



2021 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 53 affiliated associations to ensure a mutually supportive relationship. The Council's 2021 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 53 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 2021 was completed by 51 of the 53 Affiliates (96%) covering the timeframe: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. Selected findings include:
 - The top three selected Affiliate operational goals during the report's timeframe were host an annual conference (selected by 61% of respondents), increase membership (57% of respondents) and revise/create a strategic plan (25%).
 - The top three public health concerns Affiliate's work addressed during the report's timeframe were COVID-19 (73%), public health funding/workforce infrastructure (51%) and health equity (37%).
 - Forty-nine percent (49%) - or 25 of 51 - of responding Affiliates reported having paid Affiliate staff, representing an increase from the 2020 Affiliate Annual Report where only 16 Affiliates reported having paid Affiliate staff.
 - Eighty percent (80%) of responding Affiliates hosted either an in-person or virtual annual conference/meeting, 14% planned a conference/meeting but then canceled/postponed it due to COVID-19 and 6% of Affiliates did not host a conference/meeting.
 - Identified Affiliate successes from the year were addressed emerging public health topics, e.g., COVID-19, health disparities, racism (59%), submitted one or more grant proposals (47%), improved communications – e.g., website, newsletters (45%), received grant funding (39%), developed new partnerships (37%) and received one or more new contracts/sponsorships (37%).
 - Sixty-two percent (62%) of Affiliates reported collaborating with other Affiliates.
 - Respondents reported either agreeing or strongly agreeing that the Council of Affiliates promote effective communication between Affiliates and APHA (82%),

- coordinate Affiliate and APHA activities (80%), facilitate collaboration between APHA and Affiliates (80%) and strengthen Affiliates (72%).
- An open-ended question provided ideas on how the Council can further serve Affiliates and APHA, including opportunities to improve Affiliate engagement.
- The Affiliate Affairs Advocacy and Policy Annual Survey was also completed by 52 of the 53 Affiliates (98%). Selected findings include:
 - Ninety four percent (94.2%) of responding Affiliates participate in advocacy efforts.
 - Over fifty six percent (56.9%) of responding Affiliates monitor public health related legislation at the national level; 96.1% at the state level; and 37.3% at the local level.
 - Open-ended questions provide ideas for how APHA can assist Affiliates in advocacy activities.
 - All of this represents a significant increase in advocacy and engagement activity across the years from the Affiliates.
- The response rates for both surveys were higher than in previous years. Data from both surveys provide a foundation for the Council to build on and measure progress being made.

Strengthen Public Health Practice

- The Council made its sponsored sessions from the 2020 Annual Meeting available to Affiliate members.
- The Council presents four scientific sessions (3 oral, 1 poster) at the 2021 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:
 - PS 1005.0: Affiliate Best Practices (poster)
 - Transitioning affiliate leadership: Lessons learned in rebuilding the Indiana public health association during a pandemic (Indiana)
 - Small state, big plans: Implementation of a NPHW state-wide cross campus information exchange (Delaware)
 - Expanding affiliate capacity with Americorps VISTA (Iowa)
 - Messaging for COVID: Addressing vaccine hesitancy in minority populations (New Jersey)
 - 3098.0: Colorado Public Health Association – Becoming and Antiracist Organization
 - Colorado Public Health Association: Lessons learned on the path to becoming an antiracist organization
 - Strategic work CPHA: Lessons learned on the path to becoming an antiracist organization
 - 4146.0: Affiliates in Action to Advance Public Health
 - Building effective and sustainable virtual connections for public health training, education & advocacy (Maine)
 - Achieving health equity and well-being for ALL across Indiana: Health

- equity action team (HEAT) (Indiana)
- Health and racial equity: A journey with a purpose (Mississippi)
- Racism as a public health crisis: Turning declaration into action through sustained virtual engagement (Minnesota & Virginia)
- A best practice model for addressing social determinants of health during a pandemic (Illinois)
- 5105.0 Affiliate Partnerships and Strategies that Advance Public Health
 - Arkansas recognizes national public health week with a targeted approach (Arkansas)
 - Pandemic partnerships: Working together across sectors to improve public health (Maine)
 - Building a social media community of practice for Iowa's local public health agencies (Iowa)
 - Strategic partnerships to advance public health training during COVID (Vermont)
 - NYSPHA's new directions initiative: Engaging members in a post-pandemic world (New York)

