



**New Jersey
Local Boards of Health Association**

Newsletter

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Summer/Fall 2010

First Board of Health Member Training Certification September 25th

The first in the nation certification program for members of local Boards of Health will be offered September 25, 2010, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. This voluntary program is designed to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to members of Boards of Health in performance of their duties under New Jersey Public Health Practice Standards. Successful completion of this program will also confer certification in Incident Command System 100 and National Incident Management System 700 and will entitle members to use the initials CBHM (Certified Board of Health Member), after their names.

We urge you to extend an invitation to your Health Officer to join you in this training. Participants will receive training material, including the newly published *Board of Health Orientation Manual, A Guide to Roles and Responsibilities*. Those who wish will receive 6.0 CEU's from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

Please register as soon as possible. The program schedule and registration form are included in this newsletter.

Save the Date!

**NJLBHA Annual Conference
October 23, 2010**

Senator Loretta Weinberg to Speak at NJLBHA Annual Conference October 23

The annual conference of the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2010, 9:30 to 3:30, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. This year's theme is Facing Challenges to Local Public Health. We are honored to have Senator Loretta Weinberg, Chair of the Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee, as a guest presenter. Senator Weinberg is a long time supporter of public health. The program will also include a series of workshops, discussions and presentations on current public health issues that we, as Local Board of Health Members, must address, including provision of continuing services with diminishing funds. Creative funding and networking possibilities will be presented and discussed. NJLBHA members will receive additional information in the mail. Early registration materials are included in this newsletter.

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Public Health Nursing

The Key to a Healthy Community

By Kathryn A. Whitehead, BSN, RN

President, * New Jersey Association of Public Health Nurse Administrators

Public health nursing is the practice of promoting and protecting the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social, and public health sciences (American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section, 1996). The practice is population-focused with goals of promoting health and preventing disease and disability for all people through the creation of conditions in which people can be healthy.

Practicing in a variety of public and private organizations, all public health nurses focus on one or more populations. Population-based public health nursing practice focuses on entire populations that possess similar health concerns or characteristics. This includes everyone in a population who is actually or potentially affected by a health concern or shares a specific characteristic. Population-based public health nursing interventions are not limited to those who seek services, are poor or otherwise vulnerable. Public health nursing services and programs may be directed toward entire populations within a community and the systems that affect the health of those populations. The public health nurse partners with communities and populations to reduce health risks and to promote, maintain, and restore health, advocating for system level changes to improve health.

Public health nurses are proactive with respect to social and health-care trends, changing concerns, and policy and legislative activities. They function as advocates for the populations they serve. Such advocacy for public health and social policies promotes a healthy environment, creates conditions that improve and enhance the health of populations, and is a key of public health nursing roles.

ANA Public Health Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice

Public Health nurses are part of the foundation of the health department. They are advocates for health promotion and disease prevention. Public Health Nurses run child health conferences, cancer screenings, flu and other vaccination clinics to name a few. They investigate communicable diseases from mumps, to pertussis to salmonella. Sometimes one nurse provides all these functions for one local health department. The goal of public health nursing is to improve the health and well-being of all individuals, families, communities, and populations through significant and visible contributions. Public health nurses do this through core functions of assessment, assurance,

and policy development. The core functions are applied in a systematic and comprehensive manner.

As the economic climate continues to change, Boards of Health are finding it more difficult to hire experienced, appropriately educated nurses to fill the public health nurse positions. Public health nurses often work independently or with little staff. These positions require professionals with varied experience and increased confidence. Budgetary restraints make it very difficult for Boards of Health to offer competitive salaries to lure the best in the community for the position.

"Local health departments play an essential role in our nation's public health system because they protect the well-being of the American people. Each day, public health employee's work in often unseen ways to help keep each community safe and healthy," said Andrews. "To help ensure the safety of our nation's communities and improve the health and well-being of our citizens, local health departments need more workers engaged in public health and prevention—not fewer." Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ), Chairman of the Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor. "*The mounting cuts to local public health departments are the beginnings of a national tragedy,*" said Georges Benjamin, MD, Executive Director of the American Public Health Association. "Without robust, sustained investment in our public health infrastructure, the capacity and ability of this country to protect the public and prevent diseases is being severely eroded."

Catastrophe for Public Health in the Making; Local Health Department Job Losses Threaten the Health of All Americans, Washington, D.C. (July 1, 2010)

In the 21st century, the health care system will need prevention, health promotion and education, chronic care management, care coordination, someone who is knowledgeable about community resources and services. In addition; communicable disease follow-up and advocacy for health and the well being of the community- all roles of public health nurses. Prevention is always less expensive than treatment. Public Health Nurses will hopefully have a large part in Health Care Reform, since their practice is based on the health of the community.

