

Winter 2010 Quarterly Newsletter

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From the President's Desk

Dear NHPHA members and colleagues,

NHPHA is participating in some exciting initiatives, which hold promise both for the organization and public health in New Hampshire.

The Finance Project – NHPHA is one of several non-profit organizations participating in this project funded by the Endowment for Health. Our team comprised of Jeanie Holt, Yvonne Goldsberry, and myself are receiving training and technical assistance from the highly skilled staff of the Finance Project to develop a sustainability plan for NHPHA. I am confident the plan will serve as a solid foundation for our long-term sustainability.

NH Public Health Communication Campaign – NHPHA rolled out its public health communication campaign this fall, also funded by the Endowment for Health. The campaign uses the tag line, NH Public Health (or your organization's name), Improving Health, Preventing Disease, Reducing Costs *For All*. The marketing materials (posters, power point template, sample PSA's) are in a tool kit on our web site and can be individualized with any public health organization's name and logo. Some agencies have already utilized the materials or the tag line, NHPHA being one. Please consider using the products to convey the value and importance of public health in New Hampshire.

Report of the New Hampshire Commission on the Prevention of Childhood Obesity – Yvonne Goldsberry represented NHPHA on this commission that published its recommendations in November 2009. Some recommendations include: policies to improve food served in schools, menu labeling in restaurants with nutrition information, and the adoption of school policies for physical activity. NHPHA has recognized childhood obesity as one of its top three policy priorities for 2010 and will utilize the report recommendations to drive its legislative and policy agenda for this year.

These are but a sampling of the work of NHPHA this year. Kristina Diamond, our policy director, continues to represent public health interests at the statehouse with skill and finesse. Our committees are working diligently to enable NHPHA to be the independent voice for public health in our state.

We hope to see you at our annual meeting in April to celebrate our accomplishments, network with colleagues, and prepare for our future work.

Best,

Joan H. Ascheim
President, Board of Directors

NHPHA Policy Director Update

Dear NHPHA members,

The 2010 Legislative session has begun! It's been a busy session already. I have attended several public hearings and work sessions and submitted testimony on a number of NHPHA's top priority bills.

I'm pleased to announce that Mike Jeudy will be joining NHPHA as my legislative intern for the 2010 Session. He will be helping me with bill tracking, attending public hearings and committee meetings and sending out action alerts to our members. I'm happy to have him join our Policy team!

NHPHA's 2010 Policy Priorities Brochure is printed and has been distributed to all the members of the New Hampshire General Assembly. A copy will be posted on our website shortly for your review. This year the brochure has a new look and highlights our top three legislative priorities: tobacco prevention and control, prevention of childhood obesity and support for a strong public health infrastructure.

NHPHA's 5th Annual Policymaker's Conference will be held on Wednesday, February 10th (Snow date Thursday, February 11th) from 7:30-9:00am at the Holiday Inn in Concord. Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation is sponsoring the conference. This year's program agenda includes topics such as "Obesity and Prevention: Understanding and Developing Integrated Policies" and "The Intersection of Climate Change and Public Health in Advancing HEAL". We will also present our new public health communication campaign.

NHPHA's website has been updated. Please check out the new Advocacy section of our website. You will find a list of current activities, such as action alerts and public hearing and committee meeting information; NHPHA's 2010 legislative priorities; our policy position statements; and policy committee information. My hope is that with the new changes, members will feel more informed as to what's happening at the State House in a timely manner and can track public health bills more easily.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding a particular policy issue or need other important public health information and resources. I remain committed to working with you on public health issues and increasing NHPHA's visibility and advocacy efforts.

Best,

Kristina Diamond
Policy Director

NHPHA Communication Committee Update

The Communications Committee has been updating many of NHPHA's key communication tools and resources including:

NHPHA's updated website www.nhpha.org - check out our website for upcoming events, hot links, ways you can take action on current public health bills and ways to get involved with NHPHA.

NHPHA's e-newsletter – we publish a quarterly e-newsletter and welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please send them to info@nhpha.org.

Social networking sites – check us out on Facebook and become a member today!

The committee recently updated the NHPHA display board, so please let us know about upcoming events or opportunities for NHPHA to set up an exhibit table.

NHPHA Board Recruitment Information

The Human Resources and Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for new members to its Board of Directors. The term for board members is three years and would run from April 2010 through April 2013. Self-nominations are acceptable and invited.

To be a Board member for NHPHA, we ask that you commit to upholding several responsibilities. These include:

- current, paid membership in NHPHA throughout your three year term
- attendance at monthly Board meetings (first Friday of each month from 9:30-11:30am)
- become familiar with NHPHA's mission and review all Board orientation materials
- actively participate in at least one NHPHA standing committee (HR, Policy, Communications, Program Planning, Finance, Membership and Fundraising)
- willing to recruit sponsors to donate to the organization or sponsor NHPHA events (e.g. Fall Forum, Annual Meeting)
- actively recruit new members to NHPHA

Please contact Maureen Quinn at mquinn@hrsa.gov if you would like to submit a nomination for the Board. Please provide nomination name and contact information by no later than February 15th.