

2006 APHA Environment Section Business Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

John Balbus, Aditi Vaidya; Paule Locke, Vincent Merrill, Nse Obot-Witherspoon, Rebecca Head, Bill Daniell, Allen Dearry, Brenda Afzal, Barbara Glenn, Jake Pauls, Kacee Deener, Taylor Anderson, Betzaida Sandoz, Leyla McCurdy, Pat McLaine, Susan Stone, Dorothy Stephens, Chuck Treser, Peter James, Robin Lee, Ed Sparrell, Audra Gollenberg, Jack Conway, Patrick Bohan, Laura Larsson, Kyle Kinner, Susan West Marmagas, Roni Neff, Liam O'Fallon, Derek Shendell, Rebecca Gluskin, Maureen O'Neill, David Pepper, Julie Migrin, Kathryn Graczyk, Ishaya Daniel, Clifford Mitchell, Peter James

- I. Welcome and Introductions (8:00-8:15) **Jill Litt, Chair**
- II. Section Affairs (8:15-8:20) **Tanisha Battle, APHA**
- III. Candidate Speeches (8:20-8:40)
- IV. Committee Reports (9:00-11:00 Continued in Business Meeting II)

- a. Program Planning (Aditi Vaidya)

Current updates; Sunday dinner: Ivy restaurant;

Tuesday dinner Garden of Eden: 571 Tremont St.

2006 Program Highlights: 2 sessions with F&N; one joint session with Occ. Section 2:30-4 Human Hozho (tribe) cancelled due to funding problems.

The theme for the 2007 Meeting is "Politics, Policy, and Public Health." Always needed are abstract reviewers, track organizers, and moderators [Please contact Barbara Glenn or Bill Daniell to sign on -- Glenn.Barbara@epamail.epa.gov or bdaniell@u.washington.edu

- b. Communications (Derek Shendell, Committee Chair)

The role of Secretary and Communications Chair will transition from Derek Shendell to Andrea Wismann for this annual meeting. The Section's e-newsletter goes out in the fall, winter, and spring. We are asking for submissions for the Winter edition of the Section's e-newsletter by **January 2nd** (please send questions and submissions to: andrea.wismann@uchsc.edu). APHA editing won't allow upcoming or previously published documents (even in newsletters), but any new blurbs are ok and a hyperlink to the original article can be included. The new word limits are between 4,000-6,000 words/article. The newsletter submission schedule for the year is: January 2nd, May 14th, and August 13th. There is a short window following these deadlines for processing.

- c. Policy (John Balbus, Committee Chair- member of Governing Council)

Highlights- the full talk will be after the break and during member orientation

APHA has a policy collection and anyone can write a policy! APHA has people to help you revise and submit it. This year only a few policies were submitted, and others need revision, such as: nanotech (latebreaker in 2006), eyewear, ability to form unions, protection of rescue workers (late breaker in 2005); care of immigrant populations during disaster (this has no environmental data); reduction of environmental exposure in births; obesity epidemics (the term BE doesn't appear); farm bill subsidies (overlap of environment and nutritional issues); current resolution to discontinue war in Iraq due to contamination of land and people, human disaster and fiscal effects.

At the meeting on Monday the Governing Councilors will vote and add clauses that were brought up on Sunday afternoon at the public forum.

d. Membership (Dorothy Stephens)

****They are looking for a new membership chair or co-chairs.** Currently the Section has 1017 members; last year's survey revealed the desire for more networking, more communication from leadership, policy interest and involvement. The Environment Section is one of three sections that showed double to triple membership growth, and one of eight sections that showed consistent positive growth.

Business Meeting II. (Sunday 10:00 -11:30 am)

Candidate speech:

Linda DeGutis; Pres-elect Candidate (10:30 am)

She is a professor in nursing and wants to engage the PH workforce at the local level. Q- about her views about the war in Iraq? She does not support the reasons for being there. Q-her views on the impact of climate change on health? She supports this as a high priority. She also wants to see the focus on policy arena to get beyond policy and reimbursement, and focus on health. She wants to get students engaged in this.

