

PUBLIC HEALTH IN WYOMING

JANUARY, 2014

Wyoming Public Health Association – WPHA

ISSUE #2



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WHO WE ARE

The mission of the Wyoming Public Health Association is to promote a healthy Wyoming.

The means in which we fulfill our mission are by creating a forum for discussion of public health issues, enhancing health consciousness through leadership in public health activities, and promoting the professional growth of its members.

Since 1989, the Wyoming Public Health Association (WPHA) has worked to ensure the public's health in Wyoming. We have promoted and protected the public's health through program development; we have provided over 1500 contact hours of continuing education and professional development through our annual conference, and we have advocated on behalf of good state and local public health policy and legislation.

We strive to ensure the highest quality public health workforce. We build a strong collective voice for sound public health policies, and we work to ensure access to health care, protect funding for core public health services, eliminate health disparities and address other critical issues. Our core values are health, equity, diversity, dignity, empowerment, integrity, and knowledge for individuals and communities. We are “Promoting a Healthy Wyoming”.

WPHA represents nearly 135 members from 40 organizations in 21 of 23 Wyoming counties. The Wyoming public health workforce includes: Public health physicians and nurses, Health educators and nutritionists, Emergency responders, Environmental health specialists, restaurant inspectors, and sanitarians, Occupational health and safety professionals, Scientists, researchers and academics, Social workers, Epidemiologists and disease intervention specialists, and Public health veterinarians.

Academic members include University of Wyoming, Casper College, Laramie County Community College, Walden University, and University of Colorado College of Health Sciences, and many other organizations including hospitals, local health departments, non-profit organizations, other associations and state agencies.

Policy

One of the strongest aspects of WPHA is its ability to weigh in on policies and issues that affect public health in Wyoming. Below is a list of just a few of the public health issues that WPHA has supported or opposed in the past.

- We supported tobacco control initiatives by endorsing the comprehensive “Smokefree Wyoming” bill, by continuing to support a smoking ban in all Wyoming workplaces, and by encouraging our membership to educate others about the dangers of secondhand smoke.

- We opposed legislation intended to weaken our state's food safety regulations. Collectively and individually, our members work to educate policy-makers and the public about the importance of strong food safety regulations and public health's role in controlling food-borne illness.
- WPHA supported the 2007 Wyoming Cancer Control Act and programs for colorectal cancer screening.
- We Supported making Wyoming a “universal coverage” state for childhood vaccinations. We supported legislation that would make Wyoming a universal childhood vaccine state, which would allow the state to purchase vaccines at bulk discount rates for kids covered by private health insurance.
- WPHA supports legislation increasing state funding for all public health programs in all areas including: the Wyoming Department of Health, local health departments, and community health programs.



“The way you think, the way you behave, the way you eat, can influence your life by 30 to 50 years.”

- Deepak Chopra

2013 AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (APHA) CONFERENCE

From Courtney Smith

November, 2013 marked the 141st American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting.

The meeting was held in the historic city of Boston and had over 13,000 attendees from public health employees around the world.

The theme of the meeting was *Think Global, Act Local* and sessions focused on how public health around the world can impact each community.

APHA presented the rebranding of the association: **For Science, For Action, For Health**. APHA believes the new framework better reflects the goals of APHA.

- For Science- Together we will leverage cutting edge research and promote best practices.
- For Action- Together we will advocate to put inno-

vative policies and programs into practice.

- For Health- Together we will improve the health of all people and all communities.

During the meeting, the governing council voted in a new president elect. Shiriki Kumanyika, PhD, MPH is a professor of epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine.



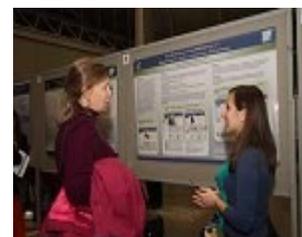
Dr. Kumanyika uses her background in social work, nutrition, epidemiology, and public health to address obesity and other diet-related chronic illnesses and health disparities.

