

Meeting Summary
ATMCH Business Meeting
Sunday, November 4, 2007
Washington Convention Center, Room 159A
2:00-4:30 PM

Participants:

Maja Altarac
Christina Benjamin
Gigliola Baruffi
Zobeida Bonilla
Marti Coulter
Ellen Daley
Leslie Davidson
Gene DeClerq
Anita Farel
Emily Feinberg
Frank Franklin
Jose Gorrin
Holly Grason

Bernard Guyer
Colleen Huebner
Ellen Hutchins
Heather Jordan
Laura Kavanagh
Joan Kennelly
Edie Kieffer
Juhee Kim
Russell Kirby
Jonathan Kotch
Milton Kotelchuck
Jeanette Magnus
Lois McCloskey
Karen McDonnell

Beverly Mulvihill
Anna Parrilla
Donna Petersen
Karen Peterson
Kalpana Ramiah
Alice Richman
Jo-Anna Roric
Donna Strobino
Douglas Taren
Angie Wong

Staff:

Gillian Silver

I. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting attendees approved the current meeting's agenda and the March 2007 business meeting minutes.

II. Tribute to Greg Alexander

Cathy Taylor, one of Dr. Alexander's former doctoral students, gave a brief statement of tribute. Other meeting attendees contributed their good thoughts as well. Dr. Kirby cited a Dr. Alexander quote: "How many MCH Epidemiologists does it take to screw in a light bulb? It can't be answered – no one knows what an MCH epidemiologist is."

ATMCH honored Dr. Alexander by naming the annual Student/Faculty breakfast after him. The APHA MCH Section and ATMCH also renamed the "Outstanding MCH Student Papers" after him. Further, Dr. Alexander received the 2007 APHA Martha May Elliott Award.

III. NBPHE Public Health Certification Exam and MCH

Donna Petersen, Chair of the NBPHE Item Writing Committee, presented information regarding the public health certification exam, regarding the place of MCH in the exam. She said that the call for item writers to write questions for the 2009 exam will go out soon to SPH deans and MPH program directors, and recommended alerting your deans/directors of your interest in writing exam questions so that they will nominate you. In order to write questions, an individual must have multiple-choice-question writing skills. Dr. Petersen suggested framing MCH questions within the 12 competencies.

Questions posed include:

- What are faculty saying to students who ask if they should take the test? Response: It varies by individual and institution.
- What are the recertification terms? Response: The terms for recertification are in the works.
- Is there any collaboration between the accreditation of health agencies and certification? Response: both efforts are aware of each other, but there is not yet any collaboration.

IV. Election results

Ellen Daley continues as the ATMCH secretary for November 2007 through November 2009, and Karen McDonnell will serve as an at-large board member for November 2007 through November 2009. Many thanks to Anne Wallis for her service as an at-large board member.

V. President's Report

- The **Alexander Student/Faculty Breakfast** held Sunday morning was successful: 60 student and faculty attended.
- **Case study:** The MCH CSHCN medical home case study is complete, and a policy-themed teaching note is being written. Both will be posted on the ATMCH website.
- **MCH at new SPH:** ATMCH will engage in more aggressive outreach to new public health schools and programs to advocate for them to develop MCH departments or divisions. AMCHP is concerned about educating the future workforce. One consideration is the possibility of regionalizing the ATMCH MCH faculty mentoring program. It was also suggested to "lobby" current SPH without MCH.
- **February 5, 2008 Meeting of Selected MCH organizations:** The purpose of this meeting is to examine how these organizations relate to each other, and can learn how to better work on common priorities.
- **Proposed Organization of State and Local MCH Epidemiologists:** Such an organization is in the works, and more information will be available at a later time.
- **March of Dimes Peristats:** MOD will be sending data for faculty and student use, and MOD staff will be at the ATMCH meeting and breakfast next year.
- The **MCH Journal** needs more reviewers.
- **Action:** ATMCH needs a new Membership Committee co-chair: staff will send out a call.
- **ATMCH MCH competencies:** The ATMCH Education Committee will be working on updating the competencies, considering the MCH Leadership competencies, the ASPH MPH competencies, and the Council on Linkages competencies.
- **MCH faculty and the State ECCS initiative:** Leslie Davidson noted that MCH faculty could be resources to SECCS projects, regarding evaluation and measurement. If you are interested, contact Phyllis Stubbs-Winn or David Heppel at MCHB.

XII. Strategic planning

The purpose of the ATMCH strategic planning effort is to set priority activities, and align the budget appropriately. Further, the plan is to look at the organizational structure to see if it is appropriate to address the work of the organization. Committee chair term limits and the creation of an organizational membership level will be considered. The strategic planning committee will report by the March 2008 meeting.

XIII. Treasury report

ATMCH made ~\$5000 in membership revenue last year, received \$20,000 from MCHB for June 2007-May 2008 and had \$30,000 in the membership account.

XIV. AMCHP Workforce survey report

Holly Grason reported on the status of her work with Donna Strobino, Kay Perrin and others to develop a survey as part of the AMCHP Workforce Development Committee. The first phase of the survey focuses on training, and a second phase will examine recruitment, retention, and succession planning. Meeting participants discussed the role of the lifespan perspective in health departments, and the associated lifespan skills that would need to be taught in academic MCH programs.

State-level respondents to the survey will self-identify. This information will provide a good picture of what MCH programs look like in states from the Title V director's perspective and span of control.

XV. AMCHP Update: Executive Director Dr. Michael Fraser

Michael Fraser, AMCHP Executive Director as of August 2007, presented an update on AMCHP activities. He provided copies of a one-pager summarizing the organizations strategic plan priorities, which include

- The AMCHP Annual Meeting – the 2008 theme is social justice
- Leadership development
- Developing a shared research agenda (he noted that the research committee session at AMCHP annual meetings has been valuable)
- Workforce development: Including workforce assessment as part of needs assessment
- State staff desire to publish: regenerating the tie between AMCHP and the MCH Journal

He noted that AMCHP is redoing its website, and developing an “innovation station”: an online database of promising practices.

XVI. Research Committee Report

The Research Committee discussed ideas that were raised in responses to the SPH MCH research methods survey, or resulted from the survey. These ideas include:

- Sharing examples of research methods syllabi
- Developing a mini mentorship to train students in research skills
- Providing more Research Assistant experience for students
- Collecting a library of datasets, and documented uses of the datasets

The committee will send out the survey again to solicit additional responses. The committee is interested in doing more research, and plans on having more to report at the March 2008 meeting.

XVIII. Adjourn

President Marti Coulter adjourned the ATMCH Membership Meeting at 4:30 PM.