

New Jersey Public Health Association
Advocating for Public Health in the State of New Jersey
Summer 2018 Issue

NJPHA Advocates for Public Health in Trenton
By Donald Weinbaum, MBA, NJPHA Vice President

The New Jersey Public Health Association (NJPHA) was pleased to join the other 5 members of the Public Health Associations' Collaborative Effort (PHACE) – the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO); the New Jersey Association of Public Health Nurse Administrators (NJAPHNA); the New Jersey Environmental Health Association (NJEHA); the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association (NJLBHA); and the New Jersey Society for Public Health Education (NJSOPHE) – for the first legislative awareness and advocacy event, held at the State House in Trenton from June 11th through June 14th.

NJPHA was actively involved in the planning of this event. Its goal: Advocate for public health in New Jersey with a unified voice, specifically by explaining what PHACE is, who are its members, and the general concept of public health. Participants also sought to encourage legislators, staffers, and officials in the executive branch to consider PHACE members as subject matter experts, available to assist in the areas of public health, planning, and public policy.

On June 11th and June 14th, all 6 PHACE organizations were represented in Trenton. The 30 participants took turns staffing a hallway table in the State House that included a display, educational materials, and position papers on key public health issues. (On June 12th and June 13th, the table was unstaffed, but the display remained in place.)

Participants also sat in on 15 legislative committee meetings. In 5 of these meetings, PHACE members testified in support of the public health bills being considered. And on June 11th, PHACE members attended the Public Health Council meeting at the New Jersey Department of Health.

Everyone involved in the week's activity found it a positive experience. Another legislative awareness and advocacy event is planned for next year.

Editor's Note: *The NACCHO Advocacy Toolkit* is available at <https://bit.ly/2IinHhd>.

For the *APHA Legislative Advocacy Handbook: A Guide for Effective Public Health Advocacy*, go to <https://bit.ly/2ENyLSg>.



New Jersey Public Health Association

Organized 1875
Affiliate of the American Public Health Association

SAVE THE DATE! **NJPHA's 2018 Annual Conference** **Tuesday, October 2, 2018**

**Paul Robeson Campus Center
Rutgers University
Newark, NJ**

***“What Dictates Health - Is it Genetics or Zip Code?
Health Equity, Research, and Policy for a Healthier
New Jersey”***

The 2018 Annual Conference is a collaboration between the New Jersey Public Health Association and the Rutgers School of Public Health.

This year's Conference will:

- describe how health is linked to broader geospatial factors and community needs;
- showcase a place-based needs approach that addresses social and environmental factors impacting individual and community health; and
- discuss relevant, compatible state and community health data needed for making policies and developing programs aimed at removing barriers to health.

Local, state, and national health care and public health leaders will come together to initiate a pragmatic dialogue addressing broad determinants of health and integrated solutions, and exhibiting the need for partnership and collective efforts towards provision of a fair and just opportunity for all New Jerseyans to be healthier.

Application for Public Health Continuing Education (CE) contact hours for Health Educators, Health Officers, and Environmental Health Specialists is pending.

Check www.njpha.org for future updates on the Conference, including registration information.

**New Jersey Department of Health Hosts Successful
Population Health Summit Focused on the Opioid Epidemic**
By New Jersey Health Commissioner Dr. Shereef Elnahal

Tackling New Jersey’s opioid epidemic—a public health crisis in our communities—is a top priority of Governor Murphy. That’s why he has proposed \$100 million for the state fiscal year (beginning July 1st) to develop a coordinated and comprehensive approach across state government to prevention, treatment, and recovery; data infrastructure; and investment in social risk factors like supportive housing and employment training.

The role that social issues like poverty, unemployment, and housing play in the state’s opioid epidemic was a key focus of the Department of Health’s third annual Population Health Summit, “Better Together: An Integrated Approach to Address the Opioid Epidemic,” held at the Bridgewater Marriot.

More than 350 national experts, Murphy Administration Cabinet officers, legislators, policy makers, advocates, health care professionals, public health officials, and people in recovery attended the June 5th summit.

David Nash, MD, MBA, founding dean of the Jefferson College of Population Health, and an expert on integrated and population health, stressed during his keynote address that public health officials must address social determinants of health in order to turn the tide of this epidemic, which is on pace to cause 3,000 overdose deaths across our state this year.