Additional Attendees:

Margaret Kinney, Barbara Smutz, Ellie Goldberg, Johanna Zablotsky, Heidi Klein, Clifford Mitchell, Melissa Rosen, Janice Turner, Rebecca Love, Joyce Tseng, Pat Elliott, Liam O'Fallon, Marva King, Marybeth Smuts, Roni Neff, Aditi Vaidya, Bill Daniell, David Pepper

I. Committee Updates (continued)

e. Student Involvement (Nse)

The Section offered 17 student scholarships which will be awarded at the Social on Monday evening. Several schools matched funding (JH contributed \$1000 covering their 3 students, and University of TX sponsored their student for \$500).

f. Built Environment Institute (John Balbus, standing in for Peter Ashley)

The BEI was funded through NIEHS & RWJ, and placed emphasis on creating a subprogram within annual program with thematically arranged sessions. This committee was previously led by Neal Rosenblatt who has taken a sabbatical. Currently the work group consists of Jill Litt, Allen Dearry, Nse Obot-Witherspoon, Leyla McCurdy, John Balbus, Tracy Kolian and Kate Sweeny (APHA Policy Staff). Tracy Kolian at APHA is supported by a CDC grant to work on PH infrastructure and provides resources to APHA

staff to work on this and BEI themes. Last year the NPHW theme spanned all sections of APHA “Healthy Environment: Raising Healthy Kids.” APHA is interested in continuing this trend. APHA staff has been involved with supporting Senator Brock Obama’s “Healthy Places Act.”

II. Section Update (Jill)

Jill provide a section description from the revised 2004 Strategic Plan:

Vision: The APHA Environmental Health Section (EHS) will serve as leaders for and directly advance environmental health research, policy and practice in the United States and internationally.

Mission: The mission of the APHA EHS is to:

- 1) Strengthen the voice of the nation's leading public health organization on environmental health issues
- 2) Facilitate collaboration and leadership development among the various disciplines of environmental health professionals and students
- 3) Influence policy and other changes that create and sustain healthy environments, with a special emphasis on children and other vulnerable populations.
- 4) Enhance research and public awareness on the prevention and treatment of disease caused or exacerbated by environmental factors

Values: The environment section is committed to these values: right to clean air and water, safe food supply, and health promoting environment; respectful collaboration among the multiple disciplines relevant to environmental health; elimination of health disparities.

Strategic Plan Discussion

Jill asked the Section to revisit our strategic plan and priorities and wanted to use the business meeting to reconnect with past priorities and identify potential areas that need more attention, that are missing, and also the issues that still make sense. This priorities document is meant to be revisited every two years; the last version is from 2004. She asked members to think about how the Section should be defined and how to frame that in terms of the strategic plan.

2004 Strategic Plan Priorities: 1. ambient air 2. land use

Secondary priorities were: science integrity, children’s health, toxics, EU Chemicals Legislation REACH, misuse of antibiotics, PH infrastructure, bioterrorism, and drinkable water.

Highlights from discussion:

- First sentence of the mission statement should be a brief definition of what enviro health is—he likes Larry Gordon’s defn (Cliff);
- Policy context points to consider are: 1) APHA egalitarian framework- not many pithy mission statements 2) strategic plan- long standing road map 3) priorities- decide as a section which of the thousands of issues we want to focus most on. Obstacles with doing this are the lack of funding for particular issues (John);

