

AGENDA
2008 alPHa ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, June 9, 2008
1:00 - 1:30 PM
Rooms 1, 2 & 3, Main Floor
Nottawasaga Inn Resort, 6015 Highway 89, Alliston

CHAIR: Vance Blackmore, President

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | Vance Blackmore |
| 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA | Vance Blackmore |
| 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2007 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
<i>Held on June 11, 2007 in Windsor (attached)</i> | Vance Blackmore |
| 4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT | Vance Blackmore |
| 5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Linda Stewart |
| 6. REPORT OF THE TREASURER
<i>Approval of the 2007-2008 Audited Financial Statement</i> | Maria Harding |
| 7. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR FOR 2008-2009 | Vance Blackmore |
| 8. REPORT ON 2007 ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS (attached) | Linda Stewart |
| 9. BOARD OF HEALTH SECTION REPORT (attached) | Valerie Sterling |
| 10. COUNCIL OF ONTARIO MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH REPORT
(attached) | Charles Gardner |
| 11. AFFILIATES' REPORT (attached) | Dale Jackson |
| 12. ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT (attached) | Linda Stewart |
| 13. 2008 alPHa STRATEGIC PLAN (attached) | Linda Stewart |
| 14. NEW BUSINESS | |
| 15. ADJOURNMENT | |

MINUTES
2007 alPHa ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, June 11, 2007 at 1:00 PM
Riverfront Club, 2nd Floor, Hilton Windsor
Chair: Liana Nolan - President

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by alPHa President Liana Nolan at 1:06 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved on a MOTION by C. Whiting, SECONDED by G. Levine and CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2006 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the June 2006 Annual Business Meeting were approved as circulated on a MOTION by M. Decou, SECONDED by V. Sterling and CARRIED.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Members were informed that the Report of the President was contained in the 2006-2007 alPHa Annual Report. The President's report was received on a MOTION by M. Harding which was SECONDED by M. Leduc and CARRIED.

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Report of the Executive Director, contained in the 2006-2007 alPHa Annual Report, was received on a MOTION by M. Johnson which was SECONDED by B. Kilger and CARRIED.

6. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

alPHa Treasurer M. Harding referred to the Association's audited financial statements for 2006-2007. The statements were received on a MOTION by G. Hebert, SECONDED by B. Todd and CARRIED.

7. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR FOR 2007-2008

BDO Dunwoody LLP was appointed as alPHa's auditor for 2007-2008 on a MOTION by J. Currie, SECONDED by B. Greenwood and CARRIED.

8. REPORT ON 2006 ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

L. Stewart noted the resolutions that were closed over the past year by the alPHa Advocacy Committee. The report on the resolutions endorsed at the 2006 annual conference was received on a MOTION by L. Stewart, SECONDED by M. Hodge and CARRIED.

9. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH SECTION

Board of Health Section Chair V. Blackmore referred to his report that was included in the agenda. The report was received on a MOTION by V. Blackmore, SECONDED by H. Mulligan and CARRIED.

10. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF ONTARIO MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

COMOH Chair G. Pollett referred to his report that was attached to the agenda and thanked the members of the 2005-2007 COMOH Executive. Special thanks were given to his assistant Marj McRorie and alPHa staff members Linda Stewart and Gordon Fleming. The COMOH report was received on a MOTION by G. Pollett, SECONDED by M. Hodge and CARRIED.

11. AFFILIATES' REPORT

M. Decou provided an inaugural report on behalf of the seven Affiliate organizations of alPHa, demonstrating that the Affiliates were working to move public health forward in Ontario. The Affiliates' report was received on a MOTION by M. Decou, SECONDED by C. Timmings and CARRIED.

12. ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Advocacy Committee Chair L. Stewart referred to the written report that was included in the agenda and thanked committee members for their work over the past year. Eighteen resolutions had been closed by the Advocacy Committee following the fulfilment of their operative clauses. The Report of the Advocacy Committee was received on a MOTION by M. Leduc, SECONDED by M. Harding and CARRIED.

13. 2007 alPHa STRATEGIC PLAN

L. Stewart referred to alPHa's strategic plan for 2007, highlighting the five major goals that have been identified for the Association. A work plan to achieve these goals within the next three years will be developed. The strategic plan was received on a MOTION by G. Montgomery, SECONDED by G. Hebert and CARRIED.

14. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed. It was clarified, however, that the candidates who made speeches earlier today were running for seats to represent the Board of Health Section on the 2007-2008 alPHa Board of Directors. It was further clarified that only Board of Health members will be voting in the elections which is to take place during this afternoon's Board of Health Section general meeting.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

REPORT ON 2007 RESOLUTIONS & ACTION TAKEN

A total of 11 resolutions were considered for adoption by the alPHa membership at the June 2007 annual conference. Eight of these were endorsed, one was defeated (no action taken) and two were deferred for further review. The following is an update on the status of the June 2007 resolutions.

A07-1: Request For 100% Provincial Funding of Mandatory Health Programs and Services

(Action from 2007 Conference: Defeated)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies urge the Province of Ontario to 100% fund all Mandatory Health Programs and Services in Ontario, while maintaining local and regional membership of Boards of Health.

No action was taken on this resolution as it was defeated.

