



New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association

NEWSLETTER

Volume 13, Number 2

Fall, 2006

President's Message

Uncle Paul Needs You!

Your organization is growing but not fast enough. With close to 500 boards in New Jersey and 14 years under our belt, I find that I must still beg some of you to get on board our train which is picking up steam and credibility each year.

Even if you haven't paid your dues to us, for lack of an alternate means we are still your voice in Washington, in Bowling Green, in Trenton, and at home when you ask for our assistance. We can certainly use your dues money but mostly need your interest and enthusiasm or anger, as the case may be.

Uncle Paul needs you. Recently,



we mailed twin flyers to our paid membership announcing two extremely important conferences which you as Board members need to attend. The first is our annual NJLBHA conference on September 16th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The pro-

gram and registration information are contained in this newsletter. We will accept your voucher or your check on site. However, in order to feed you we ask that you pre-register. This conference is open to board members, health officers, staff, elected officials, and friends. We want to meet and greet you and share vital information for your benefit.

Uncle Paul needs you. The State Department of Health, by statute, must provide an annual forum for the Commissioner to brief local health officials, including you. For the past several years you have been excluded, for the most part, from the invitation list. The Department has had a paradigm shift. In spite of a 200 seat limit

(Continued on page 7)

The N.J.L.B.H.A. NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association at P.O. Box 5069, Kendall Park, New Jersey 08824.

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The New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association
Annual Conference
September 16, 2006
Middlesex County Fire Academy
Sayreville, New Jersey

“PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO DISASTER”

AGENDA:

8:30 – 9:00	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome - NJLOB & Middlesex County Health Department
9:30 – 10:15	Keynote Session - NJ State Department of Health & Senior Services
10:15 – 10:30	Break – Networking
10:30 – 11:15	Morning Session A – NJ Poison Control Resources for Disaster Mitigation
11:15 – 11:30	Break – Networking
11:30 – 12:15	Morning Session B – Public/Private Partnerships in Disaster Preparation & Recover
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 1:45	Afternoon Session A – Pandemic Flu, Local Boards of Health & Medical Reserve Corps
1:45 – 2:00	Break
2:00 – 2:45	Afternoon Session B – Natural Disasters in New Jersey; Hurricanes, Floods & Others
2:45 – 3:15	Closing – Questions & Answers

Dear Public Health Official,

This is an important time in the history of Public Health and in our capability to appropriately serve our communities. Our Annual Conference focuses on timely issues which define much of our present day work and future demands.

We encourage and welcome your attendance at this vital conference and believe that you will take away many new ideas and avenues to fulfill your obligations. Each of our presenters has been selected for their expertise and unique qualifications.

Board Members, Health Officers and others in our field must work closer than ever to provide a synergy of purpose and a successful accomplishment of our goals in order to protect our citizens and provide a secure future. We look forward to your participation and enjoyment of our Annual Event and hope it is a truly rewarding educational experience.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Roman

President, NJLBHA

**Annual NJLBHA Conference to Focus on the
PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO DISASTERS**
September 16, 2006

Over the past decade we have seen affects of several disasters which have severely tested the ability of the public health system to protect our communities. The World Trade Center destruction and Hurricane Katrina are prime examples of the tremendous stresses on government and public health. One of the lessons learned is that public health professionals and government agencies need the support of public and private businesses to provide resources needed to effectively plan and recover from disasters due to manmade and natural causes.

In order to properly assess our needs in this area and develop policies that can assure an adequate level of planning, response and recovery, it is important that local Board of Health members assist their Health Departments and residents in identifying strengths & weaknesses in their community response system.

One Saturday, September 16, the NJ Local Boards of Health Association will be sponsoring this year's conference with the Middlesex County Health Department at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. At this time, board members will receive information on dealing with flu pandemic planning, all hazards control planning and natural disaster response experiences. Failure of the public health officials to prepare may lead to situations similar to those described in John M Barry's, The Great Influenza, The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History, "Fear began to breakdown the community of the city. Trust broke down. Signs began to surface of not just edginess, but anger. Not just finger-pointing or protecting one's own interests, but active selfishness in the face of calamity. The hundreds of thousands sick in the city became a great weight dragging upon it, and the city began to implode in chaos and fear."

Registration Form

Please fax to 732-329-4168

Name(s): _____

Contact Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Your Board: _____

Type of Board: _____

Registration Fee - \$35.00 per person.

