

**ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**  
**April 10, 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, Debra Caldera, Chris Tofteberg, Nancy Davis, Alice Rarig, Sandra Woods, John Riley, Karol Fink, Mariko Selle, Tim Struna and Brad Whistler.

Absent from the meeting were Sandy Burnham, Jennifer Meyer and Jayne Andreen.

Ellen Ganley of Information Insights also participated in the meeting.

Consent Agenda & March Minutes: Brian/Chris moved to accept the agenda and accepted the March minutes as submitted. The motion passed without objection.

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

**BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**DPH Director Letter**: John sent a letter to Jay Butler and received a letter back from Dr. Butler thanking ALPHA for support and he noted that he has calendared his attendance at the 2007 Alaska Health Summit.

**Board of Director Meeting Schedule & Monthly Financial Reports**: Ellen noted that moving the Finance Committee meeting to the week before the Board meeting was not feasible with having the monthly financial reports ready. **Ellen indicated having the Finance Meeting on Monday before the Board meeting should work as the financial reports are usually complete by the close of business Friday before the Board meeting.**

**Alaska Health Summit Planning**: Debra reported on teleconference with Brenda Holden. Debra indicated a letter to membership on the Summit and planning for the Summit is about ready to go out. The letter will discuss the date/location of the Summit, the theme and proposed tracks to be discussed by the Summit Planning Committee. The letter also provides an overview of the planning process for the Summit. **The letter will go out this week.** Debra noted the notes indicating a theme of “Healthy Behaviors, Healthy Communities & Healthy Environments”, however it was noted the Board Retreat also discussed a theme of “Making Alaskans Healthy: Individual Health, Health Policy, . . . “ **Karol Fink is sending Debra the revised minutes with Mariko’s updates from the January Board Retreat.** John noted the Board isn’t entirely trying to prescribe the tracks to the Planning Committee, however to provide some input from the Board to the Planning Committee. There was the recognition that the tracks will be selected and developed by the Planning Committee as interest, track chairs and resources supporting the tracks are identified. Debra suggested consolidating some of the proposed tracks as follows:

- Environmental Issues & Global Warming (although it was noted there are likely track chairs for both topics.)
- Health Systems Reform: Quality, access and affordability (and could integrate workforce)

- Behavioral health – behavioral impact on public health
- Epidemiology of family violence and child abuse

Debra plans to use the planning process from last year – identify track chairs and proceed with track chairs developing the tracks. **The Summit Planning Committee meetings will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month (1<sup>st</sup> meeting April 25<sup>th</sup> – checking on use of AARP conference room on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of the Frontier Bldg.) – typically from 12:00 – 1:00, however the first meeting may go 1.5 hours. Debra will also discuss the need to identify post-Summit meetings (e.g., Asthma is confirmed – Alice Rarig will let Debra know by April 25<sup>th</sup> if they would do a post-Summit meeting or just have a presentation during the Summit.)**

The first meeting will identify interest in tracks and track chairs, discuss plenary speakers and post-Summit meetings/events. Debra asked the Board on ideas for keynote speakers – suggestions were Debra Kline-Walker (APHA President who will be coming at APHA expense); Karol suggested Dr. Sangita “Gita” Sharma to speak on food issues related to climate change; and Tim suggested Stephen Bezruchka from the University of Washington who is a good speaker and covers the broad determinants of health.

**Sponsorship Framework for the Summit:** Debra noted the issue of deciding on a sponsorship framework, based on what organizations contribute, how they will be recognized/acknowledged and/or what they get. **Ellen has looked at how other states acknowledge various types of meeting sponsorship – Ellen will provide that information for the April 25<sup>th</sup> Summit Planning Meeting.**

#### **Legislative Activities:**

**Obesity Prevention Program funding:** John wrote a letter that was forwarded to the Senate Finance Committee on funding the program. Karol’s understanding is a Senate Finance Subcommittee put in \$250,000 – 275,000 in the budget for the program and that it goes to the full Senate Finance Committee next. The Cancer and Heart Association lobbyists are working on this and had indicated less interference/contacts is better at this time of the session – **Karol will confirm that is still the strategy and report back to the Board.**

**HB27/SB87 Denali KidCare:** Neither of these bills are moving quickly and are unlikely to pass this session. – these bills would restore eligibility back to 200% FPL and allow for coverage up to 300% FPL with cost sharing (restoring the DKC level at 200% FPL that was reduced to 175% but also took out inflationary increases for income requirements – currently eligibility is moving towards 150% FPL.) There are also two other bills that would move eligibility to 175% FPL – at least one of those also includes some elder benefits (AARP is working on those bills.) Discussion seems to be moving to holding onto lost ground for eligibility than expanding eligibility up to 200% or above. Alice noted ALPHA needs to support these bills if they are moving – but it is likely this will be an activity for the 2008 session. **Brian will call Pat Luby (AARP Alaska) and send information to Ellen to distribute to the Board on how the various bills are doing this session.**

