

Communiqué

MAY 2010



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Calendar of Events

July 14

Board Meeting, Jefferson City

September 8

Board Meeting, Jefferson City

September 23-24

Annual Conference
Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia

November

APHA Annual Meeting



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Denise Strehlow LaBardi, RD, LD, MPH, MSW

The theme of the 2010 National Public Health Week was A Healthier America: One Community at a Time. What a wonderful message for the American Public Health Association (APHA) and the Missouri Public Health Association (MPHA) to promote.

Public health professionals work at the community level promoting this message everyday.

As part of the 2010 National Public Health Week, APHA's Executive Director, Georges Benjamin challenged everyone to "champion public health by making healthy changes-big and small-in their families, individual neighborhoods, workplaces and schools."

MPHA cosponsored Celebrating Public Health Week: A Healthier Community One Community at a Time at Saint Louis University's Busch Student Center. The session was part of the ongoing series Sharing Responsibility Improving Community Health funded by a grant from Pfizer and United HealthCare. A panel presented three diverse programs in communities in the St. Louis region including Trailnet, Healthy Youth Partnership and St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment Immunization Program. For information about future events, please go to www.publichealth-grandrounds.slu.edu.

This legislative session proved very challenging in Missouri as in many other states. MPHA's Immediate Past President, Bert Malone testified in support of public health again this session. As a member of MPHA, your voice was heard by the legislators.

Thanks to everyone who worked on legislative issues during the 2010 session-writing letters, making personal visits and phone calls in support of public health.

Public health needs your strength to improve the lives of individuals, families and the community. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership so MPHA may continue to be a voice for public health. To renew your membership or join a project work group, call the Association's Executive Director, Sandy Boeckman, at 573-634-7977 or e-mail us at info@mopha.org.

Thank you for all you do in your community, state, nation and internationally for public health! Please feel free to contact me at dstrehla@hotmail.com or 314-580-8713.

Sincerely,

- Denise



Committee on Affiliates (COA) Update

Patricia D. Parker, MSPH,
Affiliate Representative to the Governing Council (for Missouri)

The Governing Council is the representative legislative body of the American Public Health Association (APHA). It consists of voting and nonvoting members who represent different constituencies within APHA. Voting members include at least two elected representatives of each Section and an additional number of representatives from the unaffiliated membership; one representative designated by each (state) Affiliated Association; the officers of the Association; and the elected members of the Executive Board. Ex-officio members of the Governing Council, without vote, include the chair of the Committee on Affiliates as well as other chairs of Council, standing committee of the Association, each Section, past presidents of the Association and the executive director. The Governing Council meets twice yearly via a mid-year conference call and during the Annual Meeting. The mid-year meeting will be on Monday, June 21; the Annual Meeting is November 6 – 10 in Denver. Between the two meetings, the Boards, Committees, Councils, and Taskforces develop recommendations for action at the next Governing Council Meeting.

As a representative for the Missouri Affiliate, the ARGC has the opportunity to coalesce with other Affiliates via the Committee on Affiliates (COA) that represent the interests of all 52 Affiliated Associations. CoA's interests span the breadth of APHA's Boards, Committees, Councils, and Taskforces via its representation. Membership on the CoA includes at-large positions as well as Regional representatives for two-year terms. Region VII selects its representative alphabetically by state. The Missouri ARGC is an at-large member for the 2010-2012 term. CoA conducts monthly conference call meetings, a mid-year face-to-face meeting at the

APHA office in Washington, D.C., and a face-to-face meeting during APHA's Annual Meeting. The 2010 mid-year meeting will be June 27-28, 2010.

Since the last MPHA Communiqué, the CoA has:

1. Identified two ARGCs for nomination to the Executive Board: Stephen Keener, MD, MPH (NC) and Thomas Quade, MPH (OH). Each serves as the director of their respective local public health agency.
2. Planned three scientific sessions for the Annual Meeting: NPHW activities, community gardens, Age Friendly Communities.
3. Committed to conducting three CoA poster sessions:
 - a. Committee on Affiliates Member Poster Session
 Submissions may cover any public health-related topic accepted from individual affiliate members, groups within the affiliate, and the affiliate as a whole. The deadline for abstract submissions is MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2010. Abstracts are to be sent electronically via the following link: <http://apha.confex.com/apha/138am/coa.htm>
 - b. Undergraduate Student Poster Session: Submissions on any public health-related topic accepted from students currently enrolled in an undergraduate program, and from graduates of undergraduate programs who graduated in 2010. Students are encouraged, but not required, to be a member of one of the 53 affiliates. Students can be enrolled in any major.

- c. Graduate Student Poster Session: Submissions on any public health-related topic accepted from students currently enrolled in a graduate program, and from graduates of Master's and Doctoral-level programs who graduated in 2010. Students are encouraged, but not required, to be a member of one of the 53 affiliates. Students can be enrolled in any graduate program.

