

# COLORADO PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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## 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello dear members and friends,

In this year's edition of the Colorado Public Health Association's (CPHA) Annual Report, I extend a heartfelt welcome to all who are privileged to partake in this reflection. Your presence here signifies not only resilience, but a remarkable journey through tumultuous times—navigating the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic, confronting the profound reckoning with racial injustice that has stirred our global consciousness, and, perhaps, discovering meaningful insights about yourselves amidst the pervasive burnout that has defined these years in public health. I am grateful for your presence, as it mirrors the enduring spirit of our community.

CPHA has undertaken a transformative journey in recent years, embracing challenges as opportunities to foster growth, cultivate intentionality, and champion inclusivity. In unison with our membership and the governing body, CPHA has demonstrated resilience and purpose throughout what has been a particularly unique year for our association. Certainly, 2023 has been a year of strength and progress, evident in our improved financial standing and strengthened online administrative infrastructure, for example. We've also seen our influence in advocacy grow, and member engagement in our programs has flourished. The subsequent sections of this report offer a comprehensive overview of these accomplishments and more, including the successful hosting of our conferences this year, Culture of Data (CoD) and Public Health in the Rockies (PHiR).

Arguably, what defined 2023 for CPHA was a pivotal juncture in our ongoing journey to transform into a self-sustaining, equity-focused, and anti-racist organization (ARO). A series of circumstances and insights stemming from our 2022 strategic planning sessions and the 2022 PHiR conference brought about a profound shift in our outlook and a hard look at our values. As 2023 began with the resignation of my predecessor, Juan Roberto Madrid (whose dedicated service to CPHA we deeply appreciate), we continued to face challenges that illuminated major needs to be addressed across the board. These needs have ultimately reshaped our organization and reignited our commitment to health equity, anti-racism, and the Colorado public health community.

This phase of our transformative journey also unveiled the imperative for sweeping changes within our infrastructure and operational framework, aimed at fostering growth, sustainability, and well-being while mitigating burnout. The Board dedicated a significant portion of 2023 to this purpose, commencing with the recruitment of a healthcare and public health consultancy renowned for its expertise in non-profit management, equity-centered work, and a commitment to guiding our efforts in anti-racism. The consultancy leveraged its extensive experience with a diverse range of public non-profit public health organizations to provide a well-reasoned foundation for their recommendations. Yet, it was the CPHA Board's responsibility to apply these recommendations as we saw fit, tailoring them to our unique environment, status, and culture.



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Guided by our consultant and informed by emerging needs and areas of opportunity observed over the past year, the CPHA Board embarked on a more rigorous series of strategic planning sessions throughout the Summer and Fall of 2023, with a focus on three key objectives: 1) fortifying our infrastructure and capacity, 2) advancing the Colorado public health workforce, and 3) championing health equity and racial justice in Colorado's public health domain. After numerous collaborative sessions across various key workgroups, and with the guidance of our consultancy, I am delighted to share, for the first time, the near-concrete outcomes of our labor with the Colorado public health community. The ensuing list outlines the significant changes CPHA anticipates by the end of 2023, following established protocols and diligent considerations.

- **Organizational Restructure:** CPHA is transitioning from an all-volunteer board to a paid staffed model, inclusive of an Executive Director. This shift aims to ensure organizational stability, foster growth, build capacity, and infuse anti-racist principles throughout our work.
- **Board Restructure:** Our board size will reduce significantly to enable effective governance and provide the necessary bandwidth for those overseeing programmatic committees. An inclusive board matrix, soon to be embedded in our Bylaws, guarantees diverse and purposeful representation. By early 2024, we envision the completion of the Board restructuring, member endorsement of related Bylaw changes, and the launch of the new cycle.
- **Code of Conduct and Policy:** Committed to upholding high ethical and relational standards, CPHA is instituting a Code of Conduct and associated Policy and Procedures to report and address grievances.
- **Updated Vision, Values & Goals:** Our Vision, Values, and Goals have been refreshed to better reflect our internalized commitment to health equity, anti-racism, and racial justice.
- **Updated Core Areas of Work:** We have shifted our core mission areas to include and prioritize health equity, anti-racism, and racial justice.
- **Anti-Racist Organizational Commitment:** CPHA is actively investing in new organizational partnerships to advance learning and collaborative efforts in building racial justice competencies within the Colorado public health workforce, including for CPHA Board, staff, and members.
- **New Committee on Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion:** In response to the disbandment of the Health Equity Coalition (HEC) due to unforeseen leadership changes, we see an opportunity to establish revamped committees centered around community, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Starting in late 2023, a task force will be formed to advance HEC's vision in alignment with current social climates and organizational needs. We are forever grateful to the members of HEC (est. 2017) for their commitment and service to CPHA.



