



News Release



Shelby County Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK KICKS OFF MONDAY

MEMPHIS – The Shelby County Health Department (SCHD) will celebrate National Public Health Week (NPHW), April 4-10, with a week of activities.

National Public Health Week was founded in 1995 by the American Public Health Association. This year, health departments around the country are focusing on the goal of making the United States the *Healthiest Nation in One Generation — by 2030*.

“I am very proud of our Shelby County Health Department,” said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. “They work tirelessly to protect our community from food-borne outbreaks, West Nile Virus, infectious diseases and much more.”

NPHW is a time to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues important to improving the health of the county as well as the nation. Americans are living 20 years longer than their grandparents' generation, thanks largely to the work of public health. Still, people in many other high income countries live longer and suffer fewer health issues than Americans. This is the defining challenge of this generation—a challenge the public health community is uniquely positioned to help overcome.

“Public health is an integral part of our health system,” said Alisa Haushalter, DNP, RN, director of the Shelby County Health Department. “Promoting health, preventing disease and protecting the environment will together achieve a healthy Shelby County in one generation.”

As part of National Public Health Week, SCHD will host events throughout Shelby County for individual audiences, including the Wounded Places Summit, which has reached the maximum registration limit. The summit will be held at the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library on Thursday, April 7, to shed light on childhood trauma and spark dialogue on ways to create safe communities. The summit will focus on the stories of children affected by violence and how a community can heal.

During the summit, participants will screen the newly released film “Wounded Places: Confronting Childhood PTSD in America’s Shell-Shocked Cities,” one of five films from the series “The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of our Nation.”

Following the film, a few local stakeholders will lead small group conversations on existing activities and opportunities centering around topics such as the environment’s role in violence prevention, youth as collaborators instead of consultants, empowering families, creative outlets for youth violence prevention, and juvenile justice.

Small group facilitators include representatives from Binghampton Development Corporation, F.A.C.E.S., Juvenile Court, Memphis Public Library, Safeways, the Shelby County Schools S.H.A.P.E. Program, and Universal Parenting Place. Participants range from youth, community members, youth-

serving organizations, government and nonprofits. Those unable to attend can follow along by searching “ShelbyTNHealth” via all SCDH social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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