

2024 Annual Report by Committee on Health Equity

Date: September 11, 2024

CHEQ Chair: Jayson Forbes

APHA Liaison: Lawrence Haynes

Activity Summary:

1. **Membership:** In 2024, 12 dedicated APHA members served on CHEQ, with consistent engagement as an average of 6 members actively participated in every meeting. The strong commitment of this group helped drive substantial progress across all initiatives.
2. **Meetings:** CHEQ convened 9 open meetings for all committee members, fostering a collaborative environment that allowed for the efficient advancement of our mission. Additionally, numerous subgroup meetings ensured focused progress on key priorities, further amplifying the committee's impact.
3. **Key Activities:**
 - **Business Meeting:** CHEQ successfully hosted a well-attended business meeting during the 2024 APHA Annual Meeting, solidifying its role as a key player in shaping the association's health equity agenda.
 - **First Poster Session:** A landmark achievement, the committee hosted its inaugural poster session, receiving over 300 submissions and accepting more than 100. This session provided a crucial platform for public health professionals, particularly from underrepresented minority groups, to share innovative research and best practices. The overwhelming response highlights CHEQ's growing influence and its role in championing diversity within the scientific workforce.
 - **First Educational Session:** CHEQ's first-ever educational session at the 2024 APHA conference set a new standard for addressing **Cultural Competence and Health Equity**. With esteemed speakers such as **Dr. Daniel Dawes, Dr. Bryan Buckley, Dr. Deanna Wathington, and Dr. Aaron Guest**, the session delved into systemic inequalities and outlined practical, culturally tailored interventions and anti-racist approaches. The event underscored CHEQ's leadership in rebuilding trust in public health by promoting inclusivity in both research and practice.
 - **Identification of Best Practices:** A significant focus this year was on identifying and benchmarking best practices from similar health associations on how they prioritize health equity. These insights will directly inform our future strategies and initiatives, positioning CHEQ as a leader in driving meaningful change within APHA and beyond.
 - **"Central Hub" Proposal:** In a forward-thinking move, CHEQ submitted a groundbreaking proposal to establish itself as a **"Central Hub"** for promoting and amplifying health equity work across APHA. This proposal aims to enhance visibility and cohesion among members' efforts, ultimately creating a more unified approach to advancing health equity.

- **Cross-Sectional Collaborations:** CHEQ played a pivotal role in fostering collaboration across multiple equity-focused groups within APHA, strengthening communication and ensuring health equity remains a central priority across all sections.
4. **Subcommittees:**
- **Budget:** Developed and justified the 2024 budget, ensuring that all financial resources were effectively allocated to maximize impact.
 - **How They Do It:** Led mission-driven projects, including identifying best practices by other associations, building the mid-year report, and conceptualizing strategic operational improvements.
 - **Annual Meeting:** Seamlessly managed all aspects of the annual meeting, contributing to its resounding success.
 - **Annual Survey:** Crafted insightful survey questions to engage members and capture critical feedback on health equity issues, further driving the committee's mission.

Financial Summary:

CHEQ had an annual budget of \$625 for 2024, which was strategically allocated to support the business meeting at the annual APHA Conference.