*New Jersey Association of Public Health Nurse Administrators represents public health nurses throughout the state of New Jersey.

President's Message

As promised, 2010 has been an exciting year for public health and for your New Jersey Association of Local Boards of Health. Officers and Executive Board members have worked hard to provide ideas and direction, which assist us in accomplishing our two major goals of this year.

Our first goal is to provide greater services, including training opportunities, advisory legal assistance and communications for our member Boards. To that end, we have established the first ever Board of Health Member Certification Program and have scheduled our October 23 annual conference and training session.

Our second major goal is to become ever more effective advocates for public health in the State of New Jersey. To further that goal, we have established working relationships with State Legislators and are particularly grateful for the support offered to both our Association and public health by Senator Loretta Weinberg. We have been honored by close working relationships with the NJ Society of Public Health Educators, the New Jersey Association of Public Health Nurse Administrators, the New Jersey Environmental Health Association and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

It is my belief and that of your Executive Board that NJLBHA should work in partnership with the above organizations and with all other parties interested in public health for the betterment of our citizens.

We have been active in Trenton advocating for public health. We have and will continue to represent you in legislative hearings and discussions. The following is the content of a recent presentation I gave to Assemblyman John F. McKeon from the committee investigating state mandates.

On behalf of the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association (NJLBHA), I greatly appreciate the opportunity to share our positions with you on topics relating to Public Health, including the issue of state mandates.

The New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association, represents the interests of the over four hundred and fifty local Boards of Health in NJ. Under state law, the responsibility for public health lies in the hands of these local Boards of Health. Board members are either elected officials, or officials appointed by the Mayor and governing bodies of our municipalities. It is our responsibility to provide public health services by creating our own health departments, or contracting with other health departments who can serve our community members. Local Boards of Health provide public health protection and health services through the 110 existing Health Departments in New Jersey.

We hold that the protection of public health is one of the key functions of government. **At this time, we can find no mandates that are either redundant or unnecessary, or that do not serve the public's health.** Local public health services are best delivered at a local community based level. Our present system maximizes resources without raising undue barriers to delivery of services to members of our communities.

The primary concern of NJLBHA is the ability of Boards of Health to effectively meet our responsibilities, including those contained in the Public Health Practice Standards, without additional financial support. The need, as we see it, is to secure funding for crucial requirements that protect the health and safety of all our citizens. We should not allow financial considerations to dictate elimination of requirements and mandates that protect the public interest.

We look forward to continuing work with you and the Legislature on matters of public health in New Jersey. If there is any way I can assist you in that work, please do not hesitate to contact me at saccenti@comcast.net or 732.821.6997

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John Saccenti

President

NJLBHA Withdraws from NALBOH

At our August 25th Executive Board meeting, the following resolution was approved unanimously by your board. It was felt that all our efforts should go to the benefit of the citizens of NJ and based on our attorney's advice we are withdrawing from NALBOH in order to maintain the integrity of your Association and avoid being tainted by their activities. The last part of the following resolution urges all boards of health in the State of New Jersey to do the same.

Resolution by the Executive Board of New Jersey Local Boards of Health

Whereas, the National Association of Local Boards of Health (hereinafter known as NALBOH) has consistently violated fundamental due process and has violated their own by-laws in the removal of elected NALBOH Directors from the State of New Jersey; and

Whereas, NALBOH refuses to recognize the duly elected officers of the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association (hereinafter known as NJLBHA) and refuses to communicate with said officers; and

Whereas, NALBOH has violated the terms and conditions of the agreement between NALBOH and NJLBHA as a State Institutional Member by refusing representatives appointed by the President of NJLBHA participation in any of its State Association of Local Boards of Health meetings; and

Whereas, NALBOH has failed to answer requests for data relating to NALBOH's financial structure; and

Whereas, NJLBHA and the local Boards of Health of the State of New Jersey have met their obligations in paying dues to NALBOH and yet received no offers this year of assistance and support for NJLBHA programs; and

Whereas, NJLBHA strongly disagrees with attempts by the NALBOH Board of Directors to disenfranchise voters in the election of NALBOH Officers and Directors; and

Whereas, NJLBHA has reached out on numerous occasions to NALBOH Board of Directors to resolve issues of disagreement and to seek answers regarding NALBOH accountability and activities, yet NJLBHA has been consistently rebuffed in its attempts; and

Whereas, the NALBOH Board of Directors has taken it upon itself to direct inappropriate, inaccurate and self-serving propaganda casting aspersion on NJLBHA and its officers; and

Whereas, NJLBHA has frequently asked that the NALBOH Board of Directors undertake to reform itself, particularly in regard to accountability, due process and expansion of member participation and rights, all of which we believe serve the betterment of public health; however, NALBOH Board of Directors has consistently refused to adopt any of the requested reforms.

