FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NACCHO Annual Conference Features Insightful Keynote Sessions on the Affordable Care Act and the Future of Federal Funding

July 8, 2013 (Dallas) – Dallas County Health and Human Services is proud to serve on the host committee of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual Conference scheduled July 9-12 at the Omni Dallas Hotel, 55 S. Lamar, Dallas, TX 75202. Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price and DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson will offer opening remarks Thursday, July 11, 2013.

Local health department leaders, public health partners and invited guests will convene in Dallas at the largest gathering of local health officials in the United States, the National Association of County and City Health Officials Annual Conference. In plenary sessions, attendees will hear from national, regional, state and local health officials about the relationship between the Affordable Care Act and the work of local health departments, as well as the future of federal funding to support the nation’s public health system.

“It is only fitting that our health department supports NACCHO in protecting and improving the health of people’s lives,” said Mr. Thompson. “We also look forward to learning from our counterparts from across the nation at this year’s conference.”

The theme of this year’s annual meeting is “Public Health by the Numbers. Our Story, Our Time. Our Future.” Participants will examine management strategies, unconventional partnerships and communications competencies to strengthen governmental public health programs. NACCHO Annual also provides a forum for peer-to-peer sharing of ideas about preventing the leading causes of death, using data across the public health enterprise, maximizing organizational performance, informing policy and maintaining fiscal sustainability.

NOTEABLE SPEAKERS (Click here for a full agenda.)

Dr. Tom Frieden, CDC Director. Throughout his career, Dr. Frieden has worked to control both infectious and chronic diseases in this country and globally. Previously, as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Dr. Frieden led programs that reduced illness and death and increased life expectancy substantially, including programs that reduced adult and teen smoking dramatically and eliminated artificial trans-fats from restaurants. He led New York City’s programs that controlled tuberculosis and reduced multidrug-resistant cases by 80 percent. He has also worked in India building a tuberculosis control program that has saved nearly 3 million lives.

Judith A. Monroe, MD, is the Director of the CDC Office of State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support. In her role,
she focuses on establishing a systems approach that supports integration and collaboration among public health professionals and translating science to practice to increase the capacity and performance of governmental public health agencies. Before her current role, Dr. Monroe served as Indiana State Health Commissioner, focusing on health promotion and prevention, preparedness, preventing medical errors, and quality improvement.

Marilyn Tavenner is the Administrator and Chief Operating Officer for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Previously, Ms. Tavenner was Principal Deputy Administrator for CMS. In that role she served as the agency’s second-ranking official overseeing policy development and implementation as well as management and operations. Prior to assuming her CMS leadership role, Ms. Tavenner served for four years as the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Secretary of Health and Human Resources in the administration of former Governor Tim Kaine.

Dr. Frieden, Dr. Monroe, and Ms. Tavenner will participate in the Funding Federal Initiatives Town Hall Session on Wednesday, July 10, from 3:15 PM-5:30 PM.

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, is the Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. She manages a $160 million budget and oversees 1,100 employees. In addition to operating public health programs, the agency provides oversight of Boston Emergency Medical Services, several substance abuse treatment facilities, and the largest homeless services program in New England. She has spearheaded a broad-based and comprehensive campaign to reduce racial and ethnic health inequities. Dr. Ferrer has more than 30 years of experience working to improve health outcomes. Previous roles include serving as a high school principal in the Boston Public Schools and working as a community organizer.

Bechara Choucair, MD, serves as Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health. Appointed in 2009, Dr. Choucair is re-shaping the department to meet the public health challenges of the 21st century. Most recently, with the full support of Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Dr. Choucair unveiled “Healthy Chicago,” the first city-wide comprehensive public health agenda. Previously, Dr. Choucair served as Medical Director of Crusader Community Health in Rockford, Illinois and Executive Director of Heartland International Health Center.

David Lakey, MD, is the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services. Appointed in 2007, Dr. Lakey leads one of the largest agencies in Texas state government with a staff of 12,000. He oversees programs such as disease prevention and emergency preparedness, community health services, consumer safety, mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment. Dr. Lakey served as President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials in 2011-2012.

Marjorie McColl Petty, JD, MS, is the Regional Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Dallas, Texas. Appointed in 2009, Ms. Petty oversees HHS operations in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, as well as 68 Federally-recognized tribes. Ms. Petty’s health care experience includes both the public and private sectors. Ms. Petty has also served as a State Senator in Kansas.
Dr. Ferrer, Dr. Choucair, Dr. Lakey and Ms. Petty will participate in the opening general session—Bring the Value of the Affordable Care Act to Local Public Health—on Thursday, July 11, from 8:00 AM-9:30 AM.

PRESS PASSES

Members of the media may receive complementary registration to attend NACCHO Annual or select sessions. For more information, or to set up an on-site interview with any of the above speakers, please contact Ariel Surowidjojo, Burness Communications, at (301) 280-5739 or ariel@burnesscommunications.com.

Media are encouraged to join the conversation and follow sessions as they happen on Twitter @NACCHOalerts and #NA13.

Additional media and event coverage of NACCHO Annual will be provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation at NewPublicHealth.org.

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