



SHA UPDATE

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SHA/TPHA Joint Annual Educational Conference

September 15-17, 2010

The 2010 SHA/TPHA conference theme is **“Great Challenges Bring Great Opportunities”** – an appropriate title for the times in which we live and work. The conference will be held at the Cool Springs Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Franklin, Tennessee. The conference begins with an opening session at 11:30 AM (Central) on Wednesday, September 15th, and features four plenary sessions, more than 20 workshops, poster session, exhibits, two luncheons, and a Thursday evening reception.

The program committee has been hard at work, and as a result, our 2010 annual educational conference has an outstanding array of speakers. Public health professionals from Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington DC, and Wisconsin will share the experience and expertise with conference attendees. Plenary sessions and workshops are scheduled for all three days of the conference.

The opening session will feature an outstanding keynote speaker from Minnesota – Dr. Reed V. Tuckson, Executive Vice President and Chief of Medical Affairs at UnitedHealth Group, a Fortune 25 diversified health and well-being company. Dr. Tuckson currently serves on the board of directors for several national organizations and has held other federal appointments, including cabinet level advisory committees on health reform, infant mortality, children's health, violence, and radiation testing.

Thursday at the conference will feature two plenary sessions, numerous workshops, the poster session, exhibits, awards luncheon and presentations, and an evening reception. Commissioner Susan R. Cooper, Tennessee Department of Health, will speak at the awards luncheon and share her perspective on public health challenges and opportunities. Commissioner Cooper made Tennessee history when she became the first nurse to serve as health commissioner in Tennessee and has an extensive background in health policy, health care regulation, and evidence-based practice. (continued on page 3)

President's Message

Jan Cooke, SC



Happy Spring! Yes, it's just around the corner. I'm pretty sure all of you will agree with me in being ready for the thaw. It has been a record-breaking cold, wet winter in the Southeast. However, when considering the devastation in Haiti and Chile, I thank God for my many blessings and quickly quit whining. Several reported at the mid-year Council meeting regarding the involvement of your respective health agencies with the crisis in Haiti. I know I speak for the Association when I say "thank you" for the services provided by you and your co-workers. This is yet another great example of Public Health at its best!

We are still optimistic about Mississippi PHA joining SHA. I have been in touch with the Executive Director of VaPHA. I'll let you know how that goes, but I am encouraged this position has been filled. Likewise, Bob Stolarick, TPHA Immediate Past President, has accepted the Executive Director position for GPHA. We hope with his direction, GPHA will be able to grow and support an annual meeting this year.

My thanks to all who attended the Governing Council in Franklin last month. I was delighted with the number in attendance, and even more excited by what we covered while together. The state reports, while frustrating with budget cuts and staff restrictions, were encouraging by what you continue to accomplish during these trying times. For those who missed the meeting, please take time to read this *SHA Update*. It reflects just some of what is going on across the region and what we can plan for in the coming days.

It was a pleasure to have Chris Freeman, President and Doris Spain, Executive Director for TPHA, join us for lunch and part of our meeting. Along with them, it appears Becky and David Brumley and Tammy Burke are planning an outstanding joint annual meeting. David is Program Chair; Tammy is Exhibits Chair; and Becky, SHA 2nd VP, is serving as liaison between the two organizations. The theme is "**Great Challenges Bring Great Opportunities.**" Has there ever been a better time to make lemonade out of lemons?!? Make your reservations now. You don't want to miss this informative conference. Also, check the website periodically. Sandra will post conference updates as they are received from TPHA. Committee Chairs may be calling on you soon in preparation for the conference. Please help where you can to support our meeting.

Well, I'm half way through the term and I must say it has been a pleasure to serve as your President. I've been to TN and NC and head to KY the end of the month followed by AL and AR before my home-state meeting in May. Again I thank you for your confidence in electing me. I hope to do you proud and look forward to seeing you in TN!

SHA/TPHA Joint Education Conference Info Cont.

The second plenary session of the day will feature Dr. Adewale Troutman, Director of Health at the Louisville Metro Health Department and Associate Professor at the University of Louisville School of Public Health. Dr. Troutman has more than 30 years of visionary leadership experience in the diverse fields of public health practice, medical facility operations, and administration and education at the local, national, and international levels.

Friday at the conference will offer numerous workshop opportunities and a great plenary session. The conference will close with a speaker familiar to many of us – Dr. Allen Craig, resident advisor to Zambia in Africa for the President’s Malaria Initiative. Dr. Craig worked for the Tennessee Department of Health for many years and served as the State Epidemiologist from 2001 until he left for Africa in 2008.

SHA President Jan Cooke and TPHA President Chris Freeman encourage everyone to mark their calendars and start making plans to join them in Tennessee this September. Additional information on the annual conference will be posted to the SHA and TPHA websites as it becomes available – www.southernhealth.net or www.tnpublichealth.org.

SHA to Sponsor Breakout Sessions

The Southern Health Association will be sponsoring three concurrent sessions at the joint meeting with Tennessee in September. One session will be a presentation on the challenges and opportunities H1N1 has presented. Speakers from Florida, Alabama and North Carolina, will be sharing "the good, the bad, and the ugly" and what's ahead in their states.

A representative from the National Association of Local Boards of Health will be speaking on the role of Boards of Health during these difficult times when so many public health workers are losing their jobs because of budget cuts.

A third session sponsored by SHA will feature speakers from South Carolina. The title of this session is "*Excellence in Innovative Public Health Preparedness Solutions*". The presenters have been working in cooperation with NACCHO on the development of the Security Planning Toolkit for PODS for nationwide use in public health.

Hotel Reservations

Please visit the TPHA website www.tnpublichealth.org for details about making reservations at the Cool Springs Marriott. Just click on ‘Annual Conference’ and then ‘Hotel Information.’ Room rates are \$129 per night.



Georgia State Report

80th GPHA Annual Meeting & Conference



The 80th Annual Meeting and Conference was an informational and business meeting December 3, 2009 in Macon, GA. The 23rd Annual Sellers-McCroan Lecture and Award luncheon was part of the meeting due to current fiscal constraints. Alpha Fowler Bryan, M.D., Clayton County Board of Health, Jonesboro, was elected President.

