



I hope everyone is enjoying warm weather and the opportunity for summer fun and increased family time before the busy days of fall arrive again.

Mark your calendars for February 6, 2007 for Public Health Day at the Legislature sponsored by NDPHA and local public health departments. This day will provide an opportunity to showcase public health programs to ND legislators and visitors to the capitol in Bismarck. NDPHA will provide tools to assist members to educate policymakers and advocate for public health issues. Stay tuned for more information on legislative day.

I have been asked to represent NDPHA on a task force that will explore future funding of Healthy North Dakota initiatives. I welcome your thoughts on ways to continue the momentum of Healthy North Dakota so that it becomes the vibrant sustainable organization we all envision.

As an affiliate of American Public Health Association, the NDPHA governing board desires to become more connected to the policy work of APHA throughout the year. Currently APHA is encouraging advocacy for adequate funding for public health programs. If you wish to receive electronic advocacy announcements, please send your e-mail address to ndpha@srt.net. And be sure to check out the NDPHA website often for updates at <http://www.health.state.nd.us/ndpha/>

Enjoy summer and don't forget the sunscreen, mosquito repellent, bike helmet, and personal flotation devices, and be sure to drink plenty of water!

Debbie Swanson, President

UPDATES ON THE DAKOTA CONFERENCE ON RURAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Theme Selected

The Dakota Conference of Rural and Public Health's theme for the conference, March 20-22, 2007, in Mandan, ND, has been selected. After many good ideas were reviewed and discussed the theme is: **"HealthCare Horizons: Innovative Ideas and Successes"**.

Call for Speakers

With the theme selected, we are now on a timeline to select speakers. We need your ideas now!

- **July 6** is the goal for the keynote speaker confirmation.
- **September 18** is the deadline for all other speakers.

In addition to the keynote speaker, the NDPHA task force selects one 2-hour intensive presenter/presentation, and five concurrent or breakout sessions. The NDPHA task force planners and I are happy to take your ideas

Maybe you have been to a conference recently and have heard an excellent speaker or perhaps you simply know someone from your area. Please take the time to make this important contribution to the success of the conference experience. Contact one of your Task Force Representatives today!: Ruth Bachmeier (RBachmeier@cityoffargo.com), Jim Hausauer (JAHausauer@cityoffargo.com), Kelly Nagel (kjnagel@state.nd.us), and Susan Brandvold (sbrandvold@nd.gov). Theresa's contact information is tknox@grandforkgov.com.

Don't Forget...

Remember, in addition to these seven speakers that the NDPHA "hand-picks", there is a Call for Presentations that goes out **August 1**. Send in your abstracts and/or encourage your colleagues to submit responses. The more that the committee gets and reviews the better the conference!

Let's make this year's conference the best yet. Send us your "innovative ideas" today.

Submitted by Theresa Knox, MPH, RN
NDPHA's representative to the Dakota Conference Planning Committee: 701-787-8140

VACCINATION EXPEDITION 2006 A NORTH DAKOTA ADVENTURE

The Greater Grand Forks Immunization Coalition sponsored "Vaccination Expedition 2006 A North Dakota Adventure" on May 18-19 at the Alerus Center with featured keynote speakers William Atkinson, MD, CDC Immunization Program, Paul Offit, MD, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, PA, and Monica Mayer, MD, Trinity Community Clinic, New Town, ND. More than 300 Health Care Professionals attended the conference. Kathy Dunn was presented with the North Dakota Immunization Inspiration Award by the ND Department of Health.

Conference Chairs Shannon Hansen and Kathy Dunn with Dr. William Atkinson, of the CDC Immunization Program were our vaccination expedition guides

Conference participants find time for valuable networking and sharing ideas on the vaccination trail



Exhibitors share information about new vaccines on the horizon

Discovering new technologies in vaccine delivery

Paul Offit, MD, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia explores vaccines myths

Native American dancers and drummers entertained conference participants

MESSAGE FROM DANELL EKLUND, PRESIDENT-ELECT



Congressman Dorgan with Danell, Pete, and Mikayla Eklund

I was given a wonderful opportunity to attend the Affiliates President-Elects Meeting in Washington DC on May 1 and 2. It was attended by 36 affiliates from all over the country including Hawaii and Alaska. How exciting it was to visit with these counterparts and to see the similarities and differences from state to state.