Checks or vouchers accepted, payable to: New Jersey Local Boards of Health Assoc.



new jersey department of health and senior services

Annual Conference of State and Local Health Officials

CONTACT PAUL ROMAN AT 908-415-6960 FOR FREE REGISTRATION

THE ROADMAP TO PREPAREDNESS

October 3, 2006

The Conference Center at Mercer
Mercer County Community College
1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor, New Jersey 08550

AGENDA

- 8:00 – 8:45 Registration / Continental Breakfast
- 8:45 – 9:00 Welcome Remarks
- David W. Gruber, Senior Assistant Commissioner
 Health Infrastructure Preparedness and Emergency Response
 New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services
- John Hopper, President
 New Jersey Health Officers Association
- Paul D. Roman, President
 New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association
- 9:00 – 10:00 Keynote: State of Health of New Jersey
- Fred M. Jacobs, MD, JD, Commissioner
 New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services
- 10:00 – 10:30 Osborne Award
- John Hopper, MPH, President
 New Jersey Health Officers Association
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 11:45 Preparedness and Pandemic Flu
- Speaker: Patrick Libbey, Executive Director
 National Association of County and City health Officials (NACCHO)
- 11:45 – 12:00 Questions & Answers

- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:00 Concurrent Breakout Sessions:
- Cultural Aspects of Preparedness
 - Communication: Collaboration and Issues of Inter-operability
 - Putting Public into Public Health Preparedness: Marketing and Preparedness
- 2:00 – 3:00 Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Repeat)
- 3:00 – 3:15 Closing, Evaluation and Continuing Education Credit Certificates

4.25 LE Continuing Education Credits for New Jersey Public Health Officials

Have been approved by the Public Health Council

Certificates will not be provided to those who leave before the last session.

NALBOH Conference Update Silverstein Receives Trustee Award

The National Association of Local boards of Health (NALBOH) held its conference this year at the Sheraton Gunter Hotel in San Antonio, Texas from July 26th to 28th. A substantial delegation from our state, led by President Paul Roman, participated in the annual event.

Under the hot South Texas sun, delegates were feted and treated to a wide array of seminars and presentations, focusing on two areas of concern: environmental health and voluntary accreditation. Environmental specialists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ran several excellent sessions, including one on environmental lessons from the response to Hurricane Katrina and one on overlooked emergency preparedness functions in environmental health.

But the focus of the conference was the issue of accreditation for boards and for state and local health departments. At this point, it is generally accepted that accreditation on the national level will have to be voluntary, although individual states, such as New Jersey, may prefer mandatory compliance. Several fruitful sessions were devoted to the voluntary accreditation issue. It is our feeling in New Jersey that a strong incentive program will probably be necessary to encourage public health units nationwide to comply with the program. An example would be pre-qualification for Federal or foundation grants for favorite public health projects.

The NALBOH conference was "co-located" with the annual NACCHO convention, although the two hotels were miles apart and shuttle transportation between the two events had not been arranged.

Highlight of the week was the NALBOH awards dinner on Wednesday night. Kim Silverstein, Trustee of our Association and chairman of the Manalapan Twp. Board of Health, received the Mid-Atlantic Regional Board-Member-of-the-Year Award for her outstanding work on emergency preparedness. All in all, an excellent conference mixed with famed Texas hospitality.

MODEL SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

By Edward J. Peloquin, MS, APM

The Special Needs Advisory Panel, group of all agencies, organizations and associations that have major responsibilities for the special needs and frail elderly disabled populations in New Jersey, created a model registry for use by local and county Offices of Emergency Management.

It was a collaborative effort that encompassed over a year of research and meetings with affected parties. All sectors of public health and social services were involved. The following is a summary of the need for a registry by the registry development committee chairperson Edward Peloquin, Domestic Preparedness Coordinator for the New Jersey Association of Non Profit Homes for the Aging.

Why a registry? The short answer is because the prevention of injury, illness and death will depend upon it.

Being prepared is the best way to assure a timely and comprehensive response to an emergency event. Preparedness includes knowledgeable manpower, proper equipment and adequate supplies at the right location, where and when most needed. The responders, to be most effective, need to know what they are dealing with prior to their arrival. Most important, the communications regarding the type of event, the people, places and things that are impacted, and special needs have to be clear, concise and leave no margin for misinterpretation.