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

- **CPHA Membership:** We aim to broaden our membership base, in part by forging and fostering organizational partnerships that offer membership opportunities. We are also expanding engagement avenues, from affinity groups to newly formed committees.
- **New Website:** We are thrilled to unveil a redesigned online platform, meticulously designed with our members' needs in mind, including options for Spanish translation. Discover our new website at [www.coloradopublichealth.org](http://www.coloradopublichealth.org)!
- **CPHA Bylaws:** CPHA is working with pro bono legal services to align our Bylaws with our strategic plan. These proposed changes, designed to strengthen our infrastructure and capacity while aligning with our goals to advance the Colorado public health workforce and champion health equity and racial justice, will be presented to the membership for approval by the end of 2023.

Our revitalized organizational and board structures mirror our commitment to open new pathways, engage diverse perspectives, and enhance our capacity as an organization. These changes also address member feedback from our annual survey, offering multiple avenues for engagement, catering to diverse interests and professional backgrounds. Our core structural modifications, encompassing vision, values, goals, and Bylaws, underscore our dedication to anti-racism. And administrative enhancements will facilitate smoother operations within CPHA. As we approach the finalization of these changes through Board and membership votes, we will keep you updated through our Annual Meeting, newsletters, and other communication channels. I hope you will embrace these transformations and join us on the other side of this dynamic year, feeling the embrace of a new CPHA.

Lastly, I want to express my deep gratitude to you, the Colorado public health community and friends, for your overwhelming love and support. I am honored to serve as a first-generation Black woman, leading an organization so deeply committed to equity, anti-racism, growth, integrity, and our core values. I extend my deep appreciation to Past-President, Jason Vitello, for his unwavering belief in me and my abilities – you will be missed. I hold dear my fiduciary duties to the CPHA Board, whose support and mentorship have been invaluable in my role. To the CPHA membership, I thank you for your vote and confidence in my leadership. Lastly, to the Colorado public health community, I renew my commitment to serving you. Your patience throughout our journey of transformation in 2023 is deeply appreciated.

On behalf of CPHA, I extend heartfelt thanks for your continued support.

With love and gratitude,  
Wivine  
CPHA President, 2023-24'





# SECRETARY REPORT

Formal motions passed during 2022-2023

## **Board Meeting September 2022**

- (Approved) July & August 2022 Minutes
- (Approved) CPHA Board Members endeavor to recognize, monitor, challenge and change used vocabulary where it might enforce oppressive concepts and violently impact the community.

## **Board Meeting October 2022**

- (Approved) September 2022 Minutes
- (Approved) Convene an infrastructure working group, time limited through end of March 2023 to discuss administration and policies and procedures, this would include extending invitation to current or recent past board members.
- (Approved) Continue strategic planning work groups and extend invitation to those work groups to current or recent past board members.
- (Approved) CPHA will vote on the process for selection of new leadership of the Health Equity Coalition by the end of March 2023.
- Urgent Protocol – Approved Joined APHA, ASTHO, ALA, AHA, NACCHO and TFAH (and others) in signing this letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committee leaders asking them to provide at least \$10.45 B for CDC's programs in any final FY 2023 spending bill.

## **Board Meeting November 2022**

- (Approved) October 2022 Minutes
- (Approved) Quarter 3 Financials
- Urgent Protocol – Approved CPHA signed onto the congressional advocacy letter in anticipation of federal FY 2023 appropriations decision.
- Board Meeting December 2022
- (Approved) November 2022 Minutes
- (Approved) 2023 Budget
- (Approved) 2023 Policy Priorities

## **Board Meeting January 2023**

- (Approved) December 2022 Minutes

## **Board Meeting February 2023**

- (Approved) January 2023 Minutes
- (Approved) 2022 Year End Financials
- (Approved) Oppose HB 1119, HB 1097, HB 1150
- (Approved) Support SB27
- (Approved) Support SB17
- Urgent Protocol – Approved –
  - CPHA registers a support position for the following bills:
    - House Bill 1003 - School Mental Health Assessment
    - House Bill 1004 - Language Access in Insurance Documents
    - Senate Bill 002 - Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers
  - CPHA registers a monitor position for the following bills:
    - House Bill 1008 - Food Accessibility
    - House Bill 1031 - Exempt Mental Health Professionals from Reporting STIs
  - CPHA registers an oppose position for the following bill:
    - House Bill 1029 - Prohibit COVID-19 Vaccine to Minor Without Parental Consent



# SECRETARY REPORT

## Board Meeting March 2023

- (Approved) February 2023 Minutes
- Urgent Protocol – Approved CPHA registers a support position for the following bills.
  - HB1161, HB1167, HB1008
- (Approved) policy change for applicants of coalition directors to be: "HEC candidates are required to have actively participated in the coalition for at least one year within the last 3 years prior to applying for the position and pursue the endorsement of active coalition members. Active participation is considered attendance and engagement in at least six coalition meetings or events total."
- (Denied) Increase HEC budget to add additional functional to new contract
- (Approved) Move forward with Lolina Contract
- Motions Passed Between Meetings in February
  - (Approved) Lindsey Wyatt as New COD Assistant Director & Sarah Lampe as past secretary in a non-voting role
  - (Approved) CPHA registers a support position the following bills: HB1161, HB1167, HB1008

