

# MEMBER GROUPS

News about APHA's Sections, SPIGs, Student Assembly, Forums & Caucuses

## Member groups recognized for year's achievements at Annual Meeting

**A**PHA'S 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. the 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.

Twelve member groups received National Public Health Week All-Star Awards for their commitment to planning events during the annual observance that highlights the importance of public health.

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 Ser-

VICES 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.

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 Hospitals Caucus, 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 frances.atkinson@apha.org. ■

— Natalie McGill



Photo courtesy EZ Event Photography

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

## Groups visit homeless health clinic, other sites in New Orleans APHA member groups engage in host community

**A**DVOCACY, education and fitness led some APHA member groups to branch outside of the confines of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center to experience public health in New Orleans.

With one in four Louisiana residents lacking health insurance, the Community Health Planning and Policy Development Section joined local and APHA advocates to call for Medicaid expansion at the Saturday Nov. 15 Create a Movement for Change event at Mississippi River Heritage Park, just steps away from the convention center.

The event kicked off a national letter-signing campaign in which attendees are encouraged to visit [www.lamedicaidexpansion.org](http://www.lamedicaidexpansion.org) to send letters until the end of March 2015 in support of the expansion. The campaign will end when the letters are delivered to elected officials — including Gov. Bobby Jindal — in April at the start of the state's legislative session. The goal is to show broad public health support with representation from every state.

Overall, Louisiana ranks low among all 50 states and the District of Columbia on measures such as cancer deaths and chronic diseases such as heart disease, said Section Chair-elect Ashley Wennerstrom, PhD, MPH.

"We have approximately between 750,000 to 850,000 people without health insurance," Wennerstrom said. "We could cut that number in half if we were to expand Medicaid."

The event, which is the Section's fourth Day of Action held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting, was a partnership with the Association's Caucus Collaborative and multiple Louisiana state and community-based groups, such as the Louisiana Center for Health Equity.

Having public health workers nationwide sign the letter will demonstrate Medicaid expansion is a public health priority not just in Louisiana but across the U.S., said Amy Carroll-Scott, PhD, MPH, the Sec-



Photo by Natalie McGill

Speakers and organizers at the Create a Movement for Change Event pose for a photo after the event on Nov. 15.

tion's immediate past chair.

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

"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

A version of this story was published on the APHA Annual Meeting Blog.



Photo courtesy Jorien van der Laan

Caucus on Homelessness members Karen Hudson, left, Molly Meinbresse and Jen Elder stand outside a Health Care for the Homeless site while in New Orleans for the Annual Meeting.