A07-2: Childhood Obesity and Trans Fats

(Action from 2007 Conference: Carried)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT alPHa urges the Government of Canada to respond to "Healthy Weights for Healthy Kids" and the Trans Fat Task Force reports and implement their recommendations as quickly as possible; AND FURTHER THAT the Prime Minister of Canada, Ministers of Finance Canada, Health Canada, Heritage Canada, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Infrastructure Canada, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Children and Youth Services, Education, Finance, Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion and Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health are so advised.

alPHa wrote to federal minister of health Tony Clement in October 2007 urging him to act on the recommendations in the two above-named reports and enact binding legislation for reducing trans fat content in processed foods. alPHa also encouraged Minister Clement to make public the reports on the progress of the reduction of trans fat in the food supply a part of Health Canada's monitoring activities. In December 2007, Health Canada released the first set of semi-annual results from its Trans Fat Monitoring Program, showing the progress made in voluntary reductions of trans fats in selected products. In January 2008 alPHa wrote Ontario education minister Kathleen Wynne to express support of Bill 8, Healthy Food for Healthy Schools, referring to this resolution. Bill 8 was passed in April, restricting trans fats in foods provided in Ontario schools.

A07-3: Request for Further Consultation and Input into Public Health Standards

(Action from 2007 Conference: Withdrawn; referred to alPHa Board for further discussion)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies request that the Co-Chairs of the Technical Review Committee re-circulate any revised document for additional feedback from boards of health and their staff prior to submission to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for approval; AND FURTHER THAT the Association request that the standards be adopted on an interim basis until all accompanying documentation is completed, at which point, final consideration be given, in consultation with boards of health and their staff, to finalize adoption of the standard as written.

Acting on recommendations made by the alPHa Advocacy Committee on this resolution, alPHa contacted the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to share concerns over the process for the development of and consultation on the protocols for the Ontario Public Health Standards. Clarification was sought on the consultation process and subsequently shared with alPHa's members. Two rounds of consultation with the field were conducted for 25 supporting protocols, and one was held to seek input on the rollout, anticipated for Fall 2008.

A07-4: Ban on Cosmetic Pesticide Use

(Action from 2007 Conference: Referred to Advocacy Committee)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies request that the province of Ontario enact and enforce provincial legislation banning the cosmetic use of pesticides.

Following recommendations from the Advocacy Committee, the alPHa Board of Directors decided that the issue of cosmetic pesticides be put on the agenda of the February 2008 alPHa members' meeting. The aim was to educate members on the ban and clarify issues and definitions that were a source of contention at the June 2007 conference. On April 22, 2008 the Government of Ontario introduced Bill 64, province-wide legislation to ban the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides that would likely take effect in the spring of 2009.

The alPHa Board endorsed the response made by the Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario (ASPHIO) to the proposed ban. Once legislation is passed, alPHa will comment on the process for the implementation of the ban, particularly the issue of enforcement.

Bill 64 passed second reading on May 26.

A07-5: Amendments of the Immunization of School Pupils Act

(Action from 2007 Conference: Carried)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies request that the Minister be requested to amend Regulation 645 of the ISPA to include Pertussis as a designated disease.

In October 2007, alPHa wrote the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to inform him of this resolution and its request. A reply from the Director of the Infectious Diseases Branch was received in December 2007 outlining the difficulties in implementing the request, explaining that there is no stand-alone pertussis vaccine approved for use in Canada that would satisfy the regulatory requirements for dealing with pertussis as a designated disease.

A07-6: Advocate for a Provincial Strategy to Address Substance Use

(Action from 2007 Conference: Carried)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies request that the provincial government develop a comprehensive provincial strategy for alcohol and other drugs based on the four components of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement, in collaboration with the Ontario Health Education and Enforcement Partnership (HEP) initiative.

In October 2007, alPHa wrote Minister Smitherman to introduce this resolution, but has yet to receive a reply.

A07-7: Request for Public Funding for Human Papillomavirus Vaccine

(Action from 2007 Conference: Carried)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) requests the Government of Ontario to include HPV vaccine as a publicly funded immunization for females between the ages of nine and 26 years.

In August 2007, the provincial government announced a publicly-funded programme for voluntary immunization of grade 8 girls against the human Papillomavirus, a known cause of genital warts and cervical cancer. alPHa issued a news release in support of the program. In October 2007, alPHa sent a copy of the resolution to Minister Smitherman and congratulated him on the HPV vaccination initiative. Earlier this spring the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health advocated for expansion on the HPV program.

A07-8: Ontario Congenital Anomalies Surveillance System

(Action from 2007 Conference: Carried)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT alPHa urges the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to establish an Ontario congenital anomaly surveillance system by working in partnership with the Ontario Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Government Services (Office of the Registrar General) and Health Promotion, and members of SPWG including those from the Niday Perinatal System, the Ontario Maternal Multiple Marker Screening Database, and the Fetal Alert Network; AND FURTHER THAT the Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Children and Youth Services, Government Services, Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, and Chairs of the SPWG and CCASN are so advised.

alPHa wrote the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to introduce the resolution. In November 2007, alPHa also sent a letter to the Chairperson of the Canadian Congenital Anomalies Surveillance Network to inform her of alPHa's resolution.

A08-9: Cancer Care Ontario Support for Boards of Health

(Action from 2007 Conference: Carried)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT alPHa urges Cancer Care Ontario to develop the following: a clear process whereby boards of health may obtain timely data for areas smaller than the health unit level; mechanisms and/or workshops to train public health epidemiologists on cancer analysis techniques; and a forum by which boards of health and CCO can share findings and data quality issues;

AND FURTHER THAT the Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care and Health Promotion, President and CEO, Cancer Care Ontario, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health are so advised.

In December 2007, alPHa wrote the President and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario to introduce the resolution. In April 2008, Linda met with Dr. John McLaughlin, VP, Population Studies and Surveillance with CCO on April 21, 2008 regarding alPHa's resolution. CCO understands and supports the need for BOHs to get data at a smaller than health unit level, and are committed to developing a clear process whereby BOHs may obtain timely data.

The major barrier is privacy legislation (PHIPA). CCO has the data, but there are currently privacy issues for geographic areas with less than 5 cases.