IMPORTANT WHEN SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

After clicking on the "Submit Abstract" link in the Call for Abstracts, you will be asked to select the topic that most closely relates to your abstract. Please follow the instructions below:

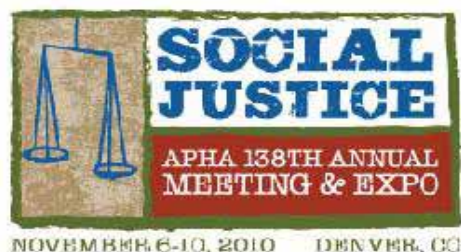
- Affiliate Members: Select "Committee on Affiliates Member Poster Session" regardless of whether you are submitting as an individual or as a group.
- Undergraduate Students: Select "Committee on Affiliates Undergraduate Student Poster Session"
- Graduate Students: Select "Committee on Affiliates Graduate Student Poster Session"

Note to students: If you will be both an undergraduate and graduate student in 2010, please submit to the applicable session in which your abstract relates. For instance, if your abstract describes work performed as an undergraduate student, then submit to the Committee on Affiliates Undergraduate Student Poster Session.

Questions should be directed to Brenda Kirkwood, CoA Student Representative, at: bakirkwood@gmail.com.

APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition News

Mark Your Calendar for the APHA 138th Annual Meeting & Exposition (Nov. 6-10, 2010) in Denver



Individuals will be able to access the official Registration and Housing Web site for the 2010 Annual Meeting beginning June 1. Complete your online meeting registration and your data will be directly linked to the online hotel/housing form for one-stop convenience. Discounted registration fees and hotel rates will be available starting June 1 at www.apha.org/meetings.

Opening General Session Speakers Announced

The [Opening General Session](#) will take place on Sunday, Nov. 7, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Colorado Convention Center. Keynote speaker will be Cornel West, American philosopher, author, critic, actor and civil rights activist. Join Dr. West as he discusses the link between social justice and public health and the importance of expanding the dialogue to include social determinants of health equity in all policy debates.

Win A Free Annual Meeting Registration!

APHA would like to enrich your educational experience in the Public

Health Expo during the Annual Meeting in Denver and we need your help! Please forward the name, city and state of any new companies or organizations that you would like to see included as exhibitors at the 138th Annual Meeting in Denver, Nov. 6-10, to Lynn Schoen, APHA exhibits manager (lynn.schoen@apha.org) or call Lynn directly at 202-777-2479. Please include contact name, e-mail address and phone number if available. Anyone submitting a qualified lead for potential new exhibitors will be entered into a drawing for a free full registration to the Annual Meeting.

Live in Concert! Aaron Neville and his Quintet featuring Charles Neville

Also on Sunday, Nov. 7, beginning at 6:30 p.m., join friends and colleagues for a night of pure entertainment and fun with four-time Grammy-award winning artist Aaron Neville. Aaron, one of the four famous Neville Brothers of New Orleans, broke onto the national scene as a solo artist with such No. 1 pop hits as "Tell It Like It Is," duets "Don't Know Much" and "When Something is Wrong with My Baby" with Linda Ronstadt, and "I Fall to Pieces" with Trisha Yearwood. He has recorded a dozen solo albums ranging in genre from gospel, funk, and blues to jazz and country. Neville and his Quintet, featuring his brother, Charles Neville, will perform his classic hits and more in a show you



won't want to miss. For more information and links to Aaron Neville songs, visit our [Evening of Entertainment Web page](#).

Annual Meeting Abstract Status Update

Nearly 8,000 abstracts covering a multitude of public health topics have been submitted for consideration at the 138th Annual Meeting & Exposition. Beginning June 1, following the peer review process, notification will be sent to those who have submitted an abstract informing them which abstracts have been accepted or declined for presentation. Anyone who submitted an abstract and who does not receive an e-mail can check the status of their abstract online using their assigned abstract number and password beginning June 1 at www.apha.org/meetings. All Annual Meeting presenters must be individual members and register for the meeting by the Oct. 1 deadline.



National Public Health Week kicked off with the launch of a new viral video, "[A Healthier America Begins with YOU](#)". This short, personalized video focuses on the small steps that each individual can take to make healthier decisions in their lives and how these decisions become contagious and lead to a healthier country as a whole. This year's video is the second in the series, preceded by last year's NPHW video, "[Healthiest Nation in One Generation](#)." Please help to spread this word and share these new social media resources with your friends, colleagues and families.



presents

A Healthier Missouri One Community At a Time

September 23-24, 2010 ■ Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia, MO

General Session Speakers:

Carmen Nevarez, MD, MPH, President of the American Public Health Association

CAPT Jose Belardo, JD, MSW, Acting Regional Health Administrator, US Department of Health and Human Services, Region VII, Kansas City

Ross Brownson, PhD, Adjunct Professor of Community Health in Epidemiology and Co-Director of Prevention Research Center, St. Louis University

William Riley, Ph.D., Associate Dean, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota and President of Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)

Conference Objectives:

Education – Provide information for public health professionals and governing body members, and partnership efforts to enhance the coordination of health and human services for Missourians.

Networking – Provide an environment for information exchange among individuals involved in and impacted by the provision, support, and use of public health services.

Involvement – Increase individuals involvement in associations with a commitment to improving the health of all Missourians.

