



Utah  
Public Health  
Association

## UPHA E-Newsletter

March 2020

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### 2020 Public Health Conference for Utah POSTPONED

**The Utah Public Health Association has made the difficult but necessary decision to postpone the 2020 Public Health Conference for Utah. This is due to the intensifying COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing to help flatten the epidemic curve. Registration is currently on hold as we consider next steps. We will be in touch as more information is available.**

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### *President's Message*

I am full of mixed emotions as I write to you in the midst of the most unprecedented public health crisis of our time. It was especially unnerving, and quite frankly, scary, to be shaken out of bed at 7:09 AM on Wednesday morning March 18<sup>th</sup> with a 5.7 earthquake. I am grateful it was not the “big one”, but it was plenty big for me. It was worse for our friends in Magna who had the contents of their cupboards spill onto the floor. I am thankful no lives were lost, but understand there was a mental toll. There is nothing like an earthquake to instill immediate fear. On the other hand, we have this pandemic and I feel like the frog in the pot of boiling water. The impact of this event is on a completely different level.

It has been especially challenging to reconfigure our lives, whether it is setting up a home office, moving our work into virtual space, home-schooling children, stocking the pantry, or taking care of loved ones. For many it is all of the above AND being on the front lines, responding to the public health call – staffing hotlines, conducting case investigations, coordinating hospital surge capacity, and staffing operations centers. Know that you have public health friends on the sidelines who are ready to lend you a hand.

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I worry about our healthcare workers, grocery store employees and others who have to choose between putting themselves at risk and getting a paycheck. My heart also goes out to our restaurant and hospitality workers who may have already lost their jobs. While we are in this state of emergency, I see many rays of light, a sense of resiliency, and doing what it takes to flatten the curve. At UPHA, we too are figuring out the new normal. Our annual conference is postponed, many of our board members are attending to urgent work at the health departments or call centers, and we are focused on maintaining basic operations. We do hope to hold our annual business meeting – virtually and sooner rather than later – so we can attend to the basic business of elections, financial reporting, and resolutions. Stay tuned for announcements. Stay safe and hang in there.

Sharon Talboys, UPHA President

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## Tell your story - A day in the life of COVID19

At this historical moment, we want to help record your stories – from public health professionals, for public health professionals. They can be big or small, personal or professional, long, or short, serious or humorous, or even in the form of a haiku. We will compile your accounts and share (with your permission) to our membership. We hope this becomes a weekly communication with members and serves as a reminder that we are in this together.

**To share your story, please include your name, public health role, and how you would like to be identified in the story (name, job role, anonymous). Email to [stalboys11@gmail.com](mailto:stalboys11@gmail.com) – subject line “my story”.**

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## Still Accepting Nominations

### Board Nominations

The success of UPHA is dependent on the willingness of its membership to serve in various offices and positions. Each year, as part of the Annual Conference, new officers are elected. UPHA definitely needs you, or someone you know! [Learn more about 2020 nominations.](#)

### Award Nominations

It's time to nominate your colleagues for UPHA's annual awards. Peer recognition is the best kind of recognition! Take a few minutes to share the great accomplishments of your co-workers and partners. Please submit your nominations to [ivy@co.davis.ut.us](mailto:ivy@co.davis.ut.us) by 5pm Friday, March 20th.

Visit [UPHA.ORG](http://UPHA.ORG) to learn about the awards.

### Now Accepting Applications for the 2020 Meghan Arnold Emerging Leader Scholarship

This annual scholarship recognizes emerging student leaders in Utah for their extraordinary contributions to the field of public health. The 2020 Meghan Arnold Award winner will receive

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a registration to the 2020 Public Health Conference for Utah with hotel accommodations for one night. Applications are due by March 20th. Visit [UPHA.ORG](http://UPHA.ORG) to learn more.

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## COVID-19 Information

For the most accurate and up-to-date information visit [coronavirus.utah.gov](http://coronavirus.utah.gov). Remember to wash your hands, practice social distancing, be kind, and help others when you can.

Find food and other resources here: [Utahns Against Hunger](#) - [Utah Community Action](#) - [United Way 211](#) - [Utah Food Bank](#)

Find service opportunities here: [United Way](#)

Free APHA The Science of Social Distancing Webinar - March 25th - 1pm - [Register HERE](#)

**"The Association recognizes the hard work of public health professionals everywhere and encourages them to continue educating the public and speaking out for funding and support to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak." - [APHA](#)**

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### UPHA Board Members

President	Sharon Talboys	Student Assembly President	Marci Harris
President Elect	Patty Cross	Communications Unit	JoDee Baker
Vice President	Rebecca Fronberg		Julie Gast
Immediate Past President	Anna Dillingham		Sarah Hodson
Treasurer	Braden Ainsworth	Fiscal Unit	Shaheen Hossain
Secretary	Pam Lyon		Turner Bitton
APHA Affiliate	Teresa Garrett		Jaron Halford
Executive Director	Paul Wightman	Advocacy Unit	Brittany Guerra
			Christy Cushing
			Carrie Butler