

Summary Report to ANDSOOHA Annual General Meeting Ontario Public Health Association Board of Directors 2010

Submitted by: Karen Quigley-Hobbs
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This has been a year of change for the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA). Executive Director Connie Utrecht resigned as of December 31 2010. This Executive Director search resulted in the hiring of Siu Mee Cheng, who will begin work with the association effective April 4, 2011. Siu Mee brings a wealth of experience in health administration, policy development and government relations which will greatly enhance OPHA's strategic direction. She is currently the Executive Director of the Toronto Central Palliative Care Network. Her experience and skills will be an asset to OPHA and its members.

After an extensive stakeholder consultation process, the OPHA Board of Directors has approved a new strategic plan for OPHA. The priority directions are as follows;

- Strengthen OPHA's financial sustainability and capacity for growth
- Enhance OPHA outreach to membership
- Improve OPHA branding and communications
- Build internal capacity for advocacy to enhance OPHA's impact on external stakeholders

The board is eager to begin their work with Siu Mee to operationalize the new strategic plan.

Work groups remain the heart and soul of OPHA and they continue to do great work in the field. Annually, the workgroup chairs attend a Board of Directors meeting to provide a summary of activities and work plan for the upcoming year. Based upon the priorities raised by the workgroups, OPHA has put together a list of key issues for 2011 Provincial election. It included action recommendations in the area of the Built Environment; Air Quality; Tobacco; Climate Change, Children's Environmental Health; Food Insecurity; Bedbugs and Alcohol.

The addition of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion has created a different landscape as they work to build the research and knowledge exchange components in Ontario's public health system. OPHA and aLPHA are partnering with the Agency in the upcoming Ontario Public Health Convention in Toronto April 5-8th. OPHA and aLPHA continue to partner as opportunities present in areas such as the Social Determinants of Health workgroup.

Some of the projects at OPHA will be shifting or ending this year. The funding for the Alcohol Policy Network has shifted to the Agency; the Healthy Communities Consortium (previously the Health Health Resource Centre) plans to launch a new name and website this spring; Youth Engagement (Health Canada funding) will be hosting 6 regional workshops and releasing a number of resources including a comprehensive toolkit, youth engagement guide and website. The Nutrition Resource Centre continues but the funding for TEIP and the Injury Prevention project will expire June 30th. The two areas have provided a great contribution to the work of public health in Ontario.

It is a challenging and exciting time for OPHA and I appreciate the opportunity to represent ANDSOOHA at the Board of Directors table.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Quigley-Hobbs
President-Elect
ANDSOOHA Board of Directors