

## Maryland Public Health Association

August 2001



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Maryland Public Health Association  
c/o The Public Health Practice Alliance,  
The Bloomberg School of Public Health,  
Johns Hopkins University  
624 North Broadway, Room 325  
Baltimore, MD 21205  
Tel: 410-955-3660  
Fax: 410-614-7642  
e-mail: MPHA@jhsph.edu  
web site:  
[www.stwing.upenn.edu/~gbsilver/MPHA](http://www.stwing.upenn.edu/~gbsilver/MPHA)

## Note from the President

Greetings MdPHA members,

Once again the Maryland Public Health Association has been busy. We have a **new logo** which combines the "Healthy People" figures with our State flower, the Black Eyed Susan. If you attended our May 2001 annual meeting, you will remember the souvenir pins featured that flower and our new logo. This symbolizes our vision of public health blooming as profusely all over Maryland.

In February 2001 we held a strategic planning session facilitated by Lindsay Beane. This fall we will work again on a three-year plan. But we have not allowed our lack of a written long-term plan to interfere with getting things done.

The March 13th Legislative Event was a success, attended by a roomful of public health supporters. We had presentations by several legislators and Secretary Georges Benjamin. Our special guest was Joel Myerberg who spoke on tobacco use in disabled populations, a public health issue that has not received as much attention in the past.

For Public Health Week (April 2-6), the nursing section had a display on public health nursing

staffed by volunteers in the lobby of the DHMH O'Connor Building. MdPHA also provided DHMH a presentation on health disparities for use in their Public Health Week events.

The 2001 annual meeting on **"Promoting Physical Activity and Reducing Sedentary Lifestyle,"** was held on May 18<sup>th</sup> in beautiful Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis. **Gwen Foster**, the dynamic Health and Fitness Czar from Philadelphia, was inspiring to all and that was just the beginning. Lunchtime walkers were welcomed back by "Snappy the Crab." The momentum continued with lively presentations from fascinating speakers. The 60+ attendees gave the program an outstanding rating.

Also at the annual meeting we recognized awardees for excellence in public health and voted in amended bylaws. Four new Board members - Glenn Schneider, Robert Villanueva, Ingrid Connerry, and Sonia Fierro-Luperini - were elected. We also took formal action on a new Latino Health group - see below for more information.

Two other meetings in May made it a very busy month. The PHN section invited Dr. Carlessia Hussein to give an update on the **Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF)** on May 24<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the CRF, visit the PHN section on our website.

On May 31st we co-sponsored a well-attended **Symposium on the Uninsured** with Med-Chi, MACHO, and the Maryland Health Care Foundation, among others.

We have included a member survey with this edition of the newsletter to give you an opportunity to get more involved with MdPHA. If you attended one of our May meetings or found it on the website you may have already completed and returned this. If not, please take a few minutes to do so. Thank you for helping to grow healthy communities all over Maryland.

Sincerely,

Katherine Farrell, MD, MPH  
President

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## Public Health Nursing Section News

--Blanche Shenosky

**The 2001 Public Health Nursing awards for outstanding achievement** were presented by Judy Schuur, Chairperson, PHN Section, at the annual Maryland Public Health Association 2001 meeting.

\* Ruth B. Freeman Award - **Sarah Groves, DrPH, RN**, Instructor, The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

\* M. Frances Etchberger Award - **Lois Henderson, RN, BSN**, Community Health Nurse, Howard County Health Department.

\* Parish Nursing Awards - **Brenda McNeely, RN, BSN**, Community Health Nurse II, Parish Nurse Coordinator,

Frederick County Health Department, Nursing Division - and **Kristine Holmes, RN, BSN**, Parish Nurse, First Presbyterian Church of Howard County.

**Carlessia Hussein, RN, DrPH**, was guest speaker at the Public Health Nursing Section Business Meeting which was held at the Anne Arundel County Health Department on May 24, 2001. The topic was the State of Maryland Cigarette Restitution Fund Program.

*Blanche Shenosky is the new public relations person for the Public Health Nursing Section.*

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## Announcements

**Congratulations** to all award winners including those mentioned in the PHN section news. Other awards at the annual meeting were: The Legislative award presented to **Delegate Samuel (Sandy) Rosenberg** for his consistent support of public health over the years, and the President's Award to an outstanding MdPHA member accepted on behalf of **Roger Harrell**, Dorchester County Health Officer, by John Ryan, MD.

**Thanks** to Janet Morehouse Graphic Artist for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene who designed our logo, and to Debbie Vo who made the pins for our annual meeting both this and last year.

