

August 2020 UPHA E-NEWLETTER

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President's Message

August is here and the UPHA Board is gearing up for getting back to meetings (virtual) and addressing public health issues in Utah (COVID will no doubt be among them). Even though the UPHA Board takes some time off over the summer, we have been working behind the scenes on special projects. We are very excited about the Community Health Worker (CHW) grant which was received from the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and welcome our new CHW leadership as follows:

Oreta Topula - Full Time - Project Coordinator ** **Javier Campos** - Part time - Communication & Membership ** **Suz Akok** - Part Time - Outreach & Partners

Welcome back also to all our members and friends and stay tuned for updates on activities and advocacy efforts for this upcoming year. -Patty Cross, Board President



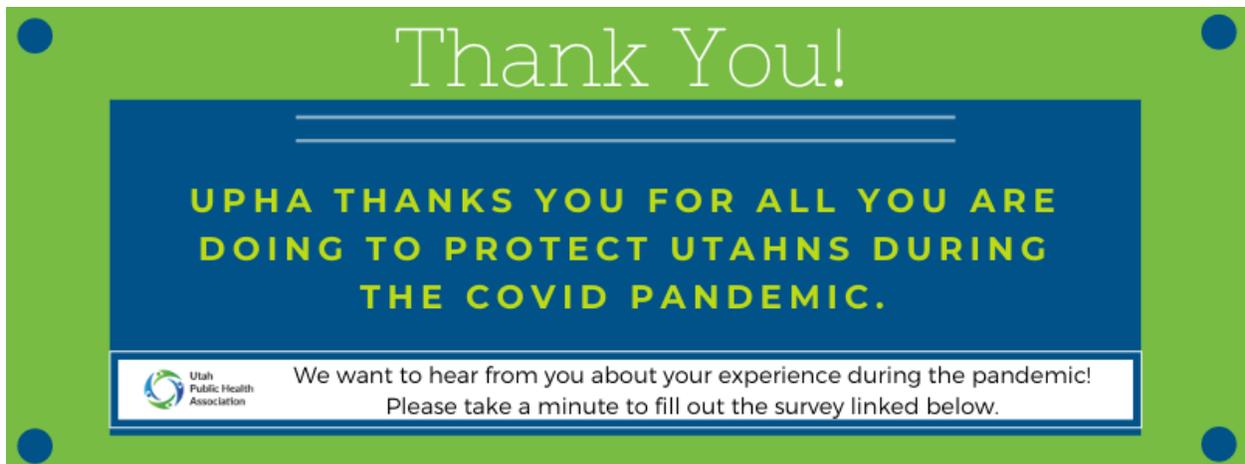
COVID Resources

During this unprecedented threat to the public's health, **UPHA stands behind Utah's public health professionals who work continuously to create conditions where all Utahns can be as healthy as possible.** UPHA is committed to the health and safety of all communities and shares our concern for humanity at this time. [Visit the COVID page on the UPHA website to find current information, news articles, resources, My Story, ways to serve, and tips for staying healthy.](#)

Racism is an ongoing public health crisis that needs our attention now.

We strongly support the APHA's [statement on racism and public health](#). In Utah we have seen the direct impact that racism has on public health from [police violence and brutality](#) to the disproportionate toll COVID-19 has taken on [Black, Indigenous, and People of Color](#). It is critical that we support actions at all levels: from applying a lens of racial equity within UPHA and the Utah public health community to promoting policies and programs that advance health equity and justice. Together as public health professionals we must, as APHA Executive Director George Benjamin calls for, address racism as an ongoing public health crisis that needs our attention now! For more information and steps we can take to promote action and healing, we urge members to check out the [APHA resources on racism and public health](#).

Advocacy Updates



Please participate in the [UPHA Public Health Worker Covid-19 Survey](#).

UPHA wants to know your experience as a public health worker that has risen to the forefront in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been successes and lessons learned in organizing and responding to the pandemic. This brief anonymous [survey](#) is intended to hear more about your experience and your suggestions for improvement. The information collected will help inform policy recommendations to the state and federal government to ensure we are better able to safely, justly and more equitably respond to this public health emergency and future emergencies. Please complete the [survey](#) and share it with your network by the end of day on Wednesday August 19, 2020. UPHA appreciates everything you do for public health.

[Click HERE](#) to review meeting agendas, minutes, and other planning documents for the 2020-2021 UPHA Policy Unit activities. Reach out to [Christy Cushing](#), [Carrie Butler](#), or [Jessie Mandle](#) for more details.

Section Updates



Nutrition Section Survey

The Student Assembly would like to do a series of webinars this year where public health professionals can talk to students about their jobs. If you are interested and answering questions please contact Skyler Crouch at U0558678@utah.edu.

Spotlights



We'd like to welcome **Dustin Jones** to the Membership Unit of UPHA this year. Dustin currently works at the Utah Department of Health, EPICC Program and teaches as an adjunct faculty at the Salt Lake Community College. He started out in Psychology, but came to Public Health to help people change and improve health behaviors. Dustin's favorite vacation spot is anywhere in the mountains, but he would love to travel the world. He loves to stay up late, but will always be up by 7:30 am. The most rewarding project's to him are working with businesses and creating policies to promote healthy employee's The two foods he could eat the rest of his life would be Chinese or Thai and the best thing he's ever done is marry his wife and have 2 kids.

He likes to relax and watch movies and he believes "joining UPHA creates opportunities to be in the forefront of public health in Utah, allowing you to receive public health news, engage in advocacy and attend events and activities."

Laura Ceron has been a Community Health worker for close to 5 years and currently works for the Association for Utah Community Health. In her spare time she likes to attend shows whenever possible and go on impromptu road trips with her daughter, and hopefully one day her cat. Thanks for all your hard work Laura.

What Else You Need to Know . . .

- Learn more about the [USOPHE Fall Conference](#) on October 7th.
- Learn more about the [SOPHE Advocacy Summit](#) on October 13-14th.
- [The APHA 2020 Annual Meeting and Expo](#), Oct 24-28 in San Francisco will be an ALL VIRTUAL EVENT. Registration is open.
- Keep up to date on the COVID-19 case counts and other important information at coronavirus.utah.gov.
- If you, a family member, or someone you know doesn't have health insurance, Take Care Utah may be able to help. There are a variety of remote enrollment options available. [Click HERE to learn more](#).
- Due to increased demand on food pantries, Salt Lake County Health Department, in partnership with AQUEHS Corp, launched FeedUt.org. The site helps residents find the nearest food service locations.
- ASTHO is offering webinars for Public Health Leaders in the Era of COVID-19 Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- The Utah Strong Recovery Project: Free help for COVID-19 related stress. [Click here to learn more](#).
- Upcoming webinar: Systemic Racism and Health; Making Change Happen. [Register Here](#)
- Adapting Public Health to the new normal, free Continuing Competency Credits, August 4-21. [Register Here](#).