The Georgia Public Health Association (GPHA) recently selected Robert Stolarick, DDS, as its new Executive Director. Dr. Stolarick started his new position February 1. As GPHA Executive Director, Dr. Stolarick will work with the GPHA Executive Committee to provide leadership for the development of organizational strategies and will be responsible for the overall day-to-day management of GPHA.

Also, Dr. Stolarick will be responsible for increasing the organization's membership as well as retaining and engaging GPHA members in the organization's work.

Prior to joining GPHA, Dr. Stolarick served as the immediate Past President of the Tennessee Public Health Association where he was responsible for the organization's strategic planning efforts. He has sixteen years of Public Health experience which included the position of lead administrator for the Memphis and Shelby County (Tennessee) Health Department where he was responsible for three departments: Administration and Finance, Assessment and Planning and Personal Health Service. Dr. Stolarick was responsible for a \$42 million annual budget during his tenure with the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department. Dr. Stolarick's previous professional experience also includes a private dental practice in Halls, Tennessee and a stint as a Public Health Dentist for the Lauderdale County Health Department in Ripley, Tennessee.

Legislative Priorities for 2010:

- Protect funding for Grant-in-Aid to counties and fight to maintain other funding for Public Health.
- Ensure that the Public Health Commission is appointed and becomes effective July 1, 2010, per HB 228. The nine appointments to the Commission are to be made as follows: two by the Speaker of the House, two by the Lt. Governor and five by the Governor. The Commission's charge is to:
- Examine whether the interests of this state are best served with Public Health being: (a) a part of the Department of Community Health; (b) an attached agency; (c) an independent agency; or (d) a part of another organization structure to be determined by the commission.
- Identify and effectuate ways of providing additional Medicaid support to county health departments for the services they provide and the populations they serve.
- Support efforts to have the legislature consider other sources of revenue for public health.



Georgia State Report Cont.

Other GPHA News

GPHA held a two day retreat in Macon, GA.

GPHA received an Organization Assessment Report prepared by Neil Sklarew, Senior Consultant, Georgia Center for Nonprofits. (If interested in this report, please contact GPHA.)

Healthcare Georgia Foundation funded GPHA for building organizational capacity ~\$192,000. A smaller grant ~\$6,500 to present a Leadership Conference for Future Leaders (e.g. students from MPH programs, and Schools of Public Health) was also discussed.

The new updated Website was also discussed.

Terri Theisen, Theisen Consulting LLC, led a review and update for the GPHA/operational plan to align with those key opportunities, including goals, objectives, action steps, accountability and time frames.

Contact Information: Georgia Public Health Association, Post Office Box 80524, Atlanta, GA 30366-0524
Phone: (678) 302-1132 Fax: (678) 302-1134; Web: <https://www.gapha.org>.

Georgia Department of Community Health News

DCH Commissioner Medows Appoints New Public Health Director

Dr. Rhonda Medows, Commissioner and State Health Officer of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), announced the appointment of Dr. M. Rony Francois, MD, MSPH, PhD, as the new Director of the Division of Public Health (DPH).

As Director of the Division of Public Health, Dr. Francois will oversee programs responsible for disease control and prevention, the reduction of avoidable injury-related deaths and disabilities, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles, as well as other various programs and services.

Prior to joining DCH, Dr. Francois served as Assistant Secretary of Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospitals Office of Public Health. Under his leadership in 2009, the Louisiana Immunization Program was ranked second in the nation by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He has also served as the Secretary of the Florida Department of Health where he was instrumental with agency accomplishments such as having the second highest immunization rate in the nation for two-year olds and decreasing the prevalence rate of cigarette use among Florida's middle school students by 60 percent.

The Division of Public Health, formerly housed within the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR), transitioned to DCH on July 1, 2009. This transition is in response to House Bill 228, which instructed DHR to transfer all matters relating to public health to DCH. As a result, approximately 1,300 DHR employees have joined DCH. Programs and services include Health Promotion & Disease Prevention,

Maternal & Child Health, Infectious Disease and Immunizations, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, the State Laboratory Programs, and Vital Records.



South Carolina News

South Carolina Public Health Association:

1. **Membership** - Current membership as of January 2, 2010 is 323. The Membership Committee will be sending an on-line survey to all members in the next few weeks. From the information gained from the survey, Kellogg grant monies will be used for membership development.
2. Our **Annual Meeting** is planned for May 25-28, 2010 in Myrtle Beach at the Springmaid Beach Resort and Conference Center. The theme is *"Painting the Future of Public Health."* The program will address three tracks: Public Health Preparedness, Chronic Disease and Environmental Health, in 25 sessions over the course of the conference.

We will also have a Tuesday Pre-Conference Training, which will target two areas: Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Medical Response Training. Instruction is being provided by the National Center for Emergency Medical Preparedness and Response. Registration is only \$75 and the class is limited to 100 participants. It is open to anyone, not just SCPHA members.

APHA President Carmen Nevarez, MD, will be the opening keynote speaker. She will be followed by Rachel Kachur from CDC. Some may recall her presentation at the annual meeting in FL last summer. She will address using technology to market public health messages. To close out the week, we will have Tim Madigan, a writer for the Ft Worth Star-Telegram to provide us with a motivational testimony about his friendship with Mr. Fred Rogers.

3. **Financial** Status of Association: Currently has a positive equity of \$37,451.
4. SCPHA Sponsored a **Golf Tournament** on September 21, 2009. This was a very successful event for us both in terms of good will and financially. We were able to get our name out to a lot of people who had no idea that SCPHA even existed. We are planning on making this an annual event. The Committee is already working on a tournament on September 21, 2010.
5. The **Winter Workshop**, held February 4th in Columbia, may be have been the best mid-year workshop to date. We had over 80 in attendance. Some of the topics included nutrition and eating healthier, food borne outbreaks in schools, mass media and technologies, safe school routes, and fluoride in drinking water. We also tried to present SC Rep Gilda Cobb-Hunter with the SHA Legislator Award; however, she was unable to attend.
6. Membership voted to form a **"Student Forum"** this year. Students, primarily from the USC School of Public Health, are currently organizing this group and will formally meet at the annual meeting.