## Board Meeting April 2023

- (Approved) March 2023 Minutes
- Motions Passed Between Meetings in March
  - (Approved) CPHA registers a support position the following bills:
    - SB-221 Implementation of Healthy School Meals for All (Proposition FF)
    - HB-1254 Habitability of Residential Premises
    - SB206 Disclose Radon
    - SB198 Clean Energy Plans
    - HB1249 Reduce Justice Involvement for Young Children
    - SB221 Implementation of Healthy School Meals for All
    - HB1244 Regional Health Connector

## Board Meeting May 2023

- (Approved) Quarter 1 2023 Financials
- (Approved) 2022 990 & submit to IRS

## Board Meeting June 2023

- (Approved) April & May 2023 Minutes
- (Approved) Move all restricted funds except PHNAC/PHN to unrestricted
- (Approved) Added additional \$5,000 to budget for IT support
- (Approved) Sarah Lampe to fill duties of resigning secretary until December 2023 in ex officio role

## Board Meeting August 2023

- (Approved) June 2023 Minutes
- (Approved) Quarter 2 Financials
- (Approved) Moving the following restricted funds to unrestricted: 31300, 31900, 31400, 30007
- (Denied) Participation in the "All of us Grant"

## Board Meeting September 2023

- (Approved) August 2023 Minutes



# TREASURER'S REPORT

The CPHA's financial position improved by \$32,147 (13%) in fiscal year 2022 compared to 2021, with a 2022 net income of \$31,054. This was achieved as a continued commitment to fiscal accountability and transparency.

The role of the CPHA Treasurer is to support the financial management of the organization by providing oversight and review of monthly financial statements, approving expense and reimbursement requests, providing budgetary support to committees, and supporting long-term planning for the organization's financial health. This role is supported by the CPHA Finance Committee, whose members work to review income and expenditures throughout the year and discuss fiscal strategy. In addition, the Treasurer reports to the CPHA Board of Directors with a quarterly financial report.

In 2022, our primary activities focused on ensuring the organization's financial stability and securing a new management firm, with staff dedicated to CPHA planned to transition in early 2023. Key accomplishments in 2022 included the following:

We continued Board of Directors financial accountability training for new and continuing Directors.

We explored budget scenarios to move CPHA into a potential management model which includes hiring of an executive director.

We initiated a transition to this new model which included securing a transition coordinator and strategic plan facilitator for 2023.

In 2023, the finance committee continues to work toward aligning financial goals with the broader CPHA Strategic Plan, transitioning to a new management firm, conducting an external audit, developing a business plan for the organization, and exploring fund diversification opportunities.

Below, we provide the 2022 financial data.

## 2022 Financial Position

CPHA's fiscal year runs from January through December. In 2022, CPHA's net assets totaled \$273,221 on December 31, 2022. Assets increased by \$32,147 from the same time in 2021.

Assets	December 2022	December 2021	Percent Change
Checking	\$73,151	\$41,066	78%
Savings and Short-Term Investments	\$200,070	200,009	0%
TOTAL	\$273,221	\$241,074	13%

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## CPHA 2022 Revenue and Expenses

In 2022 our net income was \$31,054. There were no liabilities at the end of 2022. Total Revenue in 2022 was \$384,668. Total Expenses were \$353,613. We had budgeted Net Income of \$3.64. Our actual net income was \$31,054.30. This increase in income was due to increased revenue from our events, a new organizational membership from the Colorado School of Public Health and membership number increase. In addition, travel continued to be less than budget.

Revenue	Description	
Dues, Donations, Grants	Membership Dues, Individual Donations, and a grant to complete work in our anti racism work	\$76,209
Conferences and Special Events	Public Health in the Rockies and Culture of Data	\$303,999
Other Income		\$4,460
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$384,668</b>
Expense		
Membership Expenses	Affiliate Dues to APHA	\$1,786
Program & Committee Expenses	Committee Specific Expenses, Sponsorships	\$4,460
Operating	Website & Software, Telephone & Internet	\$6,951
Travel	Out of state travel to meetings	\$4,317
Professional Fees	Management Company, Accounting, Lobbying Firm	\$109,679
Conferences and Events	Public Health in the Rockies, Culture of Data	\$213,607
Business Expenses	Fees, Insurance, PO Box	\$12,813
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$353,613</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>\$31,054</b>



Sara Miller, Treasurer



# AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (ARGC)

In addition to serving on the CPHA Board as an Executive Officer, the ARGC is a voting member of the American Public Health Association (APHA) Governing Council alongside 53 other Affiliates and Section leaders from around the country. The ARGC attended Governing Council at the annual and mid-year meetings (Nov 2022 and June 2023) where APHA's public health policy statements are adopted and Executive Board elections are held. More info at: <https://apha.org/Policies-and-Advocacy>

CPHA is an APHA Region VIII Affiliate (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY). The ARGC connects quarterly with regional partners to discuss topics & policies relevant to public health professionals.

