

ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Committed To Advancing Alaska's Public Health Since 1978



Spring Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

ALPHA

March 28, 2008

Letter from the President



Debra Caldera, ALPHA Board President, skiing Powerline Pass

Spring is coming. The sun is burning holes in the south-facing snow berms and creating small lakes on my street. I guess it is time to trade in my skis for running shoes, well maybe break-up boots. But, I'm not here to talk about the weather...

ALPHA's mission, in a nut shell, is to advance the public's health. The mission supports the vision: "Alaskan's shall have the knowledge and means to live free of preventable illness and injury."

The Health Summit is one of the Alaska Public Health Association's major events. The purpose of the Summit is to provide educational opportunities to health care providers, public health practitioners, policy makers, and legislators on current topics of interest that influence the health of all Alaskans.

Advocacy is an important component of ALPHA's work. The Association strives to educate, guide and influence issues affecting the public's health through partnerships, advocating for and encouraging public involvement in public health processes, and participating in the development of public health laws and policies. The resolutions passed in 2007 are in support of: Insurance Coverage Expansion in Alaska; State funding to Community Health Centers and Safety Net Providers; Reducing Mercury Contamination from Coal Development; Establishing a State School Nurse Consultant; Establishing a Public Health Climate Change Program; Workforce Recruitment and Retention; Protecting and Enhancing Women's Ability to Obtain Safe, Legal Abortion.

This year, the board has chosen to focus on the following: The 2008 Health Summit to be held in Anchorage at the Sheraton on December 1-3; engaging and involving members in ALPHA; commitment to providing members with tangible benefits; Increasing communication and support to the members (newsletter, enhanced website); and engaging in public health advocacy.

The Board is excited, committed and energetic. Please let us know if you would like to serve on any committees this coming year or your ideas of how ALPHA can grow as an organization and better support the members. As the seasons change in 2008, I look forward to working with the Board, ALPHA members, and partners in advancing the public's health. Please join us in our efforts!

Ask Not What Your Summit Can Do For You...

Planning efforts for the 2008 Alaska Health Summit have just begun with exciting opportunities for all to be involved. Scheduled for December 1-3, 2008 at the Anchorage Sheraton, this year's theme is "*Bridging the Gap*".

In order to increase participation, a call for sessions will be issued in the next month so everyone around the state will have an opportunity to submit their ideas on sessions. Volunteers are needed in a number of ways, from one time tasks to serving on subcommittees and as track chairs. If you're interested in volunteering or receiving more information, contact Brenda Holden, Information Insights at beholden@infoinsights.com or (907) 450-2452.



March is National Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month! For detailed information about Nutrition, see ALPHA's Public Education section of the website, found at:

www.alaskapublichealth.org/education.shtml

Each month, the Education Committee will focus on a different area of public education, posting valuable information on the ALPHA website.

Check back monthly for updates!

Introducing ALPHA Board Members:

Highlighting The Membership Committee

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Shannon Deike-Sims is a Research Analyst and work for the State of Alaska -DCRA and is a MPH student at UAA. He has been married for eleven years and has two children: nine and eleven. Shannon began in public health as an instructor of math and MS Office Programs at UAA and the Adult Learning Center, as well as advising at-risk 6th - 12th grade kids on high school completion and higher education. Shannon has been a research technician with the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies for four years, working on projects that addressed quality of life issues such as women and violence, geriatric education, telemedicine, and adolescent inhalant use. He has advocated for better quality of life for others by volunteering with organizations ranging from youth hockey coaching to facilitating drug and alcohol groups at McLaughlin Youth Center and mentoring teens at the Alaska Military Youth Academy. He has also served on the board of directors for Alano Club of Anchorage.



Shannon Deike-Sims

Brian Lefferts is an Environmental Health and Manager of the Injury Control and EMS program at the Yukon Kuskowkim Health Corporation in Bethel. He graduated from Illinois State University with a B.S. in environmental health in 2004 and joined the US Public Health Service. He moved to bush Alaska from Normal, Illinois in 2005. When he's not working, Brian enjoys all of the activities that go along with living in the Bush including: snow machining, boating, fishing, hunting and camping with girlfriend Lori and their dog Lebowski.



Brian Lefferts



Holly McQuinn

Holly McQuinn is the Marketing and Development Coordinator at Alaska Primary Care Association where she provides technical assistance to CHCs and safety-net providers in the areas of Marketing and Development. Holly hopes her Marketing skills will be beneficial to increasing ALPHA's membership and promoting the goal of "increasing the public's health". In her spare

time Holly enjoys making art, cooking meals and spending time outdoors with her husband and dog (mostly when it is sunny and there's a grill near by).



Jennifer Meyer

Jennifer began her public health career in 1994 after college with a focus on HIV/AIDS prevention care and treatment, community development and health promotion. She has had the opportunity to work with clients and communities in limited resource settings, as well as various cultural and linguistic backgrounds both domestically and abroad. Later she studied nursing and worked in Emergency Departments. However, her interest in population health, social determinants, social justice and community development led her to continue her public health training obtaining an MPH in International Health from the University of Washington in 2002. Since moving to Alaska in 2004 she has been a resident of Bethel working at the Bethel Regional Public Health Center as a public health nurse. She applies her skills in community mobilization, organizational development, program development and evaluation to issues affecting the health of residents in the YK Delta.

Important Events:

April 1-3, 2008

Alaska Primary Care Association's Annual Meeting and Spring Conference highlighting "Board Training". For more information and registration: www.alaskapca.org or Jenny@alaskapca.org or (907) 929-2729.

April 1-3, 2008

Public Health Nursing Conference, Captain Cook Hotel, Anchorage. Details: www.signup4.com/PHN2008.

April 7-13, 2008

National Public Health Week
"Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance."
Sign up to be a partner at www.nphw.org

April 11 and 12, 2008

SE Region EMS Symposium held in Wrangell, Alaska, Register ASAP!
For more information or to register: www.serems.org

April 18, Fairbanks

April 23, Anchorage Hilton

April 21, Juneau Travelodge

Alaska Society of Professional Engineers: Indoor Air Quality Risk Communication Seminar. For more information contact mahansen@live.com

Friday, October 24, 2008

11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Saturday, October 25, 2008

9:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

HIV Prevention Planning (HPPG) meeting
*Public comment 12:00-12:30pm each day
Frontier Building, Room #336, 3601 C Street, Anchorage.
For more information: (907) 269-8027 or <http://www.epi.hss.state.ak.us/hivstd/hppg/>

October 25-29, 2008

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA "Public Health Without Borders" for more information (<http://www.apha.org/meetings/>)

October 27, 28, 29, 2008

The 14th annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM), Sheraton Hotel, Anchorage. See: <http://www.anthc.org/cs/dehe/sustops/rasc/atcem.cfm>

This newsletter is generated by the ALPHA Membership Committee with input from ALPHA membership. For comments, clarifications or questions send an email to: Brian_Lefferts@ykhc.org



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