Given an MOH is the end user of the data, CCO offered to ask the Privacy Commissioner to do a privacy impact assessment on the provision of data to BOHs.

This is in progress.

A07-10: Publicly Funded Dental Program to Assist Financially Disadvantaged Ontarians

(Action from 2007 Conference: Carried)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care be requested to begin the process of developing a publicly funded dental program that assists Ontarians who face financial barriers in accessing basic dental care.

Prior to the October 2007 provincial election, the NDP and Liberal election platforms included include respective promises of \$100M and \$45M in annual funding for dental services for low-income families. Towards the end of October, alPHa sent a letter to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care with a copy of the resolution. The Throne Speech of November 2007 included a pledge to "provide dental benefits to low-income families" as part of its comprehensive strategy to reduce poverty in the province. On March 17, 2008 the Ontario government announced its plan to provide dental services to low-income Ontarians with an investment of \$135 million over three years, starting in 2008-09. This investment will also expand the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) program. CINOT currently provides urgent dental care services to children in low-income families from birth to Grade 8 or their fourteenth birthday, whichever is later. CINOT will now include children in low-income families until their eighteenth birthday. On April 4, 2008 the alPHa Board closed this resolution.

A07-11: Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) Program

(Action from 2007 Conference: Carried)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies request that the provincial government resume 100% funding of the CINOT dental treatment program; AND FURTHER THAT CINOT fees to service providers remain reasonably attractive by increasing them to at least 75% of the ODA approved fee schedule, reviewing them on a regularly scheduled basis and incorporating a 'cost of living' increase. AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Health Promotion, the Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, local Members of Provincial Parliament, member municipalities and Ontario Boards of Health for their support and action, and to District dentists.

Minister Smitherman was sent a copy of the resolution in October 2007. Please see the above

resolution (A07-10).

**BOARD OF HEALTH SECTION
Annual Report 2007 – 2008
June 9, 2008**

It is my privilege and pleasure to report on the activities of the Board of Health Section.

The Board of Health Section Executive members during the 2007-2008 year were:

- Vance Blackmore (Middlesex-London – South West Region)
- Jean Haalboom (Waterloo – Central West Region)
- Maria Harding (Thunder Bay – North West Region)
- Mary Johnson (Eastern Ontario Region)
- Colleen Jordan (Durham – Central East Region)
- Helen Mulligan (Brant – Central East Region)
- Valerie Sterling, Chair (Toronto)

Public Health in Ontario was eventful with the announcement of the inaugural board members of the Ontario Agency of Health Protection and Promotion (Liana Nolan, alPHa Past President was appointed to the Board); the Food Premises Regulation was amended to allow for a much broader range of foods sold in mobile premises; the universal vaccination program for grade 8 girls (Human Papilloma Virus); the development of the draft Protocols for the Ontario Public Health Standards and the consultations; the transfer of the Small Drinking Water Systems' responsibility from the Ministry of the Environment to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and to Boards of Health; Pandemic Flu Planning activities; the staffing and organizational changes in the Public Health Division of the MHLTC; Bill 130; proposed Cosmetic Pesticide Provincial regulations; Poverty Reduction Strategy for Ontario; 2008 Provincial Budget elements related to health units (Pesticide Ban, Dental Care for Low-Income Families, Student Nutrition Program, Retail Sales Tax Exemption for Bicycles and Related Safety Equipment, TST Exemption for Nicotine Replacement Therapies, Tobacco Tax Act).

The Board of Health Section Executive Committee met six times to discuss policy directions, public health issues and plan general meetings/conferences. In addition, the Committee reviewed the Board of Health Section Policies and Procedures, aligned the representation on the alPHa Board (regional-based) to those currently used by the COMOH Executive and updated the corresponding nomination and ballot forms. These Policies and Procedures were approved by the membership and have been put into effect for the 2008/2009 Board of Health Section Executive nominations and elections.

Other activities:

- Nominated Dr. Sheela Basrur for The Institute of Public Administration's 2008 Vanier Medal. This award recognizes an individual who has shown distinctive leadership and contributed significantly to public service in Canada. The Committee felt that Dr. Sheela Basrur has, without a doubt, contributed significantly to public service and public administration in Canada. The Medal recipient will be announced at the I.P.A.C. Annual Conference in August.
- Pursued an opportunity to meet with Cynthia Morton, Deputy Minister of Health Promotion who has a mandate to move forward on the childhood obesity issue. We discussed the need to stop the marketing of unhealthy foods and drinks to children.

- Established a “MOHLTC Update” Standing Agenda item at the Board of Health Section meetings.
- Made alPHA’s Advocacy Committee a formal Committee of the Board.
- Supported the private member’s bill to amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act by banning smoking in cars containing children under the age of 16 years;
- Supported, in principle, the practice of fluoridation of the drinking water supply;
- Advocated on poverty issues highlighted by the Cost of Nutritious Food Basket data;
- After the Provincial election, sent letter of congratulations to new MPPs outlining key public health issues;
- Expressed concern that the implementation of the Standards, which are to be revenue neutral, will have a negative impact on health units operation and budgets. It was agreed to wait for the release of the final protocols when the resource intensity required can be analyzed before addressing advocacy efforts.
- Supported alPHA Executive Director and other staff to:
 - Develop an information technology system related to the transfer of Small Drinking Water Systems to ensure Health Units have the capacity to fulfill their new responsibilities to assess and inspect small drinking water systems;
 - Obtain a legal opinion on the changes to Bill 130 – Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006 – and communicated the legal information to the Boards of Health in order to assist them to comply with this new regulation;
 - Conduct a review of the priorities of LHINS and distributed summary charts to Boards of Health for information and local action.

