Highlighting the Twin Cities Metro Area
The February 2012 Newsletter is highlighting the public health work in the Twin Cities metro area, in addition to our usual coverage of statewide public health and MPHA activity. The March newsletter will highlight the public health work in Northwest Minnesota.

Committee Updates

Membership Committee

New Committee Intern
We are very pleased to announce that Ania Urban will be the MPHA Membership Committee intern for Spring 2012. Ania is a PhD candidate at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health with previous experience in membership recruitment and database management. Ania will be helping the Membership Committee meet its goals for membership recruitment and development.

Membership Survey
Please take a minute to complete the Membership Committee survey for a chance to win a one-year MPHA membership. We need to hear from you to help set priorities and develop membership benefits for 2012! Please complete this brief survey by Tuesday, February 14, 2012. All current members should have received an email with a link to the survey. We are also looking for feedback from non-members. The survey can be accessed here: http://bit.ly/z6QTdn

Looking for Committee Members
The Membership Committee is looking for additional committee members to help inform public health professionals about the benefits of joining MPHA and to develop valuable opportunities for current members. If you are interested in getting involved with MPHA for a small project or even a few hours a year - the membership committee is a great place to start! If you are interested or want to find out more, join us at one of our monthly meetings or contact the committee co-chairs.

Join us at our monthly meetings!
The Membership Committee meets on the third Tuesday of every month from 5:30-6:30pm in
the Minnesota Room at the MDH Snelling Office Park, 1645 Energy Park Drive, Saint Paul, MN 55108. A call-in option is also available. Contact the committee co-chairs for more information.

**Contact Info**

**Kristen Godfrey**  
Membership Committee Co-Chair  
kristen.godfrey@gmail.com

**Laura Angvall**  
Membership Committee Co-Chair & Student Representative  
angv0004@umn.edu

**Policy & Advocacy Committee**

**Volunteer Needed!**

We are looking for an MPHA member to serve as a liaison to the Twin Cities Obesity Prevention coalition. It is part of the Twin Cities Medical Society. If you are interested, contact the co-chairs listed below.

**Next Meeting**

The next MPHA Policy & Advocacy meeting takes place Thursday March 8\textsuperscript{th} at 11 am at Minnesota Institute of Public Health, 2720 Highway 10 NE Mounds View, MN 55112  

The Committee would like to inform you of the following advocacy events and health care reform resources for the session.

**Advocacy Events**

**Healthy Legacy’s Day on the Hill**  
February 14  
9:30-11:00am  
Deliver Valentine’s and ask our state legislators to protect children's health by reducing exposure to toxic chemicals. To RSVP: http://bit.ly/wdeKw8

**American Heart Association’s Heart on the Hill**  
March 7\textsuperscript{th}  
8am – 4pm  
Attend workshops/training, then advocate for CPR to be taught in school and comprehensive stroke care in Minnesota. To RSVP: http://bit.ly/xlrEzn

**Raise It for Health Coalition’s Day on the Hill**  
March 22\textsuperscript{nd}
8am-3:30pm
Program and training in the morning at the History Center, then a rally in the rotunda. Time will be given to schedule meetings with your legislators. Tobacco issues will include increasing the price of tobacco and defending the Freedom to Breathe Act. Registration:
http://svy.mk/ygmDbm

Health Care Reform Resources
  o The Health Insurance Exchange Advisory Task Force is in full swing. Stay updated on current activities and upcoming meetings at the Task Force website:
  
  o There is also a Health Reform Task Force, but the purpose of this group is less clear than the Exchange group. The Reform Task Force website is helpful as it contains info regarding health care reform implementation in MN, including a timeline:
    http://bit.ly/x85O1y
  
  o State Reformer(u)m is a nice index of state-level health reform efforts, including Minnesota:
    http://www.statereforum.org/

Contact Info
Jacy Seehuetter and Annie Halland
P&A Committee Co-Chairs
policy@mpha.net

Communications Committee
The Communications Committee is seeking members
Interested in joining a recently reformed committee that is focused on highlighting the great work of our MPHA members, committees and key public health organizations in Minnesota? Please email Co-Chairs Ken Bence (kbence@mpha.net) or Guthrie Byard (gbyard@mpha.net) with your interest and questions.

Leadership Development Committee
Meeting Times
This committee meets sporadically. For information on this committee or to find out when the next meeting will be, please contact Erica Fishman, Erica.fishman@state.mn.us
Public Health in the Twin Cities Metro Area

Recent

MPHA Past Presidents’ Event January 10

On January 10, twenty-one MPHA Past Presidents, twelve Governing Council Members and staff from the Minnesota Department of Health Executive Office gathered at Hoa Bien Vietnamese Restaurant in St. Paul for a Past Presidents Gathering.

