



2023 Council of Affiliates Annual Report

The role of the Council of Affiliates (Council) is to promote efficient and effective communication and coordination of Affiliate activities with APHA efforts. The Council facilitates collaboration between APHA and each of the 52 affiliated associations to ensure a mutually supportive relationship. The Council's 2023 Strategic Work Plan continued to utilize APHA's core strategies as a framework. This annual report is intended to update the Governing Council on the Council of Affiliates' work. The following information highlights significant accomplishments made this year by the Affiliates and the Council.

The past year has been an incredible time for APHA and the 52 Affiliates that strive to serve the on- the-ground needs of public health professionals. As APHA reports growth, so do the Affiliates who have risen to meet the challenges of COVID-19, racism, and threats to public health authority.

Annual Reporting

- The Affiliate Annual Report Survey for 2023 was completed by 51 of the 52 Affiliates, covering the timeframe: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. Selected findings include:
 - More than half of Affiliates now have paid staff.
 - National Public Health Week provides Affiliates the greatest student engagement opportunities each year.
 - Two-thirds of all Affiliates received grant funding in 2022-2023 – including over 20 Affiliates who received funding from APHA grants.
 - Goals for the coming year include hosting successful annual meetings, membership recruitment and retention, greater board engagement and creating or revising a strategic plan.
- The Affiliate Affairs Advocacy and Policy Annual Survey was also completed by 51 of the 52 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/infrastructure, strengthening the role of public health, health equity, tobacco/e-cigarettes, racial equity, climate change and social determinants of health.
 - More than a third of Affiliates have a lobbyist to help support their policy and advocacy efforts.
 - Affiliates shared success stories about building policy and advocacy committees, training members on how to be advocates and building power with allies and stakeholders to align on public health issues.

Data from both surveys provide a foundation for the Council to build on and measure progress being made.

Strengthen Public Health Practice

- The Council once again made its sponsored sessions from the Annual Meeting available to Affiliate members.
- The Council presents four scientific sessions (3 oral, 1 poster) at the 2023 Annual Meeting. The sessions seek to strengthen public health practice at state and local levels by sharing best practices and success stories. The sessions this year include:
 - 2012: Council of Affiliates Poster Session
 - Gun violence in Arizona: Data to inform prevention policies (Arizona)
 - Partnering to reduce health disparities: A win-win-win (Rhode Island)
 - Climate, health, and equity: Coalition and capacity building in Maryland (Maryland)
 - Scrolling, selfies, and style: How the Utah public health association rebranded to better engage the public health workforce (Utah)
 - Creating the framework for a state-wide public health workforce coalition (Iowa)
 - Historic investment in Indiana’s public health infrastructure: An APHA affiliate’s role in planning, organizing, and advocating for increased funding (Indiana)
 - Building capacity and improving service delivery among Indiana’s local health departments through creation of a comprehensive, online toolkit (Indiana)
 - The PPHA experience: Investing in partnerships to advance public health infrastructure (Pennsylvania)
 - Balancing health, safety, and equity in legalizing adult-use cannabis in Maryland (Maryland)
 - Ending the sale of flavored tobacco products: A social & environmental justice issue (Maine)
 - 2100: Georgia Public Health Association: Making your annual meeting a moneymaker, and a celebration of Region IV success stories
 - 3280: Affiliate Best Practices: Advocacy
 - The affiliate op-ed project (Utah)
 - Modernizing public health education campaigns (Iowa)
 - From challenges to opportunities – process, outcomes, and lessons in mobilizing the OPHA public policy committee (Oklahoma)
 - Promoting a healthy inclusive democracy in public health – a Minnesota partnership (Minnesota)

- 4214: Affiliate Best Practices: Capacity Building
 - Enhancing professional development and networking among students and early career professionals with the Virginia public health association’s pilot mentorship program (Virginia)
 - Optimizing the New York state public health association membership experience: Findings from a mixed method assessment of public health professionals across the state (New York)
 - Justice, equity, diversity, inclusion toolkit for small nonprofit organizations (Mississippi)
 - From SMART to smartie: Building equity in Rhode Island’s public health objectives (Rhode Island)

