



2021 Intersectional Council Annual Report

Council Role and Responsibilities

The Intersectional Council (ISC) is comprised of the Chairs, Chair-Elects, and Immediate Past Chairs of all member units. The ISC represents the interests common to the APHA Sections and facilitates relations between and among them and with other groups within APHA.

The Intersectional Council Steering Committee has nine members and conducts ISC activities between the Annual Meetings. The 12 members consist of nine members elected by the ISC, the ISC-SC immediate past chair (ex-officio), the Student Assembly Chair-elect and one member appointed by the Executive Board every three years. The ISC-SC meets face-to-face twice a year, and via Zoom monthly.

The Steering Committee assists Sections with internal management and communication. The ISC-SC also reviews and comments on applications for SPIGs and Forums and submits comments to the Executive Board. The ISC-SC also:

- Works within the framework of the APHA Strategic Plan by identifying specific goals and objectives which best fit the purpose of the ISC.
- Functions as a proactive body on issues of concern to the Sections.
- Communicates Association matters to the Sections and fosters responsible interchange among Section leadership as well as between Section leadership and other Association entities.

Members

Rachael Reed – Chair; Thomas Doker – Chair-Elect; Megan Latshaw – Immediate Past Chair; Mary Jane Alexander – Secretary; Ann Dozier; Julie Gast; Ashley Wennerstrom; Sandi-Asari Hogan; Linda Frazier; Prasad Vinjamury – Executive Board Appointee; Haley Moss – Student Assembly Liaison; Dan Duquette – Caucus Collaborative Representative; Jessica Boyer – Council of Affiliates Representative

Staff

Fran Atkinson, Elsa Greer, Sebastian Padrino (Temporary Assistant)

Represented On

Executive Board (Rachael Reed); Executive Board's Committee on Social Responsibility (Ann Dozier); Executive Board's Membership Committee (Rachael Reed); Council on Affiliates (Thomas Docker)

Intersectional Council Topical Groups

One of the APHA strategic plan objectives is to increase collaboration across the member groups. In an effort to facilitate this collaboration, the ISC-SC has aided in the development and management of several topical groups. These collaborative groups work on issues that traverse multiple Sections and engages members from multiple member units. The topical groups receive the following benefits: an ISC scientific session, a webinar, APHA Connect online communities for leaders and members to communicate, a conference call line for leadership, and an ISC-SC liaison. The current list of ISC-SC Topical Groups is as follows:

- **Climate Change**
ISC SC Liaisons: Megan Latshaw
Organizers: Tenaya Jackson, Charles Cange
- **Opioids**
ISC SC Liaison: Linda Frazier
Organizers: Linda Frazier, Beth Sommers
- **Gun Violence Prevention**
ISC SC Liaison: Rachael Reed
Organizers: Judith Katzburg, Linda Degutis
- **Rural Health**
ISC SC Liaisons: Sandy-Asari Hogan and Linda Frazier
Organizers: Cody Mullen, Barbara Levin, Kathleen Carol Thomas, Meg Ann Perry Traci
- **Suicide Prevention**
ISC SC Liaison: Mary Jane Alexander
Organizers: Jerry Reed, Kristen Quinlan
- **Disasters and Emergency Preparedness**
ISC SC Liaisons: Thomas Docker
Organizers: Peggy Keller, Mary Masters, Kandra Strauss-Riggs, Kimberly Shoaf

Summary of 2021 Activities

Bi-Monthly Full ISC Meetings

Last year, the ISC adjusted the usual meeting schedule due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the fully virtual Annual Meeting. The ISC-SC decided to host multiple virtual meetings leading up to the Annual Meeting rather than the one meeting on Saturday before the Annual Meeting. ISC members reported that they preferred the more frequent meetings and opportunities to engage with their peers in other Section. In response to this feedback, the ISC-SC implemented bi-monthly full ISC meeting this year.