### Physical Education Project

This Spring we sent surveys to over 3,000 Physical Education teachers and will soon release a special

report on PE in Maryland schools.

**Thanks and farewell** to Daniel Mullins, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and Anne Markham of the Bloomberg School of Public Health who resigned from our Board. Both will continue to be valued members of MdPHA. We wish them every success.

**Welcome new board members!** Glenn Schneider, of the Maryland Citizens Health Initiative, Robert Villanueva, Maryland State Council on Cancer Control, Ingrid Connerry, University of Maryland Medical System and Sonia Fierro-Luperini, Parent Liaison to the ESOL program in Baltimore City. All were elected as new Board members in May. Glenn Schneider will succeed Anne Markham as MdPHA Secretary.

### MdPHA on radio

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Annapolis listeners heard a plug for our annual meeting on WNAV thanks to a press release we issued to publicize the visit of Gwen Foster and Philadelphia's amazing 76 ton weight loss initiative. The news release is on our web site.

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### Membership Survey

We have taken a look at the membership surveys submitted at our annual meeting and one thing stands out. We need more visibility. Many public health professionals have never heard of MdPHA. The Board will be looking at this problem in coming months so if you have ideas to raise the profile of the organization, talk to one of

our Board members or e-mail <farrellkf@pol.net>.

**Latino Health**

The recent census shows a major increase in the numbers of Maryland residents with Latin roots. Health issues for the growing community include access to services and information on health issues. A member asked us to consider a Latino Health Caucus or Special Interest Group. Beltran Navarro made a presentation to the Board and they voted unanimously to begin the process. The membership of MdPHA voted to confirm the decision at the annual meeting. If you are interested, contact Dr. Fierro-Luperini at (410)545-6485 or by e-mail at <enlace@email.com>.

**An introductory session will be held on September 21, 2001 at The Engineer's Club Garrett-Jacobs Mansion 11 W. Mount Vernon Pl. Baltimore, MD 21201 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.**  
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**Advocacy**

**ACTION ALERT:** NANA, the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity, needs our help in support of funding for physical activity, nutrition and obesity programs at CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Congresswoman Morella (R-MD) and Congressman Blumenauer (D-OR) are asking other Members of the House of Representatives to cosign a letter to the Chair and Ranking members of the Labor HHS appropriations subcommittee in support of \$50M

for the CDC to address nutrition, PA and obesity. They hope to show strong bipartisan support for this program. For more information call either Moira Shea in Rep. Morella's office (202-225-5341) or Freya Ghoreson in Rep. Blumenauer's office (202-225-4811).

**Food Quality Protection**

Maryland Public Health Association supports the National Environmental Trust's opposition to the Pomba bill. Representative Pomba's proposed law would undermine the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) (P.L. 104-170). The National Environmental Trust appreciates additional support of their efforts to defeat Pomba's bill, from other health or environmental organizations in the state. If you are interested and able to provide this support by signing on to a letter, please contact Mr. Rohit Dixit of NET at <rdixit@environet.org>.

**National Violent Death Reporting System**


At the request of APHA, MdPHA also recently wrote to Congressman Steny Hoyer to thank him for supporting a National Violent Death Reporting System.

**Playgrounds**

MdPHA sent a note of congratulations to Mayor Martin O'Malley for his promise to renovate 47 playgrounds this summer. Baltimore City will make playgrounds safer and more welcoming for children, an important contribution to health and fitness.

**Environmental Health:** MdPHA wrote a letter of support for Dr. Tom Burke who is

seeking funding for a "Center of Excellence for Community Environmental Health Practice" at Johns Hopkins. The Center will provide a model framework to increase state and local capacity and technical and response capabilities to environmental health threats and problems facing Maryland residents. We wish him every success and look forward to working with him on this great project.

 APHA's 129th Annual Meeting & Exposition, **One World: Global Health**, is October 21-25, 2001, in Atlanta, Georgia. Save by registering before the early-bird deadline on August 17, 2001. More at: <http://www.apha.org/meetings>

**Listserve**

We use our listserve to send out public health news that you might not normally see including job and grant opportunities. Has your e-mail address changed since you renewed your membership? If so, take a moment send your new information to: [gsilver@jhspsh.edu](mailto:gsilver@jhspsh.edu)

**Website:**

Our web site is being updated and we will soon, thanks to Johns Hopkins, have a URL that is easier to remember but for now we are still at: [www.stwing.upenn.edu/~gbsilver/MPHA](http://www.stwing.upenn.edu/~gbsilver/MPHA) Visit for news, membership applications and information about MdPHA.

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