The Executive members also steered three Board of Health Section general meetings in June 2007, December 2007 and February 2008 – presentations included: Alcohol, the Next Tobacco; Community Water Fluoridation in Ontario; Cosmetic Use of Pesticides; Aboriginal Public Health in Ontario; The Precautionary Principle; and Wet Cleaning.

They also attended five alPHA Board of Directors meetings during the past year. In addition, the Chair also participated in five alPHA Board of Directors Executive meetings.

In the near future, in addition to discussing and advocating for issues of mutual concern, the Board of Health Section Executive Committee together with alPHA staff plans to:

- Review the Standards’ Protocols and their implications on Health Units’ operations and budgets;
- Explore health risks of alcohol consumption;
- Research health risks of caffeine/coffee consumption;
- Explore the potential for providing input into the Review of Ontario’s Health and Physical Education Curriculum;
- Investigate industrial toxins/chemicals – reporting and disclosure;
- Work toward stopping youth access and the sale of contraband tobacco; and,
- Address the issue of chewing (smokeless) tobacco.

I would like to extend special thanks to my colleagues on the Board of Health Section Executive Committee and the Section members for their commitment in ensuring that we continue to work towards maintaining effective and efficient public health services to meet the needs of the population of Ontario; as well as, responding to the changing landscape of public health. I would also like to thank Helen Mulligan for representing the Board of Health Section on the Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation Board and keeping us continually informed. In addition, on behalf of the Executive Committee members, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Linda Stewart and Susan Lee at alPHA for their ongoing support and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Sterling
Chair, Board of Health Section

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH
Annual Report 2007 - 2008
June 9, 2008

Plans for the Year

Near the beginning of the 2007/2008 year we established priorities for COMOHO, and since that time we have pursued them diligently. They are as follows:

- *Responding well to urgent and emerging public health issues.*
- *Pursuing public health physician renewal.*
- *Participating in public health system renewal.*

Provincial Engagement

Much of our work has centered on our relationship with the province. COMOHO developed and pursued an engagement and communication strategy with the senior management team of the Public Health Division and the Ministry of Health Promotion. With this approach we have more of a mutual understanding of the public health issues that we face, and the means of addressing them. COMOHO members have had the opportunity to meet with Deputy Minister of Health Promotion Cynthia Morton to review COMOHO's recommendations on childhood obesity; at her request we have worked with other public health disciplines to develop and submit surveillance recommendations.

Public Health Physician Renewal

The province has increased support for professional development by holding the Ministry Day, by financially supporting three alPHA sessions (which has also increased attendance by community medicine residents by allowing them to attend without cost), and by working with our Maincert Committee and its new chair, Fran Scott, to have these events accredited with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and the Canadian College of Family Physicians. The topics covered in these venues have been wide-ranging and well focused on our professional needs, and have included public health for aboriginal communities, the precautionary principle, community water fluoridation, pesticide restrictions, vector borne diseases, the new Small Water Systems program, hand hygiene education, and the built environment and health.

Work is under way for a leadership development retreat for the public health physicians of the province to take place in the fall. COMOHO members have also participated in the planning for the joint alPHA/OPHA public health summit to take place in October.

Engagement on Public Health Issues

Through our engagement with the province we have become more aware of the opportunities for advocacy on public health issues. We have been able to bring forward issues where our priorities have aligned with provincial directions. Over the course of the year COMOHO members have been invited to participate in venues to advise on healthy school nutrition (with the Ministry of Education), poverty and health inequities, the protection of children from environmental tobacco smoke in cars, and primary care provision approaches during an influenza pandemic (with a COMOHO paper on this topic).

We continue our work on PIDAC (the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee), iPHIS, the Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation (OCCHA) and on the Rabies Advisory Committee (RAC), and partner with the Ontario Medical Association through their Public Health Section.

Public Health System Renewal

COMOH has also engaged in the renewal of the public health system. Members have been part of working teams to develop the protocols to the Ontario Public Health Standards, have advised on the rollout of the Standards, as well as on recommendations for public health performance management. COMOH members have supported the development of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, including the participation of COMOH member Dr. Liana Nolan on the Agency's founding board. COMOH members have also fostered linkages between public health and family health teams, and have been on boards for Local Health Integration Networks.

Responding to Urgent Public Health Issues

We have had our time-sensitive challenges over the past year. Examples from last summer include the short timelines to implement the Human Papilloma Virus vaccination program and the amendments to the Food Premises Regulation. COMOH provided public support for the vaccination program in response to controversy – and COMOH supported ASPHIO in the development of a protocol to implement the Regulation amendments. Since then we have advocated for an expansion in the HPV program and are presently working with ASPHIO to develop recommendations to the province on further changes to the Regulation. In response to new requirements for school drinking water testing for lead, during the summer of 2007 COMOH members worked with the province to develop guidelines for the management of exceedances. COMOH has also provided a written response regarding the provincial auditor's recommendation for local quarantine centres. Our membership has worked with other health unit professionals and with the province to provide leadership in the response to measles, and in managing a cluster of rabies in the sale of puppies, both involving several health units.

Final Thoughts

It has been a busy year, and I have found it to be rewarding and inspiring to work with the talented and dedicated membership of COMOH, the ALPHa staff, and with our partners in the field and at the province. Much progress has been made on our priorities.