HHS LAUNCHES BEST BONES FOREVER!

Campaign Targets Girls as Bone Health Risks Rise

The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced a new campaign, called Best Bones Forever!, designed to improve bone health and decrease the risk of osteoporosis. Research shows that bone fracture rates are increasing, and few adolescent girls get the recommended amounts of calcium and vitamin D - the building blocks for strong bones.

Osteoporosis is often called a “pediatric disease with geriatric consequences.” Childhood and adolescence are the key windows of opportunity for building strong bones and warding off the disease. In girls, close to 90 percent of bone mass is built by age 18. Girls, in particular, are at greatest risk for bone problems. Osteoporosis is four times more common in women than men, and adolescent girls consume calcium and participate in physical activity at lower rates than boys. The new campaign empowers girls ages 9 to 14 to build the best bones forever!

“We want girls to know that if you’re older than nine, now’s your time!” said Secretary Sebelius. “Building strong bones now will help you stand tall for a lifetime.”

HHS recommends girls look for foods with calcium and vitamin D, which is necessary to help bones absorb calcium. One recent study found 70 percent of kids in the U.S. had below-normal levels of vitamin D, with deficiencies increasing as kids age from childhood to adolescence. The federal government recommendation for daily calcium consumption increases from 1,000 milligrams (mg) to 1,300 mg at age nine. The guidelines for physical activity for kids are 60 minutes daily, including three days of bone-strengthening activity.

The new campaign embraces an issue close to every girl’s heart: friendship. Best Bones Forever!, developed by the HHS’ Office on Women’s Health (OWH), urges girls and their BFFs (best friends forever) to ‘grow strong together, and stay strong forever.’ Research shows that girls whose friends like milk are more likely to have higher calcium intake. Similarly, physical activity also gets a boost among girls whose friends have positive attitudes toward sports.

The message for parents is one of urgency. Girls between the ages of 9 to 18 are in their critical bone-building years. Campaign materials and a Web site for parents empower them to “Act now to help her build her best bones forever!” When asked about who has the biggest influence on what they eat, girls ages 8 to 15 first cite parents (83 percent), followed by “themselves” (60 percent), and friends (19 percent).

“Parents can make a big difference in helping their kids build strong, healthy bones, and the things that improve bone health are also good for overall health,” said Dr. Wanda Jones, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Women’s Health), HHS. “So go ahead and stock the fridge with foods rich in calcium and vitamin D, like yogurt, milk, cheese, tofu with added calcium, and leafy greens. Encourage her to be active, and do things as a family such as taking walks after dinner.”



Best Bones Forever! updates and revamps an earlier national bone health campaign for girls called Powerful Bones. Powerful Girls, which was first launched in

2001. In order to appeal to girls as they mature, the new campaign has adopted an edgy vibe, trading the earlier campaign’s cartoon spokescharacter for the ‘exskullmation’ point. This new iconic symbol is designed to get girls excited about building the best bones forever.

The Best Bones Forever! community pilot program also launched today in three sites: North Las Vegas, NV; Ulster County, NY; and Pinal County, AZ. Coalitions in each site will bring the campaign to their communities through a range of activities. They will also be executing and evaluating a bone health behavior change program for parents and girls called BodyWorks. Adapted from OWH’s existing family health and fitness program for parents, BodyWorks will feature a new complementary physical activity program just for girls in these communities. Results from the community pilot program will demonstrate which activities can be replicated in towns across the country.

Best Bones Forever! is a public-private partnership that brings together organizations from across the country. Founding partner, National Osteoporosis Foundation, tops a partner roster that also includes Girl Scouts, Girls Inc., Action for Healthy Kids, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, National Association of School Nurses, the National Institutes of Health, Women’s Sports Foundation, and more. For more information on campaign partners and activities, go to the campaign Web site for girls at www.bestbonesforever.gov or for parents at www.bestbonesforever.gov/parents.

Help make an impact by encouraging girls and their parents to make bone health a priority. If you are interested in ordering free *Best Bones Forever!* materials, contact Talia at OWH@hagersharp.com.

APHA Legislative Update



State of the Union Address

President Obama spoke before Congress on January 27th, giving the first State of the Union address of his administration. The President outlined a series of priorities geared toward addressing unemployment and the economic recession such as a jobs bill similar to the one passed by the House of Representatives last session, financial reform, and renewing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. In addition, the president reaffirmed his commitment to passing comprehensive health reform and urged both the Senate and House not to walk away from reform; "Not when we are so close." The administration's support for public health and prevention was also evidenced by the announcement of First Lady Michelle Obama's new campaign to tackle childhood obesity. The transcript of the State of The Union is available at: www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-state-union-address; A video of the address can be found at: www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/01/27/putting-washington-service-middle-class. The Republican response delivered by Virginia Governor, Bob McDonnell, is available at: www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/01/27/politics/stateofunion/main6148483.shtml.