One of the Kellogg grant goals is that of mentoring. As a part of that, 30 student stipends are being offered for attendance at the annual meeting

7. A new SCPHA website has been developed this past year. Check us out at www.sc6pha.com.

S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control

There have been two major challenges facing our agency, one dealing with ever increasing state budget cuts and the other an 8-day series of articles run in the State Newspaper slamming the agency.



South Carolina News Cont.

Budget Cuts: Since the first of July 2008 we have taken the following budget cuts:

- Since FY2008, DHEC's budget has decreased from a base appropriation of \$147,280,917 to \$97,949,201, a cut of \$49,331,716, or 33.5%. DHEC's current funding level is equivalent to the agency's funding level in 1991 before adjusting for inflation.
- Another 15% cut would reduce our base appropriation to \$83,256,821. This would mean a total loss of \$64,024,096 or 43.5% since the FY2008 base appropriation.
- This means that in South Carolina with a population of 4.4 million people, each man, woman and child pays only \$22.22 per year for all of the services DHEC provides through our state appropriations. With an additional 15% budget cut, the cost per person per year for the services provided by the agency would be \$18.89, or 36 cents a week per person in the state.
- In FY2008, state funding as outlined in the Appropriation Act was 25.38% of DHEC's budget, with the remaining portion coming from earned and federal funding. DHEC's state funding is now down to 16.87% of our total funds. Another 15% cut would bring the agency's state dollars down to 14.7% of our total budget.
- In June of 2008, DHEC had 1,819 state positions. As of January 2010, the agency is down to 1,327 filled state positions, a loss of 492 state positions in just 18 months.
- Overall, the agency is now down to 3,789 total filled FTEs. DHEC now has fewer total employees than in 1992, and has 1,541 fewer filled FTEs than at our high point of 5,330 in 1996 and 1997.

South Carolina General Assembly: Legislative Issues 2009-10

Facility Inspections: Environmental Health supported an increase in these fees during the last session. They were forced to withdraw the request due to outside concerns and a lack of support. They are working on getting additional support in order to reintroduce.

Plan Review Fees: Proposed regulation would establish a fee to review plans for food service providers prior to opening their establishments.

School Notification on HIV status: Disease Control supports the elimination of the requirement to notify the State Department of Education of children that test positive for HIV.

Cigarette Tax Increases: 7 Bills currently introduced. H.3584 showed most movement during recent legislative session. Agency supports bill with modifications. Smoking prevention funds are a priority for Health Services. \$5 Million for DHEC was included but may have been removed. Need clarification on recommendations on staff support for this bill. How strongly should staff promote the bill in its current form with its corresponding tax increase?

Pharmacists Providing Vaccinations: H.3393 is currently in the House and would allow for the expansion of vaccinations that Pharmacists can provide. The current position is that conditional support exists in the agency. Concern exists regarding the immunizations that the pharmacists can provide as well as the methods for tracking the immunizations that are given. There is clear support in Health Services for a level of involvement by the Pharmacists, especially regarding H1N1 and Flu. It was hoped that a reporting requirement would be included in the bill but it appears unlikely at this point. It appears that a registry requirement will be removed.



South Carolina News Cont.

South Carolina General Assembly: Legislative Issues 2009-10

Fees And Fines: S.517 and H.3576. Bills would restrict agency from increasing any fees or fines without legislative approval. Per the legal office, these bills would restrict the ability of Health Services from increasing the fees it charges clients across the board, including clinic and other operations without legislative approval. Partial or special exemption language needs to be included for health services or clinic operations, etc.

HIDA: Agency requested changes that would allow for improved time line for reporting as well as establishment of civil penalties and changes in the committee. This involves S.0619 and H.3778.

Contagious Infectious Diseases-Mass Immunizations: Current law 44-29-210 needs to be updated to allow for licensed nurses to provide immunizations. There are other changes needed to update wording in current law.

Disease Reporting: Changes in 44-29-10 and 44-1-110, which updates the laws and brings them into agreement with the Administrative Procedures Act. Laws were last updated in 1972. This brings these two acts into agreement with H.3871, Lab Reporting. The proposed changes in the laws include guidance on health conditions and allow management of emergency stockpiles and development of emergency health plans. It also allows us to investigate illnesses and health conditions related to lab results reports.

Dental Screening: S.286 has passed the Senate and needs to get through the house this session. Bill would implement screening program for 3 to 5 counties. Implementation would be based on available funding. Health Services supports if funding is available.

Rabies: Current proposed legislation would allow veterinarians to delegate the vaccination to staff if supervised. This is in line with current practice.

Meningococcal Vaccine Proposal: Proposals are being developed that would require vaccine for entering college freshmen. At this time in Health Services the recommended position is not to support the development and establishment of this change. Number of questions regarding efficacy and incidence of disease as compared with the fiscal impact.

MRSA Testing: Senate Bill S.629 would require hospitals to expand testing and reporting for drug resistant staph infections prior to admission. This bill would add considerable cost and effort for minimal gain. Not supported by Disease Control.

SC Immunization Registry Law: Immunization Program is requesting the introduction of laws that would require providers to enter immunization data into a statewide registry. This was last proposed in 2003 and an attempt was made to tag this to the current proposed legislation on pharmacists providing vaccinations. That amendment will most likely be removed prior to the bill passing. H.3393. At this point, the Immunization information system is undergoing modifications to bring it into line with the need for greater capacity and broadened use.

Farm to School: This bill would create a program for fresh food to be provided to schools. It would also include an education part. Health Services supports the intention of this bill to improve the healthy eating habits in our schools. H.3179.

School Snack Bill: H.3297 would set standards for snacks in schools and would require only full meals to be provided to elementary schools.



Arkansas State Report

The Arkansas Public Health Association Executive Council, as well as several individuals from the conference committee, developed a 2009 -2012 Strategic Plan to guide the Association through the next three years. Over the next three years, the association will focus on:

Reinvigorating the Membership

Reinvesting Financially in the Association

Reinforcing Communication on the Public Health Mission

Since the Association's inception, volunteers have supported the organization's functions. This has, to a great extent, compromised the ability of the Association to function outside the parameters of the organization in which many members are employed. In order to make significant progress as a non-profit organization and to be viewed as a self-sustaining entity, it is essential that the Association begin to lay the foundation to support a part-time or full-time employee. This employee will serve as the Executive Director and will become the "face" of the Association. Having professional leadership in place will help promote the Association's legislative, policy, and advocacy efforts, and fundraising agenda. Professional leadership will receive oversight and be guided by the APHA Executive Council and/or Executive Committee.

