

ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
March 13, 2007 Teleconference; 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm.

Roll Call: Present at the meeting were Brian Saylor, Chris Tofteberg, Sandy Burnham, Alice Rarig, Sandra Woods, Jayne Andreen, Jennifer Meyer, John Riley, Karol Fink, Mariko Selle, Tim Struna and Brad Whistler.

Absent from the meeting were Nancy Davis and Debra Caldera.

Ellen Ganley, Debbie Mowrey and Brenda Holden of Information Insights also participated in the meeting.

Consent Agenda: Brian asked to move the “Emerging Issues and Public Comment” before other Board actions for Sarah Grosshuedh’s discussion with the Board. Motion made by Brian/Chris – motion passed without objection.

January/Retreat Minutes: Brian/Chris moved to approve the minutes – motion passed without objection. It was noted that Brian/Mariko had not found the notes from the Retreat on Board Member committee assignments, however it was reviewed with the February meeting and in the February minutes.

February Minutes: Brian/approve Jan. minutes as approved/Jane – approved. Request Mariko, Brian etc. - - Committee agreed upon (done). In Feb. Minutes - -

ALPHA Financials: Discussed and approved under Business Agenda (below)

BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Emerging Issue: Sarah Grosshuesdh, a member of AHEC and ALPHA and President-elect of AHEC asked for the ALPHA Board to endorse SB 113 and HB 190. These bills are to support workplace breastfeeding, provide reasonable break-time for breastfeeding, and provision of a clean/private place for breastfeeding (not the bathroom). Sarah noted the public health implications and to support women in maintaining their milk supply to infants and support breastfeeding. Sponsorship has already been received from NEA-Alaska and AHEC. Board asked if there was a fiscal note – Sarah responded there is no “state” cost so no fiscal note at this time (although there would be costs to employers.) Sarah indicated Representative Cissna is leading the House version; Senator Johnny Ellis will be leading the Senate version but with other bills he is trying to move the overall lead will likely be on getting the House bill passed. Brian indicated he felt the Board should endorse these bills and there wasn’t a need for a formal resolution for this type of Board action. Brian/Karol moved to endorse support for the bills – motion passed unanimously. **Sarah agreed to assist in drafting a letter for John to sign indicating ALPHA’s support.**

Ellen Ganley noted she is also supportive of the bills and for Sarah to contact her if she needs assistance or testimony on the bills.

Approve Summit Contract: Sandy Burnham summarized the Finance Committee meeting on the Summit contract with Information Insights. The proposal noted estimated Information Insight costs at \$36,988 but the proposal is for \$30,000 (Information Insights giving a reduction since ALPHA is a non-profit.) Sandra asked about the line item for development of online speaker forms and speaker form management – Ellen and Brenda noted the online development was a one-time expense to move the forms to the web, however the speaker form management is tracking that information has been submitted by speakers and related tasks. Brian asked about the onsite staffing expense and Ellen/Brenda noted the expenses were based on Brenda’s typical billing rate and extended hours during the Health Summit (typically 7:00 am – 6:00 pm). Brian also noted that “Planning & coordination” is the largest line item for expenses and this is similar to what Marie had indicated took considerable time in organizing the Summit. Brenda noted she will try and set up a simple system to track types of requests, coordination, etc. needed to see if there are ways to reduce the time on these activities in the future. Ellen indicated that she and Sylvan Robb will also be at the Summit to assist Brenda with Summit activities as needed.

Sandy moved to accept the proposal on behalf of the Finance Committee – Board voted to support the proposed contract (no objections).

Management Contract: Approved the stop gap to end of March 2007 at the last meeting. The proposal is to renew the contract under the same terms for a total of \$18,000 for April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008. Brian/Sandy renew terms of last years contract for the next year – motion passed without objection.

Alaska Health Summit Planning: Brenda Holden indicated that Debra met with hotel and signed the contract. Brenda was not sure of the status on post-Summit activities and/or space beyond the Thursday asthma meeting. The asthma meeting will have the large ballroom in the morning and break session space in the afternoon. Brenda will follow-up with Debra on next steps. Alice Rarig may have a session for the post-Summit but she is not certain at this time (health care financing with Alice’s project, Governor Palin’s task force, etc.) Brenda noted she will work with Debra and the Summit planning committee to get the word out, check interest before final negotiation of space and then it would be on a available for which group finalizes details with ALPHA first.

Brenda indicated plans for the first Summit Planning meeting in the next week. **Brian noted the need to discuss the Summit budget with the planning committee and finance committee – finalizing the budget with the Board in June.** Sandy noted that means having information in May to present to the Board in June. Board discussed the need to give track chairs clear expectations of funding requirements for their tracks and noted principles used for track budgets last year.