The President's Budget

The president released his budget for Fiscal Year 2011 (FY2011) on February 1st. After a process of reviewing the president's request and holding hearings with department and agency leadership and public witnesses, Congress will write and pass a budget resolution, typically by mid-April. The Appropriations Committees in both chambers will then work to pass all 12 bills which fund the federal government of their bills by early summer. However, over the past several years, Congress has been unable to finish its work on each individual bill and has been forced to pass a larger spending bill containing the unfinished appropriations bills at the end of the Congressional session. APHA's budget response is available at: www.apha.org/about/news/pressreleases/2010/2010budgetrelease.htm.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) While the CDC's total FY 2011 budget request shows a \$100 million increase, the funding for CDC's core programs actually received a \$132 million cut. The vast majority of CDC's programs were either cut or level funded, including several environmental health programs, health promotion programs, cancer prevention and control, injury prevention and control programs and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant. A few programs did receive increases including HIV/AIDS programs and the new "Big Cities Initiative" that would provide grants to large cities to address obesity and tobacco control. APHA is disappointed in the president's budget for CDC and will take its message to Capitol Hill in an effort to restore many of the cuts proposed by the administration.

CDC's budget justification is available at: www.cdc.gov/fmo/topic/Budget%20Information/index.html.

Health Resources Services

Administration (HRSA)

In comparison to several other public health agencies, HRSA fared fairly well under the president's budget, receiving a \$28 million increase, the majority of which going to primary care, maternal and child health, and HIV/AIDS programs. The increase to these programs comes at the expense of cuts to public health improvement projects and health education assistance loans. APHA is encouraged by the additional resources provided for programs helping to ensure the public's health, but will stress the increased level of need for all programs to Congress in hopes of restoring essential funding. HRSA's budget justification is available at: www.hrsa.gov/about/budgetjustification/.

State Department Global Health Funding

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) received a modest increase of just under \$2 million, falling short of funding authorized by the Lantos-Hyde PEPFAR Reauthorization. Global Health and Child Survival programs under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) received a 24% increase over FY2010 appropriation to \$3.013 billion. Funding increases within USAID focused on maternal and child health programs as well as neglected tropical diseases, reflecting the President's Global Health Initiative (GHI) priorities. APHA will be working closely with partner organizations to strengthen GHI targets and resources over the next year. The State Department's budget justification is available at: www.state.gov/s/d/rm/c6113.htm.

Congress Action on Health Reform Legislation Stalls

With the election of Republican Senator Scott Brown to former Senator Ted Kennedy's (D-Mass.)

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Senate seat, removing the 60 vote "super majority" the Democrats had in the U.S. Senate, work on comprehensive health reform legislation has effectively stalled. Senator Brown made stopping the current health reform legislation a key priority of his campaign and has signaled he would not support the legislation currently under consideration in Congress. With the House and Senate having passed their own versions of health reform legislation, there are still a number of significant issues between the two bills that would require additional negotiations before a bill could move forward. Some of these issues include how to pay for the bill: a tax on high value health plans or a tax on high income earning workers. In addition, there are significant differences in subsidies and premium assistance in the two bills, with the House bill providing more generous assistance.

One option in moving forward would be for the House to pass the current Senate bill thus removing the need for another 60 vote majority in the Senate. Many House Democrats, however, are not happy with the tax on high value insurance plans and believe the subsidies for low income earners are not strong enough in the Senate bill. Another option would be for the House to pass the Senate bill and then make additional changes to the Senate bill through the budget reconciliation process. This again would require only a simple majority to pass the Senate, though some in the House are wary that the Senate would not move quickly in this scenario. Discussions continue among Senate and House Democratic leadership and the White House on how to move forward. In late January, APHA reiterated its support for passing health reform legislation in sending a letter to the House of Representatives urging them to move forward. You can read the letter at: <http://www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/CAEC795B-8EC8-4527-8D18-346F0B180FEB/0/APHAHouseHRLetter.pdf>. APHA is asking members of the association to

continue to contact their Representatives and Senators urging them to continue their work to send comprehensive and affordable health reform legislation to the president as soon as possible. You can send a letter to your members of Congress in support of health reform legislation by visiting APHA's Take Action page at: <http://action.apha.org/TakeAction>.

Additional information about APHA's activities around health reform legislation can be found at: <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/healthiestnation/>.



President Calls for Swift Action on Health Reform After Bipartisan Meeting

On March 3, President Obama called on Congress to pass final health reform bill and send it to him for his signature in the "next few weeks." During his remarks the president acknowledged that Republicans were not likely to support his call to action. He rejected calls from some Republican in Congress to scrap the current proposals and start from scratch, thus signaling support for Democrats to use a procedural move known as "reconciliation," which would allow the Senate to pass the proposal by a simple majority instead of the filibuster-proof 60 vote majority they have had to employ for several previous health reform-related votes.

The bipartisan day-long meeting on health reform hosted by the president on February 25 gave the public a chance to hear from both parties in both Houses of Congress about their positions on the president's new proposal and the proposals that passed the House and Senate last

year. While there appeared to be little progress on coming to a bipartisan consensus on health reform legislation, President Obama issued a letter to House and Senate leaders identifying potential areas of common ground as well as major differences between the parties. Specifically, the letter highlighted four proposals from Republicans at the meeting that the president is interested in exploring. You can read the entire letter at: www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/B690B88A-611A-473B-96EC-414D61A280CD/0/ObamalettertoHillpostsummit.pdf.