Final plans are being put in place for Arkansas Public Health Association annual conference, May 12-14, 2010 at the Hot Springs Convention Center/Austin Hotel in Hot Springs, AR. The theme for the conference will be ***"Going Green for Life, Health and Safety"***. The experts speaking at this conference will address an array of core public health functions and how we can better meet basic public health needs of our communities. We invite our Southern Health Friends to attend!



Florida State Report

The FPHA Board of Directors has been monitoring the budget situation for state organizations and universities, as well as the current state travel guidelines. At this time there is a lot of concern about state funding and as a result, all travel for state agencies must go through the Office of the Governor with almost no travel being approved. Any employee wanting to attend a professional development/educational meeting must travel on their own time and expense. It appears that the travel limitations currently have a greater impact on state workers than our university members and private/public agency members. After reviewing annual meeting attendance and much discussion by the FPHA Executive Committee, a proposal was made to the FPHA Board to postpone the 2010 Annual Educational Meeting and readdress the possibility of a meeting later in the year. This was approved. Because FPHA has a hotel contract with the Sarasota Hyatt for August 9-13, 2010, we will be holding at least the FPHA Annual Business Meeting and the Board Meeting one of those days. Additionally, FPHA is working to bring in other groups, committees, and trainings during that time. We are in contact with FEHA, FAPHN, the University of South Florida COPH Leadership Institute, and various state public health organizations and committees to see if they are interested in utilizing the hotel space and will be coordinating meetings and trainings if requested. We feel comfortable the space will be utilized.

The FPHA Annual Educational Committee and the Regional Meeting Chair are looking at the possibility of holding three regional meetings throughout the state this year in order to provide professional development for members. They will be working together to submit a funding request(s) for support of the meetings.

The Legislative Session will soon be underway for Florida and the FPHA Legislative Committee and Lobbyist have been busy looking at all the health care legislation. Chief among the Association's goals this year is the preservation of the State's Child Immunization laws, which are under attack from those who believe that the risk of many immunizations greatly exceeds their benefits. We also will strive to make Florida's roads safer by prohibiting drivers from texting and using other wireless devices when using Florida's roads. For the Environmental Section, FPHA is monitoring bills that would change the jurisdiction of those cleaning up contaminated sites and we will be on alert for any proposed changes to the Onsite Sewage Program. FPHA will be supporting the elimination of RATE for the CHD's which was implemented last Session. As always, FPHA will support adequate funding for public health programs and services. Finally, the FPHA will support the myriad of bills designed to increase awareness and treatment options for the countless diseases that inflict our citizens. The Committee anticipates a very active Legislative Session with our Voter Voice Grassroots Advocacy program.

FPHA will be sending out its annual Member Satisfaction Survey to all 2009 members this month. The results will be reviewed by the Board and utilized by all the committees as plans are made for the coming year.

The Board met in November to review and update the Strategic Plan. This is done yearly by the Board at a separate meeting. The group spent time this year reassessing the organization as a whole and looking at the current plan, goals and objectives. As a result, because many of the objectives had been accomplished and there were new issues identified, the group began the process of identifying new goals, objectives and activities and will finish the plan at another session. There was agreement that more emphasis and time will be given to reporting on the activities included in the plan at each Board meeting to ensure work is being done throughout the year.

Matthew Dillon was recently elected as the Secretary of Committee of Affiliates at the annual APHA meeting in Philadelphia and will serve a one-year term. Matthew serves as the Florida ARGC for the Florida Public Health Association. Matthew was selected to serve a two-year term as the Region IV Representative to the Committee on Affiliates in 2008. He works with the Florida Department of Health with the Administrative Services Field Support Team. He has served in various Administrative/Financial positions with several county health departments including Okaloosa, Volusia, and Orange County.

FPHA Executive Director, Sandra Magyar, was asked to be part of a panel to present on Membership Recruitment at the APHA Meeting in Philadelphia. This session was organized by the Committee on Affiliates and was very well attended.

Our next Board meeting should prove to be an interesting meeting as we discuss how FPHA will transcend itself into an organization that can not only survive but prosper in the absence of state funds. We will continue to broaden the scope of our membership outside the state public health professionals, and we will strive to produce a product that will entice professionals to attend at their own expense.



Tennessee State Report

Association News:

TPHA will host the 2010 joint meeting with SHA, September 15 – 17, 2010 at the Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin, Tennessee. David Brumley is serving as the TPHA Program Chair, Becky Brumley is the TPHA Arrangements Chair and Tammy Burke is the TPHA Exhibits Chair. Doris Spain, TPHA Executive Director and Chris Freeman, TPHA President met with the Governing Council on February 19th to discuss the meeting plans. The title of the conference is “*Great Challenges Bring Great Opportunities*”. Please see separate article relating to the program activities. TPHA is looking forward to hosting the joint meeting and encourages all Southern Health Association Members to attend!

Legislative Priorities:

Tobacco Control: TPHA’s legislative focus is on defeating any efforts to weaken existing laws.

Menu Labeling: On January 28 the Senate over rode the Governor’s veto of SB 1092 by a vote of 24 to 7 and the House did the same on HB 0950 on February 8 by a vote of 65 to 31, 1 present not voting. This new law prohibits a non-elected body of a municipality, county, or metropolitan government from enacting an ordinance or issuing a rule or regulation pertaining to the provision of food nutritional information or from otherwise regulating menus at food service establishments. This repealed the Menu Labeling Regulation passed in Nashville Davidson County. On a more positive note, State Parks are beginning to post calorie information on their menus and menu boards.

Helmets for Motorcyclist: SB 2562 and HB 2648 would exempt non-residents of states that do not have a helmet requirement from Tennessee’s required helmet law. TPHA and other public health advocates are watching this legislation. It has been assigned to the Transportation Committees in House and Senate.

