



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

For science. For action. For health.

Governing Council 2024
Session 1, Item 5.0
Report 7- APHA Education Board
Submitted by Anthony J. Santella, DrPH, MCHES, CPH; Chair
Submitted to APHA Governing Council
September 30, 2024

Committee Members:

Anthony Santella, *Chair* (7), Virginia Reising, *Co-Chair* (6), Kim Baskette (7), Karen Butler (6), Zuri Inzunza, *Student Assembly Liaison* (2), Laura Rasar King (6), Sriya Krishnamoorthy (8), Jennifer Mandelbaum (5), Enyinnaya Merengwa (8), Sherry Ornitz (2), Marian Passannante (6), Molly Polvento (3), Chinwe Uzodinma (5), Mary Volenec (8)

(In parentheses is the number of meetings attended out of the 8 meetings held between January and September 2024; excluding the 9th meeting scheduled to take place at the Annual Meeting)

Committee Leadership:

Board Chair: Anthony Santella

Board Co-Chair: Virginia Reising (*June 2024 to present*), Kim Baskette (*November 2023 to April 2024*)

Learning Institute Committee Chairs: Mary Volenec (Chair), Karen Butler (Co-Chair)

Continuing Education and Assessment Committee Chairs: Kim Baskette (Chair), Molly Polvento (Co-Chair)

APHA Staff: Alyssa Holland, Kyriakos Iliadis (*June 2024 to present*)

Purpose of the Education Board:

The purpose of the Education Board is to ensure a better-educated public health workforce and an informed public. As such, the Education Board is charged with maintaining and enhancing professional knowledge; increasing technical proficiencies and enabling members to promote and protect environmental and community health. The Board is also committed to assisting APHA sections and SPIGS by improving learning opportunities provided by the Learning Institutes and Scientific Sessions on an annual basis. The Education Board has two committees – the Learning Institutes Committee and the Continuing Education and Assessment Committee.

Charge:

There shall be an Education Board whose function shall be to stimulate and coordinate the education activities of the Association; to maintain and enhance professional knowledge, to increase technological proficiencies in facilitating the delivery of education, to enable members to promote and protect environmental and community health, and to educate the public concerning public health issues (Constitution, Article XII).

Vision Statement:

To envision a competent Public Health workforce supported by lifelong learning that enhances its abilities to act on current needs, to respond to emerging needs, and to work with communities to promote and improve the health of the public and to assist in achieving health equity.

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Education Board is to ensure a better-prepared public health workforce and an informed public.

Goals:

- Contribute to the ongoing assessment of gaps in knowledge, skills, and attitudes of the public health workforce
- Foster innovative and cutting-edge continuing education for the public health workforce based on the best evidence and technology
- Increase the competency of the public health workforce to promote and protect environmental and community health
- Enhance the public's knowledge of public health and related public health issues

Membership of the Education Board:

- Members are appointed from the membership of APHA to serve on the Education Board for a term of three years.
- The role of members is to review, advise, guide, and advocate for policies and programs to advance public health education of the workforce and of the public.
- The Chair and Co-Chair of the Education Board served a one-year term (the third year for this new procedure). In previous years, the Chair and Co-Chair served a two-year term.

Education Board and the Joint Policy Committee:

As part of the Joint Policy Committee, Education Board members, Anthony Santella (Chair), Virginia Reising (Co-Chair), and Molly Polvento worked diligently to review proposed policies to

be submitted to the Governing Council at the annual meeting in the most effective manner. While we would normally have four Education Board members on the JPC, one member withdrew at the start of the JPC process. The Education Board Chair (Anthony Santella) also worked closely with the Science Board and Action Board chairs (other co-chairs of the JPC) to address some of the recommendations for improving the APHA policy review process as part of an ad-hoc workgroup led by Governing Council Speaker, Dr. Guest. This proposal is being reviewed and voted on by the Governing Council at the Annual Meeting.

Learning Institutes and Skills Development Committee Report

Committee members include the following:

- Mary Volenec (Chair)
- Karen Butler (Co-Chair)
- Laura Rasar King
- Enyinnaya Merengwa
- Anthony Santella

January 2024:

Agenda for year

Reintroduction of committee members: include student assembly member

Will work on two committees during the meeting, making it a working meeting

1. LI committee: abstract review and selection for the annual meeting, LI webinar training series development
2. Education and assessment committee: article for Nation's Health, Prep for annual meeting webinar

February 2024:

Reviewed annual meeting LI session participant evaluations

One LI session did not have ANY evaluations: asked APHA to streamline the process of evaluation for impact on future meetings

- Overall positive
- People wanted food, drink
- Wanted a way to best navigate the annual meeting

Talked about APHA expectations for this committee beyond the annual meeting

Proposed webinar-type learning sessions/ webinars to engage early career professionals for the LI committee. Goal 3: Topics determined through past year surveys.

