Groups visit homeless health clinic, other sites in New Orleans

APHA member groups engage in host community

APHA’s 142nd Annual Meeting and Emergency Health Services Week

Awards for their achievements at Annual Meeting

A PHA member groups are making a difference in public health and were honored for their outstanding efforts at APHA’s 142nd Annual Meeting and Exposition in New Orleans.

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Section received the APHA Advocacy All-Star Award from the Intersectional Council, the governing body for APHA’s 31 Sections. The Section’s advocacy efforts included a nationwide webinar during National Public Health Week on what 2013 Section award winners did to make the U.S. healthiest nation in one generation, in line with the Association’s goals for the future.

The Community Health Workers Section, the Environment Section and the Maternal and Child Health Section all received APHA Connect All-Star awards. APHA Connect is the online community for APHA members to create profiles, connect across and within APHA groups and share public health information, such as research, events and programs.

Eleven member groups also received Awards of Excellence for creating Annual Meeting scientific sessions that met continuing education credit requirements.

Those groups were the Caucus on Public Health and the Faith Community, Family Violence Prevention Caucus, Genomics Forum, Health Equity and Public Health and Tropical Medicine Section, Health Informatics Information Technology Section, Mental Health Section, Occupational Health and Safety Section, Public Health Social Work Section, School Health Education and Services Section, Spirit of 1848 Caucus and the Women’s Caucus.

For more information, call 202-777-2483 or email APHA at francis.atkinson@apha.org.

Barbara A. Kepple

APHA’s 142nd Annual Meeting received National Public Health Week All-Star award. The awardees were the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Section; Community Health Planning and Policy Development Section; Food and Nutrition Section; Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section; Maternal and Child Health Section; Medical Care Section; Oral Health Section; Physical Activity Section; Public Health Education and Health Promotion Section; Public Health Nursing Section; School Health and Education Services Section; and APHA’s Student Assembly.

The Intersectional Council also recognized the work of ISC Steering Committee members whose terms finished at the end of the Annual Meeting. Those members were Jim Leeper, PhD, the Intersectional Council’s immediate past chair; David Reyes, DNP, MPH, RN, a steering committee member; and Renata Slayton, MPH, an Intersectional Council student representative.

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Photo courtesy E2 Event Photography

An APHA member attends an Intersectional Council meeting event on Nov. 15 at the Annual Meeting.

A version of this story was published on APHA’s Annual Meeting Blog

APHA Past President Adewale Troutman, MD, MPH, MA, CPH, an event speaker, urged attendees to sign the letter and take the message of Medicaid expansion to their legislative representatives as well as network with fellow public health allies.

Louisiana is among more than 20 states that have not expanded Medicaid eligibility as authorized via the Affordable Care Act. Lack of expansion has made it difficult to get the city’s homeless population covered, an issue Molly Meinbresse was reminded of during the Caucus on Homelessness’ site tour of the city’s Health Care for the Homeless clinic.

The Health Care for the Homeless Program is a Health Resources and Services Administration-funded health center that provides primary care services for the homeless population.

Caucus members toured medical and dental exam rooms inside the site of the City of New Orleans Health Care for the Homeless program, which also provides dental services and assistance with Medicaid enrollment, said Meinbresse, MPH, the Caucus’ program chair.

The clinic also had a drop-in center for youth who are homeless. The site tour is the Caucus’ first since a 2012 tour of the Medical Respite and Sobering Center at APHA’s 140th Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Francisco, Meinbresse said.

Also during the Annual Meeting, the Physical Activity Section lived up to its name by holding a walking history tour of New Orleans’ French Quarter. About 50 people walked along — and learned history about — various sites such as the St. Louis Cathedral and Jackson Square.

Jeanette Gustaf, PhD, associate professor of clinical epidemiology at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine’s Department of Epidemiology, organized the walking tour.

“Our walking tour was an example of putting what this Section represents into visible action,” said Amy Eyler, PhD, CHES, the Section’s immediate past chair.

— Natalie McGill

APHA at St. Louis Cathe-}