The event offered Past Presidents an opportunity to enjoy time together and to re-engage with MPHA. It also offered new/younger Governing Council Members, some of whom we hope are aspiring to be future MPHA Presidents, an opportunity to connect with Past Presidents and learn from their experiences and collective wisdom. Those present discussed the value of interconnections between MPHA and the Minnesota Department of Health and discussed ways to strengthen each other’s priorities. As a follow up to this event, a group of Past Presidents has been meeting to discuss ways to build on the energy that was generated on January 10.

State of the Plate on January 5th

State of the Plate: Minnesota Healthy Food Futures, was co-hosted by IATP, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The event included Dr. Kelly Brownell of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, Anne Haddix from the CDC, as well as Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Ed Ehlinger. A great write-up about the event: [http://bit.ly/y9zBOL](http://bit.ly/y9zBOL), video: [http://bit.ly/Aelxy8](http://bit.ly/Aelxy8)

The Metro Public Health Analysts Network (MPHAN)

The Metro Public Health Analysts Network (MPHAN) is a working group that operates under the direction of the Metro Local Public Health Association. MPHAN’s mission is to provide regionally coordinated data, technical expertise and leadership to guide effective decision-making to improve community health. Core membership consists of representatives from the following public health agencies: Anoka County, City of Bloomington, Carver County, Dakota County, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, Ramsey County, Scott County, and Washington County.

MPHAN, formerly known as the Metro Data Planners, was formally established in 1995 to provide collaboration across metro public health agencies to increase the capacity for community assessments and data analysis. MPHAN’s current focus is collecting and analyzing health data, as well as developing and disseminating coordinated data products. One example of a MPHAN data project is the completion of the Metro Adult Health Survey in 2010. The
purpose of this survey was to obtain county-specific, baseline data on health risk behaviors and the overall health status of adult residents in six metro area counties. The group is currently working on developing a plan to continue this survey on a regular cycle, include all metro public health agencies, and expand the scope of the survey to more closely align with the content of Hennepin County’s Survey of the Health of Adults, the Population and the Environment (SHAPE). Other MPHAN projects focus on analyzing data derived from birth and death records, maintaining a health indicator Dashboard and data resource list, and completing briefings on specific health indicators.

For more information on MPHAN, please contact Urban Landreman, Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department, at (612) 348-2283 or at: urban.landreman@co.hennepin.mn.us. Also, visit the MPHAN website for updates and to view products: http://sites.google.com/site/publichealthdata

Upcoming Events

2012 MPHA Policy Forum - What Plagues our Children?

Our 2011-2012 policy forum series explores topics related to the health of our children. At the next forum, panelists and participants will explore the mental health of our teenagers. Topics will include issues related to suicide, bullying, social image and the intersection between the pressures created by today’s teen culture and mental health. Next up:

Are We Winning (or Losing) the Battle on Teenage Mental Health?

March 23, 2012
7:30-9:00am
Minnesota Department of Health
Snelling Office Park
1645 Energy Park Drive
Saint Paul, MN 55108
Directions: http://www.health.state.mn.us/about/sop.html

A breakfast of locally produced and organic foods will begin at 7:00am. The cost of the forum is $8 for MPHA members, $15 for non-members and $5 for students. There is plenty of free parking and time for networking.

2012 League of Women Voters’ Healthy Legacy Forum – Homegrown Mpls and Urban Ag

Thursday, March 22, 2012
5:30 pm to 9:30 pm
Exhibits at 5:30 & 9:00 pm
Program 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location:
Plymouth Congregational Church
1900 Nicollet Ave (at Franklin)
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Agenda

Overview of the Food System Revolution:
LaDonna Redmond, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)

Improving Public Health - Health Equity and Homegrown Minneapolis:
Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner, Minneapolis Health Department

Creating a Vibrant Local Food Economy - Barriers and Opportunities:
Collie Graddick, Partner, Community Table Cooperative

Making Dirt Not Waste:
Tim Brownell, Eureka Recycling
John Jaimez, Hennepin County Compost Specialist

Seizing the Momentum in Minneapolis:
R.T. Rybak, Mayor of Minneapolis

Gaps and Opportunities: Questions & Answers:
Audience, speakers & special guests MN Rep. Karen Clark & Cam Gordon, Mpls City Council
Joan Higinbotham, moderator

Beginning at 5:30 pm, enjoy tasty samples from:
One Dish at a Time, Seward Co-Op, Birchwood Café, Common Roots, Bryant Lake Bowl,
Chowgirls, Sen Yai Sen Lek, Brasa, & Right on Thyme. Coffee by Peace Coffee.
“Dirty Work” by Red Eye Video will be running in Guild Hall.

