

**VtPHA Board Meeting -- November 13, 2008 -- 5:30 PM -- ACS Office, Williston, VT**

**Present:** Debbie Dameron, Bob Costantino, Joanne Fedele, Brian Flynn, Heidi Klein, Burt Wilcke

**Unable to attend:** Darlene Ahrens, Penrose Jackson

Minutes Submitted by: J.Fedele

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Update on APHA Annual Meeting</b>	<p>Bob attended a number of meetings on behalf of VtPHA as well as the Region I rep.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Many of the meetings were related to global health problems although APHA doesn't have programs related to these problems. Advocates for these global health issues seek APHA approval rather than resources.</li> <li>◆ Discussion and review of current and new APHA officers.</li> <li>◆ With increase in dues, there was discussion on potential impact, such as loss of members. However, so far, APHA reports no significant loss of membership.</li> <li>◆ Joint membership was discussed -- joining both APAH and Affiliate simultaneously at reduced cost. Some states will be piloting this strategy. Not in effect yet in these states.</li> </ul> <p>Burt attended meetings r/t RWJ grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ He reported there was discussion about APHA revenue, such as with publications, and how revenue fluctuates with publication sales.</li> <li>◆ VtPHA can expect a visit from the APHA President in '09.</li> <li>◆ There was a technical training session. Burt has attended 3 so far, of which the first in Phoenix was most helpful.</li> <li>◆ RWJ grant funds: We can carry forward for one year only. We are in our second year.</li> </ul>	No further action needed at this time.
<b>New England Coalition on Disease Prevention &amp; Health Promotion</b>	Burt announced that this annual conference is coming up on Dec. 16 in Providence, RI. It is appropriate to use grant funds to send a representative. Since no Board members are able to attend, it was decided to ask if there is interest from membership.	Burt to ask Audra to send the info and an inquiry out to VtPHA membership.
<b>National Public Health Week</b>	Burt attended a session in San Diego on this. There will be more lead time this year. Theme is <i>Building a Foundation for a Healthy America</i> . Dates are April 6 - 12. We should plan accordingly for our own organization in the spring.	None needed at this time.
<b>Action Plan for Strategic Plan</b>	APHA policy development process was discussed at Oct meeting. However, there are no minutes from our Oct. meeting. Heidi took the APHA matrix for policy development and simplified it to meet VT needs.	None currently. Follow-up as needed.

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<p><b>Advocacy</b></p>	<p>Debbie reports that she met with the Health Commissioner re: ACS issues, but also mentioned PH issues, including potential for federally-funded PH jobs to be cut. Commissioner, Dr. Wendy Davis, is also concerned and encourages VtPHA to make a statement. There is a format on the APHA website that we might be able to use for this purpose. Discussion on how funds can be spent for advocacy, or rather education vs. advocacy. If grant funds are restricted, we can use our original funds that are not from the grant. Lengthy discussion on strategies. We should support the efforts of Vermont One.</p> <p>Debbie also reported that in further discussion with Commissioner Davis, Debbie invited her to attend a meeting. Is the December meeting possible? Debbie will ask her if she chooses to meet with Board members first, or if the meeting can be opened up to general membership. If so, we will send out an invitation to membership.</p> <p>Discussion on advocacy strategies. Focus should be on essential services, rather than one department. There are health programs in departments outside of VDH such as in other AHS areas that are also key. Key words to use in crafting our statement are: Prevent, Promote, Protect.</p> <p>Debbie offered the assistance of one of her Policy Analysts, Kelly Stoddard. Kelly could do some research and start crafting the language. We need to update our website regarding this issue and we need to inform our membership.</p> <p>Our message is that public health services should not be cut. The infrastructure needs to be maintained. Message need to be framed in a positive manner, with emphasis on the significance of prevention.</p>	<p>Bob to check with region I Affiliates to see if a draft is available.</p> <p>Follow-up on this issue will continue over the next few days via electronic communication.</p>
<p><b>Other Business</b></p>	<p>Burt informed the group that he will be meeting with Audra regarding the need to accomplish some grant-related business, such as a membership survey that needs to be done, as well as some work around the business plan.</p>	
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM. Our next meeting will be <b>Thursday, December 11, 2008</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> <b>ACS Office, Williston</b></p>	<p><b>PLEASE mark your calendars!</b></p>