March 2024:

Annual Meeting LI expectations:

1. 10 sessions (pre-conference days)
 - Includes Biostatistics
 - Certification review for the CPH exam
 - HP 2030 was added by APHA last year

- Scientific writing
2. Discussion about offering LI webinars in 2024
- Goal is 3; review of BS curriculum survey topics to include
 - Professional presentations – how to disseminate what’s been done.
 - 2: professional communications-
 - 3: public speaking and writing
 - Who can, When can, What topic, Who organizes etc. discussions

April 2024:

Abstract scoring and application reviews, selection meetings, and confirmation via letters.
 Arrangement of time slots for LI sessions at the annual meeting.
 Discussion of LI webinars: The topic is professional skills but the finer topic and speakers were not decided.

May 2024:

Letters of acceptance for 10 LI sessions
 One hour LI webinar ***Speak With Impact*** proposed
 Speaker volunteer: Mary Volenec
 Anthony knows a colleague who is eager to present this topic as well

June 2024:

LI session: who can volunteer to monitor LI sessions at the annual meeting
 LI committee member Mary Volenec and Dr. Alvin Tran who is a professional associate of Dr. Anthony Santella and a known speaker on this topic.

1. Topic How to Present different styles and content materials to various audiences
2. Topic How to decrease speaker anxiety

July 2024 : off due to summer holiday

Email: plan for LI committee to meet 10/29 12-2 at the annual meeting

August 2024:

1. Concern re: unmet expectations and whether should there be a revised statement of expectations for committee involvement. Poor attendance and participation.
2. Kyriakos to let us know what is needed for meeting monitors of LI sessions at the annual meeting
3. August 20, 2024 webinar Speak With Impact review:
 - a. 138 participants
 - b. The webinar recorded and will be available on the APHA website
 - c. Overall impressions reviewed from evaluations
 - i. Positive feedback

- ii. Some suggestions for next year
- iii. Just the right amount of time and information

4. Next year LI committee to again work to provide 3 LI webinar sessions: ideas include
 - a. How to use AI in PH
 - b. Practical PH engagement skills
 - c. How to evaluate the effectiveness of a presentation
 - d. Onboarding/ engagement/ retention idea

Activities for 2024: summary

- Created and reviewed the timeline for LI committee and breakout subcommittees including chair and co-chair (Mary Volenec and Karen Butler) to prepare for the 2024 annual meeting in Minneapolis: October 2024
- Review of the evaluations of 2023 LI sessions: one session had zero evaluations. Will ask APHA to streamline the CE and evaluation process for each session to maximize feedback and use that to improve offerings. Concerns included a lack of food and beverages as part of the conference fare. Other concerns included a large convention area and, desire to see more skill-building sessions. Strongly positive responses about topic selection and relevance to PH practice.
- Abstract period: last year 30 submissions with 12 sessions; this year limit to 10 due to competing priorities of various sections and to improve turnout for each session.
- Selected and notified (with APHA and Alyssa's help) LI sessions. Recruited LI monitors from ED board re: annual meeting.
- Welcomed Kyriakos as APHA liaison for the Ed board.
- Successfully implemented one webinar session in August called "Speak with Impact". 2 speakers, #138 attendees and recorded for access on the APHA website. Good ideas for next year's offered webinars

Plan for 2025:

- Evaluate LI sessions from the 2024 annual meeting
- Call for LI abstracts, review them, and select/ plan for them for the 2025 annual meeting
- Committee members are encouraged to participate in JPC or other APHA committees
- 3 successfully completed skill-building webinar sessions
- Improve engagement and attendance of committee members for increased effectiveness of the Education Board within APHA

Respectfully submitted, Mary Volenec

Continuing Education and Assessment Committee Report

Committee members include the following:

- Kim Baskette (Chair)
- Molly Polverento (Co-Chair)
- Jennifer Mandelbaum
- Sherry Ornitz
- Virginia Reising
- Marian Passannante
- Sriya Krishnamoorthy
- Chinwe Uzodinma

Committee Goal(s) (*highlighted goals below were on last year's report but were not part of the charge of the committee this year)

Collaborate with stakeholders across the organization to enhance public health knowledge to the public and propose and review methods for disseminating evidence-based public health information.

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- Recommend stories for The Nation's Health or other APHA publications. (Not Met)
- Host educational webinars.
- Enhance collaboration and communication with APHA sections, affiliates, and other relevant entities to determine their educational needs.
- Propose and review methods for ongoing assessment of the educational needs of the APHA membership and the public health workforce.
- Provide reporting to the Learning Institute Committee to assist in the 2022 selection.
- Review Annual Meeting App questions.
- Provide reporting and documentation on the success of programming conducted by APHA.
- Develop annual APHA-wide professional development needs assessment.
- Establish a mentorship program for incoming Education Board members.

