

HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee

Meeting Sum-Up 10/14/15

Members present at meeting:

- Representative Della Au Belatti
- Russell Park
- Linda Reedy
- Nancy Partika
- Jill Tamashiro
- Cindy Goto
- Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda
- Gerald Ohta
- Pedro Haro
- Hoce Kalkas

Hand-outs: (also attached)

1. Agenda
2. HPHA By-laws, included mission statement and guidelines
3. 2015 HPHA Survey Results

Top Take-aways:

How will the HPHA Legislative Committee impact the public health scene for 2016?

- *What topics/issues can we be championing as an organization?*
- *What populations are of most concern? (homeless, children, recipients of medical care, etc.)*
- *How will we brand ourselves? (what will the HPHA be most known for among the community)*
- *To which area can we provide a public health perspective?*

Rep. Au Belatti joined the meeting to share her thoughts and insights for the upcoming legislative session.

- *Topics she discussed included ACA Prevention and Wellness Guidelines, Hawaii Healthy Keiki initiative, mental health focus, Psychologist Prescription Authority bill, health care services implementation and comprehension, medical marijuana, assisted community treatment, and homelessness issues/wrap-around services.*

- *Rep Au Belatti offered to assist and direct the Committee once we identify a focus; she also suggested we reach out to other committee chairs and network as a Committee.*

Committee members throughout the meeting discussed the direction of HPHA Legislative Committee, HPHA's identity, and community voice. Health topics discussed included oral health, social determinants of health, health equity, health in schools and overall child health. Committee was also in agreement with prioritizing the top 3 initiatives of concern identified in the recent HPHA member survey which were:

- *Countering homelessness*
- *Improved health care access (including mental health)*
- *Childhood health (countering obesity, school health)*

For more details on the discussion, see the Notes attachment

Administrative Items:

- Please [complete the Doodle poll](#) on availability. I would like to make the Committee meetings accessible to all!
- **NEW!** - We will now have a conference call option for the meetings, if you are unable to attend in person.
- We need a [note-taker](#)! Jill Tamashiro was nice enough to volunteer to take notes during the last meeting (thank you Jill!) and compile them in a Word format. Please let me know if you'd like to volunteer. I am hoping to get at least 2 members in case that one person is not always present at the meetings.
- I am still working on various administrative items to get this process running smoothly. You can expect a newsletter-type format (such as today's) of updates and information after every Committee meeting. I will try my best to have them out within 2 business days of the meetings.

Next on the Agenda:

- Discuss direction/path of the HPHA Legislative Committee
 - What topics/issues will we focus on?
- Discussion and review of Committee guidelines - work in progress – open discussion on modification and approval.

Food For Thought:

HEALTH EQUITY Introduction

What is Health Equity, and Why is it important?

Creating health equity is a guiding priority and core value of both APHA and HPHA. By health equity, we mean everyone has the opportunity to attain their highest level of health.

How do we achieve health equity? We address the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, learn and age. These social determinants of health are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources that include employment, housing, education, health care, public safety and food access.¹

Inequities are created when barriers prevent individuals and communities from accessing these conditions and reaching their full potential. Inequities differ from health disparities, which are differences in health status between people that are related to social or demographic factors such as race, gender, income or geographic region. Health disparities are one way we can measure our progress toward achieving health equity.

Source: <http://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/health-equity?gclid=CLO3nPW6wcqCFU1qfgodwdkK3w>

This excerpt can also be found on the HPHA website, along with additional reading.

**Please let me know if you'd like to unsubscribe to the bi-monthly meeting notes!*