

# THE 2007 **PHLS** LEADERSHIP SERIES

## Improving Quality on the Public Health Frontline: What Every Public Health Leader Should Know

### Call #4: Quality Improvement Systems: Implications for Public Health Practice

## Speaker Biographies

### **Robert M. Pestronk**

Health Officer  
Genesee County Health Department

As Health Officer for Genesee County, Michigan, **Robert M. Pestronk** (Bobby) enables Genesee County's 430,000 citizens to protect, promote, and improve their quality of life in partnership with community resources. As the Director of the Genesee County Health Department he administers clinical, regulatory, and other human service programs in the areas of personal, community, behavioral, and environmental health.

He is currently President of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). He is a past Board member of the Michigan Health Officers Association (of which he is a past President) and currently serves on the Board of the Michigan Association for Local Public Health. He is a Primary Care Policy Fellow through the United States Department of Health and Human Services and trained as a Scholar through the Public Health Leadership Institute. He is Past President of the Primary Care Fellowship Society and Past President of the Public Health Leadership Society Council. He was a member of the Institute of Medicine Public Health Roundtable and of the National Advisory Committee for Turning Point: Collaborating for a New Century of Public Health. He was the first President of the Public Health Law Association. Mr. Pestronk received the John H. Romani Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of Michigan School of Public Health Department of Public Health Policy and Administration and was presented the Distinguished Alumnus Award by the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Bobby's published work includes articles in the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice, the Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics, the Journal of the American Public Health Association, Health Education and Behavior, Public Health Reports, and the Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Chapters in books include those published by the American Public Health Association and Oxford University Press.

## Public Health Leadership Society

1515 Poydras Street, Suite 1200, New Orleans, LA 70112. (504) 301-9821. [anguyen@lphi.org](mailto:anguyen@lphi.org)

### **Dennis Cookro**

Medical Advisor  
Florida Department of Health

**Dr. Dennis Cookro** received his M.P.H. from Loma Linda University and his M.D. from the University of Arizona. He is Board Certified in Preventive Medicine and Public Health and has held positions in the United States Public Health Service, and three State Health Departments. In Florida he has been Director of two County Health Departments, Medical Director in a third, and Deputy District Administrator for Health. He is currently a Professor at the University of South Florida College Of Public Health. He serves as a medical advisor to the Florida Department of Health, serving as a member of the Department of Health's Performance Improvement Team. Dr. Cookro provides technical assistance and advice on evidence based preventive medicine and public health practice for all of Florida's County Health Departments and for the Department's Central Office Programs. He is an active participant in the Robert Wood Johnson supported Multi-State Learning Collaborative (MLC-2), which is ably administered by the National Network of Public Health Institutes.

### **Debra Burns**

Director, Office of Public Health Practice  
Minnesota Department of Health

Deb Burns has been the Director of the Office of Public Health Practice at the Minnesota Department of Health since 2002. The Office of Public Health Practice works to promote a strong and coordinated state and local governmental public health system in Minnesota. Deb has served in various other management, policy development and planning roles at the state health department since 1988. She has a master's degree in public affairs (public administration) from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.