**HB207 YRBS:** This bill would allow to go back to a passive parental consent process for the YRBS survey. Senator Fred Dyson has indicated he won’t fight this change this time. The bill might move if hearings are scheduled. ATCA and the American Lung Association are pushing the change – ATCA representatives had met with Senator Dyson to encourage him not to oppose the change. **Brian/Karol moved to prepare a letter of support from ALPHA for the bill – motion passed unanimously.**

CS HB113 Optometrist Rx: John emailed a copy of the bill and supporting information from the Alaska Optometric Association and a copy of APHA's resolution endorsing optometrists use of therapeutic drugs (1991 APHA Resolution). Brian and Nancy noted the APHA resolution process is sufficiently rigorous to discuss issues around resolutions and APHA passage of resolution should be considered in ALPHA support. Nancy also highlighted the information indicates most states and DC have provisions for optometrists to use/prescribe therapeutic drugs (focus of this bill along with treatment for anaphylaxis.) The Board was unsure of the state medical association on the bill – but the bill seems favorable at increasing access to care much as the dental hygienist bill before the legislature this year. The bill would require optometrists to get a DEA license and identify a relationship with a physician on their state license.

**Education Committee Report:** John sent items from the APHA informational packet for “Public Health Week” to the Anchorage Daily News, KSKA, KAKM and the public radio network – John didn't hear or see anything from these media sources. Public health week was noted on the DHSS Division of Public Health website but the Board was unsure if any events were actually done by the division (possible Public Health Nursing could have done some local events). The information was also sent on the UAA MPH listserv but John didn't think any students took on projects related to the event. Brian noted the process in 2006 indicated that media needed information well before the event to do anything and it needed to be something of interest to their audience to get coverage.

## **BUSINESS AGENDA**

**Finance Report:** Ellen noted the finance report reflected \$290 in memberships that were received and \$158 in interest from the savings account. Finance reports can be made available the Finance Committee (Sandy, Chris, John & Brian) just prior to the monthly Board meeting. – **Brian requested the Finance Reports to reflect the financial obligation for the Summit Management and Board Management contracts – noting it would clarify that some of the listed reserves on the financial reports are actually obligated.**

### **Committees - Confirm Meeting Schedules:**

- Legislative Committee (Debra, Brian, John & Jayne): John noted the Board is receiving the weekly newsletters for legislative updates, however there is still a need to better organize ALPHA response to legislation (specifically testifying at hearings.) John also makes some of Mary Grisco's Friday morning legislative briefings. The Board is tracking the 4 bills discussed above but it is uncertain if ALPHA would testify. Debra and John noted it is late in the session and the Legislative Committee should review bills for the 2<sup>nd</sup> session in 2008. **Debra noted the annual meeting could enlist member input on the bills and better position ALPHA to provide testimony on bills in the 2008 session – especially bills related to increasing Denali KidCare eligibility.**
- Finance Committee (Sandy, Chris, Brian and John): Committee is meeting monthly and will look at having meetings just before the Board meeting.
- Summit Planning Committee: First meeting is April 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 and monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month thereafter.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, EMERGING ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Announcements, Emerging Issues and Opportunities: Alice indicated she has the final APHA “Memorandum of Understanding” for affiliates. Alice noted the MOU is a requirement to be eligible for Kellogg Foundation assistance to APHA affiliates. Brian and John had seen earlier versions. **Alice indicated she would forward the MOU to the Board.**

Public Comment: No public comment at this teleconference.

Adjournment: Brian/Karol moved to adjourn the meeting (passed without objection). Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm. The next meeting is May 8<sup>th</sup> with the Finance Committee meeting at 11:30 of May 8<sup>th</sup>. Brian noted he will miss the May meeting.

## SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING ACTION ITEMS

### March Teleconference:

- John: Letter from Sarah on SB113/HB190 (supporting breastfeeding) for signature and expressing ALPHA support.

### April Teleconference:

- Summit Planning Committee:
  - First meeting April 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Begin to identify tracks, track chairs and plenary speakers
  - Begin to identify sponsorships – support for the Summit
- Finance Committee: Next meeting May 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am
- John:
  - Draft and forward letter of support on HB 207 (YRBS and passive parental consent process)
- Ellen:
  - Provide information from other states on acknowledging sponsorship/support of meetings
  - Distribute information from Brian on bills related to Denali KidCare eligibility changes
  - Initiate changes on ALPHA Finance Reports to reflect obligations for Summit Management and Board Management Contracts with Information Insights
- Brian:
  - Contact Pat Luby on Denali KidCare bills and likely legislative action on bills this session – forward information to Ellen for distribution to the Board
- Karol:
  - Send revised January Board Retreat minutes to Debra for Summit Theme
  - Note to Board on need for testimony on funding for the Obesity Prevention Program

- Alice:
  - Let Debra know on post-Summit meeting on health care systems reform
  - Forward APHA MOU with Affiliates to the Board
  
- Other Items:
  - Resolutions and Annual Meeting discussion on bills to better prepare and inform ALPHA testimony on bills in the 2008 legislative session.
  - ??? Action on CS HB113 – Optometrists Rx

**Next Meeting Topics:**

- APHA MOU with Affiliates
- Summit Planning Committee Report from Debra