Given the president's remarks, it is most likely that Democrats will try to move forward, assuming little to no Republican support for their proposals, using the reconciliation process.

The health reform legislation used in this process would likely closely resemble the health reform proposal released by President Obama shortly before the bipartisan meeting (see link below). One scenario being discussed would have the House pass the Senate bill with a guarantee in the form of a letter from 51 Senate Democrats assuring the House that the Senate would make agreed-upon fixes to its original legislation. The final product would likely be a proposal that closely follows the bill passed by the Senate with some tweaks aimed at gaining support from House liberals and as well as some Republican supported provisions.

A full summary of the president's proposal can be viewed at: www.whitehouse.gov/health-care-meeting/proposal.

You can read APHA's press release on the bipartisan meeting at: www.apha.org/about/news/pressreleases/2010/healthreformsummitrls.htm.

A recent letter sent to the U.S. Congress by APHA and 35 state and regional public health associations urging Congress to complete its work on health reform legislation at: www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

F27721D7-7109-4DC8-8B36-1B456582675B/0/APHAAffiliateHRletterfinal.pdf.



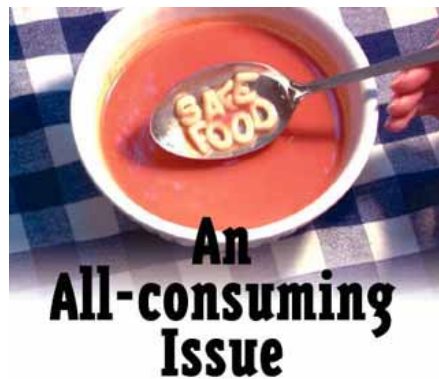
Health Groups Oppose Effort to Overturn EPA Greenhouse Gas Ruling

Lead by APHA, twelve health organizations joined together in sending a letter to all members of the United States Senate urging Senators to oppose a Resolution of Disapproval that has been introduced by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) that would overturn the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) December 7, 2009 final endangerment finding on greenhouse gases. The endangerment finding which relates to six key greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change – carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride in the atmosphere – finds that current and future concentrations of these gases threaten the public health and welfare of Americans. The health effects of climate change include: increased likelihood of more frequent and intense heat waves, more wildfires, degraded air quality, more flooding, increased drought, more intense storms, harm to water resources and harm to agriculture. An April 2007 Supreme Court decision required EPA to make a determination of whether there was compelling scientific evidence that greenhouse gases threatened public health and welfare. The resolution introduced by Senator Murkowski would effectively

block the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act.

You can view the letter spearheaded by APHA at: www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/1AD4D22E-5D35-403E-AE53-DC234C1E6292/0/UpdatedhealthltroproposingMurkowskiHGRes.pdf.

You can view APHA's press release regarding the letter at: www.apha.org/about/news/pressreleases/2010/epagreenhousegasrelease.htm.



Senate Looks Likely to Take on Food Safety Legislation

During an agriculture appropriations subcommittee hearing on March 2, Senator Harkin (D-Iowa) predicted that food safety legislation would be "on the President's desk by May."

The House of Representatives acted quickly on the need for food safety reform by passing the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009 (H.R. 2749) last summer. While the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (S. 510) was passed out of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, which Senator Harkin chairs, in November, it has yet to come to a floor vote.

Join APHA and the Make Our Food Safe Coalition's efforts to move the FDA Food Safety Modernization to the floor for a full Senate vote by sending this letter to your Senators.

APHA's latest Food Safety Issue Brief is available at: www.apha.org/advocacy/reports/reports/.

The Make Our Food Safe Coalitions has additional resources available at: www.makeourfoodsafesafe.org/.

New APHA Policy Proposals and Policies Online for Review

Twenty-one new proposals for APHA's 2010 policy process have been received and have been posted on the association's website for member comment. All members are encouraged to work with their Sections and other units to provide comprehensive comments on policies of interest. In addition, the policies that will be reviewed by the membership for possible archiving have been posted on the website. You can view both the new proposals and those up for review this year at: www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/. Members should use the appropriate comment forms for comments on both new policies and policies up for review which are also available on the APHA website.

President Signs Health Reform Law

On March 23, president Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law. The enactment of the law is a huge victory for public health thanks to the efforts of APHA members and other public health advocates! Not only will the law extend health insurance coverage to an additional 32 million uninsured Americans, provide subsidies to help individuals purchase health insurance, prevent insurance companies from discriminating against individuals with pre-existing conditions and strengthen the Medicare program, it will also provide billions of dollars of funding for public health and prevention when it is fully implemented. In fact, the new Prevention and Public Health Fund created by the law will provide \$500 million for prevention, wellness and public health activities beginning this year.

In addition to enacting the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Congress also passed the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, which the president signed into law on March 30, 2010. This legislation improves upon the first health reform legislation by strengthening the affordability

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

provisions relating to health insurance coverage, providing additional help to seniors who fall into the prescription drug “doughnut hole” coverage gap, and will increase federal support for state Medicaid programs.