Each meeting had a specific focus of interest to the Section leaders and a special guest. Each meeting also included a Chair and Staff update to keep the Section leaders up to date on APHA business. The webinars were very successful and there were over 30 leaders on each call. This year's meeting schedule was as follows:

- March – MUEEP Update (Kaye Bender and Alan Baker)
- May – Governing Council (Aaron Guest)
- July – Section Governance (Fran Atkinson)
- September – Best Practices for the Annual Meeting (James Carbo, Jolene McNeil, and Edward Shipley)

Engaging Community

At the suggestion of the Environment Section, the ISC-SC has been seeking ways to better engage grassroots organizations and community members engaged in public health work but not considered “professionals”. Often these individuals can't afford APHA membership nor the Annual Meeting. This year, the ISC was able to facilitate the gifting of funds from the Sections to create a Community Access Fund. This fund was used to offer agency membership to 7 organizations that were selected for their impressive grassroots efforts. The selected organizations were:

- African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council
- Farmworker Association of Florida
- Puerto Rico Public Health Trust
- Center for Sustainable Communities
- Migrant Clinicians Network
- Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
- Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern New Jersey

APHA Your Way (formerly Member Unit Effectiveness and Engagement Project)

This Initiative began with a recommendation from the ISC and so we follow it closely. Following the receipt of the final consolidated recommendations from the MUEEP Feasibility Committee, the ISC-SC brainstormed ways to address the recommendation that pertained to their role:

- Creating a transfer of institutional knowledge between incoming and outgoing leaders
- Providing more targeted leadership training
- Educating members about Section leadership

The ISC-SC decided that one of the best ways to address most of these recommendations would be to create a standard of practice for the Sections as well as a standardized handbook. By creating a standardized Section Handbook, the ISC-SC can make the job of Section Chair more manageable and improve Members' APHA experience through cross-Sectional consistency. The Handbook would include APHA Bylaws on Sections and Code of Conduct. Sections will be able to document their unique

structures and operational procedures and will be required to review and update the handbook annually. APHA staff and the ISC-SC Chair will be provided a copy of the full handbook annually which will include the standardized practices as well as all of the Sections' unique practices. The standardized handbook is slated to be completed by 2022 and implemented by 2023.

Collaborative Burnout Discussion

The ISC noticed that many of the leaders are experiencing a great amount of burnout culminating in multiple resignations over the past year. During this year's ISC/CoA Midyear Meeting and the Chair-Elect/President-Elect Training, there was a robust discussion surrounding burnout prevention. The goal of the discussion was to brainstorm tools for leaders to use to aid them in recognizing and preventing burnout amongst their peers. The ISC-SC is planning to create a toolkit that will be distributed to Section leaders.

Chair-Elect/President-Elect Training

The ISC and Council on Affiliates (CoA) collaborated on the yearly Chair-Elect/President-Elect Training. The training was kicked off with an APHA 101 training followed by bi-weekly focused trainings. At the kickoff training, Section Chair-Elects were provided with a calendar of important dates and deadlines as well as a Chair-Elect To Do list. The additional trainings included Speak for Health, Introduction to Membership Services, Section Budget 101, Fundraising, APHA Communications, and Moving Forward.

ISC/CoA Candidates' Forum

Due to the success of last year's virtual ISC/CoA, the forum this year will also be held virtually. The purpose of this event is to allow the Sections and Affiliates time with the President-Elect and Executive Board candidates to ask Section and Affiliate specific questions. The small, intimate environment also allows the participants to get to know the candidates better. The event is scheduled for Wednesday October 20th. Each Section will be asked to designate a participant to attend the forum, preferably a Governing Councilor. Each candidate will be allowed a brief introduction prior to entering breakout rooms. Candidates will circulate amongst the breakout rooms.

Name Change

The Veterinary Public Health SPIG voted to change their name to the One Health SPIG. Given the group's inherent focus on one health and its interdisciplinary membership, the group members proposed incorporating this key theme into our name. Additionally, the term 'one health' is now broadly used across sectors, including within the World Bank, the World Health Organization, and many human and animal health industry groups. 84% of the members who voted supported the idea. The ISC-SC as well as the Executive Board voted in favor of the change.

Monthly Meetings

We changed the format of the ISC-SC meetings to allow more time for discussion of pressing issues or decisions to be made. The new format also allowed time to provide reports on Section activities and discuss questions that came from the Sections. In addition to the monthly calls, we also held a Mid-Year Meeting, Chair-Elect Trainings, and bi-monthly full ISC meetings. Meetings will be more frequent in October leading up to the Annual Meeting.

Member Unit Highlights

Every year, sections, SPIGS and forums are expected to submit a work plan for the upcoming year and a member unit report prior to the Annual Meeting. The ISC-SC uses these annual reports to:

- Better understand the needs of the member units
- Identify struggling member units in need of extra support
- Ensure member unit activities align with APHA's Strategic Plan
- Facilitate collaboration between member units

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the member units have produced some amazing work! The following are some highlights from the 2020 – 2021 Member Unit Reports.

