



## Newsletter Winter 2012

Here's a quick update on VtPHA happenings. For more timely information check our website: [www.vtpha.org](http://www.vtpha.org) or friend us on Facebook: <http://www.vtpha.org/facebook>

### Upcoming Events and Opportunities

#### **The Future of Public Health: No Longer Invisible**

**Dr. Georges Benjamin, Executive Director of the American Public Health Association**

**Wednesday, January 25, 5:00 pm**

VtPHA is pleased to co-sponsor this event organized and sponsored by the College of Medicine and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences as part of the University of Vermont, Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration <http://www.uvm.edu/president/diversity/mlk/>

#### **VtPHA Public Policy Breakfast**

**Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 7:30 -9:00 am**

In response to VtPHA member interest in engaging in public policy, VtPHA will be hosting the second annual public policy breakfast at the Black Door (Montpelier) to discuss public policy issues being pursued by a variety of organizations that we believe fit under the broad umbrella of public health. We will share agendas and principles moving forward. This meeting will be critical to help VtPHA set our public policy agenda and priorities. Space is filling up fast so register today to hold a seat. Contact VtPHA President, Heidi Klein at [hklein@hkconsult.net](mailto:hklein@hkconsult.net)

#### **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Day at the State House**

**February 1, 2012**

VtPHA is proud to co-sponsor this day-long event which begins at 8:00 and includes a variety of activities including: coffee with lawmakers at state house cafeteria, press conference, videos from *First with Kids* on hunting safety and teen suicide, gun safety information for parents and gun owners, and free gunlock giveaways. To RSVP: <http://www.doodle.com/cf2p93crt3gpz9pd>

#### **Investigating Outbreaks: the Epidemiology Investigation Service (EIS)**

**Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**

This VtPHA event will feature Mark Pendergrast, author of *Inside the Outbreaks* <http://markpendergrast.com/inside-the-outbreaks> and leaders at the international, national and state level who have been intimately involved in investigating new and emerging diseases. More detailed information will be sent soon.

### VtPHA News

#### **VtPHA Receives Grant to Promote 2011 County Health Rankings**

For the second year in a row, VtPHA has received funding through the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) related to the upcoming release of the *County Health Rankings*. The *County Health Rankings* shows us that where we live, learn, work and play matters to our health. VtPHA will be using this grant opportunity to convene



the second annual public policy breakfast (above) with the goal to increase the understanding of the multiple contributors to health and public health principles in public policies pursued by various stakeholders.

### **VtPHA Identifies Member Priorities**

The membership survey is closed with close to 60% of our members responding. While the data still needs to be fully analyzed, a quick review confirms that one of primary value to members is engagement in public policy issues. We hope the public policy breakfast will set the stage for increased action and value to our members. We will be reporting on the rest of the findings and our plans to act in accordance soon.

### **VtPHA Actions in Support of National Public Health Policy**

Sent letters to Vermont's national representatives calling for:

- continued funding for Prevention and Public Health Fund
- support of the Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act

Signed onto *APHA Public Health and Equity Principles for Transportation* that prioritizes health and equity in transportation planning and policy

[http://www.apha.org/advocacy/priorities/issues/transportation/transport\\_principles.htm](http://www.apha.org/advocacy/priorities/issues/transportation/transport_principles.htm)

### **VtPHA Actions in Support of Vermont Public Health Policy and Programs**

- Co-sponsored the 2011 Environmental Action Conference which offered free admissions to two members plus a reduced rate for additional members
- Supporting smoke-free housing policy as one criterion for affordable housing developers to earn tax credits when they build new or rehab old buildings intended for multiunit dwellings.
- See our 2011 public policy agenda on the VtPHA website <http://www.vtpha.org/policies/>
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