Coordinated School Health: As for now, funds to continue the Coordinated School Health program are in the Governor’s proposed budget. Funding was due to expire but it is in the budget for next year for now.

There is now a Tennessee Obesity Task Force and their top legislative priority this year will be Coordinated School Health. They are also looking at two bills that reduce the mandatory minutes of physical activity in secondary schools.

Department of Health/State Government News:

H1N1 Vaccine distribution has monopolized public health endeavors at both the state and local level. Over 2.5 million doses of vaccine have been distributed in Tennessee.

CoverKids Program, program designed for uninsured children age 18 and younger who have been uninsured for 3 months, are ineligible for TennCare, and whose families make up to 250% of the federal poverty level was closed to enrollment in December 2009. Enrollment opened again effective March 1, 2010.

On February 1st, Governor Bredesen presented his proposed budget to the legislation. The \$28.41 billion proposed budget cuts state spending by about \$400 million. Overall spending, including federal dollars is cut by 5.1 percent, with state dollar input increasing from \$12.2 billion to \$12.44 billion (1.9% increase). Revenues will be increased by increasing driver’s license fees, cable taxes and other taxes. The governor also proposes to take \$202 million from an \$875 million “Rainy Day Fund” and TennCare reserves to preserve some jobs and programs. The plan requires layoffs of 1,363 people in addition to the elimination of 456 unfilled positions. He does propose to use \$51 million of the \$202 million from the “Rainy Day Fund” and TennCare reserves to maintain 314 of the filled positions along with 80 other slated for elimination in the current budget. Other money from the \$202 million would be used to delay proposed cuts in areas such as coordinated school health and the mental health safety net. One of the biggest areas of concern for some lawmakers is the \$201 million cut to TennCare as it puts some extreme limits on programs benefits to enrollees. The big winner in the proposed budget is the Basic Education Program. It stands to gain an additional \$43 million if the budget passes.



North Carolina News

The North Carolina Public Health Association had a successful centennial conference meeting on September 30 – October 2 at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville NC with 475 registered. The 2010 Annual Conference will be a continuation of its 3 year centennial celebration with the theme ***“Public Health 101: A New Decade for Public Health and a New Century for NCPHA”***. The meeting is scheduled for October 27 – 29, 2010 at the Riverside Hilton in Wilmington NC.

NCPHA this year also plans to hold a short spring educational conference, scheduled for April 23, 2010 with registration of \$ 25.00. The conference will be held at the Hilton, RDU Airport, Durham NC. There is to be a breakfast where State Legislators will be invited to attend to meet public health workers who are attending the conference. Topics covered will include a presentation on social marketing; ***“Going Green and the Impact on Public Health; Advocacy/Public Policy and the Impact on Public Health.”*** There will also be a training session for local health directors on the new community health statistics system, NC CATCH.

Suzanne Todd has recently been hired to serve as the NCPHA Administrator. She will be working with Lynette Tolson, Executive Director on duties and activities of NCPHA. Her contact information is as follows: stodd@ncapha.org telephone 919-828-6205 and fax 919-828-6203. Address: A NCPHA Strategic Planning Committee has completed its task of developing a three-year strategic plan with four (4) major goals:

1. To create official affiliates of NCPHA to include: The Eastern District Public Health Association, the Western District Public Health Association, the Society of Public Health Education, the NC Nutrition Directors Association, and NC Association of Local Health Directors. The effort here will be to develop a 3000 Industrial Drive, Suite 140, Raleigh NC 27602. unified approach by pulling together diverse groups and purpose for NCPHA with the result of developing a “NCPHA Brand”.
2. To increase membership by 10% each year for the next 3 years. The Membership Committee is re-vamping its membership packet and larger emphasis will be placed on the orientation of new employees in local health departments. A Student Caucus organized a few years ago continues to gather new membership and involvement in NCPHA program activities.
3. To support 75% of operating cost for NCPHA within three years. Fundraising will be addressed to include dues/ (~ \$ 500.00 each) contribution from Local Health Departments and fundraising events. Look at big organizations for contributions. Look at targeted donors for supporting endowments. In April, a Public Awareness Committee will be established to plan for fundraisers and possibly educational sessions. Dues restructuring for individual membership will be looked at, but due to economy any changes probably will not take effect until January 2011. An effort is being made to get a database up and running with on-line membership capabilities and other functions.
4. To identify, recruit and orient new diverse NCPHA leadership on an on-going basis. This includes better utilization of Members-at-Large, mentoring new members to better inform them about NCPHA and the “leadership ladder,” and finding a process for developing leadership through the NCPHA Sections.



North Carolina News Cont

NCPHA leadership is looking into how NCPHA can help the members of the public health workforce in the next 1 – 3 years in light of budget cuts and the economy. NCPHA is currently providing advocacy efforts, continuing education, and job postings. These things, while being done, may need to be re-packaged.

For NCPHA's 2011 year and 100th annual conference celebration, a facility in Charlotte will be selected because that is the city where the first NCPHA annual conference was held in 1911. During the 2009 Annual Conference, the Governing Council of NCPHA met and asked Jan Cooke, President of Southern Health Association, to have representation on the NCPHA planning committee for that event. She said that SHA will probably meet in Charlotte for mid-year and invite NCPHA to attend for further planning. The SHA president would be on the program, and sponsor a key-note and/or concurrent speaker.

NCPHA has a new web site: <http://www.ncpha.com/>

South Carolina News Cont.

South Carolina General Assembly: Legislative Issues 2009-10 Cont.

Breastfeeding Legislation will most likely be supported and developed by the SC Breastfeeding Coalition: Proposals include requirements that employers with more than 25 employees would be required to establish a lactation support program and place for privacy to support breast milk expression at work. Health Services supports activities associated with improving breastfeeding opportunities for mothers.

Eat Smart Move More: Will be developing an agenda with legislature involvement to promote nutrition and physical activity. This will be a 2 or 3-year agenda. No legislation has been developed at this point.

ER Syndromic and Hospital Admission Data: New bill is being requested by Disease Control and DADE. It would create a program to use pre-diagnosis data from ER's and hospital admissions to detect and investigate public health threats. Legislation would establish law for reporting and regulations to establish processes and procedures.

