



Utah  
Public Health  
Association

## July 2020 UPHA E-NEWSLETTER

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### *President's Message*

What an unprecedented year 2020 has been so far! This year has moved public health to the front of the stage, ready or not. Although we are in new territory we understand how to educate, assess, develop, adapt, comfort, lead, direct, evaluate, study and define. These skills allow us to handle whatever comes our way. As members of UPHA, we will continue to move forward during these unique times and focus on our mission to protect and improve the health of the public and achieve equity in health status. This may look different than what we have done in the past and I know we are up for the challenge. My year as UPHA President is just beginning and I want to start with spreading a message of hope and gratitude. Thank you for all the work you are doing, whether it be on the front lines or within the walls of your own home. While the world is leaning on us, let us not forget to lean on each other. We are in this together and I'm confident that we will come out of this stronger both individually and as a profession. I can't wait to serve alongside each of you this year. - **Patty Cross, UPHA President**

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### *New UPHA Board Members*

New UPHA Board Members were announced at the June UPHA Business Meeting. Congratulations to the new board members and thank you to outgoing board members!

## Congratulations to the incoming UPHA Board Members!

Jessica Strong (Vice-President)  
Turner Bitton (Treasurer)  
Alison Conover (Communications Unit)  
Jessie Mandle (Advocacy Unit)  
Pamela Lyon (Fiscal Unit)  
Dustin Jones (Membership Committee Chair)  
Eric Christensen (Membership Committee Member)  
Nancy Farnes (Membership Committee Member)  
Ashley Yaughner (Nominations Committee Member)  
Amy Mikkelsen (Awards Committee Member)



## Thank you to outgoing UPHA Board Members!

Anna Dillingham (Past-President)  
Jodee Baker (Communications Unit)  
Brittany Guerra (Advocacy Unit)  
Shaheen Hossain (Fiscal Unit)  
Pam Lyon (Secretary)  
Braden Ainsworth (Treasurer)

and to Sharon Talboys for her leadership as UPHA President

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## 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.](#)

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## 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](#).

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## Advocacy Updates

Collaborating with other public health organizations, UPHA's Advocacy Unit voiced concerns to Governor Gary Herbert about Utah's rapidly accelerating positive COVID-19 tests and hospital admissions. As an organization, UPHA asked for a smart, safe, and science based opening up of Utah's economy, focusing on 4 main public health priorities. [Learn more about our effort HERE](#). In addition, members of the UPHA Advocacy Unit drafted a letter emphasizing concerns about the proposed budget reductions to public health and human services programs, asking for reconsideration where there was a greater impact on the most vulnerable and underserved in our community. The letter was well received, as policy makers dipped into the rainy day fund to minimize the cuts to these services.

The UPHA Advocacy Unit invites you to join our monthly meetings to plan advocacy events, trainings, and determine legislative priorities. If you would like to be influential in the direction UPHA takes around

policy priorities for the year, feel free to join! UPHA Policy Committee Meetings are being held virtually on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 12:00pm - 1:00pm. You can join us via [google meet/hangout](#).

[Click HERE](#) to review meeting agendas, minutes, and other planning documents for the 2019-2020 UPHA Policy Unit activities. Reach out to [Christy Cushing](#), [Carrie Butler](#), or [Jessie Mandle](#) for more details.

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## Section Updates

The Nutrition Section is looking for a new co-chair. We are looking for someone passionate about nutrition and healthy living. Anyone interested, please email [rachelrstagg@gmail.com](mailto:rachelrstagg@gmail.com).

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## Student Spotlight



Skyler is a graduate student at the University of Utah in the Division of Public Health. While volunteering as a Nutritional Science undergraduate he first realized the importance of keeping the community safe, assisting others and making a difference in people's lives. He is involved in case investigations and contact tracing with the Utah Department of Health to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and believes the strongest weapon during this pandemic is accurate information and dispelling hearsay. Currently, Skyler is focusing on infectious disease epidemiology and would like to pursue his career here in Utah. When asked to give one reason someone should join UPHA-SA he responded by stating, joining UPHA-SA is a good way of networking, meeting people with different beliefs and ideas and broadening your horizons. It's nice to meet you Skyler and we look forward to great things.

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## What Else You Need to Know . . .

- Utah County Health Department is hiring. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- 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 opens July 7th.
- Keep up to date on the COVID-19 case counts and other important information at [coronavirus.utah.gov](https://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](https://FeedUt.org). The site helps residents find the nearest food service locations.
- [Watch the APHA COVID-19 Conversations Webinar Series](#)
- [Watch the APHA Advancing Racial Equity Webinar Series](#)

ASTHO is offering an introductory online course for entry-level COVID-19 contact tracers. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.