CPHA supported APHA federal legislative advocacy, signing on to 2022-23 letters of support, including:

- CDC Coalition letter to House and Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Committee leaders in support of \$11.581 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's programs in the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.
- Joining APHA, other APHA Affiliates and other federal and state health, education and human services organizations in signing on to a letter to the U.S. Senate in support of the Respect for Marriage Act, legislation that would guarantee the federal rights, benefits and obligations of marriages in the federal code, repeal the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), and affirm that public acts, records and proceedings should be recognized by all states.
- Joining American Lung Association sign-on for state and local organizations regarding the U.S. EPA's proposal to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas industry.

## **National Public Health Week 2023**

NPHW is an annual initiative of APHA and celebrated the first week of April annually. The purpose is to advocate on behalf of and highlight the breadth of the work of public health. To celebrate NPHW 2023, CPHA held or co-sponsored numerous events including:

- Culture of Data Coffee and Connections in-person networking event
- Virtual "Hill" visits with the offices of U.S. Representatives Pettersen and Caraveo
- Colorado School of Public Health and CPHA mixer
- Culture of Data virtual conference
- Outdoor yoga at CU Anschutz campus

**Join CPHA for next year's events, April 1-7, 2024!**

## **CPHA Annual Meeting in Boston, November 2022**

Jason Vitello, Past President, and Wivine Ngongo, President, joined an Affiliate panel presentation to discuss CPHA's organizational commitment to health equity and anti-racism work. Recent work highlighted included the CPHA Health Equity Coalition, Public Health for Public Safety, and the Active Collective Trauma (ACT) Community Summit.



**Tara Thomas-Gale, (ARGC)**

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Membership team is dedicated to serving CPHA Members and the CPHA Board of Directors. We develop and implement strategies for recruitment and retention of Members in the Association, conduct regular surveys of our membership, and share results with the Board of Directors along with recommendations and plans for increasing overall engagement. The committee also engages in and supports organizational development activities such as press and public relations.

## Membership Goals:

MEMBERSHIP	WEBSITE OVERHAUL	SURVEY	PRACTICUM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Define membership benefits according to updated offerings</li><li>•Develop and launch a membership retention plan.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Initiate a website overhaul to better illustrate membership benefits, resources, and public health tools</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Finalize a systematic plan for an annual membership survey in April 2023.</li><li>•Develop cadence for collecting regular data on membership and analyze trends.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Complete CPHA practicum guidelines, and launch the first student practicum student in Summer 2023.</li></ul>

## Membership Benefits

Our doors are open to anyone interested in joining our growing community. As a Colorado Public Health Association member, you'll have exposure to a vibrant network along with a wealth of knowledge and experience you can't find anywhere else. Our community is tight-knit, but incredibly welcoming. Check out our newly defined Membership Benefits at [www.coloradopublichealth.org/member-benefits!](http://www.coloradopublichealth.org/member-benefits!)

## Website Overhaul

During the past year, the Membership committee has been determined to launch CPHA into the 21st century. We are excited to announce that we have a new website, a brand new style. We've got a brand new look, full of features and customizations, to build the best public health movement together. The new site has a fresh look and was designed with your needs in mind. View our new website at [www.coloradopublichealth.org](http://www.coloradopublichealth.org).

## Practicum and Organizational Membership

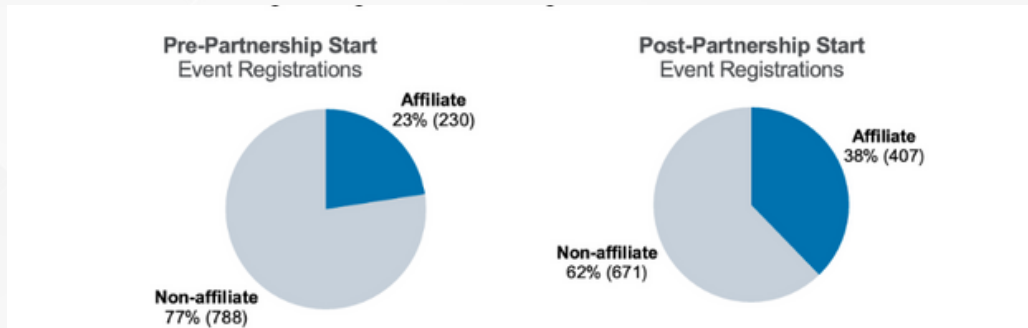
This year, CPHA gained nearly 1,100 new members from the Colorado School of Public Health following the launch of our organizational partnership with the school. The Membership Committee worked with CPHA's first practicum student to evaluate the pilot year of this partnership.



# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Two overarching questions guided our efforts:

- What is the status of ColoradoSPH affiliate engagement with CPHA, and has that engagement changed since the partnership began?
- What do ColoradoSPH affiliates think about the value of CPHA membership?