For information:
League of Women Voters Mpls
612.333-6319
http://www.lwvmpls.org/
Click on ‘Healthy Legacy IV’ link

Conferences

2012 Public Health Law Conference
Practical Approaches to Critical Challenges
October 10-12, 2012
Atlanta, GA
The conference will explore tangible ways law can address critical issues in the nation's changing public health landscape. The conference is for public health officials, practitioners, policy-makers, attorneys and others who want to share knowledge, make connections and expand their use of law. Find more information and to register: http://bit.ly/wYvs2c

2012 Minnesota Food & Nutrition EXPO
Minneapolis Convention Center - Hall A
Saturday, February 25th, 2012
9:00am - 3:00pm

APHA News

APHA Midyear Meeting in June
Building on the success of their Midyear Meeting in June 2011, the American Public Health Association will once again bring together public health professionals to address the opportunities and challenges of today's public health system. Mark your calendar for The New Public Health - Rewiring for the Future
June 26-28
Charlotte, NC
For more info: http://www.apha.org/Midyear

Abstracts Due for the APHA Annual Meeting
The American Public Health Association is receiving abstracts for the 2012 Annual Meeting and Exposition to be held October 27-31, 2012 in San Francisco, California. Submit your abstract to join thousands of your colleagues in presenting research in the field of Public Health. The deadline for submission of abstracts range from February 6 thru February 10, 2012 depending on the Section, SPIG, Caucus or Forum to which you wish to submit. All submissions will end at 11:59 pm (Pacific Standard Time) on the due date listed on the Call for Abstracts.

Theme: Prevention and Wellness Across the Lifespan: We encourage abstracts in all areas of public health and are also interested in abstracts that focus on the Annual Meeting theme. Abstracts should be no more than 250 words and must include a measureable learning objective.

Easy Online Tools: An easy to use online form will walk you through the process step-by-step. The site is now open so you may link directly to the Call for Abstracts at: http://bit.ly/vnLCoN

Authors must provide complete and accurate contact information in order to be notified of abstract status on June 1. Authors do not need to be an APHA member to submit an abstract. However, if an abstract is accepted for presentation, the presenting author MUST become an
**APHA individual member and MUST register for the Annual Meeting** by the September pre-registration deadline.

We welcome your submissions and look forward to your contributions at the APHA 140th Annual Meeting in San Francisco. For more information about the Annual Meeting go to [www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting](http://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting).

**New APHA President as of November 2011: Mel Shipp**


Dr. Shipp will be our guest and keynote speaker at our annual meeting in the Spring. Stay tuned for more details.

**Jobs**

**The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI)**

NNPHI is seeking its first full-time President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to build and expand on the tremendous success achieved by the organization since being established in 2001. The Board has retained the executive search firm of Witt/Kieffer, represented by Karen Otto and Marvene Eastham, to assist us in our recruitment efforts.

Since its founding in 2001, the NNPHI has been supported administratively by the staff of the Louisiana Public Health Institute and Joseph Kimbrell, CEO of the Louisiana Public Health Institute, has also served as President and CEO of NNPHI. The growth of NNPHI and the increase in its reach support the decision to move to a full-time CEO. The Board of Directors is launching a national search for NNPHI’s first full-time CEO, an indication of NNPHI’s increased strategic position within the public health infrastructure as well as a means to further increase NNPHI’s place and visibility as a national resource. The recruitment of the NNPHI’s President/CEO will occur during one of the most exciting and challenging times within public health and healthcare and in the history of NNPHI. The challenge for the next President/CEO will be leading the organization during a period of rapid growth and expansion, meeting the expectations of a growing membership, ensuring sustainability of NNPHI and its members, and developing/managing a growing portfolio of projects and initiatives. The new President/CEO will be challenged to further actualize the organization’s leadership at a national level and in collaboration with members, government agencies, foundations and other organizations seeking to improve public health.

The Board of Directors is seeking candidates of compelling vision, dynamic presence, and unquestioned integrity. The ideal candidate will have a distinguished record of accomplishment with demonstrated understanding of current national, state and local policy issues, challenges and opportunities. This leader should be entrepreneurial, highly energetic, and strategic – one who can successfully lead large multi-stakeholder initiatives, foresee opportunities, define plans, and marshal resources to achieve goals. The President/CEO will lead NNPHI to realize its
ambitious vision of innovation – fostering public health initiatives across the nation and collaborating to improve population health.