When the representative from Louisiana introduced himself, he gave an emotional, sincere "thank you" to all of us who had contributed to their fund. I am extending his heart-felt gratitude to you.

For those of you who are new to NDPHA, I would like to take the time to explain some of the things I learned at this meeting. The American Public Health Association (APHA) is the oldest, largest and most diverse

organization of public health professionals in the world. We are dedicated to protecting all Americans and their communities from preventable, serious health threats and assuring community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities. We believe preventive health services should be universally accessible in the United States. NDPHA is an affiliate of APHA. APHA has 53 affiliates, one for each state, except California and New York, which have 2 representatives and the District of Columbia. Their theme for Public Health is Prevent, Protect and Promote. APHA plays a huge advocacy role for us on Capitol Hill. They are very active with the legislators for Public Health. I would encourage all of you to join APHA to give us a stronger voice, together.

On the afternoon of the first day, they had arranged meetings for us on Capitol Hill, "the voice of the constituents is very important". I was able to meet with Senator Dorgan. APHA had given us talking points, which was helpful. Senator Dorgan only had time for a talk while you walk meeting but I was able to spend time visiting with Benjamin Klein, his legislative assistant. Benjamin and I were able to discuss Public Health at length, specifically the funding cuts and the Healthy Places Act. He indicated that Senator Dorgan is very aware of how important Public Health is and how cost effective prevention is compared to treatment costs. It was such an honor to be able to speak on behalf of Public Health and feel our voice was heard.

*Danell Eklund RN PHN
President-Elect*



UPCOMING EVENTS

NDPHA members can submit information about upcoming events to be listed in our quarterly newsletter. This issue features the first installment of events of importance to public health workers in North Dakota. To promote your event, contact Debbie Swanson email: dswanson@grandforksgov.com or 701-787-8113.

- **July 6, 2006** Confirm keynote speaker for annual conference
 - **September 18** Deadline for all other speakers
 - **August 1, 2006** Call for presentations to be mailed
 - **February 6, 2007** Public Health Day at the ND Legislature
 - **March 20-22, 2007** Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health, Seven Seas, Mandan HealthCare Horizons: Innovative Ideas and Successes
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NDPHA GOVERNING COUNCIL APPROVES RESOLUTIONS

At the June 21, 2006 meeting of the NDPHA Governing Council, the following resolutions were approved. These resolutions were presented to the membership at the annual meeting in Fargo in March. These resolutions are available in pdf format on our website: <http://www.health.state.nd.us/ndpha/Resolutions>

North Dakota Public Health Association Resolution Supporting State Agency Status of District Health Units for Health Insurance Premiums

Whereas, the provision of a local public health infrastructure is a desirable outcome of state government; and

Whereas, a public health workforce is needed to support that infrastructure; and

Whereas, the health insurance provided by the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) is an incentive to recruit and retain that workforce; and

Whereas, the proposed change in rates by PERS would negatively affect that recruitment and retention;

Therefore, be it resolved that the North Dakota Public Health Association:

Supports the maintenance of state agency status of district health units for purposes of health insurance premiums.

Adopted by North Dakota Public Health Association, June 21, 2006

North Dakota Public Health Association Resolution Supporting Increased State Aid

Whereas, public funding is needed to support local public health infrastructure; and

Whereas, general fund state aid for local public health has not increased since 1999 and tobacco state aid has not increased in over six years; and

Whereas, federal funding has decreased for core public health programs; and

Whereas, the local tax base is supporting significant public health infrastructure;

Therefore, be it resolved that the North Dakota Public Health Association:

Supports increasing state aid for local public health from \$1.71 per capita per biennium, to \$5.00 per capita per biennium.

Adopted by North Dakota Public Health Association, June 21, 2006
