

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

Roll Call:

Present at the meeting were: Nancy Davis, John Riley, Debra Caldera, Karol Fink, Sandy Burnham, Brian Saylor, Jayne Andreen, Mariko Selle, Alice Rarig and Brad Whistler.

Also in attendance were Ellen Ganley and Debbie Mowrey.

Not present were Chris Tofteberg, Tim Struna, Sandy Woods and Jennifer Meyer.

Consent Agenda & October Minutes: Agenda was approved and October minutes were approved.

ALPHA Financials: See below.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Alaska Health Summit Planning:

Debra reported things are moving rapidly for preparation for the Summit. There are a few more sponsorships than last year – in the \$25-28,000 range. Approximately 120 speakers this year – more tracks. Most of the speaker paperwork is in. As of yesterday there were 23 exhibitors – that is full in terms of exhibitor space. Debra noted the online speaker form had glitches and Information Insights will have a proposal on how to refine that process.

An evaluation tool for the Summit has been drafted by Shannon (Information Insights). The tool will be finalized in the next few days. Brian noted the scanning equipment could be made available for the survey results – it didn't work last year with utilization of copies. Brian asked if the questions last year were adequate – did the results influence the organization of this year's summit. John and Debra noted the information was useful even if it didn't directly influence the Summit program. Debra indicated it might be good to add questions about the number of tracks with the way the program is laid out this year and a question if topics were of interest to attendees.

The Planning Committee had their last meeting and went over final details with track chairs.

There are currently 92 registrants – compared with 116 at this time last year. Debra noted registrations from track chairs and a number of Board members still haven't come in and many come in just prior to the Summit.

Debra asked what the Board thinks about the Sheraton as the site for the 2008 Summit. Brian noted it was good the meeting was at the Sheraton this year given traffic congestion with construction and that would still be a consideration for 2008. It was noted the Sheraton had been good with negotiating details on the Summit and there are advantages with the consistency of having the conference at the same hotel.

Brian/Karol moved to make commitment to Sheraton for next year's Health Summit – 1st week of December (Dec. 1-3rd with two days tentatively reserved for post-meetings.) Motion passed without objection.

This year there are post-summit activities with the Vaccinate Alaska Coalition meeting, a half-day Obesity Summit, and a half day forum for the DELTA Project. It sounds like there would be an Asthma Summit in the Summit post meetings in 2008.

There were plans for a post-summit occupational safety meeting but not enough registrants so the meeting was dropped. Jayne had looked at a post-summit meeting but couldn't get a commitment on the proposed topics. It was noted we are not charged extra for the space for the post-meetings and Information Insights asks the organizations for financial support as needed to assist with any extra charges.

Proposal from Alaska Health Policy Review: (Larry Weiss)

Larry summarized the proposal that had been forwarded to the Board prior to the teleconference. The Alaska Center for Public Policy has started producing the monthly newsletter "Alaska Health Policy Review" and planning to expand coverage during legislative session. The session newsletter would be done weekly and would be similar to Caren Robinson's summary with value added summary information on bills, analysis, interviews and committee reports. The Center would provide the newsletter during special sessions if there is a health-related topic at no additional charge to ALPHA. If ALPHA isn't satisfied with the newsletter the subscription can be terminated and prorated fees would be refunded. The offer is to provide the legislative newsletter to ALPHA and one full-year subscription to an ALPHA designee at a cost of \$4,000. The full-year subscription would not be for use to forward the electronic newsletter to membership but information in the newsletter could be summarized and shared with ALPHA membership.

Brian noted that ALPHA has received the Caren Robinson newsletter, one from the Primary Care Association and information from Mary Grisco – these include information from BASIS and reports on upcoming committee meetings. The newsletters have titles of bills but not much on the content.

Larry noted they would provide more information about the bill from the bill summary, the sponsor's statement or prepare an overview on the bill.

Debra asked about ALPHA's role in influencing legislation and noted the legislative committee was not active last session. It was noted ALPHA's interaction with the legislature during session has decreased with the loss of the Executive Director position. Alice Rarig noted the Kellogg grant provides technical assistance to affiliates and we could request TA for advocacy efforts. Alice also noted from recent discussions at APHA that even organizations organized under 501(c)(3) provisions can have advocacy efforts – just needs to remain less than 20% of the organization budget

There was some discussion about use of the newsletter with other coalitions and organizations. Larry noted that AARP, AMTHA and APCA are already subscribers. There are also individual subscribers to the newsletter. Larry also noted new Coalitions forming including "Voices for Children" which is being organized around supporting S-CHIP. The next issue of the newsletter will come out tomorrow and includes an interview with Jerry Jenkins as one of the founders of a new Behavioral Health alliance.

It is an electronic newsletter format.

Brian noted the existing budget for the legislative newsletter produced by Caren Robinson is \$3,000.

Brian/Debra moved to accept proposal for the Alaska Health Policy Review (\$4,000) newsletter during the legislative session plus one full year subscription to a named ALPHA Board member with the understanding if the motion passes the Caren Robinson newsletter would be discontinued. The motion passed without objection.

Larry thanked the Board and mentioned the purpose of the newsletter is to assist non-profits and they would welcome comments on content and format and adjust the newsletter in response to input to the extent they can accommodate the changes.

Brian asked Information Insights to inform Caren Robinson that we would not be renewing the subscription to her newsletter for the upcoming session.