The full leadership statement may be accessed online at: http://bit.ly/A2ucxb

Check out the job listings on our website!

All MPHA members have access to the job listings posted on our website. It’s in the members’ section and requires you to log in with your member user name and password to access. Anyone can post a job, whether they are a member or not. We have been getting a steady flow of job postings for the past few months, so be sure to check regularly.

Education

Classes

Social Justice and Public Health in Chile

The Global Health Program at the University of Chile invites you:

June 25–July 7, 2012
Santiago, Chile
Tuition & fees: $1950

Combining classroom instruction with visits to grassroots organizations, clinics and social justice historical sites, this 2-week intensive course will introduce undergraduate and graduate students to the basics of global public health and social justice from a Chilean perspective.

Students will have the opportunity to learn from Chilean and American faculty about current issues in health and equity, and learn the skills to advocate for social justice and human rights in health.

Topics will include:
- Public health in Chile
- Health of indigenous peoples
- Social determinants of health
- Globalization, international trade, corporations and health
- Public policy and social protection
- Health and human rights
- Gender and health
- Environmental health
- Worker’s rights and occupational health
3 credit course; credits are transferrable to many degree programs
- Instruction in English with interpreters for field trips
- University of Chile tuition, hotel, meals, airport and field trip transportation, and health insurance included
- Orientation to Chile upon arrival

For information or registration contact:
Emily Seiter
eseiter@ug.uchile.cl

Registration and deposit due by March 31, 2012

The Network for Public Health Law Webinar Series: Health Impact Assessments

Attend a FREE webinar, Learning about Health Impact Assessments, on Thursday, February 16 from 12 – 1 p.m. to learn all about this public health policy tool. The Great Lakes Public Health Coalition, of which MPHA is a member, is providing special support for this webinar.

The webinar will provide a basic overview of how Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) give decision makers the information they need to advance smarter policies to help build safe, healthy, thriving communities; examine the development of an innovative HIA tool; and explore the legal authority authorizing, supporting or prohibiting HIAs. Presenters include Aaron Wernham, M.D., director, Health Impact Project; Harmony Gmazel, M.S., land use planner, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Lansing, Michigan; Erin Fuse Brown, J.D., M.P.H., deputy director, the Network's Western Region at Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

You can find more information and the registration link here: http://bit.ly/yIwdqu

Let’s Beat the Bug!

As part of the Let’s Beat the Bug! Campaign, the University of Minnesota is offering seminars on bed bug prevention and control. These seminars are free and open to the public. Learn about how to prevent and control bed bugs in homes, apartments, schools, offices, daycares, hotels and many other places.

Seminars are scheduled for St. Cloud on February 29, 2012, and Rochester on March 28, 2012. There will also be a seminar in Duluth; the date is to be determined.

Please visit http://www.bedbugs.umn.edu/Seminars/index.htm for more information and to register.

Health Law Institute Event

Hamline University’s Health Law Institute will be holding a CLE event in March. Lawrence
Gostin, of Georgetown University, will be speaking at Hamline on Thursday, March 22nd, 5-6pm about Global Health Justice: Towards a Framework Convention on Global Health. This will be followed by a reception from 6-7pm.

You can find information about this and other events they’re hosting on their website: http://law.hamline.edu/hli/events.html

**Extras**

**Keep Your Membership Current!**

MPHA is an all-volunteer organization, and depends on membership dues to keep it running. If you are not currently up to date on your membership, please renew today! If you are not sure, send an email to membership@mpha.net and we can check for you. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

**Activity on Social Media Sites**

Feel free to comment and/or start a discussion on MPHA’s LinkedIn profile. Additionally, feel free to post interesting news on MPHA’s Facebook page as well. Your support in promoting MPHA via Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn will help to increase our membership, so tell all those members (and non-members) who are not yet connected to MPHA on our social media sites to do so for up-to-date-local and pertinent national and international public health news.

**Facebook:** http://on.fb.me/zcm7Uu  
**Twitter:** http://bit.ly/yvjAlC  
**LinkedIn:** http://linkd.in/AB9FaJ

**Items and Feedback**

All members are encouraged to submit items to be included in upcoming issues. We also welcome your feedback on the newsletter, and any suggestions you have to improve MPHA's value to you. Send all items and feedback to: communications@mpha.net