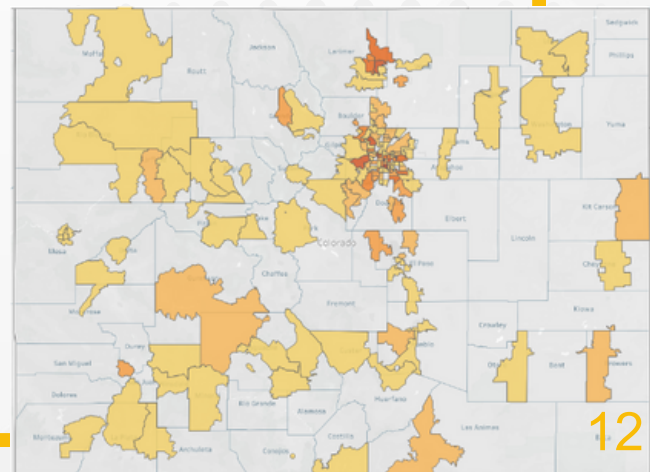
From their feedback in the annual survey, we learned that many ColoradoSPH affiliates have both words of appreciation and helpful suggestions for increasing the value of CPHA membership. For example, the most common request was for events outside of the Denver Metro Area, particularly near Fort Collins. With these findings, we hope to continue to align with the values and meet the concerns of our members.

**“I love CPHA. I feel like I have found my people.”**

**-ColoradoSPH Student,  
Annual Survey 2023**

In the spring of 2023, the Membership Committee also disseminated the second CPHA Annual Report. This report went out to all Association members, past and present, as well as all prospective members, which includes individuals who have attended our events or conferences, Health Equity Coalition members, and anyone else who has expressed interest in staying in touch with CPHA. The survey garnered 369 responses with 61.8% of responses coming from current members, 13.5% coming from past members, and the remaining coming from folks who are affiliated with CPHA in a variety of other ways.

Our members are located in all four corners of the state and we hear your feedback that you'd like to see more events and opportunities outside of the Denver area! Our members come from a variety of professional backgrounds, most commonly local public health, academia, state public health, non-profit associations, and healthcare. They also join us at myriad stages of their careers from students to those who are retired.



# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

CPHA offerings that members and non-members most value include Public Health in the Rockies, communications received through CPHA's monthly newsletter, website, and other email outreach, webinars, legislative updates, the Culture of Data Conference, and Public Health Day at the Capitol.

**“Overall, CPHA does a great job, I have belonged to six APHA state affiliates so far in my career and CPHA is among the best.”**  
**CPHA Member, Annual Survey 2023**

We received great suggestions from respondents regarding what kind of professional development and other support or offerings you'd like to see from CPHA and are excited to put your suggestions into action! These include more specific skill-building offerings, career development such as networking and mid-career support, increased equity training and resources, a variety of special interest topics for webinars or future peer learning groups, and more policy information and advocacy training.

Thank you so much for your participation in this year's annual survey! We could not continue to grow and improve without your support and input. We look forward to seeing what the next year holds for CPHA!

**Kelsey Robinson, Membership Senior Director**



**Lisa Peters, Membership Associate Director**





# COLORADO PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

## MEMBER BENEFITS

The Colorado Public Health Association (CPHA) is proud to represent an exceptional community, as a direct reflection of our incredible public health members. Our members not only have access to our comprehensive resources, but also to an unparalleled peer network. Our doors are open to anyone interested in joining our growing community.



Monthly Committee Meetings & Join Our Community



Receive CPHA's Policy and Legislative Updates



Become a Leader by Applying to the Board of Directors



Apply as a Contributor & Editor for RISE Magazine



Join Emerging Leaders Delegate Opportunities



Voice Your Opinion on Presenters for CPHA Conferences



Stay Up-To-Date With CPHA's Monthly eNewsletter



Vote on CPHA's Legislative Priorities



Join the Annual Association Meeting



Vote on CPHA's Leaders and Board of Directors



Connect with Peers at Professional Networking Events



Access Content From Past Conferences & Webinars

[info@coloradopublichealth.org](mailto:info@coloradopublichealth.org) | [www.coloradopublichealth.org](http://www.coloradopublichealth.org)

# COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

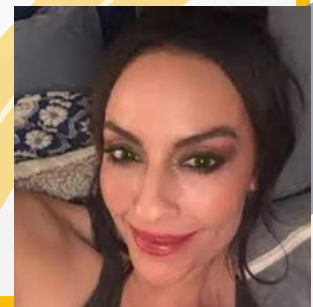
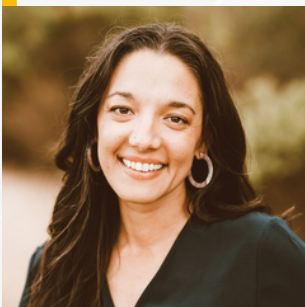


The CPHA Communications Committee worked hard this year to standardize our communications processes and messaging. We worked to increase CPHA's visibility, in partnership with the Membership Committee, by promoting networking and connection among our members, coordinate additional information, resources, events, job opportunities and other items for our membership with the Newsletter (a wonderful benefit of being a member!), and create and sustain dialogue in the public health space.

