

a.p.h.e.o.

n i n e t e e n n i n e t y s e v e n



annual report

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

1997 APHEO Executive Committee

President: Mary-Anne Pietrusiak, Durham Region Health Department

Vice-President: Julie Stratton, Perth District Health Unit

Secretary-Treasurer: Brenda Guarda, Simcoe County District Health Unit

alPHa Representative: Mary Lou Decou, Porcupine Health Unit

OCCHA Representative: Paul Krueger, Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Public Health Department

president's report:

support for the lone epidemiologist

submitted by: Mary-Anne Pietrusiak

APHEO supports epidemiologists in their work and helps them to do the best job they can in public health. APHEO meetings provide an excellent opportunity to network, share updates of what is happening in the province, and hear from speakers who are experts in their field. But the APHEO experience is more than just meetings. APHEO helps support an informal network of epidemiologists that can be accessed through e-mail or phone. This is a vital link when you are the only one in your health unit that does your job.



1997 marked a year of enhancing the support APHEO provides to its members. With the help of the Central East Health Information Partnership (CEHIP), APHEO now has a web page (described on page 3) which also shows off our new logo. The web has further enhanced our communication through the listserv CHIPDATA where like-minded professionals from health units, district

health councils, and universities can share their insights and frustrations about (provincial) health data. Anyone can subscribe to CHIPDATA through CEHIP's web site at www.cehip.org. Just be prepared for some epi grumbling.

This past year APHEO added the Affiliate membership category to accommodate a growing interest in public health epidemiology from the greater health community. Affiliates include a range of analysts, planners, and epidemiologists from health units, district health councils, and health

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intelligence units. Affiliates share the benefits of participating in APHEO events but cannot represent the Association on official committees as requested by the Ministry or other organizations. We welcome our 13 new affiliates and all others who are interested in joining.

APHEO members met four times in 1997. Some of the highlights:

- Dr. Virginia McLaren (University of Toronto), Dr. Brian Gibson (University of Toronto), and Dr. Ian Johnson (North York Health Department) gave us more ideas for health status reports when they presented information about environmental health indicators.
- Dr. Stephanie Ounpuu from the University of Guelph and the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Public Health Department led us through the Stages of Change model, providing not only theory but practical ways of using validated scales that measure progression through the stages.
- Dr. Vivek Goel from the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in

Ontario (ICES) presented the 2nd edition of the ICES Atlas. He proposed that APHEO "standardize" health indicators to improve consistency across health status reports. The Provincial Health Indicator Work Group has been formed to do just that. The group includes not only APHEO members from all regions, but also Dr. Goel, staff from health intelligence units and involvement from the Ministry of Health.

- Dawn Fowler from Health Canada provided background and sought input on the Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System.
- Greg Webster from the Central West Health Planning Information Network made a strong case for using the Public Health Information Resource (PHIR) - a searchable inventory of population health resources (people, projects) accessible on the World Wide Web.
- APHEO's workshop on Survey Methods in Public Health: Working



With What We Have was a huge success. Our workshops get better every year.

The past year has seen APHEO become stronger. Epidemiologists benefit from the support and interaction that APHEO makes possible. Thank you to an excellent Executive Committee and Workshop Committee whose hard work made APHEO work in 1997. As public health becomes more municipally-based, it is increasingly important that provincial associations like APHEO thrive. Given our small - but important - membership, all epidemiologists must contribute as APHEO works to keep the lines of communication open across Ontario. APHEO can provide the lone epidemiologist some support but the mainstay itself must continue to be the health unit. APHEO is well positioned for the changes and challenges of 1998.

financial report

submitted by: Brenda Guarda

January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997

Income

Balance Forward from 1996	12,684.93
APHEO 1996 Conference	750.00
APHEO 1997 Conference	5,790.00
APHEO 1997 Conference Sponsors	2,900.00
Membership	1,350.00
Affiliates (Non-Members)	305.00
ALPHA Travel Reimbursement	1,440.00
Other Income	18.00
Interest	1.28