The first response system functions well when there is an emergency incident. This is very evident in a large scale incident, such as the World Trade Center disaster. However, when there is wide spread mass destruction such as with an earthquake, hurricane, flood or terrorist generated chemical/biological emergency, the responders are stretched to the limit. Many times, responders from outside of the event zone must be called in to aid the local responders. This is a situation ripe for miscommunication, delay in finding facilities and addressing special needs.

The responders must have a quick and accurate way to identify the location and nature of the special needs population. A registry is the best way to assure individuals they can be located in the hectic pace of disaster response. They will not lose precious time in obtaining vital help, especially if the community has to be served by the mutual aid responders with general knowledge about the area. The response will be appropriate, because responders know what type of special need they must address and bring the proper equipment, supplies and trained manpower to a special needs location.

In addition to a timely and comprehensive response there are many post event emergency uses of a registry. The Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, Community Emergency Re-

sponse Teams, the Salvation Army and local government agencies will have a way to accurately identify where the post event food, shelter, clothing and assistive devices are needed to reach the special needs population. In the absence of special needs shelters, it is likely that long term care facilities and senior housing may become temporary shelters. This was true of nursing homes and independent living facilities, as experienced in the recent Florida hurricane season. The location of these temporary shelters will be in the registry.

One issue that has generated concern in New Jersey is the limited involvement of the special needs and frail elderly in the planning for emergencies. It appears this was fostered by the "out of sight out of mind" phenomena experienced by many. While special needs persons, for very good reason, value their privacy there must be a confidential way to identify the number and location of such persons. The needs of special needs population and frail elderly during a disaster are similar and require special consideration. A registry will be very useful to keep visible the special needs population in planning for disasters.

due to funding limitations on their part, we have been granted 50 reserved seats for the first time in years. It's my job to fill 'em. Information on this conference, held on October 3rd at Mercer County Community College, for which information is also included in this newsletter, has no cost and free food. It is during the week and I recognize that this is still not perfect but it is a chance to show our interest and our thanks. Again, these seats are strictly for Board of Health members, be you elected officials or appointed to a Board. You must contact me at my address, PO Box 101, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702 with your name, title, organization, email address, and phone. You only have until Sept. 19th to do this as I must turn this list into the Department on the 20th at which

time we lose any unsold seats. Please act now and make the time to participate.

I just returned from the annual NALBOH conference in romantic San Antonio Texas. Great program, good food, wish you were there. The entire NJ delegation consisted of three of us. We met in conjunction with the national association of city and county health officials (NACCHO). Several NJ health officers were in attendance. One feature of the combined conference was a town meeting attended by over 1000 from both organizations on a proposal for voluntary accreditation of health departments, a program already being implemented in North Carolina. The messages that the development team went away with included 1) generally a good idea, 2) it needs some type of gradual phase in, and 3) will need upfront funding to

cover local staff time and back filling during extensive preparatory work and reviews.

Finally, this organization continues to have representation at the tables in Trenton with regard to pandemic planning, practice standards, revisions and updates, and we continue to offer our expertise to the legislature and the executive branch. Please be a part of the action and join us. Also consider joining NALBOH. By the way, we both have websites and you need to check them out.

Hope you've had a great summer and that you did the Jersey thing and went 'down the shore'.

Paul D. Roman

Welcome to the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Website

Recently, the NJLBHA's new website, www.njlbha.org, was launched. On our site you can get information on upcoming events, access to past and current newsletters, and useful links. In the coming months we will be working to improve the site to make it more useful for our members.



www.NJLBHA.org

Yes, count me (us) in as a part of the Association!

Yes, count me (us) in as a part of the Association that gives New Jersey's Boards of Health and their members a voice in Trenton, a way to communicate among ourselves, a force for progress in public health and more knowledge for board members.

Full Board, Regular Membership \$75

Board membership is open to municipal, county and regional Boards of Health. All board members are included for the calendar year.

Individual, Regular Membership \$15

Individual membership is open to current members of municipal, county or regional boards of health whose full board is not a member.

Individual, Associate Membership \$15

Associate membership is open to past Board of Health members, students, or other individuals interested in public health. This is a non-voting membership.

Institutional Membership \$75

Institutional membership is open to organizations, including environmental groups, planning boards, or other municipal or county agencies, committees, commissions, or councils. This is a non-voting membership.

Board Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

**NEW JERSEY LOCAL BOARDS OF
HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

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