The Board will also need to discuss general sponsorships v. sponsorship of speakers, coffee, etc. There has been some past discussion of acknowledging various types of organizational sponsorship for the Summit. Also, need to look at post-Summit activities to be sure they are providing some subsidy to the overall Summit income. Chris asked on policy of speakers get a full day pass or just for the session they present – Brenda noted policy that if speakers are from Anchorage their pass is only for the session; out-of-town speakers get a one day pass. It was noted this is standard at many national meetings and doing more day passes with all the speakers/panelists would impact the bottom line for the Summit. **Brian noted the need to discuss options and make decisions at the next meeting – John noted much of this has been**

written in policy already. Ellen will review implications of some of the discussed options on day passes.

Legislative Report: Susan Pruitt sent the report out to membership. Karen Robinson sends the report to Ellen (typically on Sundays) and it goes out to membership on Monday.

Mariko testified on _____. Mariko made some brief comments indicating ALPHA's support of expanding Denali KidCare coverage. She also noted that ALPHA would like to see whatever coverage system implemented to be not complex or expensive to administer. The related bills are HB 27 and SB 87. Alice and Mariko noted it was problematic to know what all to say on behalf of ALPHA given the short timeline to respond and readily available information on ALPHA positions etc. related to this legislation. Alice indicated they also noted that ALPHA is supportive through supporting Healthy People 2010 objectives – one being that all children have coverage and that ALPHA as an affiliate of APHA with APHA supporting coverage for all.

Ellen forwarded information on the hearing and received a comment back from one member not to send “lobbying” related items to her work email. Board noted it is information sharing but understands the concern. The Board noted a more significant concern with sending emails to legislative offices on work IT systems. **Ellen will contact this person to see if there is a home email address and/or if she wants to be excluded from these types of emails.** John asked Board members to give these issues some thought and assist the Legislative Committee in developing a process on legislative activities. **Brian, John, Debra and Jane will try and find a lunch hour in two weeks to convene the Policy Committee for this year.**

John also noted the Finance Committee plans to meet monthly.

HB 140 Leave No Child Uninsured (Representative Gara): This bill is a slightly different version of supporting Medicaid coverage for children at higher income levels. Representative Gara's office has asked if ALPHA will be supporting this legislation.

Obesity Prevention Program: Jane Andreen noted the state Obesity Prevention and Control Program has been funded by earmarks from Senator Stevens. The funding was to last three years but has been stretched to support the program for five years (ending June 30, 2007). Plans have been to apply for a CDC grant to support the program but CDC has not received increases to expand grant funding to additional states. The next round of competitive applications to CDC will be in November 2007 and Alaska is in a good position to compete for funds (e.g., disease burden document is complete). There is a movement to get state general funds to support the program at least six months (and maybe through FY2008) until the status of the grant application is known. Cardiovascular and Cancer Programs are supporting this effort.

Brian/Alice moved that ALPHA should put in a formal endorsement to support funding to keep the program going through the grant application period. Brian noted from his work on the Anchorage HSS Commission the need to address obesity issues and the recognition of the need for someone to implement planning activities related to obesity prevention and control. He also noted the outlook that the current generation of children could be the first generation with shorter lifespan than preceding generations. Brian felt the state should put general fund money into this issue and not expect federal funds or actions of others to address this issue. Additionally, general funds could be used for matching funds for other grants. The motion passed without any dissenting votes (Karol abstained as the funding would be related to

supporting her current employment). **John will do a letter on behalf of ALPHA expressing support to get funding to keep the program going into FY2008.**

Public Health Week Activities, April 2-8 “Take the First Step”: There is an APHA press kit available. John asked if the Education Committee would be willing to head media activities. **Sandra, John and Alice are on the Education Committee – they agreed to meet tomorrow at 10:00 am to discuss Education Committee activities including public health week and getting press packets to the Anchorage Daily News and KAKM.** Brian noted last year’s efforts including contacting the Anchorage Daily News and KAKM for distribution of public health week messages. Indications were that ALPHA needed to begin work with the media earlier and ALPHA is probably in the same situation this year. **Alice will check if the Division of Public Health is planning any activities and/or coverage with the media in relation to Public Health Week.**

APHA Get Ready Campaign: Parallel APHA activities on pandemic flu preparedness – APHA asking affiliates to formally sign on to media attention on this issue. Alice noted that “Cover the Uninsured” week is in April, instead of May this year. **The Education Committee will discuss this issue tomorrow.**

