

Kathy Peppe, RN, MS, received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master's in Nursing from The Ohio State University. She retired after 32 years of service in August 2001 from the Ohio Department of Health where she last served as the Chief, Division of Family and Community Health Services and the state's Title V-Maternal and Child Health Services director for nine years. She held a variety of consultative and supervisory positions in the department's former Division of Maternal and Child Health beginning in 1975, including child health program, genetics program, children with special health care needs program, and also served as Assistant Division Chief. Previous employment experiences include The Ohio State University Hospitals as a staff nurse, Orient State Institute for Mental Retardation as a Nurse Instructor and the Nisonger Center for Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities as an Instructor in Nursing. Mrs. Peppe has published and made numerous presentations about maternal and child health issues including early intervention, nursing standards of care and maternal and child health performance measures. She has extensively provided consultation and advisory services throughout her career to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including the work group that developed Genetics Competencies for Public Health Professionals. She has been recognized for her work and is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and a Fellow of the American Association on Mental Retardation; she has received numerous national and state awards and recognitions including the 2005 Champion of Public Health Award from the College of Public Health at The Ohio State University. Mrs. Peppe served on the Executive Council of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs for 15 years in various capacities including Region V Councillor, committee chair, Secretary, President-Elect, President and Past-President.

Since retiring, Mrs. Peppe served as temporary staff to the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and provided consultation services to the Mississippi State Department of Health, Florida Department of Health, Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, and the USDHHS/Maternal and Child Health Bureau. From April 2006 until January 2007, Mrs. Peppe served fulltime as the Acting Chief Program and Policy Officer for the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. She presently continues to provide consultation on various maternal and child health issues.

Mrs. Peppe attributes several key factors as influential in the development of her leadership skills during her career. During graduate school, she received a federal traineeship for tuition from the then HEW/Bureau of Maternal and Child Health. The traineeship required that recipients work for at least 5 years in their chosen field of study; Mrs. Peppe took that obligation to heart and directed her entire career to MCH. Mrs. Peppe was also fortunate to receive mentoring from several leaders in maternal and child health including Camille Legeay Cook, Chief Nurse of the then HEW/Bureau of Maternal and Child Health; Judith B. Curry, Chief Nurse, Nisonger Center for Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities; and Dr. Antoinette P. Eaton, Chief, Division of Maternal and Child Health, Ohio Department of Health and later the first woman president of the American Academy of Pediatrics.