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.
- In collaboration with Affiliate Affairs, the CoA developed evergreen advocacy templates that can easily and readily be adapted for affiliate use.
- During National Public Health Week, all 53 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. Thirty-three Affiliates reported successful NPHW activities ranging from sharing newsletters and social media posts to daily events, panel discussions and virtual socials and advocacy efforts.
- 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. Fourteen Affiliates reported Speak for Health efforts including social media posts, training attendance and outreach to elected officials.
- The Council continued to engage Affiliates in APHA's policy development and implementation process and utilized the "official" policy review tool. In 2021, the Council had 19 Affiliate volunteers review 18 out of 20 policies, a significant increase from the past year. The review occurred in the middle of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The policy review highlights the Affiliate perspective on policy implementation, specifically the impact and usability of APHA policy statements at state and local levels.

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, Governing Council Speaker Dr. Aaron Guest presented during the January CoA meeting. Several issues were reviewed including governing council purpose, process and opportunities for improvement. Over 80% of the CoA voting members participated in the Governing Council Mid-Year Meeting.
- A webinar focused on bylaws was presented in May 2021 with a follow-up learning opportunity scheduled for this fall.
- All Affiliate Representatives to the Governing Council were invited to participate in the September CoA meeting. Issues discussed included the upcoming policy statements, events at the annual meeting, and a review of the proposed bylaw changes.
- The Staff of Affiliates group continues to grow and meets monthly. Topics of conversation included: fighting the erosion of trust in public health, expanding revenue streams, engaging board members and COVID-19. 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:
 - 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 2021 APHA Annual Meeting include:
 - CoA/ISC Candidates Forum (Virtual)
 - CoA Awards Reception
 - Affiliate Day (Virtual)
 - CoA Business Meeting (Virtual)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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

- The Council's *Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee* moved from a subcommittee to a standing committee within the CoA. The purpose of the Committee is to examine ways of addressing issues of diversity, inclusion, equity, and racism within Affiliates and their communities. In 2020, leadership of this group developed and implemented of *Equity Diversity Inclusion: Action Toolkit for Organizations*. The goal of the interactive toolkit is to stimulate and guide smaller nonprofit organizations as they integrate E-D-I best practices into their governance and organizational structure. The toolkit is available on the APHA website: <https://apha.org/apha-communities/affiliates/the-leaders-corner>.
- One of the Council's sponsored session at the 2021 Annual Meeting is focusing on the Colorado Public Health Associations stories and lessons learned in the area of anti-racism. Several other presentations will focus on activity from Minnesota, Virginia, Mississippi, Indiana and Illinois. Additionally, a breakout session during the second Affiliate Day meeting will focus on how Affiliates can address racism, health equity

and social justice through partnership building.

- APHA Affiliate Affairs secured funding from the NIH All of Us Research Program to support Affiliates that are doing work on racial equity (Wisconsin, Colorado, Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana).

Governance Related

- The Council identified CoA/Affiliate representation to serve on the APHA Action Board.
- The Council has current representation on the following APHA boards, committees, and councils: Executive Board, Action Board, Intersectional Council Steering Committee, Caucus Collaborative, APHA Committee on Membership, Bylaws Committee and the Committee on Membership Committee of the Executive Board.
- The CoA has collaborated with the APHA Bylaws Committee to propose bylaw changes to address the following issues:
 - The eligibility for candidates for the position of Secretary has been expanded to include all ARGCs or other Affiliate members not serving on the CoA in the coming year.
 - The third Action Board seat has been converted to an Affiliate Representative At-Large seat and will be nominated and voted on by the CoA membership at the Annual Business Meeting.
 - Language around term limits and staggering of such has also been added to ensure a balance of leaders on the CoA.

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!

Respectfully submitted,

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2020-21 Chair, Council of Affiliates