Public Health Professional Organizations Meeting (virtual)
August 17, 2020

Those in attendance were: Scott Clardy, Clay Goddard, Mike Herbert, Diane Weber, Linda Cooperstock, Kristi Ressel, Larry Jones, Trina Teacutter, Denise Strehlow, Leah Ferris, Lori Brenneke, Todd Daniel, Jaci McReynolds, Casey Parnell and Sandra Boeckman.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the February 13, 2020 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. On a vote, the motion was approved.

Organizations represented were:
- Missouri Public Health Association
- Missouri Institute for Community Health
- Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies
- Missouri Council for Public Health Nurses
- Missouri Environmental Health Association
- Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence
- Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

**Project Update:** Casey Parnell reported that the Mid-Year report was presented to the Foundations on the extension of the grant in order to complete scheduled goals with no additional funding. The requested end date for the extension will be May 2021. She reported they are still working with DHSS on the Capacity Assessment survey and almost all health departments have reported. She reported that the data will be a great tool for public health. She also reported that there have been very few workgroup meetings since the pandemic started in March.

**Communications:** Jaci McReynolds reported that she has been working with FPHS Model and increasing tools and messaging. She will integrate data from the Capacity Assessment as well as nationally-aligned message framing from Frameworks and the DeBeaumont Project.

The Infographic from the Missouri Hospital Association was reviewed. It was agreed that the data is good but hard to follow. It was discussed that the Professional Organizations group put out their own bullet points about COVID-19 but it was also agreed that some of this information might be found on various dashboards. Casey and Jaci will work with volunteers on this. It was also noted that perhaps the Communications Workgroup could help with the creation of this type of document.
**Organizational Updates:**

**MoALPHA:** Diane Weber reported that MoALPHA was doing an online training on Crisis Communication and it was free to members. She also reported that they have been working with Sen. Blunt’s office to get more funding for the COVID directly to the county health departments.

**MoCPHE:** Larry Jones reported that they have been working with the Missouri Foundation for Health and Fleishman-Hillard on social media messaging on COVID.

**MCPHN:** Trina Teacutter reported that all their meetings from January thru April had been cancelled and the Council had met in July virtually.

**MICH:** Denise Strehlow reported that all certifications were put on hold until the beginning of 2021.

**MPHA:** Sandra Boeckman reported that MPHA was still working with various entities to try to do something about the penalty from the Holiday Inn in Columbia because of the cancellation of the annual meeting.

**MEHA:** No report.

**DHSS:** Lori Brenneke reported that the department and their lawyers were working with other agencies, as well as MPHA, on penalties from meetings in Columbia at the Holiday Inn. She reported the department is working with the Infrastructure survey with only a few uncompleted surveys remaining. She also reported that they are working on CHP amendment and funding for COVID-19. She noted that the Missouri Primary Care Association has grants available during the pandemic.

**Workgroup Updates:**

**Workforce Development:** Casey Parnell reported that this workgroup had held a couple of meetings and are trying to prioritize activities. It was discussed whether there should be a forum for LPHAs to share information on COVID-19. It was the consensus of the group that the forums already exist with MoCPHE and DHSS weekly calls and the MoALPHA Bulletin Board.

**Communications:** No update, no meetings.

**Advocacy:** Kristi Ressel and Scott Clary reported on the presentation by MFH on Medicaid Expansion that was very helpful in the statewide campaign that was approved by voters. It was also reported that the Capitol Day activities in March were well received and should be continued.

**Collaboration:** Diane Weber had no update.
2021 Legislative Session

Legislative Update: Mike Herbert reported on a bill (HB29) that was introduced in the special session by Rep. Murphy. The bill was not brought up in the special session due to its contents but will most likely be re-introduced in the 2021 session as well as similar bills. The short description is as follows “Requires special permission for certain government entities to implement extended public health or safety closures”.

Mike re-enforced his plea for a good working relationship with legislators and LPHA Administrators and county commissioners to work together.

It was suggested that talking points be prepared for the LPHAs – why the authority is set up that way it is and how economics play a huge role in the COVID pandemic. Todd reported that he would look into the feasibility of a cost benefit analysis for each county. It was also suggested that Public Health be more proactive in the next session with some legislation that is ready to introduce. It was suggested that a small group of individual organizations with lobbying powers to compile this information. Larry Jones, Mike Herbert, Diane Weber and Bert Malone volunteered to work on this policy project on behalf of their organizations.

The Professional Organization Committee will plan to meet again the week of September 21.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.