studies beginning in the Fall 2018 semester. I have over fifteen years' experience in the public health field, having worked in health departments across the United States in leadership positions. Currently I am the Prematurity Prevention Program Coordinator at Tarrant County Public Health, and serve in the Collective Impact Core Team in the Tarrant County Infant Health Network, Tarrant County Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR), and the Community Action Team (CAT).



For the past few years, the public focus on women's health has increased, with an emphasis on the importance of a holistic approach and promoting health equity, therefore improving birth outcomes, the quality of life of individuals, families, communities and the nation. My work in the public health aligns with this view. I am passionate about the opportunity to contribute in making an impact in the health of women and children that will eventually start moving the needle in a better direction.

As a mother of five, I understand and empathize with the women I am trying to help. My desire is to learn from and network with other maternal and child health practitioners, expand my knowledge of health issues and the impact of social determinants of health on maternal and child health issues and better understand other people's perspectives on these important issues.

I possess strong leadership and communication skills and have participated in Tarrant County Leadership Development Program and Orange County Leadership Institute and have expertise in several areas of public health, including Women's Health, HIV/AIDS, STDs, Tuberculosis, Healthy Start, Minority Health, and Community Relations.

I hope to lend my expertise and enthusiasm to the CityMatCH Board of Directors. Thank you for your consideration.

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At-Large - Kiko Malin

I am honored to have been nominated to sit on the CityMatCH Board of Directors for a subsequent term. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board over the last few years and I see it as a natural culmination and celebration of my involvement with this great organization. I remember well my first CityMatCH conference—I immediately felt that I had found my professional home. From day one, I experienced a sense of belonging to a community of smart, hardworking, dedicated MCAH professionals. I have continued to feel this strong sense of community, purpose and meaning throughout my time on the CityMatCH Board and through my continued deep involvement with the organization.



I began my career in public health as a lay health worker at a Feminist Women's Health Center, where I was introduced to the influence of education and empowerment on women's lives. From there, I spent six years as a community outreach worker, first as an HIV/AIDS educator in the high schools and migrant camps just outside Portland Oregon, and later as a perinatal health educator working with low income, mostly Mexican immigrant women in Salinas, California. My experience during those years made me realize that there were many powerful factors influencing health and behavior in these communities that simple education could not remedy, so I decided to go back to school to learn about how to design programs that could have a more profound impact on community health. After completing my Masters in Public Health and Social Welfare at the University of California at Berkeley in 2000, I put my newly acquired skills to work as the Program Director for the California Chapter of the March of Dimes and later as the Preconception Health Coordinator for the Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Division at the California Department of Public Health. After another six years spent expanding my content expertise in maternal and child health and sharpening my managerial skills, I landed in the position where I hope to spend the rest of my career. I currently serve as the Family Health Services Director for the Alameda County Public Health Department in Oakland, California. I am truly fortunate to be working for a health department that is at the forefront of the growing movement to address the social conditions that affect people's health. As Family Health Services Director, my principal area of interest is integrating a life course perspective into our work with families and ensuring that everything we do is grounded in a health equity framework. Over the last few years I have deepened our efforts to address the social conditions that affect the lives of the women, children, fathers and families we serve through the development of our Building Blocks for Health Equity unit and our Best Babies Zone, both projects that have been strengthened through my involvement with CityMatCH and which I hope will serve as model practices for local MCH work in other cities across the country.

Through CityMatCH, I have formed relationships with mentors and friends, have benefitted from the webinars and other educational opportunities that CityMatCH offers and have integrated myself into a professional network that is a tremendous support to me. I feel certain that my leadership in this field, and the experience of the many staff here in Alameda County that I learn from and build on daily, will continue to help me to be an engaged, informed, creative and enthusiastic member of the CityMatCH Board of Directors. I welcome the opportunity to stay connected to the Board of this fabulous organization that has given me so much, so that it may continue to do the same for others.