While passage of health reform is a great achievement, it did not come without some costs. Several compromises were made along the way; the inclusion of a provision refunding abstinence-only programs as well as an Executive Order issued by President Obama requiring federal officials to develop guidelines to segregate private funds for abortion services from any public funding and ordering the creation of a mechanism to ensure that community health centers cannot use federal funds for abortions. In addition, the legislation did not include a “public option” as an alternative to private insurance coverage as advocated by APHA. APHA will continue to monitor the impact of these and other provisions in the new law moving forward. You can read a summary of the new law as it relates to APHA’s 2009 Agenda for Health Reform as well as additional resources on the law’s provisions and implementation timeline by visiting our Health Reform Update page online.

Thanks again to all of the APHA members and advocates who made passage of comprehensive and affordable health reform with strong public health and prevention provisions a reality!



National Public Health Week Legislative Priorities

April 5th – 11th was National Public Health Week 2010 and members and public health advocates were asked to take the time to respond by sending a message to Congress

supporting our 2010 legislative priorities which include:

Public Health Funding in Fiscal Year 2011

Past budget cuts to CDC, HRSA, and other public health service agencies, along with new challenges and responsibilities, have caused these critically important agencies to do more with less and to struggle to provide basic public health services. As the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are deciding how to complete the fiscal year 2011 appropriations bills over the coming months, it is important that they hear from you on the importance of increasing public health funding.

Find out more information on agency and program specific funding requests on our APHA and Coalition Letters page online.

Urge Congress to Support Public Health Funding in FY 2011! Please send a letter TODAY voicing your support for the highest possible funding increase for essential public health service agencies.



Food Safety Reform

Every year, millions of Americans are sickened from consuming contaminated food, hundreds of thousands are hospitalized, and thousands die. Continued outbreaks of food borne illness over the last several years have demonstrated that these outbreaks are due to widespread problems with our broken food safety system. The Senate is expected to vote on S. 510, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.

Information on the important public health provisions included in S. 510 is available online in APHA’s Creating a Safe Food System for America issue brief.

Please send a letter urging your Senators to support the FDA Food Modernization Act.

Child Nutrition Reauthorization



Good nutrition should begin in childhood when eating habits are formed and chronic diseases begin to develop. Yet over the last

two decades, rates of obesity have tripled in children and adolescents. As Congress works to reauthorize our nation’s child nutrition policies, school nutrition and wellness policies must be a priority.

APHA’s priorities for reauthorization of the child nutrition programs are available online.

Urge Congress to Strengthen Child Nutrition and Wellness Policies! Please send a letter to your Senators and Representative urging them to work to improve the nutrition and wellness policies in our nation’s schools.

Public Health Provisions in Transportation Law

A healthy community is one that promotes healthy people by ensuring access to affordable and safe housing; nutritious food; clean air and water; mass transportation; safe sidewalks, streets, and playgrounds; health services and opportunities for social networking.

Check out APHA’s transportation issue brief, *At the Intersection of Public Health and Transportation: Promoting Healthy Transportation Policy*, for more information.

Tell Congress Transportation Policy is a Public Health Issue! Please send a letter urging Congress to promote strong public health provisions – safety and equity – when they consider the reauthorization of federal transportation law.

Climate Change Legislation

From changes in vector borne diseases to impacts on drinking water supply to extreme weather events, we are already seeing the effects of

(Continued on page 10)

Policy Watch



California State Senate Passes Universal Health Care Act

The California state Senate passed SB 810, the California Universal Health Care Act (Mark Leno-D San Francisco) on January 28, 2010 by a vote of 22 to 14, with one Democrat and all Republicans in opposition. This landmark legislation would establish a modern universal health care system, provide every California resident with comprehensive, reliable and affordable health care benefits for life; and create a state insurance program covering all 37 million Californians expected to be revenue neutral for the state. The bill now has to pass the state Assembly prior to being sent to Governor Schwarzenegger, who has already vowed to veto the bill should it reach his desk.



New York City Introduces New Health Initiative Aimed at Reducing Sodium Intake

Earlier this year, the New York City's Bloomberg administration, unveiled an initiative aimed at encouraging food manufacturers and restaurant chains to reduce the amount of salt in their products. The five year plan sets a goal of reducing the amount of salt in packaged and restaurant food by 25 percent. Reduction of sodium in packaged and restaurant food would reduce the incidence of high blood pressure and would help prevent strokes and heart attacks. The plan is currently voluntary for food companies, allowing companies to cut salt gradually over the next five years. For more information about the initiative, visit the New York City Health Department website at: www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/cardio/cardio-salt-initiative.shtml. In 2002 APHA adopted policy supporting the

reduction of sodium in the diet which can be viewed at: www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/policysearch/default.htm?id=278.



