



SPRING 2012

Maryland Public Health Association

NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Dear Board of Directors and Membership,

The April 17, 2012 Quarterly General Membership Meeting (QGMM) was held at the UM School of Pharmacy. Thanks to all who attended. At the October 2012, I stated that one of my goals was to hold the quarterly meetings in different areas of the State. The first meeting was held in Howard County, this meeting was in Baltimore City, and the next meeting will be in Prince Georges County, more centrally located to the eastern and southern parts of the State. At the April meeting, almost 40 members attended, coming from as far as the Eastern Shore.

Below are highlights from the April meeting:

- Approval of the 2012 operating budget.
- Update of the strategic plan: detailed information will be available on MdPHA's web site in the near future.
- Presentations from guest speakers about new partnerships and collaborations from Dr. Thomas Burke, Jacob I. and Irene B. Fabrikant Professor and Chair in Health Risk and Society and Associate Dean for Public Health Practice and Training, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and from Mr. Vincent DeMarco, President, Maryland Citizen's Health Initiative and Adjunct Assistant Professor, JHU Bloomberg School of Public Health.

- Information about new partnerships and collaborations with (1) the MidAtlantic Training Center/ Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, and (2) the Maryland Citizen's Health Initiative, Maryland Optometric Association.
- Briefing about the Maryland Optometric Association interest about forming the Maryland Optometric Association section.
- Reports from selected committees given by co-chair Raimee Eck (Annual Meeting Subcommittee), co-chairs Amaka Nwankwo/ Ndidi Amutah/Kyra Crafton (Membership), chair Eme Martin and Nora Lim (Communications), representative Hoai An Truong (APHA ARGC), and president Monique Mounce (Student Section).
- Establishment of a new Finance Committee to explore ways to improve MdPHA's financial sustainability.

Get involved. **Join a committee!** Help make MdPHA the "go to organization for public health professionals in Maryland."

Rick Reeves, Board Member-at-Large and President and CEO United HealthCare Community Plan, will convene the newly formed **Finance Committee**. Join Rick, Andrea Kidd-Taylor, Ginny Seyler, and Kinbo Lee for a brainstorming session. Contact Rick at Richard_w_reeves@uhc.com.

Help MdPHA reach the goals of the **Strategic Plan**. Contact committee chairs or co-chairs of the Annual Meeting, Program, Membership, By-Laws, or Communications for other opportunities to get involved. Sign up when the chairs email you. Also, see the web site at mdpha.org and click on "committees" to contact the chairs.

We will post Strategic Plan updates and minutes of the April meeting on MdPHA's web site and on Google Documents. Remember, you must accept the invitation when the document is shared with you to view documents in Google Documents.

Finally, Mark Your Calendar!!! The next quarterly general membership meeting is scheduled for **June 19, 2012 at University of Maryland University College (UMUC), 1616 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD**. The guest speaker is Dr. Stephen Havas, MD, MPH, MS who will present on "**The urgent need to drastically lower sodium in the U.S. food supply.**" Join us to re-welcome Dr. Havas, past president of MdPHA.

Feel free to provide feedback or contact me at mhay2113@gmail.com.

Take care,

Margaret Hayes, MS

It's a Great Time to be Apart of the Maryland Public Health Association!

Now affectionately known as "MdPHA", historical Maryland documentation dates the organization's existence as far back as the late 1800s. Within our by-laws, mandates and strategic plans, one fact remains quite obvious: the strength of MdPHA lies within its MEMBERS.

The Maryland Public Health Association envisions the citizens of Maryland living in healthy communities. The institution of public health cannot be achieved by one person, one profession, one idea, or one organization. This is why WE NEED YOU!

As the official state affiliate of the American Public Health Association (APHA), MdPHA has almost 200 members from an array of backgrounds including: public health, medicine, nursing, health administration, pharmacy, dentistry, and social work. We are an organization of students, civil servants, retirees, volunteers, and supporting partner organizations who are interested in encouraging a *healthier* Maryland.

