

# **2009-2012 APHEO Strategic Plan Update: 2012 Year-end Summary**

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APHEO President (2012)**

## **VISION**

The excellent leadership and professional expertise of APHEO advances public health in Ontario

## **MISSION**

To advance and promote the discipline and professional practice of epidemiology in Ontario  
public health units

## **CORE VALUES**

As a professional organization APHEO believes in:

Improving the health of the population

A public health system in which Epidemiologists are integral

Supporting a participatory network of people with an interest in public health epidemiology

High standards for the practice of public health epidemiology

Demonstrating leadership

Innovation

## **Goal #1: Increase the capacity of APHEO to advance and promote epidemiology in the public health system**

- APHEO submitted an article to the Ontario Health Promotion E-Bulletin that reflects on its activities in the past year. This information will reach a broad spectrum of health-related professionals across Ontario and will inform them of the work of APHEO.
- This has been an extremely busy year with respect to the overhaul of APHEO Policy and Procedures. The result of this effort has been substantial. Our policies and procedures have been reviewed, revised and standardized. New policies and those with major changes will likely begin to be circulated for member review and voting by the end of this year. The Executive Committee is pleased with this major accomplishment.
- APHEO is close to incorporation. This process has involved legal counsel and the review of our constitution, membership status and by-laws. This process is expected to conclude in 2013.
- A new strategic plan has been developed and approved. This plan will guide APHEO Executive Committees for the next three years in their decision making. The design of the strategic planning process was intended to maximize the opportunity for member input. While the production and implementation of a strategic plan is not required by our constitution, it is considered by the Executive Committee to be a valuable tool to obtain broad-based input from the APHEO membership on the purpose and priorities of APHEO. Production of the strategic plan involved a member survey, face-to-face meeting and teleconference. The plan was distributed to the membership, reviewed at the November 16<sup>th</sup>

APHEO General Meeting, approved by the Executive and posted on the APHEO Website.

- APHEO's president spoke on behalf of the association as part of Ontario's Healthy Kids Panel key informant consultation process. The Panel was tasked with making recommendations to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care on how to reduce childhood obesity by 20% in five years. Among other points, the importance of developing and measuring high quality indicators was emphasized.

## **Goal #2: Promote professional opportunities for current and new epidemiologists**

- The posting of job opportunities for members continues to be a regular feature of the APHEO LISTSERV.
- APHEO has continued to promote, support and maintain opportunities for members to participate on governmental and association-specific committees. Changes this year included:
  - Sherri Deamond being appointed as co-chair of the APHEO Website Committee.
  - Deb Carr being appointed to the Ontario Performance Management Working Group
  - Natalie Greenidge continuing to be supported by Public Health Ontario in her role as coordinator of the Core Indicators Project until March 31, 2013.

## **Goal #3: Support and advance knowledge exchange among public health epidemiologists**

- APHEO has continued to host educational sessions for its members as part of each quarterly General Meeting. The following sessions were offered this year:
  - **February 10, 2012**  
An Online Tool for Central Analytics - Ruth Sanderson, Manager, Analytic Services, Infectious Disease Surveillance - Jason Garay, Manager, Surveillance Services, PHO
  - **November 16, 2012**  
Panorama - Karen Hay, MOHLTC - Public Health Division, Infectious Diseases Branch  
RRFSS Update - Lynne Russell, Ontario Coordinator, Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System  
SeerStat Update - Diane Nishri, Staff Scientist, Cancer Care Ontario  
Food Deserts - John Cunningham, Epidemiologist, Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit
- On **April 5, 2012** APHEO organized a TOPHC Post-Convention Workshop for its members on the topic of Social Media as a Tool for Public Health Epidemiologists. The goal of this workshop was to provide an overview

of social media and other online resources as tools for public health epidemiologists at the local level, across a variety of content areas and applications.

- On **June 6<sup>th</sup>** APHEO hosted a teleconference for its membership in support of the CCHS revision consultation process with Statistics Canada. The CCHS content will be redesigned by 2015. The current content plan will continue through 2014.
- 2013 Conference planning started during the Spring of this year. Niagara Public Health is hosting this important event and Deborah Moore is leading a planning committee. The June 9-11, APHEO Conference will focus on determinants of health and, accountability and performance evaluation.
- On **October 18<sup>th</sup>** and **November 15<sup>th</sup>**, APHEO members joined with Public Health Ontario staff in Public Health Ontario's PHO Rounds: Epidemiology. This partnership reflects APHEO's strong commitment to supporting and promoting valuable professional development opportunities for its members. We look forward to a bright future in our collaborative ventures with PHO.

#### **Goal #4: Develop and enhance linkages across policy, practice, training and research**

APHEO members continue to make important contributions to many panels and committees throughout the public health sector and receives quarterly update reports from the following Working Groups:

- Core Indicators Working Group
- Performance Management Working Group
- APHEO Website Working Group
- Cancer Surveillance for Public Health Working Group
- Capacity Building for Small Rural and Northern Health Unit Working Group

#### **Goal #5: Build and promote tools and resources that support the practice of public health epidemiology**

- The APHEO Executive Committee continues to seek opportunities to support its members in their quest to become informed and share information regarding useful computer software. The APHEO LISTSERV provides a useful venue for questions, answers and general knowledge exchange among members. The current development of a system that integrates LISTSERV and Discussion Forum functionality is expected to enhance our support capacity.
- This year the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care discontinued its financial support of SPSS. This change in policy stimulated an active debate among members as to the merits of alternative statistical software such as STATA. Although it is now widely recognized that the Association

will not endorse commercial products or attempt to influence the financial decisions of organizations in which members are employed, this event has underlined the on-going need within APHEO to have access to computer software information. The Executive continues to seek ways of responding appropriately to this need.