ALPHA Needs Assessment Review: Needs assessment was completed by John, with Board Member input, and sent back to APHA. Results to the survey highlighted the need to look at ALPHA preparing a business plan, looking at long-term resources, preparing a strategic plan and or member growth. John also noted comments on increased capacity for developing strategic partnerships and increase capacity to education policymakers on public health. **John indicated that next year’s Board retreat might look at integrating some of these activities into the retreat.**

BUSINESS AGENDA

Finance Report: Sandy covered the February 28th, 2007 financial reports. Sandy noted there was nothing remarkable for the month – some membership renewals and payment for Information Insights contract expenses. Sandy noted the balance sheet reflects total assets are up from \$13,064 in February 2006 to \$71,407 in February 2007. Sandy also indicated that \$50,000 has been moved to an interest bearing account and should yield about \$120 in interest per month – funds are available for cash flow as needed. Sandy noted past financial statements needing Board acceptance and that they had been forwarded to the Board previously. Brian/Chris moved to accept October, November, December, January and February financial statements – Board approved without objection.

Brian raised the issue if co-sponsoring organizations now or in the future would request a share of Summit proceeds. Board noted this issue was not raised with the Environmental Health Association but it could come up in the future and would need to be negotiated based on shared contributions, shared risk, number of registrants and other factors. Chris noted the Environmental Health Association had discussed making a nominal contribution to the Summit and he will follow up with Troy Ritter on that (e.g., \$250) – Chris further indicated that the Environmental Health Association planned on continuation of moving their annual meeting into the Summit and didn’t have the expectation of getting Summit revenue.

Committees - Confirm Meeting Schedules:

- Legislative Committee meeting in two weeks and will **establish a schedule of meetings.**
- Finance Committee meeting monthly and will look at feasibility of meeting the week before the Board Meeting – **Sandy will check with Debbie to see if that will work in having the financial statements at that time.**
- Summit Planning Committee: Will start meeting in the next few weeks and **establish the schedule for meetings.**
- Education Committee: Meeting tomorrow – **will discuss schedule for meetings.**
- Membership, Nominations and Awards: (Nancy, Mariko, Jennifer and Karol) – Brian and John noted this committee tends to start meeting in the late summer/fall to get nominations and awards. The Committee typically has to make several requests to get nominations and awards I place. **Decision was to leave it to Committee members to decide if the committee needs to convene earlier. Brian noted he has an APHA solicitation for nominees for awards and it would be nice to submit some nominees from Alaska.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, EMERGING ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Announcements, Emerging Issues and Opportunities: Discussed above.

Other Announcements:

- Brian told the Board he has announced his retirement from the University/Circumpolar Health Institute. Brian will be retiring the end of June.
- Brian also noted that Chris had been injured in a work-related incident. Chris noted he had an incident with a circular saw and severed several tendons in his arm. He indicated he is healing well and it does not appear he will have permanent injuries.

BOARD MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Remaining from February Teleconference:

- Debra: Information on epidemiology approach to child and family violence – for the Summit Planning
- John/Brian: Letter of congratulations sent to Dr. Jay Butler, Director of the DHSS Division of Public Health

March Teleconference:

- John: Letter from Sarah on SB113/HB190 (supporting breastfeeding) for signature and expressing ALPHA support.
- Summit Planning Committee and Board Summit Actions:
 - Meeting in the next week to discuss tracks, track chairs, budget discussion and Committee schedule
 - Finalize Summit budget and track budgets for track chairs
 - Board discussion on general v. speaker/coffee/meal sponsorship of the Summit & recognition process.
 - Ellen to present information on implications on revenue to expand day passes for speakers and/or panelists

- Board decisions at April meeting on changes to existing policy on passes for speakers and/or panelists
- Policy Committee (Brian, John, Debra and Jane):
 - Meeting in two weeks to discuss process for testifying/advocacy and committee schedule
 - John doing a letter supporting funding support for Obesity Prevention & Control Program through FY2008 (keep program going at least until grant funding opportunity with CDC)
- Ellen: Contacting member on option to get home email address for contact (problem with getting information on legislation at work)
- Education Committee (Sandra, John & Alice):
 - Meeting tomorrow (3/15) to discuss PH Week activities and APHA Get Ready Campaign and set committee schedule.
 - Forward press materials to KAKM and the Anchorage Daily News
 - Alice checking with the Division of Public Health (DHSS) on any planned activities with PH Week.
- Membership Committee (Nancy, Karol, Mariko and Jennifer):
 - Discuss possibilities for APHA nominations – get information to Brian
 - Discuss when the committee will convene meetings for ALPHA award nominees and nominations for ALPHA Board positions
- Strategic Planning, Business Plan & Long-range funding: John will mention to Debra to consider involving these activities with the Board Retreat next year in relation to comments from Board Members submitted for the APHA survey.

Next Meeting is April 10th at 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.