The MdPHA Membership Committee is lead by three co-chairs (Amaka, Ndidi, and Kyra) interested in moving the organization forward in its mission and activities while supporting the vision of MdPHA. Together with members of the general body, the committee organizes events, activities, and tasks focused on strengthening the current membership while inviting other citizens of Maryland to join our efforts.

One of our major activities for 2012 will be to further support the Student Section (SMdPHA) and welcome additional institutions of higher education to get involved with the section and the work of MdPHA.

If you are a current member, get further involved in MdPHA! Visit the website at: www.mdpha.org and become an active participant of one of our committees. We also look forward to your assistance in encouraging others to join MdPHA.

We launched our 2012 MdPHA Membership Drive on April 17th, 2012 during the first quarterly general body meeting at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore, MD. More information can be found on our website and other social media (Facebook and Linked In).

Join us! We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

The Membership Committee

*Amaka Nwankwo-Igomu, MEd
Co-Chair, Board Member*

*Ndidi Amutah, PhD, MPH, CHES
Co-Chair*

*Kyra Crafton
Student Co-Chair,
Towson University*

MdPHA Strategic Plan

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is well underway in implementing its Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan contains the goals, objectives and key actions that will provide the framework for the organization to advance its mission to improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy. The plan was unveiled at the MdPHA's September 2011 Annual Meeting.

In June 2011, Maryland Public Health Association (MDPHA) convened a Strategic Planning Retreat to engage Board of Directors and general membership to develop a plan that would provide a framework for the organization. Prior to the retreat, a consultant was hired to solicit input from MdPHA leadership, members and partners. The product of the retreat was a 3 year strategic plan with four main goals and objectives.

Goal 1: Expand involvement in public health issues affecting Maryland and MdPHA members.

Objectives

- 1.1 Strengthen school liaison programs in academic institutions across Maryland.
- 1.2 Increase partnerships with health professionals, health organizations, funders, and public health agencies.
- 1.3 Increase (approved) interactions with elected officials.

Goal 2: Improve quality and efficiency of information disseminated among MdPHA members.

Objectives

- 2.1 Increase current and prospective members' awareness and utilization of MdPHA's available communication tools and vehicles.
- 2.2 Refine and expand current system of identifying and disseminating information to existing and current members.

Goal 3: Enhance MdPHA's capacity to advocate for public health issues.

Objectives

- 3.1 Clarify and communicate to members and policymakers MdPHA's role in public health advocacy.
- 3.2 Annually define MdPHA's advocacy agenda.

MdPHA Strategic Plan (cont'd)

Goal 4: Enhance MdPHA's short-term and long-term capacity to fulfill its role as the professional association for Maryland's public health professionals.

Objectives

4.1 Secure adequate resources and implement appropriate systems to support MdPHA's infrastructure.

4.2 Increase membership and retain active members.

MdPHA has established a webpage on the main website to provide updates on the progress of the strategic plan and will provide members quarterly updates on the progress of achieving the strategic plan goals.

Jacqueline Dougé, MD, MPH, FAAP

Strategic Plan Chair

Maryland State Health Improvement Process (SHIP)

Starting in early 2011, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene embarked on the development of the Maryland State Health Improvement Process (SHIP) – a framework for accountability, local action, and public engagement to advance the health of Maryland residents. At the core of the SHIP are 39 health objectives in six vision areas: healthy babies, healthy social environments, safe physical environments, infectious disease, chronic disease and health care access which are closely aligned with the national Healthy People 2020 objectives. The objectives were chosen with input from the public health community as well as the general public. For each objective, a statewide baseline and target for improvement by 2014 has been established. County level data, as well as data by race/ethnicity are given where available. The entire SHIP is presented in web-based format at <http://www.dhmdh.maryland.gov/ship/SitePages/>

Another key theme of the SHIP is local action. Through the dissemination of data, the SHIP has been a major player in encouraging the development of local health improvement coalitions (LHICs). Local coalitions, mainly at the county level, cover the whole state. There are 19 coalitions that have been established, or re-invigorated over the last year. These are each led by a local health officer, and provide a forum for public health leaders, hospitals and health systems and representatives from community-based organizations to analyze and prioritize issues and plan action. Maryland hospitals have been a major contributor to the SHIP process by providing start-up funding for coalitions that had not yet been established. Through the website, the SHIP provides Maryland SHIP County Profiles with county-specific SHIP data as well as extensive list of tools and resources designed to assist the general public, health planners, and clinicians.

