

**Nominee Name: Sarah Weller**

*In what way does the employee demonstrate Employee of the Month criteria?*

Sarah Weller-Pegna is the heart of the Community and Family Health Connections Division (CFHC) within the Chatham County Public Health Department (CCPHD). She is such a positive, beautiful person who inspires and motivates the team to want to do better.

Sarah is committed to public health and will do anything she can to meet and exceed the needs of the public and the agency. She is incredibly well-respected and works hard to promote the goals of the department. She has taken the lead on numerous initiatives, including Eat a Rainbow Week, Community Food Council, school health work, and LIGHT Way (Living in God's Holy Temple, a health ministry program). Another recent example of Sarah's commitment and dedication to the department is her undertaking to be 'Team Lead' of the agency's Quality Improvement Team. Although this project has required a great deal of time and commitment, Sarah has never flinched. Sarah is a great worker and as humble as they come – to be honest, I don't think she gives her personal achievements and accomplishments a second thought– it's just who she is. Sarah best described in one word: dedicated

Sarah is always willing to lend a hand and brings a positive attitude every day. The health promotion team at CCPHD is highly regarded and all of our health promotion coordinators are deserving of this recognition. Being the first of the group to start at CCPHD, Sarah has in many ways set the tone for the group and been a stellar example of what a true teammate should be.

Anyone who works with Sarah would vouch for her commitment to public health and willingness to think outside the box to improve health. The best evidence of this is the respect her coworkers and community partners have for her.

A recent feather in her cap: Sarah has written and received notification of funding for a 3-year/\$450,000 grant! The grant (Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas), funded by Duke Endowment, will focus on implementing strategies targeting obesity-related chronic diseases. The grant will fund a position and will be a driver in Chatham's work targeting obesity prevention, specifically at the community level. Although the position will be based out of UNC Hospitals (Chatham Hospital), it will link our agencies very closely for increased collaboration and partnership moving forward.

Always willing to step up and volunteer with any health department effort, Sarah is a proven leader who thrives as a staff member of the county and the CCPHD. She embodies public health, public service, and selflessness, and would be a very deserving Employee of the Quarter. Thank you for your consideration in recognizing Sarah!