Denver Colorado Passes the Colorado Clean Air-Clean Jobs Act

The Colorado Clean Air-Clean Jobs Act passed state's House of Representatives and Senate by wide margins on March 31st. The bill was introduced with bipartisan sponsorship and received increased attention as it may serve as a national model for reducing air pollution. The legislation would increase the use of clean energy sources, strengthen the economy by creating green jobs and seeks to limit power-plant emissions by steering energy produces away from coal and towards natural gas by 2017. Expressing support for the legislation since its introduction, Governor Bill Ritter is expected to sign it in the coming days.

(Continued from page 9)

climate change on the health of people across the globe. While the House of Representatives passed climate change legislation with strong public health provisions last year, the full Senate has not yet acted. Over the past several months, Senators Kerry (D-Mass.), Lieberman (I-Conn.) and Graham (R-S.C.) have been working together to develop a bipartisan climate bill that will be introduced in late April. APHA is encouraging the trio to include the public health and climate change provisions included in the House-passed bill and an earlier climate bill sponsored by Kerry which would also create a Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Fund that would provide funding for state and local health department preparedness and assessment activities around climate change and would also fund

workforce development and additional research into the health impacts of climate change.

You can find out more about the health impacts of climate change by reading APHA's fact sheet, *Climate Change is a Public Health Issue*.

Tell Your Senators that Climate Change is a Public Health Issue! Send a message to your Senators TODAY urging them to ensure strong public health provisions are included in any bill considered by the full Senate.

APHA Applauds House Passage of Health Reform

Statement from Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E), Executive Director, American Public Health Association

"The American Public Health Association applauds the U.S. House of Representatives for its historic vote

today to reform our nation's health system.

"For nearly a century, providing quality, affordable care to all Americans has eluded our grasp. Today's vote, however, changes all that. This measure will strengthen our public health system, invest in prevention, improve the health of the American people and move us closer to providing comprehensive and affordable health coverage for all Americans.

"We congratulate the House for its courage and leadership on this defining issue and urge the Senate to move quickly in passing the related reconciliation improvements to the health reform measure. On behalf of the American Public Health Association, we pledge our commitment to helping strengthen and improve the health of individuals and communities across this nation."

MPH Graduate Student Association Receives Chancellor's Excellence Award

The University of Missouri Master of Public Health Graduate Student Association (MPHGSA) has received the 2010 Chancellor's Excellence Award for Best New Organization. MPHGSA President Saket Kottewar and Secretary Lindsay Parsons accepted the award at the ceremony held on April 17 in Memorial Union's Stotler Lounge.

Reasons given for the award were MPHGSA's participation in the MPH Program's accreditation process and commitment to community involvement. Along with the award, MPHGSA will receive \$300 for use in the upcoming fiscal year.

MPH students Ashley Allen, Mary-Claire Howe, Renee Kientz, and Anna Koenig participated in a radio discussion of mental health issues and stigma as part of their coursework for Dr. Danny Wedding's Mental Health Policy in Public Health course offered this Spring. The discussion was aired on KOPN (89.5 FM).

MPH students Fiona Asigbee, Shannon Canfield, and Mario Rudolph were featured in the Graduate School's Spring 2010 student spotlights. Visit <http://gradschool.missouri.edu/about-us/profiles/> to read about the accomplishments of these dedicated students.

MPH student Gvantsa Khizanishvili has received a scholarship to attend the Women Deliver 2010 conference

that will be held in Washington, D.C. on June 7-9, 2010. The conference will bring a global perspective to issues of maternal and reproductive health. Gvantsa will give a speech entitled "Young Women's Pregnancy and Childbirth-Related Morbidity and Mortality" as part of the "Mum Is Not the Word" panel.

the MPH Program will be made in October 2010.

The Council for Public Health Nursing, the Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies, the Missouri Institute for Community Health, and the Missouri Public Health Association will present a conference entitled A Healthier Missouri, One Community at a Time, to be held on September 23-24, 2010 at the Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia, MO. Conference information is attached, along with a Poster Session Entry Form. MPH students are encouraged to submit poster ideas.

The Master of Public Health Program has a new and improved Facebook page. Please follow this link [http://www.facebook.com/pages/Columbia-MO/University-of-](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Columbia-MO/University-of-Missouri-Master-of-Public-Health-Program/107393949301392)

Missouri-Master-of-Public-Health-Program/107393949301392 to become a fan and keep up with noteworthy happenings in the MPH Program.

If you have news items you would like to have included in future Mizzou Public Health Highlights e-mailings, please send those items to Katherine Kirkpatrick at KirkpatrickKL@health.missouri.edu or <mailto:KirkpatrickKL@health.missouri.edu>.



Faculty

MPH faculty member Dr. Deb Hume was honored with the 2010 Chancellor's Excellence Award for Most Outstanding Advisor. She accepted her award at the ceremony on April 17.

Events and Announcements

The Master of Public Health Program's accreditation site visit with representatives from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) was held on March 8-9, 2010. The program received a positive review and efforts are currently underway to address areas for improvement identified by the CEPH site visitors. A final decision about accreditation of

MPHA Scholarship & Award Nominations

Due September 1

Awards

Every year MPHA honors outstanding individuals and organizations who make a significant contribution in the field of public health and offers scholarships to further public health professional education and improvement.