We have been saddened to see some of our members depart, and we welcome our newer members. And we extend a warm invitation to the community medicine residents who represent our future – a future that I am confident will be rich with challenges, opportunities and accomplishments.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Charles Gardner
Chair, COMOH

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS OF alPHa
Annual Report 2007-2008
June 9, 2008

Members representing Affiliates on alPHa's Board of Directors for 2007-08 were:

ANDSOOHA (Public Health Nursing Management): Carol Timmings (Toronto) *
ANDSOOHA (Public Health Nursing Management): Susan Kniahnicki (Algoma) **
AOPHBA (Business Administrators): Dale Jackson (Hastings Prince Edward)
APHEO (Public Health Epidemiologists): Mary Lou Decou (Niagara) *
APHEO (Public Health Epidemiologists): Anne-Marie Holt (Haliburton Kawartha) **
ASPHIO (Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors): Ken Gorman (Durham)
OAPHD (Public Health Dentistry): Dr. Joyce Sinton (Brant)
HPO (Health Promotion Ontario): Theresa Schumilas (Waterloo)
OSNPPH (Nutrition Professionals in Public Health): Tracy Allan-Koester (Perth) **

* resigned mid-term

** mid-term replacement

The following is a short summary of key activities in 2007-08 for each Affiliate group.

ANDSOOHA

ANDSOOHA's annual general meeting and conference was held October 3 & 4, 2007. A new strategic plan was approved by the membership for the period of 2008 – 2010. It is built around the directions of providing leadership in the advancement of public health nursing, strengthening the profile, promoting public health nursing knowledge and skill development, promoting knowledge and skill development in public health nursing management and enhancing capacity to engage the membership. Gerry Smith of Shepell-fgi spoke at the conference on the theme of Trends in the Workplace for the Discerning Manager.

In December 2007, ANDSOOHA and Algoma Public Health received funding from HealthForceOntario to conduct a joint project to design, develop, implement and evaluate an orientation program for public health nurses in Ontario. The program will be designed to promote transition to practice and will be reflective of current public health nursing practice. Five health units have been selected as pilot sites to assist in the orientation package design, development, implementation and evaluation. The project is led by two members of the ANDSOOHA executive and additional ANDSOOHA members sit on the Advisory and Working committees. This is a one year project.

ANDSOOHA continues to be involved in the New Nursing Graduate Guarantee Task Force for the Nursing Graduate Strategy which supports the transition of new nursing graduates into full time work.

continued

AOPHBA

The Ontario Association of Public Health Business Administrators continues to provide input and advice to Public Health Division Finance through the Financial Accountability Working Group (FAWG) on financial matters. AOPHBA membership on the FAWG includes Pat Hewitt (Halton), Jackie Boufford (Durham), Don West (Porcupine), and Dale Jackson (Hastings Prince Edward). The Ministry of Health Promotion has also recently sought input from our FWAG members on financial matters related to Smoke Free Ontario funding.

Members of AOPHBA are also busy on other committees. Catherine Bloskie (Renfrew) represents the association on the OCCHA Board of Directors and Scott Elder (Hastings Prince Edward) represents the association on alPHa's Advocacy Committee. While not appointed as representatives of AOPHBA, Tony Button (KFL&A) and Jeff Holmes (Algoma) remained busy on the Technical Review Committee reviewing the new Mandatory Program Standards Protocols.

The Executive of AOPHBA would like to remind all health units to ensure timely updates continue to be made to the alPHa Salary Database. The database is a valuable tool in comparing salaries across health units but must remain current to have any relevance.

The 2008 Annual AOPHBA Conference will be hosted by Haldimand-Norfolk in Simcoe, Ontario, September 21 to 24. We look forward to meeting with representatives of the three ministries that provide funding for programs, as well as participating in professional development seminars that will be offered.

APHEO

The Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO) is an organization of over 170 members and affiliates devoted to advancing and promoting the discipline and professional practice of epidemiology in Ontario public health units since 1991.

Activities/accomplishments for 2007-2008 include:

- EpiData Project – Evaluation & Redevelopment – Awarded three year contract in February 2007 by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to evaluate the use and expansion of EpiData for the practice of Epidemiology in the field.
- Core Indicators Project – APHEO was awarded funding from PHAC to enable hiring staff to update, modify, create indicators related to chronic disease and related risk factors. There have been several existing indicators that have been recently updated and are available at the APHEO website (<http://www.apheo.on.ca/>).
- Public Health Standards and Protocol Reviews – APHEO gave extensive feedback on the proposed Standards and Protocols. Several members assisted with the development and revision of the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol.
- PHAC Skills Enhancement Module Reviews – APHEO members continue to review potential modules being developed for the Skills Enhancement Program. Many of our members are also facilitators for this program.
- October 2007 Conference - Explaining the Miracle: Statistics and Analysis in Public Health – APHEO had another successful conference in Ottawa this year with many interesting speakers sharing innovative ways of using statistical tools and analytical methods for disseminating health information (<http://www.apheo.ca/resources/events/07/conf07/index.html>).

- APHEO has begun its strategic planning process, firstly initiated through a membership survey. The process will occur over the next number of months, hoping to be complete by June 2008.
- APHEO will not be offering a conference in 2008, but a smaller scale workshop will be planned for October 2008. Instead, APHEO has entered into a partnership with the Canadian Society of Epidemiologist and Biostatisticians (CSEB) and Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to host a joint conference in the Spring of 2009.
- APHEO was awarded a 6 month contract with PHAC to develop a chronic disease risk factor inventory matrix prototype to serve as a tool for public health professionals across the country.

ASPHIO

ASPHIO's successes over the last two years include but are not limited to the Guidelines for Farmers' Markets and Special Events, the Guidelines for Street Food Vendors, participation on Source Protection Committees, providing guidance to the Expert Panel on Drinking Water with respect to lead (special thanks to MLHU), BWA/DWA and actions for adverse drinking water, reducing environmental exposures to children (RFP with Ryerson), regulations respecting pesticides and consultation on improvements to Environmental Health Databases.

