



## NDPHA President Report 2022

By Sue Kahler  
June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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### NDPHA Membership,

This past year, as President I have seen the growth of North Dakota Public Health Association. There are many highlights from NDPHA Sections, take time to review their reports. Three of the Sections change their names to reflect their purpose. One was Health Policy, Planning and Administration changed to Public Health System and Practice. American Indian Section changed to Indigenous American Public Health Section. Environmental Health merge with Emergency Preparedness to become the Environmental Health & Emergency Preparedness (EHEP). We added a new section for Maternal and Child Health. Sections began holding meetings, and we have several resolutions of support to review today.

As NDPHA President, I attended the 2021 APHA Governing Council meeting and completed the APHA 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Survey about NDPHA. You will learn more today about the 150<sup>th</sup> year's NDPHA fundraising event and hope you all able to participate in it.

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. Below are some highlights:

At the APHA Conference, Renae Moch received the APHA Community Health Planning and Policy Development (CHPPD) section COVID-19 spotlight award for your thoughtful contributions to public health efforts addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in our community. Congratulations to Kelly Buettner-Schmidt, PhD, RN, FAAN- NDPHA ARGC for her appointment to the American Public Health Association Governing Council. Kelly also represented NDPHA in a video clip for opening of the 2021 APHA Conference.

Governor Burgum signed the "State of North Dakota Proclamation for Public Health Thank You Day" on November 22, 2021. NDPHA Testimony opposing HB1511 relating to vaccine passports and limitations on requirement documentation of COVID- 19 vaccinations was provided by Karen Ehrens, NDPHA Governing Council member along with other NDPHA members e-mails to legislators. Thank you for the work that was done.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Section focus on adopting local cities ordinances to raise the age for sale of tobacco products to 21. Referencing 2021 legislative law Tobacco 21. We will be celebrating ND Smoke Law 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

EHEP Section is growing and are working on opportunities at the local and state level. One opportunity is to have a plastic bag ban task force and expanding the plastic bag ban from Grand Forks to other area cities.

MCH Section is focusing on workforce development and building connections between MCH professionals. These focus areas are important as MCH is such a broad and developing field, and this allows them to stay connected as a community and lift each other up as professionals. MCH Section hosted a Brown Bag Session and plan to hold 4 Brown bags this year.

Nutrition Section shared updates throughout the year on food insecurity, health equity, food access challenges, safe infant feeding practices, and the infant formula shortage. Given the food supply chain disruptions that were set in motion by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nutrition Section is bringing forward a resolution in support of local food systems.

The Public Health Systems and Practice Section initiated strategic planning with identified goals, objectives, and strategies. Indigenous Public Health Section developed their own mission "Empowering Indigenous Public Health partners through collaboration." Nursing Section began developing a work plan and have strong interested in organizing a Public Health Nursing Conference.

NDPHA membership has grown from 179 memberships to 213 memberships. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Kahler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sue Kahler, President