



## 2022 Council of Affiliates Annual Report

The role of the Council of Affiliates (Council) is to promote efficient and effective communication and coordination of Affiliate activities with APHA efforts. The Council facilitates collaboration between APHA and each of the 53 affiliated associations to ensure a mutually supportive relationship. The Council's 2022 Strategic Work Plan continued to utilize APHA's core strategies as a framework. This annual report is intended to update the Governing Council on the Council of Affiliates' work. The following information highlights significant accomplishments made this year by the Affiliates and the Council.

The past year has been an incredible time for APHA and the 53 Affiliates that strive to serve the on- the-ground needs of public health professionals. As APHA reports growth, so do the Affiliates who have risen to meet the challenges of COVID-19, racism, and threats to public health authority.

### *Annual Reporting*

- The Affiliate Annual Report Survey for 2022 was completed by 48 of the 53 Affiliates, covering the timeframe: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. Selected findings include:
  - The top three selected Affiliate operational goals during the report's timeframe were host an annual conference (selected by 72% of respondents), increase membership (70% of respondents) and board recruitment/engagement (26%).
  - The top three public health concerns Affiliates' work will address in the next fiscal year are health equity (57%), public health funding/workforce infrastructure (51%) and protecting/defending public health authority (36%).
  - Forty-five percent (45%) of responding Affiliates reported having paid Affiliate staff
  - Nearly all of responding Affiliates hosted either an in-person or virtual annual conference/meeting, with just 4% of Affiliates not hosting an annual meeting.
  - Identified Affiliate successes from the year were received grant funding (64%), addressed emerging public health topics, e.g., COVID-19, health disparities, racism (55%), submitted one or more grant proposals (45%), improved communications – e.g., website, newsletters (45%), increased membership (43%) developed new partnerships (38%) and received one or more new contracts/sponsorships (40%).
  - Sixty-two percent (69%) of Affiliates reported collaborating with other Affiliates.
  - Additionally, this year Affiliates were asked to report on any Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) activities undertaken in the past year. Sixty-two percent of respondents reported declaring racism as a public health crisis and 32% noted bylaws include explicit language that demonstrate the organization's commitment to inclusive

- practices.
- Respondents reported either agreeing or strongly agreeing that the Council of Affiliates promote effective communication between Affiliates and APHA (88%), coordinate Affiliate and APHA activities (82%), facilitate collaboration between APHA and Affiliates (88%).
  - An open-ended question provided ideas on how the Council can further serve Affiliates and APHA, including opportunities to improve Affiliate engagement.
- The Affiliate Affairs Advocacy and Policy Annual Survey was also completed by 51 of the 53 Affiliates. Selected findings include:
    - Ninety percent (90%) of responding Affiliates participate in advocacy efforts.
    - Over fifty percent (53%) of responding Affiliates monitor public health related legislation at the national level; 94.1% at the state level; and 47.1% at the local level.
    - Open-ended questions provide ideas for how APHA can assist Affiliates in advocacy activities.
    - To further support the work of Affiliates in this area, the CoA now has an at-large position focused on advocacy and policy. This position was created to replace the one CoA Action Board seat lost during the re-organization of the Action Board.
    - Additionally, former CoA member, Dr. Amy Spieker, completed her dissertation on this topic and has provided a number of useful resources to the CoA.
  - Data from both surveys provide a foundation for the Council to build on and measure progress being made.

### ***Strengthen Public Health Practice***

- The Council once again made its sponsored sessions from the 2021 Annual Meeting available to Affiliate members.
- The Council presents four scientific sessions (3 oral, 1 poster) at the 2022 Annual Meeting. The sessions seek to strengthen public health practice at state and local levels by sharing best practices and success stories. The sessions this year include:
  - PS 2017: Affiliate Best Practices (poster)
    - 99 in 99 (Iowa)
    - Examining the inconsistent impact of stress on physical activity in South Carolina during COVID-19 (South Carolina)
    - Explorations of Intersectional Variance of Healthcare Domains by Race, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation (Illinois)
    - An Affiliate Journal plus All of Us - A powerful Communication (Delaware)
    - All of Us Research Program in Virginia: A Case Study (Virginia)
    - What a Pity in the City: Health Disparities among Black and Latino Urbanites (New York)
    - Applying a Systems-based Approach to Public Health Workforce

- Development (Iowa)
  - Hearing loss & Cancer: Assessing the moderation of racial minority and gender identity (DC/Oregon)
- 2073: JEDI Workgroup – Best Practices for Affiliates working in the JEDI Space
  - Massachusetts
  - Colorado
  - Georgia
- 3150: Racism, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
  - Advancing health equity: moving from information to action (Maine)
  - Assessing, Addressing and Improving the Indiana Public Health Association’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Practices (Indiana)
  - Implementing WPHA's Racism is a Public Health Crisis Resolution (Wisconsin)
  - Tools to address racism as a public health crisis in Washington State (Washington)
  - Results of a leadership program to build a network of American Indian/Populations of Color public health champions to advance racial and health equity in Minnesota (Minnesota)
- 4199: Building Capacity and Public Health Infrastructure
  - Creative strategies to describe complicated public health topics (Maine)
  - Supporting a culture of mental health and well-being among Iowa’s public health workforce (Iowa)
  - Strengthening the Workforce: Meaningfully Engaging Students through a Student Advisory Group (Indiana)
  - Leveraging New Directions survey data to create new opportunities for public health practice for New York State Public Health Association members (New York)
  - Involving and Utilizing Students to Expand Your Affiliate's Presence (Maryland)

