Support to establish a membership category for early career professionals in the Utah Public Health Association and merge the Early Career Professional and Professional Development Committees

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

Whereas UPHA is looking to retain members after they graduate from the Student Assembly and attract new members; and

Whereas in response to the resolution passed in April 2016, a committee was formed to review the national and local efforts to engage recent graduates and new public health professionals and help UPHA create a strategy to better serve the needs of this population and retain student members

Whereas the efforts of this committee resulted in the recommendation to provide more professional development opportunities to all members, but especially recent graduates;

Whereas the current membership and organizational structure of UPHA does not provide many professional development opportunities to its members; and

Whereas UPHA’s efforts should continue to align with state and national efforts to engage new and early career professionals in public health and fulfill its mission.

Be it therefore resolved that:

UPHA create a membership category for early career professionals so they may maintain membership and attend events with minimal financial concern; and

Define “early career professionals” as “new public health professionals” to accommodate interested members who graduated with a public health degree within the past five (5) years or are new to the field of public health; and

To best utilize resources within the organization, allow the Early Career Professionals Committee to dissolve into the Professional Development Committee; and

Have early career professionals fulfill the vacant positions in the Professional Development Committee to make sure the research from its committee is implemented to its full extent; and

Encourage early career professionals to also to join the Early-Career Professionals Member group of the American Public Health Association; and

In 2017, support a communication strategic plan to communicate these changes and invite eligible individuals to participate in this new membership opportunity.

Respectfully submitted by:
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