ALPHA Board Retreat:

The Board discussed possible dates for the retreat as being January 12-13th or January 25-26th. It will be 1 ½ - 2 full dates this year. Debra noted a preference for the earlier date as she felt the earlier the Summit Steering Committee can get started the better. The Board agreed to January 12-13th with the first preference when new Board members are contacted.

Brian will help with the meeting but will be off the Board. **John and Debra will work on identifying space for the retreat and a facilitator.**

Affiliate Representative: Alice noted she is off the Board – she is willing to complete the time as affiliate representative this coming year and it is the start of her 2nd year for her 2 year term as the NW region representative. Nancy Davis noted that being the APHA Affiliate representative is not necessarily a voting member of the Affiliate's Board. Alice is hoping to discuss APHA benefits with the Board – John noted she should plan on doing an overview at the retreat.

Addendum to Affiliate Representative with information after the teleconference: After further review of the By-laws, Nancy Davis offers that a recent revision says the APHA Affiliate Representative is a member of the Board of Directors and serves a three year term. The Board would need to suspend the by-laws to appoint Alice for another year as the APHA affiliate representative and appoint her as a non-voting advisory member of the Board, and seek a By-Law change from the full membership.

BUSINESS AGENDA

ALPHA Financials:

Sandy noted the existing budget could fund the health policy review that was approved by utilizing the existing \$3,000 budget that paid for Caren Robinson's newsletter and \$1,000 of the \$1,500 listed in a separate line item in the budget. The alternative would be to take \$1,000 from reserves to cover the additional cost – the Board thought the use of \$1,000 in the existing line item would be preferred.

Sandy noted the costs of the Summit brochure and program came in \$700 over budget, but that overall Summit costs are tracking below the listed budget. John indicated the change doesn't need to be reflected in the existing budget but is usually accounted for in the Summit reconciliation after the conference.

Committee Reports:

ALPHA Resolutions:

Karol noted there were possibly six resolutions to consider at the annual meeting – 4 have been received, one is being developed at this time and one is one the way to Karol. **The committee (Debra, Sandy, Alice and Karol) will review the resolutions on Thursday at noon.**

Karol will review bylaws on the process for resolutions. Board confirmed it can be an individual or organization sponsoring the resolution and that someone needs to be at the annual meeting to answer questions and discuss implications of any proposed amendments by membership. The resolutions will be emailed to membership prior to the December 3rd annual meeting.

Brian noted there had been a late-breaker resolution at the APHA meeting on states watching for activity on abortion in attempts to restrict abortions. Brian questioned if ALPHA should consider something – Debra noted past resolutions supporting abortion. **Debra will send out information on late breakers and the past committee position on what was a legitimate late-breaker resolution and was not.**

Awards & Nominations:

Nancy noted ballots are out and there are a full slate of nominees for the five Board positions and president-elect. The information is to have ballot envelopes postmarked by November 20th – plan to meet November 27-29 to count returned ballots in Fairbanks. The requirement for 3 tellers will be filled by Sandy Burnham, Ellen Ganley and one other member in Fairbanks (possibly Sylvia Cowen). Nancy will check with Nominating Committee members (Mariko and Jennifer) to see if they can verify the count by teleconference as Nancy will be out of state.

Awards were reviewed a week ago and Nancy reported there were great nominees and it there was considerable discussion in selecting the best nominees for the awards. While the policy is not to disclose the award recipients prior to the luncheon, Nancy shared there are 2 award recipients for meritorious service, 1 for health achievement, 1 for the Barbara Berger ALPHA award and 1 for community service. Mariko was involved with selection of the AHEC Barbara Berger so it was coordinated with the ALPHA Barbara Berger award and they are two different recipients. Nancy noted Vaccinate Alaska will also be giving an award during the luncheon so there will be a need to efficiently move through the awards ceremony.

Due to changes in flight times, Nancy will be getting into Anchorage after the annual meeting so she asked that **John (presiding for the annual meeting) to thank those nominating individuals for awards, those willing to put their name on the ballot, to outgoing Board members and welcome the incoming Board members.**

Nancy will alert those nominating individuals for awards on the recipients. Nancy is thinking ALPHA would provide a lunch ticket to the recipient and one guest for those not attending the Summit. There was discussion about transportation to the Summit for receiving an award, however none of the Board members could recall ALPHA paying for transportation for receiving an award. **Nancy will need to order plaques – Bovey Trophy has the set-up they will just need names. Karol will assist with getting the plaques – Karol noted Bovey Trophy will email a set-up for approval.**

John asked if there were plans for Environmental Health Awards – Nancy had asked the association but hadn't heard of any plans for awards. **Nancy will check with Chris one more time on environmental health awards.**

Announcements, Emerging Issues, Opportunities:

Brian noted his new email is: bsaylor@gci.net

Brian noted he was appointed to the APHA editorial board for the *Journal of the American Public Health Association*; Cheryl Easley was the successful candidate for the APHA President-Elect position and Alice narrowly missed being elected to the APHA Nominating Committee. Alice attended the APHA Governing Council sessions as the Alaska Affiliate representative and attended the Committee on Affiliates meetings as representative of the Region X states (OR, WA, ID and AK). She has served one year of a two year term on the Committee on Affiliates as the Region X representative.

Sandy indicated she won't be attending the December annual meeting so someone else will need to cover the financial statement - typically part of the annual meeting. **Sandy will get a short summary to John to cover at the meeting.**

Adjourn: Brian/Karol moved to adjourn the meeting - meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm. The next meeting will be the annual meeting at the Health Summit the evening of Monday, December 3rd.