Dr. Kumanyika has been active in APHA since 1976 and has served in many capacities such as chair of the Food & Nutrition Section, served as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Executive Committee. To learn more about

Dr. Kumanyika, please visit <http://www.apha.org/about/board/Shiriki+Kumanyika.htm>.

Future APHA Meeting locations are:

2014—New Orleans, LA
2015—Chicago, IL
2016—Denver, CO



"ACTION STEPS TO IMPROVE HEALTH" TOOLKIT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

From Liz Mikesell

To support implementation of health policy initiatives across the state, the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Program has contracted with Kate Stratton-Schulz to develop a toolkit and provide technical assistance to support community level health policy, systems and environmental change efforts in Wyoming. The framework that is being used for the "Action Steps to Improve Health" Toolkit is the County Health Rankings and Roadmap: A Healthier Nation, County by County -

www.countyhealthrankings.org

The goal of this project is to equip communities with resources to successfully move local policy work forward.

Beginning in January and running through June 30, 2014, Kate will be providing technical assistance to community groups on the use of the "Action Steps to Improve Health" toolkit resource. The initial plan is to offer a total of 12 hours of technical assistance to six communities - a minimum of 4 hours of face-to-face meeting time and an additional 8 hours of follow-up phone consultation. Kate will work with communities wherever they are in their pro-

cess, so everyone can be eligible to take advantage of this opportunity.

If you are working with or know of a community group or coalition that is working to address health policy issues, please share this information with them. Kate can be reached at katestrattonschulz@gmail.com or (307) 421-6404 to discuss this in more detail.

This information is in follow-up to presentations and discussions from the state WPHA conference that was held in October 2013.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH WPHA



You may ask yourself “ Sure WPHA is a great association, but how do I get involved?”

That is a great question, and luckily for you we have many ways that you can help out in WPHA.

We have a total of five, count them five, committees on which any WPHA member can participate.

Executive Committee - Basically runs the operations of WPHA. You will need to run for a WPHA office if you wish to serve on this committee, but it

is great fun!

Membership Committee – This committee works to increase the membership of WPHA via membership drives and outreach.

Nominations Committee - Handles the nomination and voting of all officers and awards for the Annual Education Conference.

Public Policy Committee –This committee manages the process for WPHA to review and respond to issues that impact the public health of all resi-

dents in Wyoming. It also follows local, state, and national policy trends and emerging issues.

Annual Education Committee – Is responsible for the planning the WPHA Annual Education Conference.

If you are interested in joining or helping any of these committees please contact Joe Grandpre or Toni Reeves.

UPCOMING EVENTS

9th Annual Celebration of Home & Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium (WCCCC) meeting.

Date: February 27th
Time: 9:00 am to 3:00pm
Place: Herschler Bldg., Room 1699, Cheyenn

2014 Public Health in the Rockies (WPHA) Conference

Date: September 17-19
Place: Ft. Collins Marriott, Ft. Collins, CO.

Information on submitting abstracts and posters will be available in March 2014

If you have information about an upcoming event that you would like to share with other WPHA members please send the information to jgrandpre@hotmail.com.

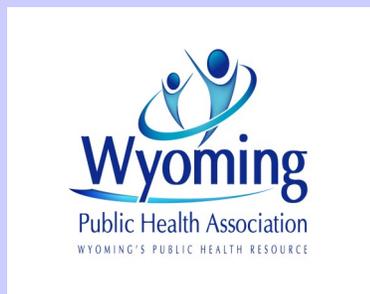


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Promoting a Healthy Wyoming!



WPHA is an affiliate of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the oldest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world. Since 1872, APHA has worked to protect all Americans and their communities from preventable, serious health threats and to assure community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities and preventive health services are universally accessible in the United States. APHA has been a leading advocate for federal health funding and policy, has improved the national visibility of public health issues, and has provided education and informational services to strengthen the public health professions.

WyomingPHA .org

CONTACT INFORMATION

To learn more about WPHA or to become a member please contact one of our Executive Board Members.

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LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE



“Eggs are loaded with cholesterol. Falling off the wall was the least of Humpty’s worries!”