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Stiegler named Public Health Nurse of the Year at ALPHA conference

MOBILE, Alabama — Susan Stiegler, B.S.N., M.P.H., the Assistant Health Officer for the Mobile County Health Department, was honored this week during the 63rd annual Alabama Public Health Association (ALPHA) Education Conference. The event is taking place at the Montgomery Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Prattville.

Ms. Stiegler was presented with the Anne M. Smith Public Health Nurse of the Year Award. The announcement read as follows:

“The recipient of the Anne M. Smith Public Health Nurse of the Year Award must exemplify the mission of public health nursing in Alabama, which is ‘to assure conditions in which individuals, families and communities can be healthy, utilizing the unique expertise of public health nurses to assess, plan and implement and prevent disease.’ This year’s recipient is Susan Stiegler, Assistant Health Officer at the Mobile County Health Department.

“Throughout Susan’s 37-year career in public health, she has excelled in a variety of roles. Beginning as a Health Educator in Mobile County, she has gone on to lead numerous departments, including immunization and primary care. Susan has worked to ensure that Mobile County’s high needs areas are served by clinic sites, and has served on numerous boards that have proven influential in public health matters.

“One supporter wrote of Susan, ‘She has not only demonstrated the leadership role for which nurses can and should aspire, but she has also paved the way for other nurses to be considered capable and essential for higher levels of executive management in a multitude of medical practice arenas.’”

During her acceptance speech at the ALPHA Award Luncheon, Ms. Stiegler charged those in attendance to walk about and see the impact their work is having in the lives of others anytime they have a hard day.

ALPHA’s mission is to be the recognized leader and key resource on public health issues and policy in Alabama and the clearinghouse for public health education with a broad and diverse membership of citizens and organizations. The group works to:

- Link individuals and organizations in addressing public health issues;
- Advocate public health policy;
- Support the education of its members and the public on public health issues;
- Enhance the ability of its members to promote and protect personal, environmental and community health.

Nominees for the Anne M. Smith Excellence in Public Health Nursing Award must have served at the county, area or state level for at least five years and be involved in the community beyond expectations of employment. Judy Smith, the Administrator for the Alabama Department of Public Health’s Northern District, presented the prestigious award to Ms. Stiegler.

Prior to her promotion to Assistant Health Officer in February 2015, Ms. Stiegler served as Director of Family Health Clinical Services, overseeing a logo and name change to Family Health, among other achievements. Stiegler has been instrumental in leading teams that have won competitive national grants resulting in expanding the capacity of the Mobile County Health Department’s Primary Care Division. She is a former president of the Alabama Primary Care Association.