

2024 Council of Affiliates Annual Report

The Council of Affiliates (Council) promotes efficient and effective communication and coordination of Affiliate activities with APHA efforts. The Council facilitates collaboration between APHA and the 51 affiliated associations to ensure a mutually supportive relationship. The Council's 2024 Work Plan continued to utilize APHA's core strategies as a framework. This annual report is intended to provide an update on the Council of Affiliates' work. Below are highlights from the past year.

Annual Reporting

- The Affiliate Affairs Advocacy and Policy Annual Survey was completed by 50 of the 51 Affiliates. Selected findings include:
 - 88% of Affiliates are engaged in advocacy efforts at the federal, state and/or local level.
 - Priority advocacy issues include public health funding and workforce infrastructure, health equity, strengthening the role of public health, climate change, social determinants of health, tobacco/e-cigarettes, vaccinations, mental health, reproductive health, racial equity, environmental health, chronic disease prevention and violence.
 - 40% of Affiliates have a lobbyist on staff or contract to help support their policy and advocacy efforts.
- The Affiliate Staff Survey was completed by the 29 Affiliates with staff. Selected findings include:
 - 54% of the Affiliates with staff have a full-time executive director,
 - Funding and financial support for staff is attributed to membership dues, event revenue, donations, grant funding, revenue from contract, sponsorship, diversified and a trust

Data from the survey provided a foundation for the Council to revise the workplan and align with the new APHA Strategic Plan. The updated workplan will be finalized and adopted at the Annual meeting.

Strengthen Public Health Practice

- The Council presents three scientific sessions and a poster session at the 2024 Annual Meeting. The sessions seek to strengthen public health practice at state and local levels by highlighting best practices and successes. The sessions this year include:
 - 2011 and 2012: Council of Affiliates Poster Sessions 1 and 2 include seventeen posters.
 - 2045: Minnesota Public Health Association: Reflecting on Progress, Envisioning Tomorrow, Advancing Health Equity in Minnesota Panel
 - 3237: Affiliate Best Practices 1: How APHA Affiliates are Working to Expand and Support a Public Health Workforce
 - NYSPHA tackles climate change (New York)
 - Delaware health force: Navigating workforce and health care access challenges (Delaware)
 - Building public health workforce capacity through Affiliate technical assistance and support (Indiana)
 - 4214: Affiliate Best Practices 2: How APHA Affiliates are Partnering in their States to Impact Policy
 - Civic engagement for health equity (Iowa)
 - The power of coalitions to advance challenging public health policies (Maine)

- Impacting administrative policy and improving trust between providers and the state VFC program- an affiliate's story (Arizona)

Build a Public Health Movement

- The Council promotes and encourages all Affiliates to participate in events and activities throughout the year. National Public Health Week and the Speak for Health campaign are both supported by Affiliates.
- The Council began the workplan overhaul to align with the new APHA Strategic Plan with a continued focus on building a public health movement.
- The Affiliates continue to work on policy review and implementation at the state and local levels utilizing APHA policy statements when appropriate.

Align Organizational Capacity and Infrastructure

- The Council meets monthly utilizing Zoom. All Affiliate Representatives to the Governing Council (ARGC) were invited to participate in the May and September meetings.
- The Staff of Affiliates group continues to grow and meets monthly. This workgroup covers topics specifically related to the challenges of Affiliates with staff and provided input for the Affiliate Affairs hosted webinars.
- The Council recognizes Affiliates and their members with the following awards this year:
 - CoA Award for Excellence
 - CoA Outstanding Student of the Year Award
 - CoA Outstanding Affiliate of the Year Award
 - Outstanding Affiliate Staff Award
 - CoA Innovation in Public Health Award
- Affiliate activities at the 2024 APHA Annual Meeting include:
 - CoA/ISC Candidates Forum (Virtual and prior to the meeting)
 - Affiliate Day with CoA Awards luncheon
 - Affiliate Presidents-Elect and Section Chairs-Elect Meeting

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI)

- The Council continued its efforts to increase JEDI activity and support the Affiliates with the refinement of the guidelines for the JEDI speaker bank to support the Affiliates and APHA.
- Facilitating a Coffee Talk titled Transforming Challenging Conversations in Public Health into Opportunities: Skills for Effective and Empowered Communication (October 28 at 7:15).

Governance Related

- The Council has representation from the following APHA boards, committees, and councils: Executive Board, Action Board, Intersectional Council Steering Committee, Caucus Collaborative, Committee on Social Responsibility, History Project and Committee on Membership.
- All ARGC's invited to two Council meetings to enhance engagement with ARGCs.

Special thanks to Affiliate Affairs, the APHA Executive Board and the Executive Director for support of all Affiliates and the work accomplished.

Yours in health,

Denise Strehlow

2023-2024 Chair, Council of Affiliates