

## **Biosketch: William M. Sappenfield, MD, MPH, CPH**

William M. Sappenfield, MD, MPH, CPH is Professor and Director of the Chiles Center at the College of Public Health, University of South Florida. He also serves as Director of the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative (FPQC), a statewide multi-organizational effort to improve health and health care quality of mothers and infants. As both a pediatrician and an epidemiologist, Dr. Sappenfield has over 30 years of experience in epidemiological and public health research, teaching, and practice in maternal and child health at a community, state and national level.

As a nationally recognized leader in the field of maternal and child health epidemiology, Dr. Sappenfield spent the first 22 years of his career as a CDC medical epidemiologist working on assignment with state and local public health agencies to enhance their capacity to use epidemiology, evaluation and research to improve the health of the women and children. This includes being assigned to work directly in three state public health agencies as well as at CityMatCH, a national organization support MCH in urban health departments. He completed his CDC career serving four years as Team Leader of the MCH Epidemiology Program directly responsible for the national MCH EPI effort including training, mentoring and supporting maternal and child health epidemiologists around the nation.

Upon retiring from the CDC and the U.S. Public Health Service, Dr. Sappenfield served six years at the Florida Department of Health as the State MCH Epidemiologist and as Unit Director for the MCH Practice and Analysis Unit. His responsibilities included leading the Department's research, epidemiology, evaluation and health data efforts to guide policies and programs for Florida mothers and children at a state and community level.

In recent years working at the Chiles Center, Dr. Sappenfield was one of the leader developing the FPQC which has emerged as a multi-partner collaborative supporting hospitals and providers in improving the quality of health care provided to mothers and infants. These efforts include reducing the rate on non-medically indicated early term deliveries, managing maternal hemorrhage at delivery, treating maternal hypertension in a timely fashion, promoting use on mother's own milk in the ICU, reducing primary cesareans, and promoting access to immediate postpartum use of LARC. FPQC's efforts have reached nearly half of Florida's births each year and have been shown to improve maternal and infant health outcomes and reduce health care costs.

Dr. Sappenfield's other significant maternal and child health contributions include: early developments in the community-based fetal, infant and maternal mortality reviews, adapting an applied approach to investigating a community's infant mortality problem called "Perinatal Periods of Risk," developing core state indicators for monitoring preconception health and MCH life course, and promoting best practices in maternal and child health epidemiology. Dr. Sappenfield has received multiple awards including the 2003 National MCH Epidemiology Award for Outstanding Leadership, the 2012 Elaine Whitelaw National Volunteer Service Award by the March of Dimes Foundation, the 2014 MCH Bureau Director's Award from Health Resources and Services Administration, the 2016 John C. MacQueen Annual Lectureship Award from the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, and as Director, the 2016 Sapphire Award Recognizing Excellence and Innovation in Community Health for an Organization.