



## NDPHA President Report 2023

### **NDPHA Membership,**

I am always amazed each year, of the progress that is made and how NDPHA unifies public health professionals across the state. The mission of NDPHA is to improve, promote and protect health for residents of North Dakota through leadership in policy, partnerships, and best practices. At last, year's Annual meeting was the planning of Resolutions for the next legislative session. There was a total of four Resolutions, which included Policy Briefs to assist with educating policy makers. These documents were part of the Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> Public Health Day at the Capital and theme was "Public Health the Heart of Every Community". The Policy and Advocacy Committee will be sharing more information about the work that was accomplished. Thank you to NDPHA members who provided testimony our behalf of the association.

The 150<sup>th</sup> year's NDPHA fundraising event was a new initiative, providing education to North Dakota business and residents about our organization. We had incredible donation from NDSU for \$1,000, which makes them the "Gold Sponsor" for our breakfast today. We are very grateful. I also want to "Thank" NDPHA members who step up to the plate to be individual sponsors as well asking local businesses. You can review the list on our website.

Our association provides a voice to public health matters and facilitates the interchange of ideas relating to methods for solutions. NDPHA has done this from the local level to national level. At the APHA Conference, Sarah Weninger, President Elect was the proxy for Kelly Buettner Schmidt, ARGC Representative. She voted on issues and spoke on behalf NDPHA. Governor Burgum proclaimed April 3 – 9, 2023 "North Dakota Public Health Week" and Indigenous Public Health Day April 4<sup>th</sup>". NDSU Public Health Association won the "Commitment to Diversity Award". These are just some of the items. To receive update information, check out North Dakota Public Health Association Facebook page. Thank you, Dr. Strand, for overseeing it.

The Nutrition Section held monthly calls with partners from across the state and created "Hunger Free ND Coalition" to support the White House Conference and National Plan to End Hunger and Improve Nutrition and Physical Activity in North Dakota. The Indigenous Public Health Section began working on lunch and learn series and hosted a Post-Roe World Lunch and Learn in collaboration with Planned Parenthood. The Maternal Child and Health Sections held meeting and discussed Brown Bag Sessions and possibility of scholarships.

Nursing Section goal was to host a Public Health Nursing Conference, and it will be held on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. To mention a couple of the Guest Speakers are Dr. Wehbi, State Health Officer, Dr. McDonough, and Wanda Rose. The Public Health Systems and Practice Section had two resolutions one to “Strengthen Public Health in North Dakota” and second was “Use Harm Reduction Strategies to Reduce Alcohol-related Harm.” They also completed a workforce loan repayment survey and provided testimony on a legislative bill for loan repayment. The ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug) Section was busy with legislative updates and variety bills. They hosted weekly virtual meetings. Environmental Health & Emergency Preparedness Section goal is the enhance community resilience and bring awareness with education on preparedness measures. Student Section conducted an assessment to determine the current level of student engagement. The results are students will attend other Sections and report back to Student Section. This way they can network and learn. The Student Section also created the North Dakota Public Health Association Instagram. This is a great way to receive updates from NDPHA. Awesome work team!

NDPHA membership is at 193 memberships. We would like to continue to grow. I like to recognize the Governing Council active participation with assisting on variety of prior Executive Director roles from e-mail members, Facebook Administration to reconciling finances. I could not do this alone. I am grateful for the teamwork.

Sincerely,

*Sue Kahler*

Sue Kahler, President