Build a Public Health Movement

- Working with APHA, the Council encourages all Affiliates to participate in building-a-movement activities such as National Public Health Week and the Speak for Health campaign. Throughout the year, APHA and the Council stress the importance of collaboration among Affiliate leaders and APHA members/leaders.
- During National Public Health Week, all 52 Affiliates were encouraged to sign up on the website and serve as NPHW partners. They were engaged by participating in the NPHW webinar meetings and implementing activities at the state and local level.
- As part of the Speak for Health campaign, Affiliates were encouraged to focus on public health funding, the effects of climate change, advancing racial equity, and the need to uphold critical public health laws. Five Affiliates reported new actions taken for Speak for Health.
- The Council continued to engage Affiliates in APHA’s policy development and implementation process and utilized the “official” policy review tool. In 2023, the CoA focused their reviews on more intentional, targeted approach identifying content experts from the Affiliates who could review the proposed statements through the dual lenses of content and state level applicability.
- The policy review highlights the Affiliate perspective on policy implementation, specifically the impact and usability of APHA policy statements at state and local levels.
- The CoA is continuing to expand Affiliate engagement by providing guidance for participating in the proposed policy hearings and how Affiliates can determine their position on the proposed policies.

Align Organizational Capacity and Infrastructure

- The Council meets monthly. The calls continued by Zoom to enhance interaction among Council members. Follow-up communications were shared with Council members to facilitate Regional Representatives’ communication with their regions’ ARGCS.
- To engage CoA members more fully in the work of the Governing Council, the CoA is collecting information from Affiliates related to participation in the Mid-Year Meeting.

- All Affiliate Representatives to the Governing Council were invited to participate in the May and October CoA meetings. Issues discussed included the upcoming policy statements, events at the annual meeting, and a review ARGC, Regional Rep and CoA roles.
- The Staff of Affiliates group continues to grow and meets monthly. Topics of conversation included: budgeting, managing board/volunteer burnout, expanding revenue streams through CEU offerings, and engaging board members. This is a powerful connection point for Affiliate Executive Directors to learn from each other.
- The Council recognizes Affiliates and their members with the following awards and recipients for all five awards were selected 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 2023 APHA Annual Meeting include:
 - CoA/ISC Candidates Forum (Virtual)
 - CoA/PHMC Awards Reception
 - Affiliate Day
 - CoA Business Meeting
 - Affiliate Presidents-Elect and Section Chairs-Elect Meeting

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

During the last year, the Council continued its efforts to increase JEDI activity and supporting Affiliates in this work.

- The CoA's JEDI Work Group met with Intersectional Council and Committee on Health Equity leaders as well as APHA Membership staff to discuss collaborative opportunities.
- The work group also piloted its JEDI speaker bank, an opportunity for Affiliates and APHA to share speaker suggestions and get referrals for great presenters, keynoters, etc.

Governance Related

- The Council has current representation on the following APHA boards, committees, and councils: Executive Board, Action Board, Intersectional Council Steering Committee, Caucus Collaborative, Committee on Social Responsibility, APHA History Project and APHA Committee on Membership. Additionally, the Council has participated in the APHA Rural Health Task Force and the Governing Council Speaker's Ad Hoc Task Force.
- The CoA participated in the APHA Strategic Planning Process, focusing the February meeting on engaging as part of the focus group process.
- The CoA also hosted two meetings inviting all ARGCs to further engage ARGCs with CoA and APHA.
- As a result of a generous donation from a long-time CoA member and supporter, Richard Cohen and Public Health Management Corporation, the CoA Awards Reception is now able to invest contributions to the event from Affiliates back into Affiliates. For this, we are deeply appreciative!

The Council Chair extends deepest gratitude to our Council Leadership Team, Regional Representatives, our dedicated representatives to APHA Boards, Councils, Committees, and Work Groups, and the very hard-working, dedicated Affiliate Affairs staff. On behalf of Council, thank you to the APHA Executive Board and Executive Director for their support of all Affiliates and the work accomplished across our nation on becoming the Healthiest Nation in One Generation!

Yours in health,

Sarah A. Rines

2022-2023 Chair, Council of Affiliates