ASPHIO is a key stakeholder working with alpha in the development and procurement of Environmental Health Information Systems/Databases for Public Health Units (PHUs). Although not a province-wide system that we may have envisioned several years ago, there has recently been significant movement on this issue. There needs to be ongoing financial support for environmental health information systems to ensure that PHUs can move forward with and maintain these systems. It may be appropriate for ASPHIO to play a coordinating role with the vendor(s) and the MOHLTC to ensure these information systems meet our current and future needs.

There is significant attraction, retention and capacity issues for all PHUs regarding the number of certified Public Health Inspectors (PHIs). The transfer of Small Drinking Water Systems (SDWS), growth in environmental health programs plus the retiring of many experienced PHIs, managers and directors has resulted in an added stressor for many PHUs to be able to recruit qualified PHIs. ASPHIO is strengthening our relationship with CIPHI (Ontario Branch and the NEC), the Board of Certification (BOC) and the schools of public health regarding capacity, attraction/retention issues for PHIs and the current pass rates of candidates. We plan to engage with all of the stakeholders and participate in a review of the current process. There are many components that should be evaluated including the education, practicum, written and oral examination processes.

The new ASPHIO Executive was appointed at our spring meeting held in May: Bjorn Christensen, President (Niagara); Henry Garcia, Vice-President (Waterloo); Glen Steen, Secretary (Haldimand-Norfolk); and Mary Anne Carson, Treasurer (Halton).

Future Challenges

- The implementation of the SDWS is a significant operational issue for many health units. Several PHUs believe that the actual number of SDWS in their jurisdiction is far greater than what they may have received funded for. ASPHIO should have a role in advocating for appropriate funding for those PHUs for these additional systems.
- Successful implementation of environmental health information systems in all PHUs and a move towards greater standardization of core indicators while recognizing the need for some local customization.
- Notwithstanding the links between public health and climate change, built environment and air quality, the increased role of public health may have potential capacity issues for many PHUs.

- Understanding the new OPHS/Protocols and planning for implementation of them in 2009. Including the implementation of a performance measurement framework.
- Reviewing and amending the *Food Premises Regulation*, particularly in relation to mandatory food handler training and certification.
- Knowledge transfer on issues such as marijuana grow ops, clandestine labs, CQI/QA programs, food disclosure systems and the sharing of practices, policies and procedures between PHUs in an effort to improve consistency across PHUs on environmental health issues.
- Continuing to improve communication between members and sharing experiences by further implementing the ASPHIO Community on the e-Portal.

HPO

Over the past year, HPO has achieved the following:

- Completed a province-wide membership review and membership drive with the result of attracting xx new members. This brings our current membership to 160 individuals, from 36 different agencies in the province. At present, almost every Public Health Unit has at least one member in HPO.
- Held a successful annual conference with features sessions on writing effective policy briefs and clear language writing.
- Launched the Lori Chow Award - in recognition of our colleague Lori. This award will be presented by HPO annually to an individual demonstrating outstanding skill and achievement in health promotion in Ontario. In 2008 the award was presented to Gayle Bursey, from Peel Regional Health Department.
- Participated, along with many other stakeholders, in the consultation and development process for the Ontario Public Health Program Standards and associated protocols. HPO feels that the proposed standards and protocols represent a significant advance over the current framework, and we are pleased to see that comprehensive health promotion strategies are called for across all of the standards. We feel strongly that within a multi-disciplinary public health workforce, Ontario's health promoters are well positioned to act as "integrators" and provide strong linkages between epidemiology, program planning, evaluation and implementation, particularly in the domains of policy development, creating supportive environments and community capacity building and engagement.
- Participated along with many other stakeholders in the process of developing core competencies for the Public Health workforce. In particular, we assessed the structure/organization of health promoters and the discipline of public health promoters across Canada for the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). HPO hopes to use this paper as a basis for further work in discipline-specific competencies for health promotion.

At its recent AGM, Health Promotion Ontario members endorsed a request that they be represented by Theresa Schumilas at alPHa for another year. Theresa is pleased to be representing them, and pleased to participate on the alPHa board.

OAPHD

The Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry has spent the past year focusing on the following issues:

- Observing the progress of the Ontario Public Health Standards (response to protocol development, suggested strategies for implementation etc.)

- Preparing for the implementation of a new Ministry-sponsored Oral Health Information System (OHIS) which will replace the legacy CINOT and Dental Indices Survey data systems
- Responding to community water fluoridation challenges

The main focus of our advocacy efforts continues to be around improving access to dental care. Activities in this area include:

- Partnering with other organizations to increase awareness of how difficult it is for some Ontarians to access dental care
- Observing and commenting on the government's announced poverty reduction strategy (including the announcement of \$135,000 over three years to provide a dental program for low-income families)
- Participating in stakeholder consultations regarding how the above money should be spent

OSNPPH

The Ontario Society for Nutrition Professionals in Public Health had a record membership of 173 members in 2008-09. Despite the growing membership the Executive struggled with recruiting volunteers to fill its roster and its capacity to meet the increasing demands of a growing organization. A successful restructuring meeting was held in January 2008 to develop solutions for the organization to move forward with.

In addition to its on-going advocacy work, OSNPPH was consulted or invited to a number of planning tables this past year. Some brief highlights included:

- participation on the Deputy Minister's Advisory Committee for HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Strategy
- participation on the Ontario Collaborative Group on Healthy Eating and Physical Activity and its advocacy sub-committee
- consultation with the College of Dietitians of Ontario and Dietitians of Canada on Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council's Scope of Practice Review
- participation on the provincial Healthy Schools Working Table and the Comprehensive School Nutrition Standards Committee
- participation on the Pan-Canadian Task Force on Public Health Nutrition Practice
- provision of input into OPHA's advocacy priorities, particularly with respect to MHP's announcement of a Childhood Obesity Strategy
- provision of public health nutrition feedback on the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS), relevant protocols and roll-out process.