Total Income \$ 25,241.84

Expenses

APHEO 1995 Conference	650.90
APHEO 1996 Conference	9,557.56
APHEO 1997 Conference	6,313.35
ALPHA Meetings	3,020.59
Administration	572.51
Executive Meetings	313.18
General Meetings	91.63
APHEO Awards	109.20
Bank Charges	.60

Balance \$ 20,629.52

Overall Total \$ 4,612.32



During the past year, APHEO members have actively participated in alpha (Association of Local Public Health Agencies) activities. Not only have we had Board representation, but individual members have participated in lobbying efforts, the development of position papers, committee work, and conferences. Some of the highlights include:

- a provincial-wide campaign for cost-shared public health;
- municipal education campaign (geared to candidates and newly elected municipal politicians);
- Bill 152 and Schedule D - a lobbying role to ensure that provincial program standards and a connection to the provincial health system will be maintained;
- development of a position paper "A Population Health Perspective: What Public Health Can Offer To Integrated Health Systems";
- two conferences – one to address the role of Public Health in the new reality of municipal funding and integrated health systems and the other to look at change management;
- access to personal home and auto insurance;

- meeting with Sandra Lang, David Mowat, and Ron Sapsford to discuss public health issues;
- participation on the Ministry of Health Public Health Branch's Monitoring Project for Mandatory Programs.

APHEO committees in 1997

submitted by: Julie Stratton

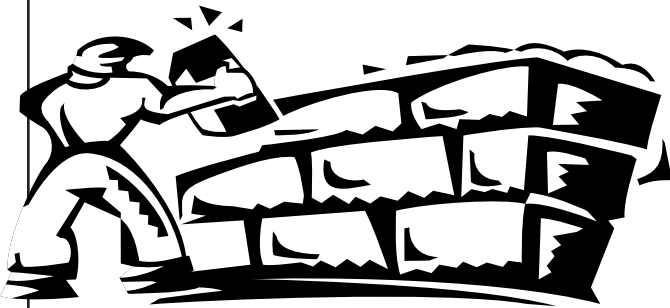
Members of APHEO sat on the following committees during 1997:

- **Integrated Health Care System Model.** Raili Cardinal of the Algoma Health Unit worked together with alpha to prepare a position paper on Integrated Delivery Systems. Raili provided expertise about indicators to show that Integrated Delivery Systems are doing their job.
- **Antimicrobial Resistant Organisms in Ontario.** In March 1997, the Public Health Branch of the Ministry of Health hosted a day long conference entitled Strategic Planning on Antimicrobial Resistance in Ontario. As a result of that conference the Public Health Branch established a steering committee for the control of Antimicrobial Resistant Organisms in Ontario. Corresponding APHEO committee members are Salwa Bishay, Muskoka-Parry Sound Health Unit and Terry Delmore, Halton Regional Health Department.
- **Pneumococcal and Influenza Vaccine Promotion Advisory Committee.** APHEO member: Brenda Guarda, Simcoe County District Health Unit. In late 1996, the Ministry of Health announced a Pneumococcal Immunization Program. The aim of the program is to achieve optimal use of the pneumococcal vaccine to reduce the incidence of the disease in people over 65 years of age and those with certain medical conditions.

The pneumococcal and influenza vaccine promotion advisory committee was formed in early 1997 to develop, implement and evaluate strategies to test various methods of promoting vaccine uptake. Three different sites were selected to test these strategies — primary care physician practices, acute care hospitals and specialist clinics. Each site is testing a different promotional strategy. The data is being analysed and results are expected shortly.
- **Mandatory Program Technical Review Committees.** In 1997, five committees were established by the Ministry of Health in order to revise the 1989 Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines. The purpose of each committee was to develop measurable objectives and requirements for the areas of healthy growth and development, healthy lifestyles and food safety. The five committees and their APHEO representatives are listed below:
 - Chronic Diseases-Julie Stratton, Perth District Health Unit
 - Injury Prevention-Vic Sahai, Salwa Bishay, Muskoka Parry-Sound Health Unit, Sudbury and District Health Unit
 - Healthy Babies-Mary-Anne Pietrusiak, Durham Region health Department
 - Food Safety-Dean Middleton, York Regional Health Department
 - Well Being-no representative