As Dr. Nash said, “This is a disease of despair. It’s also a disease of racism.”

Nationally, 50 percent of those with substance abuse disorders are unemployed, 25 percent are permanently disabled, and 60 percent are of people living at or low the poverty level. Those who are unemployed represent half of all admissions to treatment.

Solving the program also requires better data. Creating an outcomes-based system that provides quality care at a high value is essential to tackling the epidemic. Having metrics to measure performance is a focus of our efforts at the Department as we map a strategy across state government to determine how and when to intervene in the lives of those affected by addiction.

Having former Gov. Jim McGreevey, State Senator Joseph Vitale, New Jersey’s Attorney General, the Commissioners of the Departments of Children & Families and Human Services, and the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Corrections join us in a roundtable discussion on state initiatives demonstrates how serious the Murphy Administration is about making progress in eradicating this epidemic.

I’m confident that, with laser focus, we can figure out a trajectory for a concrete, coordinated plan – not just a patchwork of services.

Clearly, what has been done until today is not working.

Health Policy at the Local Level

By Gwyneth M. Eliasson, JD, MPH, Newsletter Editor

On April 19, 2018, the Network for Public Health Law (NPHL) and the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) co-sponsored a webinar, “Local Health Policy 101: Understanding Ordinances, Resolutions, and Proclamations.” Moderated by NALBOH’s Julie Lederhaus, the webinar featured NPHL’s Jill Krueger.

Ms. Krueger first provided an overview of public health law, including its sources of authority (e.g., the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution); its types of authority (i.e., governing (policy-making) and advising); and the roles of Boards of Health, city/county governments, Health Departments, and legal counsels.

Ms. Krueger then focused on 3 tools of local public health law: ordinances, resolutions, and proclamations. She described an ordinance as an “authoritative rule or law” that requires or prohibits a behavior and is enforceable; a resolution as a “formal expression” of an opinion, intention, or broad commitment; and a proclamation as a “public or official announcement or declaration” on an important topic. For more on types of policies and how to draft a successful policy, go to <https://bit.ly/2KuMlgh>.

Ms. Krueger next offered resources for researching local (municipal) laws, including CityHealth.org and Municode.com. Finally, she highlighted some legal and policy innovations at the local level, such as Health in All Policies (a model resolution: <https://bit.ly/2yRh2LC>), Complete Streets (report on best initiatives: <https://bit.ly/2IJsZJE>), and tobacco control (a sample resolution: <https://bit.ly/2Ktx0zT>).

To view/download the slides: <https://bit.ly/2Hi0QCN>.

To view the playback: <https://bit.ly/2lORFgu>.

Career Corner: Resources for Job Seekers

Compiled by Gwyneth M. Eliasson, JD, MPH

- Idealist Careers: “Interview Q & A” Series <https://bit.ly/2qP46hP>
- *Washington Post* Jobs: “Creating an Achievement-Oriented Resume” <https://bit.ly/2EgkXi8>
- Idealist Careers: “The Only Resume Cheat Sheet You’ll Ever Need” <https://bit.ly/2tkCC5J>
- *Rewire*: “4 Easy Steps To Make Your Resume Stand Out” <https://bit.ly/2tIGyh9>



New Jersey Public Health Association

NJPHA's quarterly Newsletter offers you an opportunity to write about public health topics.

Deadline for Fall 2018 Issue: Friday, September 21st

Articles on ANY public health-related topic are welcome, such as:

- Internship or fieldwork (capstone/practicum) experience
- Work with a public health program or research project
- Public health events or news at your school
- Thoughts on a policy with public health implications
- Commentary on a public health issue
- Public health career advice
- Local, state, or national public health events, projects, or advocacy efforts
- Other news of public health importance

Please include this information:

- Title of article
- Byline with:
 - Your name and degree(s)
 - Your academic institution or employment affiliation
- A head shot or picture of yourself (if available)

Please follow these article submission guidelines:

- In Microsoft Word with 12-point, Times New Roman font
- Single-spaced
- 300-word maximum
- References (if applicable)

For examples of published articles, see past newsletters posted on NJPHA's website:

<http://njpha.org/category/newsletter>

Email your article (or any questions) to the Editor - Gwyneth M. Eliasson, JD, MPH:
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