Many of the messaging was carried over from years past, including supporting the Culture of Data and Public Health in the Rockies conferences, celebrating National Public Health Week, and supporting the other committees on the Colorado Public Health Association. The Communications and Membership Committees continued to coordinate on several aspects including the launch of the new Colorado Public Health Association website ([thank you- membership committee!](#)) and serving both our wide variety of members including our organizational memberships.

As we continue to standardize our processes, our hope is that we can continue to focus on what really matters- providing valuable information to our community of public health professionals, and while doing so, elevating your voices on the issues that our sector is facing. We look forward to this next year and the opportunities it will bring to continue connecting with our members in new and meaningful ways.

**Jess Murison, Communications Senior Director**



**Montelle Tamaz, Communications Associate Director**



# HEALTH EQUITY REPORT

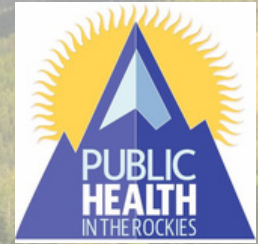
The Health Equity Coalition met in April 2023 for the Health Equity Coalition Circle Way Gathering for their Annual Gathering. During that gathering, the following items were worked on and discussed.

- Infrastructure Workgroup: The HEC Infrastructure Workgroup (WG) develops and maintains the backbone and functions of the HEC while following the coalition's principles of equity and meeting differently.
- Professional Development Workgroup: The HEC professional Development workgroup seeks to highlight health equity efforts across the state of Colorado with the specific goals of increasing knowledge of health equity topics and connecting people to existing equity initiatives to build capacity and connections.
- Community Engagement Workgroup: Currently there is no workgroup lead and we invite a volunteer to fill this position.

In 2023, as part of the CPHA strategic process, the Health Equity Coalition is on a hiatus. However, CPHA acknowledges that equity is realizing health equity in our communities an aspiration that we remain committed to throughout our work. Please stay tuned for opportunities to help co-create the next iteration of our equity efforts!

CPHA wants to acknowledge and provide gratitude to the following persons for all the work and leadership they have provided to the Health Equity Coalition. Sending thanks to Raeven Clockston, Hannah Groves, Kat Kowalski, Kate Myers, Kory Thomas, Sedona Allen, and Stephanie Salazar-Rodriguez.

# PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE ROCKIES



I write this two and half weeks away from the 2023 Public Health in the Rockies (PHiR) conference in Keystone, CO, September 21 - 23, 2023. PHiR is one way that CPHA creates the space for public health practitioners and our partners to come together, learn, and think about what is possible. Every three years CPHA co-sponsors this conference with Wyoming Public Health Association. 2023 is the collaborative year! We hope to duplicate the success of our 2022 Public Health in the Rockies conference, with almost 700 participants. Conference attendees told us they very much valued the program content and asked for more opportunities to network with their peers.

Our conference theme this year is Public Health: Community, Connection and Action. The PHiR planning committee viewed this theme as a continued journey from the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021 we celebrated our Public Health HEROS in person, but still in the midst of public health's most daunting challenge in a century. Last year, we celebrated Public Health: Forging Forward Together, mindful of the continued stresses on our public health infrastructure. This year our public health community continues to heal from the pandemic as they face old and new challenges to community health, including racism, threats to the wellbeing of our LGBTQ+ community, assaults on reproductive freedoms, and the consequences of climate change. We hope that conference participants learn something new, meet someone new, and return home inspired.





# PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE ROCKIES



This year there will be over 110 different sessions and more than 250 speakers, with a 2-hour session featuring public health work in Wyoming. Our opening keynote speaker, Vanecia B. Kerr, will talk about “Health and Wellness: It’s Everyone’s Responsibility”. Consistent with our conference theme, she will describe how individuals and communities really can make a difference. The Awards Luncheon will be on Day 2 and is an opportunity to hear from those being honored. Our closing session (including a brunch) features our current CPHA President, Wvine Ngongo, our past President, Jason Vitello, and several other Board members. Wvine and Jason will briefly discuss CPHA’s vision for the future and provide an opportunity for you to ask questions. Our hope is that you will return home inspired by the conference content, by your colleagues, and how CPHA can support you and your work.

As in conferences past, there are a number of wellness opportunities, including a run, yoga, and support animals. Conference attendees have asked for more networking opportunities in the post-conference evaluation surveys. To meet this request, we have planned a networking event after the last session on Friday. Refreshments will be provided, along with a cash bar. To facilitate networking, we have engaged a karaoke band and members of the PHiR planning committee have agreed to be first up on the stage and break the ice.

We thank our amazing sponsors and exhibitors—their contributions help make this conference possible. A huge thank you to the PHiR Planning Committee and to the people who supported the conference planning (in all ways possible) -- next year’s awesome PHiR Director, Theo Abbey, Rachel Massman (Massman Consulting) and Kim Boyd (Lolina Solutions, LLC). We are incredibly grateful to the CPHA Board for their support and forbearance!