- Emphasize workforce issues and PH services (Pat Bohan and Sarah Kotchian at APHA);
 - Last year Sarah Kotchian (at APHA) presented a draft of an action item, advocating more resources for practitioners at local levels. This draft recognizes the need for a robust PH infrastructure crucial to support 5 key areas of EH as 40% are retirement eligible in 5-10 years (as described by Pat Bohan);
- Energy use needs to be included, and more use of the terms ‘built environment’ green design and engineering climate change (Aditi);
- Need to include ‘environmental justice’ concept and EH disparities as a specific issue, so it does not get lost in the values statements (Leyla);
- Stress ‘action’ not just values and promoting (Mary Beth);
- Increase the sense of urgency of global warming (Cliff);
 - Large consensus supporting this, with the suggestion to create a Committee within the Section focused on this issue (Langdon Lawrence and Rebecca Head mentioned interest);
- Foster year long action- testifying on committees at Congress at the local level (Pat Elliott);
- Increase membership by emphasizing what is unique about APHA-- we can bring credibility to the issues that we have expertise in; APHA uniquely represents consumers on health and safety; APHA includes grass roots organizations at the local level (Barbara);
- The name of our section could be reconsidered- is it just environment or is it really environmental health? Originally it was the Engineering and Sanitation Section, and in 1970 it was renamed Environment (Cliff);
 - Want to make sure the focus remains on chemicals and toxics as there are so many definitions of EH (Aditi); from the local grassroots levels there is more to EH than toxics (AA woman in red shirt); in conservative places concepts of EH are – logging, health inspection, etc.;
 - “Section on the Environment”= “Environment Section”- concern that EH is mostly about disease, not just injury prevention/control and wants Env Section to work with Injury Section; particularly regarding obesity epidemic;
 - The term environment alone provides so much flexibility- from dioxin exposures to the BE (Rebecca Head)
- BE bridges these issues--people’s job environ, transportation issues-safety, health folks-obesity (David Pepper);
- Supports working with F&N section on the farm bill over next year (Roni);
- Include traffic safety (Janice);
- Wants the section to put more priority on increasing funding for action with EJ grass-roots partners (Aditi);
- EJ should be a line item strategic goal- the Env Section is powerful to support this, and it appeals to people in other parts of PH. ‘Health disparities’ also resonates with non-PH people because it is relevant to their lives and neighbors (Bill Daniell);

- Supports working more with international health section, indoor air quality health effects. Work more with oil and gas companies (Dan);
- APHA staff in DC talk about policy and action- if our 1000 members could just go to legislators-- he feels we are terrible at mobilizing members- takes tremendous effort- he wants to strengthen this so we can get more action and policy. Also wants to focus on climate change, global health, and disparities. Thinks it is also a regional issue, with different priorities. Supports farm bill, obesity, BE, and helps connect us to Maternal Child Health (John);
- Lets take it beyond research to policy;
- Must include work force issues, and who all this includes is part of our section definition (Cliff);
- Recent discussion about forming a new collaboration between the EPA's CARE section and HSDR & NCEH, and the academy of community-based educators, and community (Mary Beth);
 - Jill asked Mary Beth how the section could help-
 - Mary Beth felt that bringing back information from the scientific program, having sponsored speakers and having community based partners;

Volunteers for helping to revise the Strategic Plan:

Pat Bohan, Marybeth Smuts, Rebecca Head, Leyla McCurdy, Marva King, Cliff Mitchell, Aditi Vaidya, Liam O'Fallon

Business Meeting III
Monday, November 6, 2006 (6:30 AM-8:00 AM)

Attending: Jill Litt, Rebecca Head, Andrea Wismann, Robyn Gilden, Brenda Afzal, Barbara Sattler, Nell (BU), Bill Daniell, Pat McLaine, Chuck Treser, Chris Katnesky, Coty Maypole, Christa Smolensky, Liam O'Fallon, Kyle Kinner, Jane Dixon, Rebecca Love, Derek Shendell, Roni Neff, Claire Barnett, Cliff Mitchell, Aditi Vaidya, John Balbus, Rebecca Gluskin,

I. Candidate Speeches

a. Lyndon Haviland, Executive Board Candidate

Experience working in refugee camp in China, and extensive business, policy, and advocacy work including the Project Truth Campaign against Phillip Morris Co. Earned her MS from Harvard Business School and PhD from in health policy from Columbia. Advocates stronger APHA leadership and greater professional development resources. Her core priority is to work on eliminating health disparities.

b. Giorgio Piccagli, Executive Board Candidate

Chair of Health Administration, established effective work plans. Goals are to reopen the logistics of separating business meetings concurrent with scientific sessions, and wants to speed up our legislative action process.

c. Elsie Eyer, Executive Board Candidate

Experience in local and state health departments and also in APHA. Served as the Exec Dir of her AZ. PHP (AZ PH Program) in Arizona, has a lot of advocacy experience, and is on the **Task Force on Association Improvement and Reorganization (TFAIR)**. Her goal is to develop membership and provide local and state health depts. Awareness of benefits of APHA membership.