Respectfully submitted,



Dale Jackson, Director of Administration,
Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit
AOPHBA Representative, alPHa Board of Directors
Affiliate Representative, alPHa Executive Committee

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
Annual Report 2007-2008
June 9, 2008

Members of the 2007-2008 alPHa Advocacy Committee and their representation were as follows:

- **Lila Cyr** (Algoma), Board of Health Section
- **Mary Lou Decou** (Niagara) and **Anne Marie Holt** (Haliburton, Kawartha), Association of Public Health Epidemiologists of Ontario
- **Scott Elder** (Hastings-Prince Edward), Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators
- **Ken Gorman** (Durham), Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario
- **Colleen Jordan** (Durham), Board of Health Section
- **Susan Kniahnicki** (Algoma) and **Jo Ann Tober** (Brant), ANDSOOHA – Public Health Nursing Management
- **Carolyn Kuntz** (Elgin-St. Thomas), Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health
- **Dr. Rosana Pellizzari** (Perth), Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health
- **Dr. Joyce Sinton** (Brant), Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry
- **Linda Stewart** (alPHa), Chair
- **Dr. Monir Taha** (Halton), Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health

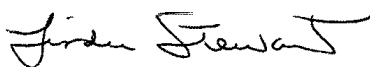
The Committee is supported by alPHa staff members Gordon Fleming, Manager of Public Health Issues, and Susan Lee, Manager, Administrative and Association Services.

In the busy year that was 2007/2008, alPHa's Advocacy Committee met three times by teleconference. The Committee prioritized the June 2007 resolutions, monitored and provided input on the actions taken on them, recommended a number of resolutions for closure to the alPHa Board and reviewed the resolutions that were submitted for consideration at the June 2008 annual conference.

Building on last year's review of the Committee's role and purpose within the Association, members examined the overall effectiveness of the Committee and its ability to operationalize the requirements as stated in the Terms of Reference. Following a closer review, the Terms of Reference will be updated to reflect current practices.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for volunteering their energy and expertise on the various issues that have been presented for strategic discussion.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Stewart, Chair

A07-10, Publicly Funded Dental Program to Assist Financially Disadvantaged Ontarians.

Operative Clause: THAT the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care be requested to begin the process of developing a publicly funded dental program that assists Ontarians who face financial barriers in accessing basic dental care

Reason for closure: The operative clause was satisfied with the introduction of the Ontario Government's plan to provide dental services to low-income Ontarians with an investment of \$135 million over three years, starting in 2008-09.

A05-14, Community Pharmacies and Public Health Emergencies

Operative Clause: THAT alPHa urge the Government of Ontario to immediately initiate discussions/negotiations with representatives of chain and independent community pharmacies regarding the provision of emergency management support services during provincial public health emergencies

Reason for closure: Schedule F of Bill 171 made several amendments to the HPPA, including S77.5, which authorizes the Minister to make orders to procure necessary supplies (including medications) where the Chief Medical Officer of Health determines that there is a health risk that warrants exercising such procurement powers.

A05-4, Determinants of Health as a Mandatory Public Health Program

Operative Clause: THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) request that the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines be revised to include the Determinants of Health as a recognized health program and service area and planning framework for all Ontario boards of health

Reason for closure: The process of replacing the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines with the Ontario Public Health Standards is nearing completion. Social Determinants of Health is not a stand alone program, but references to "vulnerable populations" appear throughout and the goal of the Foundational Standard is "to achieve effective public health policy and practices that respond to the evolving social, economic, behavioural, cultural, as well as physical conditions and factors, which are determinants of health and well-being."

A00-3, 100% Ministry Funding for CINOT

Operative Clause: THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) request that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care resume 100% funding of the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) dental treatment program.

Reason for closure: Resolution A07-11 reiterates the operative clause of this resolution (calls on the government to resume 100% funding of the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) dental treatment program) and adds a request to increase fees to CINOT service providers.

Strategic Plan - UPDATE

Introduction

This document provides an update to the strategic plan for the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) developed by its Board of Directors in February 2007. We are now at the half-way mark in this two-year plan and excellent progress has been made on the organization's strategic goals.

The Association

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) is a non-profit organization that provides leadership to boards of health and public health units in Ontario. Our members include board of health members of health units, medical and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health managers. alPHa advises and lends expertise to members on the governance, administration and management of health units. The Association also collaborates with governments and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective and efficient public health system in the province.

Mission Statement

alPHa, through a strong and unified voice, advocates for public health policies, programs and services on behalf of member health units in Ontario.

Long-Term Objectives

- To assist local public health units in providing efficient and effective services that meet the needs of the people of Ontario.
- To assist in establishing, through collaboration with other organizations, a unified and powerful voice for public health in Ontario which is consulted and respected.

Corporate Tag Line

"Providing leadership in public health management"

Strategic Goals

1. Build the leadership capacity of senior leaders in public health
2. Improve member engagement with the Association
3. Strengthening strategic partnerships
4. Leverage new and existing relationships
5. Improve Association response time to emerging issues

Action Plan

Strategic Goal	Objective	Strategy	Timeline	Status – June 2008
1. Build the leadership capacity of senior leaders in public health	Effective leadership through a period of change for the public health system	Facilitate professional development in the areas of leadership, communication, governance, management, and specific issues (e.g., emergency preparedness)	2007-08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working more closely with COMOH's MainCert Committee and BOH Executive to facilitate professional development opportunities. • BOH Section meetings now include speakers on key topics. • Submitted professional development to MOHLTC. Resulted in two grants in 2007-08 to cover expenses for speakers and community medicine residents at two ALPHA events. • A \$50,000 grant is committed from MOHLTC for professional development in 2008-09.
	Excellence in board and management performance	Pursue on-going funding for ALPHA to co-ordinate professional development for BOHs, MOHs and senior managers	2007-08	
	Maximize credibility of public health leaders			