***Build a Public Health Movement***

- Working with APHA, the Council encourages all Affiliates to participate in building-a-movement activities such as National Public Health Week and the Speak for Health campaign. Throughout the year, APHA and the Council stress the importance of collaboration among Affiliate leaders and APHA members/leaders.
- In collaboration with Affiliate Affairs, the CoA developed evergreen advocacy templates that can easily and readily be adapted for affiliate use.
- During National Public Health Week, all 53 Affiliates were encouraged to sign up on the website and serve as NPHW partners. They were engaged by participating in the NPHW webinar meetings and implementing activities at the state and local level.
- As part of the Speak for Health campaign, Affiliates were encouraged to focus on public

health funding, the effects of climate change, advancing racial equity, and the need to uphold critical public health laws. Five Affiliates reported new actions taken for Speak for Health.

- The Council continued to engage Affiliates in APHA’s policy development and implementation process and utilized the “official” policy review tool. In 2022, the Council had 27 Affiliate volunteers review 19 out of 19 policies, a significant increase from the past year. In order for a policy to receive a “full review” by the CoA, it must be reviewed by at least three reviewers. Ninety percent of the policies reviewed this year received a full review. Additionally, a webinar, Proposed Policy Review, was made available to CoA and Affiliate Leaders to support the policy review process.
- The policy review highlights the Affiliate perspective on policy implementation, specifically the impact and usability of APHA policy statements at state and local levels.
- The CoA is continuing to expand Affiliate engagement by providing guidance for participating in the proposed policy hearings and how Affiliates can determine their position on the proposed policies.

### ***Align Organizational Capacity and Infrastructure***

- The Council meets monthly. The calls continued by Zoom to enhance interaction among Council members. Follow-up communications were shared with Council members to facilitate Regional Representatives’ communication with their regions’ ARGCs.
- To engage CoA members more fully in the work of the Governing Council, the CoA is collecting information from Affiliates related to participation in the Mid-Year Meeting.
- All Affiliate Representatives to the Governing Council were invited to participate in the March and October CoA meetings. Issues discussed included the upcoming policy statements, events at the annual meeting, and a review ARGC, Regional Rep and CoA roles.
- The Staff of Affiliates group continues to grow and meets monthly. Topics of conversation included: budgeting, managing board/volunteer burnout, expanding revenue streams through CEU offerings, and engaging board members. This is a powerful connection point for Affiliate Executive Directors to learn from each other.
- The Council recognizes Affiliates and their members with the following awards and recipients for all five awards were selected this year:
  - CoA Award for Excellence
  - CoA Outstanding Student of the Year Award
  - CoA Outstanding Affiliate of the Year Award
  - Outstanding Affiliate Staff Award
  - CoA Innovation in Public Health Award
- Affiliate activities at the 2022 APHA Annual Meeting include:
  - CoA/ISC Candidates Forum (Virtual)
  - CoA/PHMC Awards Reception
  - Affiliate Day
  - CoA Business Meeting

- Affiliate Presidents-Elect and Section Chairs-Elect Meeting

### ***Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion***

During the last year, the Council continued its efforts to increase diversity, equity, inclusion activity and supporting Affiliates in this work.

- The Council's *Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee* moved from a subcommittee to a standing committee within the CoA. The purpose of the Committee is to examine ways of addressing issues of diversity, inclusion, equity, and racism within Affiliates and their communities. In 2022, leadership of this group worked on a process for developing land acknowledgement statements for Affiliate. Additionally, the *Equity Diversity Inclusion: Action Toolkit for Organizations* remains available for Affiliates and Sections to use in their work. The goal of the interactive toolkit is to stimulate and guide smaller nonprofit organizations as they integrate E-D-I best practices into their governance and organizational structure. The toolkit is available on the APHA website: <https://apha.org/apha-communities/affiliates/the-leaders-corner>.
- One of the Council's sponsored sessions at the 2022 Annual Meeting is focusing on the work of five Affiliates in the area of Racism, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Additionally, the workgroup offered a session on best practices in this area for Affiliates.

### ***Governance Related***

- The Council identified CoA/Affiliate representation to serve on the APHA Action Board.
- The Council has current representation on the following APHA boards, committees, and councils: Executive Board, Action Board, Intersectional Council Steering Committee, Caucus Collaborative, Committee on Social Responsibility and APHA Committee on Membership. Additionally, the Council has been participating in the APHA Rural Health Task Force and the Governing Council Speaker's Ad Hoc Task Force
- As a result of the Bylaws change, the CoA now has an at-large position dedicated to policy work among Affiliates
- The CoA also hosted two meetings inviting all ARGCS to further engage ARGCS with CoA and APHA
- As a result of a generous donation from a long-time CoA member and supporter, Richard Cohen, the CoA Awards Reception is now able to invest contributions to the event from Affiliates back into Affiliates. For this, we are deeply appreciative!

The Council Chair extends deepest gratitude to our Council Leadership Team, Regional Representatives, our dedicated representatives to APHA Boards, Councils, Committees, and Work Groups, and the very hard-working, dedicated Affiliate Affairs staff. On behalf of Council, thank you to the APHA Executive Board and Executive Director for their support of all Affiliates and the work accomplished across our nation on becoming the Healthiest Nation in One Generation!

Yours in health,

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2021-22 Chair, Council of Affiliates