Statewide Smoke Free Laws: 4 bills have been introduced and are in committee. H.3113 has some interest. Most advocacy groups recommend local law rather than state law, as local laws are generally more restrictive.

Smoking in vehicles: 5 bills have been introduced to restrict smoking in vehicles. There are various ages included from preschoolers to less than 18 year olds. There is very little evidence to show the benefits of any one of these bills. BCDP does not have a specific position on the various bills.



Alabama State Report

The Alabama Public Health Association (ALPHA) annual educational conference will be held at the Grand National Marriott in Opelika on April 8-9, 2010. “*A Healthier America: One Community at a Time*” is the theme of the conference. Room rates are \$109 per night.

The ALPHA is in the process of hiring an executive director. A position description was developed and interested individuals have until January 15, 2010 to submit an application to the Executive Position Committee. This position is expected to be part-time (estimated up to 10 hours per week) with a salary of up to \$20/hour based on experience and qualifications. The position is a one-year agreement with continuation based upon performance and funding generated to sustain the position. The potential exists for bonus compensation based on revenue produced. Duties, responsibilities, and qualifications are also outlined in the position description.

The Ann Smith Excellence in Public Health Nursing Award will be presented as an ALPHA award for the first time at the awards luncheon on April 9, 2010. This is in honor of the late Anne Smith who was the Alabama Nursing Director for several years. The nominee for this award must exemplify the mission of public health nursing in Alabama.

The Ruth Harrell Nursing Scholarship for the USA College of Nursing will be awarded for the first time during the awards luncheon on April 9, 2010. The recipient must be a member of ALPHA and have been accepted for admission into the Public Health Nursing Administration graduate degree program at the USA College of Nursing located in Mobile, Alabama.

State News

Olympic swimming champion Crissy Ahmann toured several locations in Alabama to promote physical activity, including making several presentations at a school in Greenville, the YMCA Sea Lions team in Prattville, the Rotary Club in Madison, the RSA Tower, and appearances in Tallassee, Birmingham and Millbrook. Ms. Ahmann works with the Foundation for Global Sports Development to support programs that promote sportsmanship, education, fair play, and ethics among the world's youth.

The Alabama Department of Public Health, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Advisory Council are holding a series of Minority Health Disparities Town Hall satellite conferences and web-cast programs. The initial program was designed for persons involved in the delivery of health care services for minorities burdened by chronic disease. The program included a round table discussion with the department's management from public health's chronic disease programs such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/Aids and tobacco prevention.

The Women's Health Initiative (WHI-FI) is a joint collaborative effort between Aid to Inmate Mothers and the Office of Women's Health. This program is a gender specific initiative developed to provide preventative health education and referral information for women offenders at Tutwiler Prison for Women, Montgomery Community Based Institution, and Birmingham Community Based Facility. The purpose of WHI-FI is to increase awareness about women's health, foster healthy lifestyles prior to and after release, and assist with linkages to public health services in their local community. Inmates are also provided with contact information for community rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers and mental health centers.



Alabama State Report Cont.

Legislative News

The Alabama Stroke Systems Operations Group (SSOG) met to discuss the 2010 stroke legislative policy agenda. Current efforts to develop a consensus on a Stroke Systems of Care Plan and Bill are underway. Items discussed included actively advocating for the implementation of legislative and regulatory mandates that will facilitate coordinated statewide systems of care for stroke patients. These mandates will consist of increased stroke education requirements for EMS dispatch; the development of a statewide stroke registry program; and the development of EMS transport protocols. The SSOG is also advocating for policy changes to increase the number of primary stroke centers (PSC) in the state so every resident will reside within one hour of a PSC or acute stroke capable hospital.

Other legislative issues include smoke-free legislation and menu labeling.



Kentucky State Report

The Kentucky Public Health Association is hosting its annual conference March 29-31-2010 at the Crowne Plaza Louisville. Theme for this year's conference is "*The New Face of Public Health*". We have some 100 speakers on various topics dealing with public health. As part of the conference we have scheduled Monday March 29th as State Department for Public Health Day when a daylong training from the Departments is held.

KPHA is represented on a number of Boards and Advisory Councils in Kentucky including:

- The KY-ASAP Board contained in the Justice Cabinet and is known as the Agency for Substance Abuse Policy
 - The Kentucky Public Health Practice Enhancement Board housed at the UK College of Public Health
- KPHA is also partnering with the University of Kentucky College of Public Health in the KPHR-eN Project dealing with establishing a Public Health Research Practice Network. This effort is funded with a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and KPHA acts as financial agent.

Since the Kentucky General Assembly is in session we are actively monitoring a number of Legislative Acts. One Act that we are working diligently on is the Accreditation of Local Health Departments. As of this writing the Bill has passed the House and is awaiting a hearing in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee.

As part of our Legislative activity we also help co-sponsor a Legislative Reception for all Legislators. That reception was held February 24th.

KPHA continues to cooperate with a number of other organizations for the purpose of enhancing our networking capability. We work with the Kentucky Association of Counties, Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association, the Kentucky Farm Bureau and we are also a member of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

APHA Report

The 137th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association was held November 7-11, 2009 in Philadelphia, PA with the theme: *Water And Public Health*. The attendance was approximately 11,500 and there were more than 1,000 scientific sessions and over 700 exhibits.

The Committee on Affiliates sponsored the Affiliates Leadership Day on November 7th, and the leadership and governing council representatives of most affiliates participated, including many from SHA. The reception, sponsored by several individuals and organizations and most of the affiliates was well attended. The Connecticut Public Health Association received the Outstanding Affiliate Award and Debbie Swanson of the North Dakota Public Health Association received the Award For Excellence. The APHA Affiliate Affairs Staff received the CoA Chair's Citation. Regional Representatives to the CoA for 2009-2010 for SHA affiliates are Matthew J. Dillon, BS (FL), Region IV and Catherine Cooksley, DrPH (TX) Region VI. The new Chair of the CoA for 2009-2010 is Terri Sasser, MPH (MS).