survey methods in public health: working with what we have

submitted by Kathryn Doré, Chair, APHEO Workshop 1997



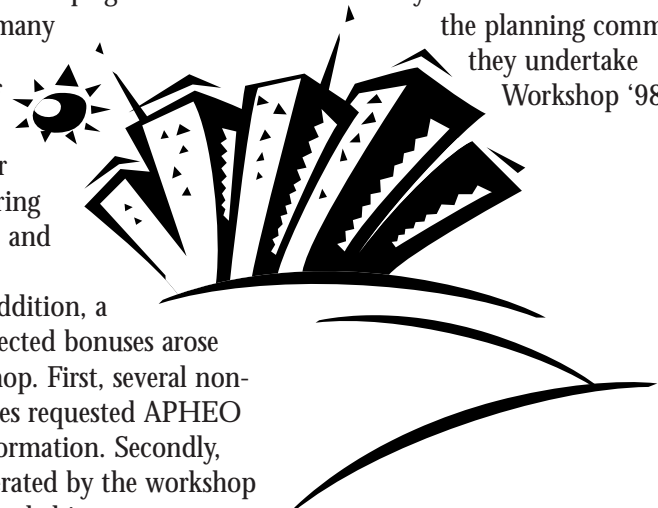
“.....Public health draws heavily upon survey research to gather information about our populations and about our programs. Often, in order to get the specific local information we need, we must conduct our own surveys. The goal of the 1997 APHEO workshop

was to provide some practical tips for conducting good quality surveys efficiently.

Approximately 60 people attended the workshop and nearly half of those who attended were APHEO members or affiliates. Judging by the comments during the two days and the results of the post session evaluations, most of the attendees were quite pleased with the diversity and relevance of the presentations. All of the respondents ranked the overall quality of the workshop “good” or “excellent” and many commented on the timeliness of the topic, the opportunities for information sharing and networking, and the emphasis on practicality. In addition, a couple of unexpected bonuses arose from the workshop. First, several non-member attendees requested APHEO membership information. Secondly, the income generated by the workshop significantly exceeded its expenses. Finally, I would like to express my personal appreciation to everyone who

chipped in to make this event a success. In particular, thanks to our sponsors and to all the presenters, including those who prepared poster displays and those who submitted abstracts. Most of all, a huge and fond thank you to the super planning team of Sherri Ennis, Scarborough Health Department; Hyewon Lee-Han, North York Health Department; Paul Krueger, Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Public Health Department and Dean Middleton, York Regional Health Department. It was a real pleasure working with you. Best of luck to

Mary Lou Decou and the rest of the planning committee as they undertake Workshop ‘98.



1997 OCCHA activities

Submitted by: Paul Krueger

At the June 1997 annual general board meeting, Paul Krueger was named Chair of the Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation's (OCCHA) Principles and Standards (P & S) Committee. Over the course of the year the P & S committee revised and updated its Principles, Standards, Components, and Definitions documentation which was later approved by the full Board in December 1997. The Agency Questionnaire and Surveyor Report form were also revised to reflect these changes and are to be piloted in April 1998. The Surveyor Manual for Accreditation and the Introduction to Accreditation are also currently under review. There were several accreditation surveys conducted in 1996-1997 with an estimated 4 to 7 surveys to be completed in 1998-1999. In 1998-99 OCCHA will also be exploring its involvement in benchmarking.

APHEO'S new web site

APHEO has gone worldwide! At the end of 1997, we began developing a web site with the assistance of the Central East Health Information Partnership. The web site includes information about APHEO, its members and affiliates and up-to-date information on upcoming events and conferences. It also outlines the committees that our members are currently involved with and the progress that is being made in the area of public health epidemiology.

If you would like more information about our organization and are interested in joining, check us out at <http://www.cehip.org/apheo>.