Support to create “Sections” within UPHA organizational structure

Whereas the Utah Public Health Association (UPHA) is the largest association of public health professionals in Utah and is dedicated to promoting quality public health policy and providing public health advocacy and education for its members; and

Whereas UPHA members include professionals from a broad cross section of public health occupations as well as community leaders and citizens who are committed to improving the health of Utahns; and

Whereas UPHA is looking to improve the benefits and resources for its members; and

Whereas member involvement is vital to the future, the strength and growth of UPHA; and

Whereas the current organizational structure of UPHA does not provide a mechanism for members of similar professions the opportunity to connect, network and collaborate in their areas of expertise; and

Whereas UPHA could use these professional groups as subject experts to provide accurate, timely and well researched articles, position statements and “white” papers for use in advocacy and education; and

Whereas creation of professional “Sections” within UPHA may provide an added incentive for more people to join and become involved; and

Whereas the creation of the Student Caucus has provided an excellent and very successful pilot for the concept of Sections within the Association.

Be it therefore resolved that:

UPHA consider creating Professional Sections as part of the organizational structure, that will bring together members of similar professional interests, be attractive to new members, and provide a network of content experts from within UPHA, who can provide the technical knowledge and information needed for advocacy and education; and

UPHA direct its Officers and Board to create the process by which members join a Section of their choice, as part of their UPHA membership; and

During 2012, UPHA Officers and Board appoint a committee to help in the development of the operational structure, section governance, and representation to the Board, and general guidance to organize Sections within UPHA; and

UPHA begin this process with six fundamental professional Sections to include: Nursing, Health Education; Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Administration, and recognize the Student Assembly as a Section. As interest grows other sections can be organized under the guidelines to be developed, and

At the 2013 Annual Business Meeting of the Association, the necessary bylaws changes and policy statements/guidelines, creating this organizational change, will be formally presented to the membership for adoption.

Respectfully submitted by:

Officers and Board of UPHA