Activities:

- Plan/implement Ed Board session at the Annual Meeting
- Plan and implement Annual Meeting prep webinar
- Liaise with Nation's Health editorial staff to pitch 2-3 topics for the Nation's Health article and recommend individuals in the field for NH to connect with.
- Provide updates to APHA needs assessment

- Provide updates to Annual Meeting LI session participant and faculty surveys

For 2024, the following activities were conducted:

Planned and implemented an Educational Board session at the 2024 Annual Meeting

- Committee members brainstormed ideas for a session theme, which were then voted on by Education Board members to make the final selection. Three individuals have been secured as panel speakers for the educational board sessions titled “Navigating the Career Lifecycle of the Public Health Professional”, including McKenzie Liegel (University of Wisconsin New to Public Health Residency Program), Dr. Nizar Wehbi (State of North Dakota Health Officer), and Dr. Donna Petersen (University of South Florida). The session description is below.

The career of a public health professional often involves multiple transitions to new organizations, the development of new skills, and growth into new roles. With concerns around the development and retention of the U.S. public health workforce, public health professionals need to have access to tools and strategies that can help them move through these career transitions successfully. It is also important that public health leaders know of strategies and tools they can use to support individuals through professional transitions and retain them over time. Our session will feature speakers on resources and best practices for supporting early career individuals, assisting professionals in balancing work and personal responsibilities, retaining the workforce, and helping experienced professionals transition successfully into consultant and mentor roles.

Assisting in planning a virtual “Tips on Navigating the APHA Annual Meeting & Expo” webinar which is scheduled for October 3rd from 2-3 pm

- Kyriakos and Alyssa facilitated organizing this event in APHA Now and supported recruiting speakers for the webinar.

Provide updates to APHA needs assessment:

- With the survey being developed last year, providing updates this year was not needed.
- The needs assessment data was not made available so were not able to meet committee goals 4, 5 & 10 above (see goals in blue)
- The committee had the opportunity to review the survey and make minor suggestions/edits. Due to the low response rate, no analysis has taken place thus far. However, when the committee reconvenes this Fall, a new date/timeline and process will be determined. This is something that will be revisited in 2025.

Provide updates to Annual Meeting LI session participant and faculty surveys

- The Learning Institute committee reviewed the faculty survey and the same survey will be implemented in 2025.

Respectfully submitted, Kim Baskette

Chair's Report

Serving as the Education Board Chair this year has been an honor and a pleasure. I'm happy to report that we have an active and engaged Board, and I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Board members who took on leadership roles, including Virginia, Kim, Mary, Karen, and Molly. I also want to thank our APHA staff liaisons, Alyssa and Kyriakos, for their exceptional dedication in supporting our success. This year, the Board adopted a slightly different approach. First, we redefined the Co-Chair position to better prepare the individual to step into the Chair role following the Annual Meeting. Unlike in previous years, the Co-Chair now takes on responsibilities such as recording meeting minutes, leading monthly meetings in the Chair's absence, actively participating in the JPC, and contributing to Board decisions. Second, we modified our monthly meeting structure to provide dedicated time for Board Committees to engage in working sessions. The new agenda format allocates 10 minutes for updates from the Chair and APHA staff liaisons, 40 minutes for Committee working time, and 10 minutes for sharing highlights and next steps from each Committee. We also introduced a shared Google document where breakout notes can be updated in real-time during the meeting. This system allows for seamless communication across the Board and preserves a record of our ongoing work, as notes are often lost over time.

While we've made significant progress, we've also faced challenges, particularly regarding member attendance and engagement. To better understand why some members attend infrequently or are less active in meetings, we conducted an anonymous survey in September. Nine of the 11 Board members completed the survey (82%). These survey findings were shared with the membership and were discussed at the September meeting. As Chair, I recommend the following:

- APHA staff liaisons to confirm the Board member selection process and how Board leadership can be involved in selecting new members.
- Institute an attendance policy of no more than 2 meetings, or 3 meetings if the Board meeting at the Annual Meeting is "counted".
- Confirm the new (2) Committee structure and write new Committee goals.
- The Chair, Co-Chair, and Committee Chairs work with APHA staff liaisons to create an annual work plan with deliverables during the transition (November-December).
- Ensure all members are assigned tasks with deliverables as part of the work plan.

Respectfully submitted, Anthony Santella

Prospective for 2025:

Virginia will transition to Chair, and Laura Rasar King will transition to Co-Chair after the 2024 Annual Meeting. I encourage them to meet with the APHA staff liaisons to reflect on the member survey findings and develop a plan and tentative schedule for 2025. I also encourage the APHA staff liaisons to meet with the Association's leadership about the processes for identifying and selecting Board members and confirming their commitment. Given the size of the Board, I'd recommend assigning each Board member tasks and deliverables to ensure their active participation. It is time for the Education Board to have the same rigor and expectations as APHA's other Boards.

Fiscal Implications:

No new fiscal and recourse implications have been identified. The Education Board continues to develop recommendations for enhancing continuing education opportunities for the public health workforce that could also enhance the revenue capacity for APHA.

Implications for Follow-Up:

None for the Governing Council.