

Recommended MPHA Policy Resolutions September 28, 2012

MPHA members will have an opportunity to consider for adoption two policy resolutions at the annual business meeting on Friday, September 28, 2012. Resolutions are available for review on the MPHA website: www.mpha.net. Please take a moment to read through each resolution prior to the annual business meeting.

Purpose

Policy resolutions serve as the basis for establishing advocacy positions, priorities, and actions that are reflected in the Association's annual legislative agenda. All policy resolutions are considered and approved by a vote of the membership. A policy resolution incorporates the best possible data-supported evidence and calls for a series of actions to address the public health policy issue.

Process

Lead authors researched a specific policy issue, prepared a draft resolution (or in the case of Resolution No. 1, revised an existing resolution), and submitted the resolution to the Policy and Advocacy Committee. The Committee members reviewed the resolution to determine its relevance to the work of MPHA. The lead authors revised the resolution based on the input and critique of Committee members. Additionally, each resolution was reviewed by one or more individuals with recognized expertise in the subject matter.

The Governing Council reviewed the draft resolutions and provided feedback for incorporation into the revision process. Following final review, a majority of Governing Council members voted to recommend that the following two resolutions be forwarded to the membership for consideration of adoption at the annual business meeting. The resolutions are as follows:

Resolution No. 1: Promoting Health Equity

This resolution updates the 2005 Minnesota Public Health Association resolution on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. It adds supporting language on community initiated health projects to increase the role of community as equal partners. It also supports reaching out to communities as a way of addressing social determinants of health.

The ability to access funding and connections to other resources, creates a power differential among what "equal" partners can bring to the start of a project. The resolution is intentionally vague about defining what MPHA will do, since equal community input is necessary at the start of the process.

Resolution No. 2: Health Benefits of Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Relationships

This resolution describes the health impact of cultural and institutionalized discrimination on same-sex individuals and families. In this regard Minnesota Public Health Association follows

the lead of the American Public Health Association. That body passed an anti-same sex discrimination resolution in 1975.

None of the statements in this resolution should be taken alone, but are rather meant to make an argument as a whole for the destructive nature of institutionalized discrimination on the public's health.