At the Opening Session, the keynote speaker was Céline Cousteau, daughter of ocean explorer and filmmaker Jean-Michel Cousteau and granddaughter of the legendary Jacques Cousteau. She has collaborated with her father's Ocean Futures Society promoting the "Ambassadors of the Environment" program to raise awareness for the mission of protecting the sea and its treasures. Also speaking was Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, Director of the Pan American Health Organization. Receiving the award for 2008 Distinguished Public Health Legislator of the Year were U. S. Representatives Lucille Roybal-Allard of New York and Nita Lowey of California.

The Governing Council analyzed and discussed 17 policy statements, approving 16. They are available on-line at the APHA website, www.apha.org. Elected as President-Elect was Linda Rae Murray, MD, MPH; and elected to the Executive Board were M. Beth Benedict, DrPH, JD, RN; Drew Harris, DPM, MPH; and Ade-wale Troutman, MD, MPH, MA. Dr. Troutman is a member of the Kentucky affiliate.

President Cheryl Easley, PhD, RN, passed the gavel to incoming President, Carmen Nevarez, MD, MPH, who presided over the Closing General Session. That session consisted of a Panel Discussion: *Generation Public Health: Becoming a Healthier Nation*, featuring Howard Koh, MD, MPH, Assistant Secretary for Health, US DHHS; Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, Administrator, HSRA and Yvette Roubideaux, MD, MPH, Director, IHS.

The next Annual Meeting will feature the theme: ***SOCIAL JUSTICE: A Public Health Imperative*** and will be held November 6-10, 2010 in Denver, CO.

Other News/Contributed Articles

Charleston Supports U.S. Citizens Returning from Haiti

Submitted by Dennis Thompson, Region Administrator

The Charleston International Airport in Charleston, South Carolina, is an international airport. The runways are owned by the United States Air Force; however, they share them with the commercial airport. This joint use airfield makes Charleston the perfect location for repatriation efforts. Following the recent devastation experienced in Haiti that led to a prolonged effort to bring back US citizens, Charleston's plan as a repatriation center was implemented.

Region 7 of the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) covers three counties--Berkeley, Charleston & Dorchester. The region serves as the local public health department. It is also the lead for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, Health & Medical. It was in both those roles that staff had an active part in the repatriation efforts for citizens returning from Haiti.

Serving as the lead for ESF 8 meant coordinating medical, EMS, mental health and public health needs. John Simkovich, Region 7 SC DHEC Health Director, states that "being in a coastal area with an annual hurricane season, we have plans and conduct exercises so we are prepared if an event occurs. This served us well in this situation. We were able to work with our four hospital systems that provided nurses and physicians to be on-site at the airport." DHEC employees from other areas of the state also assisted Region 7 in these efforts.

Public health also called on their mental health and chaplaincy partners to assist with those needs. The local public health staff conducted health history interviews with passengers as they cleared customs and immigration. Medical assistance, which included public health nurses and physicians as well as hospital personnel, was staged with temporary dividers. Anyone who needed, or wanted, medical assistance was referred to the medical assistance area. About 12% of all those arriving from Haiti received medical assessment.

"Many of the most common needs were addressed by over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, but we did have to transport 10 people to an emergency department," Simkovich said. Other medical needs identified were high blood pressure, elevated sugar levels, missing medications, and gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms.

The Charleston repatriation activities lasted about 10 days. A total of 992 passengers on 22 flights were processed and continued their travel to home cities

Donations

Memorial Donations

In Memory of James Dunavant

(Husband of Marilyn Dunavant)

Hugh and Becky Barnes

Sandra Whittle

In Memory of Lou Thayer

SandraWhittle

Regular Donations

Hugh and Becky Barnes

Suzie Hamm

Carey Woods

JoAnn Palmer

Sheri Erwin

Fred Goins

Other News/Contributed Articles

New NACCHO Survey Shows Local Health Departments Lost 16,000 Jobs in 2009

Washington, D.C. (March 1, 2010)—New data being released today illustrate the uphill battle that local public health departments are fighting as they struggle to provide Americans with basic disease prevention and emergency preparedness services in the face of budget cuts. The latest job loss survey by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) found that local health departments lost 8,000 jobs in the second half of 2009—compounding the loss of another 8,000 positions in the first half of the year. And a new report from Trust for America’s Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) underscores the survey results, finding that federal spending for public health has been flat for nearly five years while states around the country cut nearly \$392 million for public health programs.

In 2008, NACCHO found that local health departments had lost 7,000 jobs through budget-related cuts, layoffs, position eliminations and attrition. Combined with the 16,000 jobs lost in 2009, NACCHO estimates that about 15 percent of the local public health work force has disappeared in the last two years. For the better part of 2009, these strapped local health departments not only continued to make sure the school cafeteria and restaurant food that people ate was safe and to provide preventive services to reduce the toll of diseases such as diabetes and HIV/AIDS, but also responded to a new emerging threat—H1N1 influenza.

“While local health departments will do the best job they can with the resources available to them to protect Americans from public health threats, these data sound a warning,” said NACCHO Executive Director Robert M. Pestronk. “The cumulative effects of budget cuts and job losses have taken a major toll on the ability of health officials to respond not only to large-scale emergencies and disease outbreaks like H1N1 influenza, but to the everyday situations for which the health department is the first line of defense.”

Though its findings are sobering, NACCHO is grateful for the release of *Shortchanging America’s Health: A State-By-State Look at How Public Health Dollars Are Spent*, which recommends increased and sustained funding for public health. The report confirms NACCHO’s conclusions that, because public health jobs are being steadily lost, public health services are eroding at a time when increased investment in prevention is sorely needed to make America a healthier and more productive nation.

About the National Association of County and City Health Officials

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation’s 2,800 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities.

Other News/Contributed Articles

Blue & You Fitness Challenge participants proclaim: “Fitness: All it’s hyped up to be!” 101,000 nationwide could join 2010 competition

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Feb. 23, 2010) — Representatives from more than 200 companies and groups throughout Arkansas and the nation gathered today to share their “hype” at the kickoff of the 2010 Blue & You Fitness Challenge held at the Statehouse Convention Center. Governor Mike Beebe declared today “Blue & You Fitness Challenge” Day in Arkansas in recognition of the seventh annual competition to promote wellness in the community and at the worksite

“Fitness: **“All It’s Hyped Up To Be”**” was the theme of the kickoff as companies and groups offered their checkpoint cheers of commitment to the Challenge, whether for 30, 60 or 92 virtual checkpoints across America.

