

Vt Public Health Association Board Meeting – February 11, 2010 -- 5:30 PM – UVM, Rowell Bldg.

Present: Debbie Dameron, Penrose Jackson, Heidi Klein, Burt Wilcke, Joanne Fedele, Bob Costantino, Sally Kerschner

Unable to attend: Brian Flynn,

Minutes Submitted by: J.Fedele

Guests: Steve Kappel, Sandy Dooley, Theo Kennedy, Sasha Bianchi, Amy Lefevre

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p>Update on Legislative Issues</p>	<p>Steve reported on what’s going on in legislature. This is a very tense session. Blueprint is being pushed with no real evidence that it works. Hospital budgets will be severely challenged. Debbie gave update on current tobacco control budget. We need to support tobacco control funding as a group. Coalition for Tobacco Free VT has 3 legislative priorities: level funding, protect tobacco trust fund for tobacco control, prohibit smoking within 25 ft of county, city and state buildings. Question re: next steps on this bill. We may have to write letters of support. Discussion on bills r/t distracted driving and idling vehicles. Heidi gave report on current environmental health bills. She also screened them against our policy statements and there is alignment. Please see handout for details. As a Board we should consider supporting BPA bill, Green Cleaning bill, Complete Streets, and Ban on Water Bottles. Discussion on bill on paid sick days. Burt reports that, not surprisingly, a national report shows that during the H1N1 epidemic, people ill with symptoms, but without paid sick days, did go to work. Burt will continue to follow this bill. Penrose reported on changes in Northern New England Poison Center. VT belongs along with NH and ME. It is costly – approximately \$350,000 to the state. There may well be a change. It is currently in the budget process and this be changed to another poison center at a remote site. We need to be aware that this change may occur.</p>	<p>Re: the environment health bills, Heidi will continue to follow them and keep us apprised. Penrose also volunteered to follow the Complete Streets Bill</p> <p>Burt will continue to follow this bill and keep us updated.</p>
<p>Annual Meeting</p>	<p>Bob was able to reach Andrew Meyer. He is really too busy to speak at our meeting. He recommended Tom Stearns who may be very interested (Center for Agricultural Economy; www.hardwickagriculture.org). Bob has left him an email and will follow up. Heidi is in favor of getting a speaker to make the connection between food and public health as discussed at Jan. meeting. Burt suggests that since this is our last full grant year, we really should try to get dynamic speakers and market this as a seminar or conference rather than our annual meeting. Currently, second week in May maybe possible.</p> <p>We should also consider having a conference in the fall as we currently have the grant funding to support another educational opportunity.</p>	<p>Bob to follow up with Tom Stearns as speaker. Bob will follow up with reserving Capitol Plaza.</p>

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Membership	<p>Burt reported that he and Heidi have been working on membership. One suggestion is to create a discount for those APHA members who are not VT members. We can get the list from APHA. Another strategy is to get in touch with potential members through professional associations such as dental hygienists. A third is to offer sustaining membership to organizations, such as Green Mtn.Coffee (which was so supportive in our strategic planning process), the UVM Medical School, School of Allied Health, etc. Another population to target for free membership is the student body at School of Allied Health. It was noted that other states have noticed a decline in their organizational memberships.</p> <p>Membership benefits should include improved communications and improved networking. We also need to improve website. We should consider a member only section. We should also include a membership list on the website.</p> <p>The newsletter still needs to be done. Heidi has volunteered to do the first one.</p>	Burt & Heidi to follow up.
Next Meeting	<p>Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM. Next meeting is:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, March 11, 2010. 5:30 PM Rowell Bldg., UVM</p>	Please mark your calendars!

BPA (S.247)

Sponsor – Senator Lyons

Key Advocacy Allies – VPIRG, Voices for VT's Children, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (PPNNE), Toxics Action Center*

This bill would phase BPA out of reusable food and beverage containers (including baby bottles, water bottles, Tupperware, sippy cups, etc.) and infant formula cans and baby food jars. This bill will start in the Senate Health and Welfare committee.

Green Cleaning in Schools (H.389)

Sponsor – Rep. Mike Fisher

Key Advocacy Allies – VPIRG, Voices for VT's Children, Informed Green Solutions, Toxics Action Center, American Lung Association

This bill would require all schools in VT to use 3rd party certified environmentally preferable cleaning products. This would be cost-neutral for schools and is something that our state buildings are already required to do. This bill is currently in the House Education committee.

Comprehensive Chemicals Bill (H.484)

Sponsor: Rep. Jewett

Key Advocacy Allies – VPIRG, PPNNE, Toxics Action Center*

This bill is based on a similar law enacted in Maine. It would establish a statewide system for identifying and regulating the most harmful chemicals in children's products. It would require ANR to identify a list of chemicals of high concern, then identify priority chemicals, and target those priority chemicals for the potential phase out of children's products.

This bill was not named as an Alliance priority for this year and don't expect this to move this year given the economy and state budget. Next year may be possible. However, this is a bill introduced by Rep. Jewett and he is VERY committed to it. There was a hearing in Fish and Wildlife.

Complete Streets (H. 741)

Sponsor: Rep. Masland

Key Advocacy Allies — AARP VT, Smart Growth Vermont, VNRC

This bill proposes to require the agency of transportation, in its transportation project planning, development, and implementation activities, to adhere to "complete streets principles" assuring adequate accommodation of and consideration of the safety of all users of the transportation system, regardless of age or ability, and that new construction or reconstruction of highways provide for the construction, maintenance, or improvement of shoulders for bicycles or pedestrians unless otherwise exempted. Hearing was held in the Transportation Committee.

Ban on Water Bottles

Advocates are asking for an executive order to eliminate state funding for bottled water in all government offices. This is viewed as an unnecessary and duplicative governmental expense when taxpayers already pay for programs and services to provide safe drinking water. They also point out that bottled water is less regulated than tap water and therefore there is not guarantee regarding its safety.