Strategic Goal	Objective	Strategy	Timeline	Status – June 2008
<p>2. Improve member engagement with the Association</p>	<p>Expand 2-way communication with all members</p> <p>Strengthen the impact of association for all members</p> <p>Ensure alpha conferences/meetings include content for affiliates</p> <p>Increase the visibility of health units and their professional staff</p> <p>Be better positioned to support and to react quickly to advocacy efforts</p>	<p>Establish regular communication with affiliate presidents</p> <p>Create listserves for affiliate groups</p> <p>Establish Conference Planning Committee</p> <p>Develop opportunities for Association members</p> <p>Know key issues for each affiliate group</p>	<p>2007-08</p> <p>2007-08</p> <p>2007-08</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>2008-09</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have coordinated meetings of Affiliates at June 07 Conference (Windsor) and December 07 Fall Workshop (Toronto) with Ministry representative to discuss current issues. • Have added an Affiliates Report at the Annual Business Meeting. • Have created opportunities for health unit staff to showcase their expertise in the area of pandemic planning. • Worked closely with ASPHIO and environmental health directors to complete an IT Needs Assessment for environmental health inspection. Resulted in \$2 million purchase of new hardware and software for environmental health departments in public health units.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Strategy	Timeline	Status – June 2008
3. Strengthening strategic partnerships	<p>Build a higher profile for public health and the Association</p> <p>Build momentum for public health renewal</p> <p>Co-ordinate with partners to clarify advocacy roles and identify available tools</p> <p>Engage in effective government relations and advocacy</p> <p>Effective use of scarce resources and reacting to issues quickly</p>	<p>Build a public health coalition of associations</p> <p>Expand Public Health Renewal Committee to include partners</p> <p>Develop strategic partnerships outside of public health e.g. LHINs</p>	<p>2008-09</p> <p>2007-08</p> <p>2008-09</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with OPHA to develop public health issue materials for all candidates (before October 2007 election) and MPPs (after election). • Through involvement with Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance and Ontario Health Providers Alliance, relationships are being developed with LHIN representatives. • With OPHA, working to develop educational materials for LHINs about public health. • Initial discussions with FHTs to facilitate partnerships with public health. • Initial discussions with Chiefs of Ontario to discuss aboriginal public health issues. • aPHa/OPHA Social Determinants of Health Working Group has been established.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Strategy	Timeline	Status – June 2008
4. Leverage new and existing relationships	Build a higher profile for the Association	Develop an all-candidate election primer on public health and key public health issues	2007-08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed public health issue materials for all candidates (before October 2007 election) and MPPs (after election).
	More effective use of the political capital of BOH members and MOHs	Build on and leverage relationships between BOHs and MPPs	2008-09	
	Engage in effective government relations and advocacy	Build on and leverage the relationships between the alPHa Board and provincial ministers/ opposition critics	2008-09	
		Strengthen relationships with Province (i.e., Chief Medical Officer of Health, and staff of Public Health Division and Ministry of Health Promotion)	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Director has regular meetings with CMOH and ADM. COMOH Chair is developing a strategy with CMOH to improve communication between MOHs and CMOH. ADM is established as a regular speaker on BOH Section meeting agendas.
		Focus Advocacy Committee efforts and expand strategies beyond writing letters	2007-08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board and Advocacy Committee have begun discussions about the structure and role of the Advocacy Committee.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Strategy	Timeline	Status – June 2008
5. Improve response time to emerging issues	<p>Timely responses to emerging issues manner</p> <p>Have position statements ready</p> <p>Focus ALPHA staff work on Association priorities</p>	<p>Empower the ALPHA Executive Committee to respond to urgent issues quickly</p> <p>Use forward-thinking strategies</p> <p>Develop an in-house policy analysis function</p> <p>Improve ALPHA's resolutions database</p>	<p>2007-08</p> <p>2007-08</p> <p>2008-09</p> <p>2008-09</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALPHA's Public Health Issues Manager has completed the Maytree Foundation's Policy Program – October 2007 to May 2008. • A part-time Communications Coordinator was added to ALPHA staff, May 2008. • Have started system to track local BOH resolutions to identify current areas of interest in the field.

INFORMATION ITEM - revised

Record of Attendance for 2007-08 alPHA Board of Directors

		# of Meetings Attended
		(out of 5 meetings from June 2007 to April 2008)
Executive Committee		
Vance Blackmore	President	5
Charles Gardner	Vice President & Chair, COMO	4
Liana Nolan	Past President	2
Maria Harding	Treasurer	5
Valerie Sterling	Chair, BOH Section	5
Dale Jackson	Affiliate Representative, AOPBHA	5
Directors at Large		
Jean Haalboom **	BOH Section	2
Colleen Jordan **	BOH Section	3
Mary Johnson	BOH Section	4
Malcolm Lock	COMO	0
Helen Mulligan	BOH Section	5
Allan Northan	COMO	5
Rosana Pellizzari	COMO	4
Graham Pollett	COMO	5
Paul Roumeliotis	COMO	3
Affiliate Representatives		
Carol Timmings *	ANDSOOHA	2
Susan Kniahnicki **	ANDSOOHA	2
Mary Lou Decou *	APHEO	2
Anne-Marie Holt **	APHEO	1
Ken Gorman	ASPHIO	4
Theresa Schumilas	HPO	1
Joyce Sinton	OAPHD	3
Tracy Allan-Koester	OSNPPH	4

* *resigned mid-term*

** *joined mid-term*