

# VERMONT PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

## Spring 2010

We want to share with you some recent actions taken by VtPHA and invite your participation in making VtPHA as vibrant and effective as possible.

### **May 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting a Success!**

We had record turn out and fabulous speakers at our annual gathering on May 11<sup>th</sup> in. It was great to see many long term friends and colleagues as well as new members and others interested in making connections. It is clear that Vermont has a vibrant public health community and we hope VtPHA will continue to grow as a resource and home for this community. Many thanks go to our planning team for their stellar work: Bob Costantino in developing the agenda, Penrose Jackson in promoting and Audra Jenkins in organizing the event.

### **Changing Leadership**

The May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting also served as the passing of leadership. Debbie Dameron, long time leader and VtPHA President, introduced Heidi Klein as our incoming President. We also officially welcomed three new Board Members: Sasha Bianchi, Theo Kennedy and Amy Lefevre. We look forward to their participation in leading the organization.

### **Advocacy and Policy Engagement**

VtPHA worked in collaboration with a number of different organizations in our advocacy and policy outreach this legislative session. Here are some highlights of the advocacy work we supported:

- Complete Streets legislation (H. 741) did not make it out of committee but it did garner significant interest and support
- Regulation of Bisphenol A (S. 247) passed overwhelmingly
- Paid Sick Leave legislation (H. 382) was not passed
- Health Care Financing and Universal Access (S.88) passed

VtPHA members have also been very active in the Attorney General's obesity initiative. It has been great to see connections made among various agencies and efforts with a primary focus on prevention in addressing between obesity.

### **Communications and Networking**

We are working now on updating the website and are considering a Facebook page to make it easier for members to connect and share information.

### **Membership**

We are delighted to report that we are at an all time high with 58 members! We hope this trend will continue and new members find value in the organization and invite others to join. The actual number of members, however, is less important than the level of engagement of our members. Please let us know how you would like to connect with the organization and with each other.

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