Whereas, NJLBHA has requested that the New Jersey Congressional Delegation investigate the actions and activities of NALBOH, particularly in regard to due process issues and the use of federal grant funds; and

Whereas, Counsel for NJLBHA recommends that NJLBHA sever ties with NALBOH in order to maintain the integrity of NJLBHA and disassociate NJLBHA from NALBOH until NALBOH addresses NJLBHA's complaints and issues ;

Therefore, NJLBHA withdraws its membership as a State Association from NALBOH, effective August 28, 2010, and urges all local Boards of Health in the State of New Jersey to do the same.

Approved by the NJLBHA Executive Board, August 28, 2010.



The New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association is taking nominations for outstanding public health professionals and volunteers who have made significant contributions to the health and safety of their communities. Please consider nominating someone from your community. The awards will be given out at our October 23rd annual conference.

Local Board of Health Member of the Year (Christopher Saccenti Award.) This award will go to a member of a Local Board of Health who has given exceptional service to his or her community in protecting public health.

Health Officer of the Year. This award will go to the Health Officer who most exemplifies cooperation between The Local Board of Health and the professional staff and takes an active role in protection of the community, including developing innovative programs.

Health Educator of the Year. This award will recognize the Public Health Educator employed by a Local Board of Health who has created innovative education and training programs for the community.

Registered Environmental Health Specialist of the Year. This award is given to a Registered Environmental Health Specialist whose performance is recognized as outstanding by the Local Board of Health.

Public Health Nurse of the Year. This award is given to a Public Health Nurse who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to the community.

Meritorious Service Awards will be given to those persons who have rendered exceptional service to the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association or to the community.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY October 9th

PLEASE MAIL YOUR NOMINATIONS TO

NEW JERSEY LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH ASSOCIATION

PO Box 5069
Kendall Park, NJ 08824

LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS
CERTIFICATION SEMINAR
Saturday, September 25, 2010
Middlesex County Fire Academy

Program

8:30 Registration & continental breakfast

9-10 Instructor, Richard Lustgarten, Esq.

- Legal issues related to Local Boards of Health
- Board leadership/conducting meetings

10-11. Instructor, John C. Saccenti,

- M.S., Instructional Specialist, Prof. Dip.
- Overview of Public Health structure (Federal, State, County, Local)
- Authority and powers of a Board of Health
- Functions of a Board of Health
- Public Health advocacy

11-12. Instructor, Steve Papenberg, M.P.H.

- Responsibilities of a Board of Health including a presentation of those responsibilities contained in the Public Health Practices Standards of Local Boards of Health in New Jersey
- Basic terminology in public health
- Essential Public Health Services
- Responsibilities of the Board to the Health Officer
- Responsibilities of the Health Officer to the Board

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

Networking

Informational Displays

1:00 - 2:00. Instructor, John C. Saccenti,

- Budgeting
- Interacting with and accessing the community
- Interacting with local school board, police, emergency services, city or town council , Mayor, recreation groups and faith based groups
- Liaison with other municipal agencies including Planning, Zoning, and Environmental Commissions
- Interacting with and use of the media

2:00 - 4:00. Instructor, Willie Cirone

- Incident Command System 100 and NIMS 700

4:00. Adjourn

4:15 NJLBHA Executive Board Open Meeting. All are welcome to attend.

New Jersey Local Board of Health Association

Annual Conference

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Middlesex County Fire Academy, Sayreville, NJ

Featured Speaker, Senator Loretta Weinberg

Chair of Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

Name _____ Local Board of Health _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone _____ email _____

Reg. Fee enclosed (includes lunch) _____ \$35 NJLBHA member _____ \$50 Non-member

*Make check or purchase order payable to New Jersey Association of Local Boards of Health, and mail to
NJLBHA, PO Box 5069, Kendall Park, NJ 08824.*

Board of Health Member Training Certification

Seminar Registration

Name _____ Local Board of Health _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone _____ email _____

Reg. Fee enclosed (includes lunch) _____ \$35 NJLBHA member _____ \$50 Non-member

*Make checks or purchase orders payable to New Jersey Local Boards of Health association and mail to
NJLBHA, PO Box 5069, Kendall Park, NJ 08824*

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 \$95

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

Individual, Regular Membership \$20

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 \$20

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 \$95

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**

P. O. Box 5069
Kendall Park, New Jersey 08824