The exercise competition has grown from two entities in 2004 to a possible 101,000 or more employees/individuals competing in 2010. The Blue & You Fitness Challenge begins March 1 and runs through May 31 and is hosted by Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Department of Human Services. The Challenge encourages employees to work toward the public health recommendation of 30 minutes of physical activity each day for adults, most days of the week.

During the contest, participants engage in eligible cardiovascular-oriented exercises to work their way through at least 30 virtual checkpoints across America during the three-month contest, although 92 checkpoints (the number of total days of the contest) are on the virtual map. Participants may start at any point on the map then exercise through all state capitals, many national parks and some interesting places in between.

Blue & You Fitness Challenge participants register and log their exercise online at BlueAndYouFitnessChallenge-ark.com. Participants are able to watch real-time data to see how their stats compare to others in the competition. The winning entity is determined by the greatest employee/group participation and the highest scores in four categories.

“For the sixth year, the Arkansas Department of Human Services is excited to be a part of this program, which continues to grow each year,” said John Selig, Director of the Arkansas Department of Human Services. “We believe fitness is all it’s hyped up to be — and the people who join the Blue & You Fitness Challenge program each year are living proof. Every year we see amazing results from people who commit to this three-month program.

Blair Dean, Chairman of the Governor’s Council on Fitness, brought greetings from the Governor’s Office and served as checkpoints cheerleader captain. Dean led representatives from Challenge participating groups in a spirited pep rally where they responded to the question: “What’s your hype?” by cheering their group’s checkpoints commitment.

New for 2010 ... while Challenge participants are exercising their way across the United States, they can get frequent motivational messages during the contest through Twitter. Participants also can share their experiences with others by becoming a fan of fitness on Facebook.

To help groups prepare for the Challenge, the Employee Fitness Contest Kit, a free guide to organizing an employee exercise competition, is available in notebook and/or CD format by calling toll free, 1-800-686-2609, or by stopping by the nearest Arkansas Blue Cross regional office. The kit also may be downloaded in PDF format at the following Web sites:

- ArkansasBlueCross.com (select the “Employers” tab, then the kit logo)
- HealthAdvantage-hmo.com (select the “Employers” tab, then the kit logo)
- BlueAdvantageArkansas.com (click on “Employers” tab, then the kit logo)

Other News/Contributed Articles



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The voice of public health physicians, guardians of the public's health

Attention Public Health Physicians

The American Association of Public Health Physicians would indeed be honored to have you consider joining many of your peers in AAPHP. You will be casting your lot with a small, effective group of physicians from a variety of specialties who value public health leadership as a premium in their role as physicians. It is extremely important at this time for public health physicians to have a voice at the national level. We need to ensure that the public health system and infrastructure is being discussed (and funded) as part of any national health care delivery system. As funding and resources become more scarce, we are seeing the impact on public health programs across the nation. We need your help.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about some of the key benefits of AAPHP Membership. I hope that you will personally take the time to share these benefits of membership with like minded colleagues. Together we can become more effective in our leadership and advocacy roles and in our respective careers.

AAPHP is the premier professional medical society which addresses all of the following for its members: 1) Advocacy efforts within the AMA and the US Congress; 2) Representing and supporting physicians who practice public health or work and practice in public health; 3) AAPHP is the only national organization that advocates to improve job opportunities for public health physicians; 4) Influence on tobacco and other policies at the National level; 5) Monthly E news; and 6) Annual specialty society benefits at a very low cost of only \$95 for full dues paying members.

Our new management services contract offers us the expertise of Sandra Magyar, an experienced association executive, and a past president of the both the Florida and Southern Health Associations. Sandy's email address is magyarsf@bellsouth.net. Please visit our website, www.aaphp.org, to learn more about us and to print a membership application.

Submitted by:

Kevin Sherin, MD, MPH, FACPM,

President, American Association of Public Health Physicians, 2008-2010

Southern Health Association Calendar

SHA Governing Council Meetings

September 14-15, 2010.....Franklin , TN

SHA Annual Meeting

September 15-17, 2010.....Franklin, TN

State Association Meetings

Alabama.....Opelika.....April 8-9, 2010

Theme: A Healthier America: One Community at a time

Arkansas.....Hot Springs.....May 12-14, 2010

Theme: Going Green for Life, Health and Safety

Florida.....TBA.....TBA

Georgia.....TBA.....TBA

Kentucky.....Louisville.....March 29-31, 2010

Theme: The New Face of Public Health

North Carolina.....Wilmington.....Oct 27-29, 2010

Theme: Public Health 101: A New Decade for Public Health and a New Century for NCPHA

South Carolina.....Myrtle Beach.....May 25-28, 2010

Theme: Painting the Future of Public Health

Tennessee.....Franklin.....September 15-17, 2010

Theme: Great Challenges Bring Great Opportunities

Other Meetings

APHA.....Denver, CoNovember 6-10, 2010

Theme: SOCIAL JUSTICE: A Public Health Imperative

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MISSION: To serve as
a regional advocate
for Public Health and
for the growth and
development of its
leadership

Southern Health Association Membership Application

(Mail to SHA, 1590 North Bass Drive, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122)

Name _____ OfficePhone _____

Email _____

Organization/Agency _____

Position _____

Dues Paid

Mailing Address _____ 1-Year 2-Year

_____ New Member ___\$20 ___\$40

_____ Individual ___\$25 ___\$45

Is mailing address: (Office ___ Home ___) Fellow ___\$40

Retiree ___\$10

Student ___\$10

Donation (Please fill in amount) _____

Functional Area:

___ Administrative

___ Direct Care

___ Environmental

___ Management Support

___ Educational/Health Promotion

U.S. Congressional District Residence _____

Are you will to serve on a committee? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, give preference _____

___ Are you a member of your state PHA?

___ Yes ___ No

Sponsor: optional) _____

Southern Health Association

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