W. Scott Johnson Award

This is the most prestigious award presented by MPHA to an individual for distinguished service in the field of public health in Missouri. The award is given in commemoration of the skills, integrity, devotion to duty, and constructive leadership, which characterized the life of W. Scott Johnson.

Group Merit Award

This award gives recognition to an agency or group making a significant contribution to public health in Missouri within the past five years. The agency or group may be local or statewide. It can be either an official or voluntary agency or group. However, if an official agency is nominated the activity should have been beyond the usual public health activities engaged in by the agency. The agency or group need not be located in Missouri, if the contribution was made in the state of Missouri.

Media Awards

Media awards are given to recognize newspapers, radio and television stations making significant contributions to public health education in Missouri through the media in the past calendar year. There are three categories of awards: 1. newspapers, 2. radio, and 3. television. The media organizations nominated must be located in Missouri. A media award may be given for a single series, or for cumulative publications or programs, occurring within the calendar year prior to the annual meeting.

Public Health Publication Award

The publication award is presented to a member of MPHA in good standing in recognition of an article or series of



articles published. The winning article(s) must be of professional quality and contain accurate information and be pertinent to public health issues in Missouri. The article(s) must have been published within a professional journal during the past calendar year. Journal articles may be regional or statewide in nature.

Robert L. Northcutt Award

The award is presented to an individual or group who significantly advanced legislation to improve the public health of the citizens of Missouri. Eligible recipients may include lawmakers from the state, federal or local level; or a citizen whose diligent efforts were instrumental in the passage of a public health law or ordinance.

Certificate of Merit Award(s)

Each chapter may select a member of their chapter as recipient of the Chapter's Certificate of Merit Award. The awardee(s) should be chosen based on his/her contribution to public health in Missouri. Recommendations

should be based on: achievements of the individual in the field of public health; the relationship of the achievements to the improved health of the community; professional activities; community service activities; publications; and any other information which would have a significant bearing on his/her qualification for the MPHA Certificate of Merit.

Scholarships

A foundation was established in 1993 to promote MPHA scholarships and awards. The Missouri Public Health Foundation is a non-profit organization available to receive tax deductible donations to further public health professional education and improvement.

Health Professional Scholarship

This \$500 scholarship is available annually for an MPHA member who is enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree in a public health field which will further their career.

Edna Dell Weinel Scholarship

This scholarship provides the opportunity for the practicing public health professional to participate in educational meetings/continuing education programs or traditional academic course work. Preference will be given to educational meetings or CE. The scholarship amount is dependent on the individual's request up to \$500.

Jackie Liesmeyer Nursing Scholarship

This \$500 scholarship is available to a Registered Nurse who is working on an undergraduate or graduate nursing degree.

Forms are available on our website at www.mopha.org and on page 13 of this newsletter.

National Pet Week May 2-8, 2010



"Pets & People Healthy Together"



Sponsored by the
Auxiliary to the American Veterinary Medical Association

About National Pet Week

National Pet Week was jointly founded in 1981 by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the Auxiliary to the AVMA, and is widely celebrated throughout the United States and other parts of the world. In 2010, National Pet Week is celebrated from May 2-8.

The goals of National Pet Week are to promote responsible pet ownership, celebrate the human-animal bond, and promote public awareness of veterinary medicine.

Contact Us:

American Veterinary Medical Association
1931 North Meacham Road, Suite 100
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360
Phone: 847-925-8070



MPHA Awards Nominations

Mail completed form to the Missouri Public Health Association, PO Box 126, Jefferson City, MO 65102 no later than September 1, 2009. If you have questions, call 573-634-7977.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> W. Scott Johnson Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Merit Award(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group Merit Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Media Awards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health Publication Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Television |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert L. Northcutt Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio |

Person/Agency Nominated: _____

Name of Award: _____

Please attach an additional sheet describing in detail why this individual or organization deserves recognition at the 2010 Annual Conference. Please attach a brief description and/or published articles where appropriate.



Recognizing Excellence

Communiqué



P.O. Box 126 ■ Jefferson City, MO

Visit us on the Web:

www.mopha.org

COMMUNIQUE' Editor

Pat Morgester
Kansas City Health Department

Send comments and/or articles to:
pat_morgester@kcmo.org

MPHA Membership



Yes

I want to help fulfill MPHA's mission to promote health in the State of Missouri

☐ Regular Membership \$50.00 ☐ Full-time Student/Retiree \$25.00

I'd like to make a donation to the MPHA Educational Foundation \$ _____

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Ph (O): _____

Ph (H): _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Area of Professional Interest: (check one)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Health Involvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health Nursing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Promotion | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infectious Disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Support Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Official | <input type="checkbox"/> Food and Nutrition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Diseases |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

I'd like to serve on the following committee(s):

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions & Bylaws |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy & Public Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health Week |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History |

Payment Options:

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Bill my credit card ____ MC ____ VISA exp. ____

☐ Invoice my organization: PO # _____

*Please mail with payment to: MPHA, P.O. Box 126
Jefferson City, MO 65102. For questions call: 573.634.7977*