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs

- Led the writing of the Equitable Enforcement in Tobacco Control statement, which has been endorsed by over 40 state and national public health organizations and are preparing to submit it as a Policy Statement for consideration in 2022.
- Founded and continues to run the Alcohol Action Network, a grassroots coalition of state and local substance use prevention workers. There are bi-monthly meetings to foster information exchange and peer mentorship. One monthly meeting includes a "bootcamp" session, which is a short primer on a topic (e.g., the three-tier system of alcohol regulation; opportunities to advocate during the administrative rule making phase of policy implementation).

Community Health Planning and Policy Development

- Hosted a webinar entitled "Health Communication Matters Webinar - COVID-19 Crisis Communication: Empowering the Public Health Community"
- Hosted a section conversation - "COVID-19 Fireside Chat: Constructing COVID-19 Resilience".

Disability Section

- Routinely shares best practices on including people with disabilities in many public health initiatives and advocates for full inclusion of people with disabilities in these initiatives. Also advocates for shifting the paradigm of disability away

from the medical model and not viewing disability as something to be “cured”, but rather view it through the lens of barriers to be removed.

Environmental Health

- Organized a webinar on racism and environmental health, as part of APHA's anti-racism webinar series.
- Advocated for, contributed to, and worked to propose strategies for a community access fund that would be used to sponsor full APHA membership for environmental justice practitioners.

Food and Nutrition

- Created of a podcast on public health nutrition leadership/professional development.
- Exploring an option with the leadership team of the World Public Health Nutrition Association.

Health Administration

- Hosted a 3-installment Public Health Management to Practice podcast series where discussion focused on the significance of introducing racism as a public health crisis featuring Dr. Jeanette Kowalik, former City of Milwaukee Commissioner of Health where they declared racism a public health crisis.

Integrative, Complementary, and Traditional Health Practices

- Hosted a wellness-focused wellinar on Mindful Racial Justice: Healing Hearts and Communities in commemoration of Black History Month and American Heart Month (Feb-2021). This presentation explored the practice of embodied mindfulness and social healing from the heart.

Maternal and Child Health

- Developed or supported the development of three APHA policy statements:
 - Developed and sponsored the policy statement “Structural Racism as a Public Health Issue”. MCH authors include Hardy. K., Odusanya, A., Bronson, J., Jackson, F.M., Katzburg, J.R., & Ford, J.L.
 - The International Maternal and Child Health committee has collaborated with the Global Maternal and Child Health Network (GMCHN) to develop an APHA policy statement advocating for respectful maternity care.

- Collaborating with the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs and other partners on a policy statement related to investment in public health mentorship (in development).
- The MCH Environmental Health Committee is working with the Environmental Health Section to align policy initiatives and advocacy efforts. These groups have developed a joint Oral Session on Environmental Health for the Annual Conference and have worked on multiple policy statements. This is the 3rd year MCH has facilitated this collaboration.
- The MCH Fellowship program had 10 Student Fellows and will have 11 in 2022. Fellows are appointed to individual committees and encouraged to participate in the mentoring program and professional development activities.
- The MCH Section collaborated with the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) on a peer-reviewed commentary advocating for investment in MCH mentorship. This commentary was submitted to MCH Journal in the MCH Workforce special issue and is currently under review.

Occupational Health and Safety

- Wrote several testimonial letters with Don Hoppert's guidance to CDC, OSHA and AIHA on Issues related to Covid-19 Worker Protection Safety Standards, Hazard Communication Standards, Lead Standard, and several APHA new policies related to noise, Opioids, and Covid-19.

Physical Activity

- Created a Physical Activity COVID task force and the "COVID Corner" to share related research including those evidence-based PA health equity interventions addressing social determinants
- Planning to organize and execute the Physical Activity Twitter Conference, a virtual scientific conference that will showcase students' research on Twitter.
- Requested information from state affiliates about how the section can help disseminate evidence-based PA health equity interventions addressing social determinants that the section is working on or aware of.

Public Health Education and Health Promotion

- Representatives from the section's Membership, Advocacy, and Communications Committees developed a pilot "innovation lab" for PHEHP members to determine the best way for their voices as health educators/health promotion practitioners to be heard, respected, and utilized. These virtual meet ups for PHEHP members will take place in 2022 to collectively discover, dream, and design new policies, community and organizational practices, and ways of interacting with their social

networks to create a healthier and more equitable world, while developing leadership skills.

SPECIAL KUDOS TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEER LEADERS AND TO THE APHA STAFF MEMBERS WHO SUPPORT ALL OF OUR AMAZING WORK!