(Maryland SHIP cont'd)

The goals of the SHIP are accomplished through the third theme of public engagement. The SHIP actively encourages individuals to take the necessary advances to improve health with the list of "ten things you can do" to improve health. The individual focused tools available on the website also encourage individuals to care more about their health outcomes. The SHIP website provides continuously updated tips and resources for individuals and local jurisdictions to address 39 chosen health measures.

For further information on the SHIP and its activities, visit our website at <http://www.dhmdh.maryland.gov/ship/SitePages/> where you can sign up to receive weekly updates by way of our "Health Action" newsletter or check out the action plan for your local community using our Local Action map. You can also follow the SHIP on TWITTER at <http://www.twitter.com/MarylandSHIP> or "Like" us on FACEBOOK at <http://www.facebook.com/MarylandSHIP> to receive ongoing updates of the data, resources, and tools provided for local action.

For more information, contact Madeleine Shea, PhD, Director, Office of Population Health Improvement, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at mshea@dhmdh.state.md.us.

Annual Meeting Update

The Maryland Public Health Association will be hosting its annual meeting this year on September 20 at the John's Hopkins East Medical Campus. The theme for this year will be: "No Equity Without Diversity: Meeting the Challenge of Public Health Leadership" We hope to have some great speakers to speak about different issues in Public Health.

If you are interested in helping out with any part of the Annual Meeting, please do not hesitate to contact either Raimee Eck (raimee1eck@gmail.com) or Hana Kim (hanakim011@gmail.com).

Student Section Update

The Student Section has been extremely busy this school year promoting health education and wellness in areas throughout Maryland, advocating for collaborative projects in the community, and even receiving national recognition for our significant contribution to the Script Your Future Medication Adherence and Advocacy Challenge. The Student Section takes great pride as an influential interdisciplinary student organization in promoting public health, service learning, advocacy, and health promotion and education. Selected events that showcase the dedication of our students to public health are as follows:

Script Your Future Medication Adherence and Advocacy Challenge

Ongoing community outreach efforts to raise awareness for medication adherence to reduce medication related hospitalizations, improve health outcomes, and overcome barriers to compliance.

Health Education at Local Elementary/Middle Schools

To go with the theme of this year's National Public Health Week, the students from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, Towson University, and Morgan State University promoted mental and emotional well-being with an emphasis on anti-bullying to younger students in Baltimore City. Skits, demonstrations, and other activities were done to educate elementary and middle school students on the issue of bullying.

"A Night Under the Stars"

Students and MdPHA members were able to network and discuss matters concerning the field of public health in a roundtable-style fashion while raising funds for a local charity. Proceeds that were made from donations and raffles all went to the Baltimore Child Abuse Center.

DEA Drug Take Back Day

Students, in collaboration with the DEA, led the Take Back Day at four locations to reach out to the Maryland community to educate on the high abuse potential of prescription drugs as well as on the proper disposal of medications.

Community Care Initiative

In collaboration with the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, students presented posters at a health fair to educate and promote health issues such as immunizations, medication adherence, and diet and exercise.

General Body Meetings

Invited speakers discussed issues including global health opportunities for health professionals, the Maryland Poison Center, urban farming, and maintaining proper physical and mental health.

*Christopher Min,
Student Section President, 2012-13*

*Monique Mounce,
Former Student Section President, 2011-12*



Past Student President, Monique Mounce (second from right) at "Script Your Future" Medication Adherence Challenge, Feb. 2012 (photo courtesy UMD School of Pharmacy webpage)

Communications

Committee Comment

To post announcements to the MdPHA membership, e-mail Nora Lim at lim.nora@gmail.com. A weekly message will be disseminated to the group every Thursday night that includes your post and other pertinent information.

Stay connected with the Maryland Public Health Association by following us on Facebook and LinkedIn