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At-Large – Deb Kaplan

DEBORAH L. KAPLAN, DrPH, MPH, R-PA
Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Maternal,
Infant and Reproductive Health
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene



I have served as the Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene since 2003. The Bureau is dedicated to improving and reducing inequities in maternal, infant and reproductive health outcomes through program, policy and research initiatives. The Bureau applies a sexual and reproductive justice and racial justice framework to our work, and strives to fully engage community partners to move this work forward. I have over thirty years public health experience in clinical care, health education, program and policy development, and program leadership. I worked at Planned Parenthood of NYC from 1988-1996, serving as Acting Vice President for Program Services in my last year at the agency. In 2008, in recognition of my role in shaping public policy in New York State, I was the recipient of the Shirley Gordon Public Policy Leadership Award from the Family Planning Advocates of New York State. I received my training as a Physician Assistant at Johns Hopkins University, hold a Masters in Public Health from Hunter College at City University of New York (CUNY), and a Doctor in Public Health from the CUNY School of Public Health. My doctoral research was on “The Contribution of School Level Factors to Contraceptive Use among Adolescents in NYC Public High Schools.”

I have served on the CityMatCH Board of Directors for the past 2 ½ years. It has been an honor and privilege to serve on the Board. I have played an active role on the Board, advocating for a Board retreat to engage in a new strategic planning process, and introduced the reproductive justice** framework to the Board. My advocacy led to a proposal to the Board to establish an Adhoc Reproductive Justice Action Group which was approved by the Board in 2016, and in 2017 the Board approved establishing a permanent Reproductive Justice (RJ) Action Group. The RJ Action Group, with tremendous support from CityMatCH staff, has introduced many CityMatCH members to the RJ framework, held a webinar with the highest attendance of any CityMatCH-sponsored webinar, and developed an RJ Toolkit. The RJ Action Group leadership provided support to CityMatCH staff to organize a highly successful plenary session on RJ at last year’s Conference.

I would like the opportunity to continue to serve on the CityMatCH Board of Directors, to continue to collaborate with and learn from other leaders in comparable positions to mine across the country, to continue to promote and support integration of the reproductive justice framework into the work of CityMatCH, to provide input into a national agenda to improve and reduce inequities in maternal, child and reproductive health outcomes and to help move that agenda forward. My experience and approach to this work is fully aligned with the mission of CityMatCH “to strengthen public health leaders and organizations to promote equity and improve the health of urban women, families and communities.”



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As a leader, I believe I can continue to contribute my many years of experience and lessons learned providing leadership for work in maternal, child and reproductive health in a large urban health department. I bring a life course perspective to the work, am driven by a passion for social justice, and have extensive experience collaborating with diverse partners at the city, state and federal levels. I have particular expertise in the area of sexual and reproductive health, which I believe is an essential component of efforts to improve the health of women, families and communities.

** The term “reproductive justice” was first coined by a group of Black women in 1994 from which emerged a framework and SisterSong, a collective led by and for Indigenous women and women of color. As defined by SisterSong, reproductive justice is ”the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.”

<https://www.sistersong.net/reproductive-justice/>



At-Large - Judy Southern

I have achieved expertise in Public Health through education as well as through years of working as a Public Health Nurse. Most of my nursing career has involved working to improve the health of women, infants and children. Prior to public health, I received a one-year internship in Maternal Infant Health in New Orleans at West Jefferson Medical Center, with intense training in labor/delivery, along with mother/baby.



This training launched my desire to work to improve the racial health disparities in Maternal Child Health. After several years in the hospital setting, a professional move placed me in the public health setting of three different local health department in North Carolina—one rural and two urban, working in maternity, family planning, child immunizations, school health, pregnancy care management, and many other roles. Presently, the local health department in which I serve is located in Greensboro and High Point, North Carolina (population 520,000), two clinical sites. During this tenure of 8 years, I have written for over 1 million dollars in grants that have funded initiatives to reach pregnant women to improve birth outcomes as well as for teens to prevent teen pregnancies in an area where one zip code area has a teen pregnancy rate of >70. With a high infant mortality rate, high percentage of infants born with low birth weight and only 60% receiving early prenatal care, funding is certainly needed. Some notable evidence based initiatives have been CenteringPregnancy® prenatal group care and the JustTEENS Clinic. As a leader of 120 public health staff, I look for evidence based initiatives to promote health and well-being of women, infants and children so future generations have healthy productive lives and reduced health disparities.

I possess the expertise and leadership skills to serve well on the CityMatCH Board of Directors after years of hands-on experience in public health promoting better health for the Maternal Child population. I presently serve on the Samaritan Ministries Board and am a past member of the Forsyth Smart Start Board. As a futurist, I will add value as the board envisions how to implement strategies to make a difference for the next generations. Collaboration with national leaders on these initiatives is a dream that can become a reality. Effort at the state level through the NC Public Health Association Governing Board and with local community partners has also provided preparedness to serve well on CityMatCH's Board of Directors.