II. Education Board-Chuck Treser

The Education Board's responsibilities are to look at content and how we deliver education within the sections. They have 3 working committees over the interim: core competencies, standards, technology. He distributed their strategic plan. The Education Board also works with Action Board & the Executive Board.

III. Executive Board Update- Nell Gottlieb

Works on the Executive Board, they take nominations in fall. They have a strategic plan and are developing a corporate responsibility strategy, utilizing tiers A, B, C (from best practices to and worst). The TFAIR was approved for an extension through Nov 2007 (rather than ending in January of 2007). TFAIR has put forth recommendations to deal with SPIGS and Sections. Inter-session Council has developed a procedure which will be voted on by Exec. Council. A new type of group, called a 'Forum' has been developed (rather like a Task Force) that includes inter-disciplinary members ("multi-unit membership") and they can apply for resources from APHA. Their second accomplishment is they drafted an MOU.

IV. Joint Task Force with PH Nursing- Robyn Gilden

Robyn is a Co-chair with Rita Lori from the PH Nursing Section (and she is also on the Science Board). The Task Force developed a document on environmental health nursing principles, and a strategic plan for putting these into action. They are wondering what role the Env. Section wants to play in this Task Force or if it might be preferred to have a Env. Section Liaison? Derek mentioned their recent articles in our Section newsletter, and wondered if Leyla might be interested in this Task Force.

Suggestions from the attendees: advertise the need for a liaison for this Task Force to the entire Env. Membership, generate awareness through email, newsletter articles, monthly calls. Claire wondered what types of participation they want? Robyn outlined that to include participation on quarterly calls, sharing ideas, participating on committees, and taking action at the local levels. Chris suggested making the Task Force's goals and objectives more feasible and concrete might help engage participation.

V. Science Board- Robyn Gliden

APHA's policies are reviewed by the science board and the joint policy committee. Let Robyn know before April about ideas for the 2008 theme. They discussed archiving the policies and are concerned about how the policies are selected, and how these policies are highlighted to different sections. They want to make sure the checks and balances for policy review are tightened up. They had a session on how to write a good policy, and they are pilot testing a template form (and a narrative document).

VI. Governing Council Update- Derek Shendell

TFAR details on what has been accomplished (to justify their extension through Dec 2007). They listened to 20 policy candidates covering a broad range of issues. A question arose as to what the role of an "affiliate" is, and it refers specifically to State PH Associations. They had 3 late breakers open for public comment last night: PH infrastructure, overweight/obesity, and nutrition. In Session D was a discussion on Iraq resolutions, and a new Iran late breaker. Session B dealt with avoiding use of the term 'assisted suicide' for that of 'death with dignity.' Other issues discussed include: health disparities and aspects to care, microenvironments in climate of care, abstinence only human rights, hand hygiene in preschools/daycares, role of pharmacists in PH, Alaska dental health aid program, preparing for pandemic influenza (APHA already has a website and blog supported by Dr. Benjamin on this; Congress is looking to APHA for guidance, so we need codification on this); hospital acquired multi-drug resistance organisms; removal of trans-fats in foods at restaurant/daycare centers.

VII. Other Items:

Interest in forming Forum for Climate Change- Lets present this to the Exec. Board and maybe we can get Dr. Epstein involved. Those interested in participating on this committee are: [Kyle Kinner](#), [Brenda Afzal](#), [Rebecca Head](#), [Langdon Lawrence](#), [Roni Neff](#), [Rebecca Love](#).

The Environment Section was given an award at the Opening Awards Ceremony as the 4th oldest, 95th Anniversary, and 4th fastest growing Section. The Section was energized by this milestone and agreed that it would be good to establish a 2011 Committee to celebrate the section's 100th Birthday and use this milestone to drive the theme and

design of the Annual Meeting in 2011. Leyla McCurdy, Jill Litt and John Balbus mentioned their interest in this area and agreed to establish the 2011 Committee; we will recruit past-chairs and other section leaders to help plan for this celebration.

VIII. Mid-year Meeting: Scheduled for March 20, 2007 in Washington DC at APHA Headquarters