

VtPHA Board Meeting -- November 12, 2009 -- UVM Rowell Bldg.

Present: Debbie Dameron, Brian Flynn, Bob Costantino, Penrose Jackson, Heidi Klein, Joanne Fedele

Unable to attend: Sally Kerschner, Burt Wilcke

Guest: Steve Kappel

Minutes Submitted by: J.Fedele

Topic	Summary	Action
<p align="center">Research on Upcoming Legislative Session</p>	<p>Steve Kappel, recently contracted as our legislative consultant, presented his findings which are documented in excel format. From the legislative database, he was able to assess that approximately 35 or 40 bills have been introduced that may be related to public health. He assigned a score of 0 to 10 to each of these bills, with 10 being those in which we might be most interested. Those that score 10 seem to be mostly related to tobacco control. Others focus on nutrition labeling, health care access, and health care financing. These bills are also organized by House or Senate committee in which they reside and each bill listed has a link to its specific narrative. Additionally, Steve cautions us follow the Appropriations bill as that is where funding occurs, i.e., funding tobacco control programs.</p> <p>Recommendation made for board members to review the top 10 bills. Debbie reports that the VT Tobacco Control Coalition has most likely already reviewed the tobacco related bills, and we can align with them.</p> <p>Steve recommends that we also review those bills scored 8 or 9 in case there is something he missed that is of greater priority to us. He reports that most of the bills will be active on January 1, and will continue to roll out until early March. He further recommends that we get in touch with the appropriate Committee chairperson and/or their staff persons, so that they know we are available and interested.</p> <p>Lengthy discussion on various bills, some of which were changed to reflect greater priority.</p> <p>Recommendation made to have report on this included, at least briefly, in newsletter.</p>	<p>Debbie will check with the VT Tobacco Control Coalition re: the bills related to tobacco control.</p> <p>Penrose to check with S. Kelley at VDH re: the bills related to food labeling.</p> <p>Debbie to ask Sally to review H321 re: improving access to vaccines for adults.</p> <p>Board members reviewing bills should also review any related policy statements to assure a match or assess if we need to develop other policy statements.</p> <p>Recommendation made to ask Steve to re-assess for any bills that have been added by approx. mid-Jan. This requires Burt's approval for potential additional funding.</p>
<p align="center">Update on Transportation Summit</p>	<p>Heidi reported. Please see her complete report in the newsletter article which she sent out by email. Key issues at the summit included the need / benefits to invest in alternative transportation modes and community design in order to improve traffic safety, increase walking, biking and healthy lifestyles, and reduce adverse impacts on environment and health.</p>	<p>None needed at this time.</p>

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Update on APHA Conference	Bob reported. He attended the Advocacy Round Table. Burt attended the Membership Round Table. President elect is Dr. Linda Rae Murray from Illinois Dept. of Health. She seems passionate and presents well. Bob further reports that there was much discussion at APHA regarding decreased funding. APHA membership fee is high. Recommendation was made to decrease the per member fee, and membership numbers might increase. However, APHA is reluctant to make this change.	None at this time.
Next Meeting	Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM. Our next meeting will be: Thursday, December 10, 2009 5:30 PM UVM -- Rowell Bldg.	PLEASE mark your calendars & plan to attend! Focus will be on planning annual meeting.