**Carol Schmitt, Public Health in the Rockies Senior Director**



**Theo Abbey, Public Health in the Rockies Associate Director**





CPHA was proud to host the virtual Culture of Data conference. The Culture of Data conference is designed to strengthen the use of data to support the CPHA vision of creating the healthiest Colorado for everyone by:

- Sharing innovative practices that promote partnership and collaboration between community members and public health professionals to make data more accessible, meaningful, and actionable.
- Exploring examples of data sharing with and by communities and how communities can leverage data to advance health equity and health outcomes.
- Highlighting data sources and methodologies to identify and measure community assets and health equity.

The planning committee selected the theme of “Breaking Down Silos: Public health data and community action” to draw attention to innovative community engagement and equity work happening within public health research, surveillance and evaluation.

CPHA convened the conference on April 6-7, 2023 in conjunction with APHA’s National Public Health Week, and expanded the programming options this year. The conference began on Thursday morning with a networking breakfast held at the Colorado Health Foundation, and offered an opportunity for attendees to meet in-person. Afterwards, Dr. Amy Hawn Nelson, a director at the University of Pennsylvania’s Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy, led a keynote presentation on centering racial equity in data linking projects. She highlighted the importance of having good use cases for data integration and examining the risks to and benefits for impacted communities.

**Culture of Data had a Coffee & Connections meeting prior to the conference to provide a space for public health professionals to network. Pictured are CPHA Board of Director representatives**



# CULTURE of DATA



CPHA also introduced the Emerging Leader Showcase to highlight up-and-coming voices in public health and their innovative work. The Emerging Leaders Committee collaborated with the Culture of Data programming committee to promote abstract submissions and select the speakers for three presentations. In addition, CPHA provided scholarships for these presenters to attend the conference. Alyssa Dalen, a student at the Colorado School of Public Health reported on access to services for victims of interpersonal violence across Colorado. Our next presentation by Carla Nyquist and Ruth Mekonnen walked through how they were able to build and disseminate an environmental justice dashboard through their work for Dr. Katie Dickinson in the Environmental & Occupational Health Department within the Colorado School of Public Health. Finally, we were able to learn about youth substance use prevention efforts from three high school students; Giselle Chavarria, Marisol Chihuahua, and Maya Chastang shared their process in creating youth focus groups for Boulder County Health. We received glowing feedback about this new program offering and are excited to continue it in the future.

There were more than 20 breakout presentations throughout the rest of the conference and two Walk and Learn sessions that gave attendees a chance to learn by listening while they got away from their computer for a walk or other activity. We were thrilled to be able to attract over 200 attendees from across Colorado as well as other states.

Thank you to all our attendees and sponsors for making this another great event! We hope to see you again in April 2024!

**Allison Rosenthal, Culture of Data Senior Director**



**Lindsey Wyatt, Culture of Data Associate Director**





# PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY REPORT

The CPHA Public Health Policy Committee is composed of leaders across the full spectrum of public health practice including students, researchers, public health advocates, clinicians, and retirees. The committee met monthly throughout 2023 and during the legislative session, and the committee hosted bimonthly huddles with the CPHA contract lobbyist to ensure timely engagement from CPHA on priority policies. Notable highlights from the last year include:

- Conducted the annual Membership Policy Priority Survey, receiving a response from 178 CPHA members. Members selected behavioral health, climate change, housing, and public health infrastructure/workforce as the top identified priorities for our policy and advocacy efforts.
- Wrote the 2023 [CPHA Annual Policy Platform](#).
- Coordinated advocacy efforts with Mendez Barkis, the CPHA Lobbying Firm at the State Capitol.



**Public Health Advocacy Day:  
Healthy Air, Land, Water and  
People  
(Feb. 2023)**



**Rep. Jenny Willford speaking to Public Health Advocacy Day participants about how to engage state lawmakers.**

- Received a [Climate and Health Equity](#) grant from the American Public Health Association to increase advocacy engagement on climate bills to defend access to healthy air, water, and land. Funding supported advocacy engagement on bills related to air quality and ozone, water conservation, and energy efficiency.
- Hosted over 100 public health professionals for Public Health Day at the Capitol: Healthy Air, Land, Water and People. Attendees met with bipartisan lawmakers during a breakfast reception. We partnered with Healthy Air & Water Colorado, Western Resource Advocates and Colorado School of Public Health to engage attendees in crucial climate and public health policy discussions.
- Sent two action alerts to the CPHA membership on high priority state public health advocacy issues including a package of gun violence prevention bills and on an air quality bill.



# PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY REPORT CONTINUED



**Rep. Leslie Herod  
meets with participants**



**ColoradoSPH affiliates  
in attendance**

- Provided testimony to legislative committees on bills supporting immunizations, extending the state’s Health Equity Commission, and the public health considerations of substance use.
- Actively supported a diverse range of public health legislation including:
  - Medicaid reimbursement for community health workers
  - Supporting safe housing through radon testing in homes
  - Reporting overdose events
  - Strengthening violence prevention measures to keep Coloradans safe from firearms including establishing a waiting period for receiving firearms and raising the age of sales for rifles and shotguns from age 18 to 21
  - Establishing behavioral health screenings in schools for Colorado youth
  - Retaining tobacco tax revenues for preschool and public health programs
  - Reducing justice-involvement for young children
- CPHA sent four letters to lawmakers on relevant committees about our position on a range of topics including reproductive health access including protecting the safety of healthcare providers and patients.
- Organized meetings with two Members of Congress to discuss federal public health policy priorities.
- Hosted a Summer Policy Forum in partnership with the Colorado Health Institute to equip public health professionals with the tools to serve as nonpartisan advocates during public policy debates.
- Presented a policy workshop at the “Health Advocacy & Policy Summit” led by the Emerging Leaders Committee.

The Policy Committee looks forward to continuing to grow our advocacy influence with lawmakers in the year ahead, fostering successful policies that can promote anti-racism, create the healthiest Colorado by focusing on critical domains including behavioral health, climate change, housing, and the public health infrastructure and workforce.

**Ellen Stern, Public Health  
Policy Senior Director**



**Lorez Meinhold,  
Public Health Policy  
Associate Director**



# PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SECTION

The Public Health Nurse Section of CPHA promotes and advocates for Colorado public health nurses by increasing networking opportunities and enhancing the practice and safety of public health nursing.

## **The Public Health Nurse Section 2023 Accomplishments include:**

- Launch of the “FOCUS” campaign to provide structure and meaning to the Section's work.
  - F = Foundations/Fundamentals
  - O = Opportunities
  - C = Commitment/Collaboration
  - U = Unite/Update
  - S = Support/Sustain
- Updated the PHN Section Charter to include a new leadership structure to include the Associate Director, Director, Immediate Past Director, Secretary, CNA Liaison, and APHN Liaison positions.
  - Creation of job descriptions for each of the leadership positions.
- Colorado Public Health Nurse Leaders was merged into the CPHA-Nurse Section to increase its membership’s involvement in public health nursing activities, bringing together two strong PHN groups.
- Published the bimonthly newsletter to promote communication and increased participation in the PHN Section to PHN’s statewide.
- Provided six scholarships for public health nurses to attend public health and nursing leadership conferences.
- Increased CPHA PHN Section membership by over 40% from 2022 with representation across Colorado.
- Conducted monthly meetings on topics relevant to public health nurses and brought in subject matter experts to discuss issues such as nursing workforce resources, public health professional roles, national public health trends, and relevant State policy discussions.
- Promotion of and wide distribution of the Colorado Public Health Nurses Orientation Toolkit, including an evaluation component to assist with continuous quality improvement.
  - Survey of all LPHA’s in Colorado regarding utilizing the Orientation Toolkit conducted by School of Public Health doctoral student Molly Bried. This survey and its outcomes were shared with the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials and CDPHE.
- Wide distribution, promotion, statewide utilization, and national recognition of the Professional Roles in Public Health Toolkit designed to assist public health professionals in understanding public health roles and responsibilities through a legal lens.
  - Representation of the Colorado PHN Section and work focused on Professional Roles in Public Health by Ann Scarpita (Associate Director) and Angie Fellers LeMire (immediate past Director) at the Association of Public Health Nurses National Annual Conference in San Diego.

# PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SECTION

- Completely updated and modernized two sets of Public Health Nurse Competencies, including (1) Emergency Preparedness and Response and (2) Immunizations. This work was conducted by 20 local and state public health nurses over the course of one year.
  - Launch of additional competency set development workgroup for Communicable Disease August 2023. The core leadership workgroup consists of 5 local and state public health nurses.
- Presentation of a one-hour Showcase at the 2023 Public Health in the Rockies Conference discussing the workforce development tools that have been developed and are available for use in Colorado including (1) The Public Health Nurse Orientation Toolkit (2) The Professional Roles in Public Health Toolkit and (3) The Public Health Nurse Competencies project.
- Provided affiliate representation for public health nurses at the Colorado Nurse Association (CNA) and the Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN). CPHA PHN member Carol McDonald served as APHN President 2022-2023. CPHA PHN's past president, Angie Fellers LeMire, was recently appointed as the Regional Representative for APHN.
- Representation and work with the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Action Committee to promote public health representation related to chronic disease prevention and brain health. The ADRDAC grant generates \$1800 annually for the Nursing Section.
- Provision of mentoring to the State of Virginia's Public Health Association to develop their own "Nursing Section."
- Provision of mentoring to new public health nurse leaders in public health leadership roles.
- Recipient of a Colorado Nurses Foundation grant award of \$1,000 to provide wellness, healing, and joy webinars to PHN and other public health professionals across Colorado. Two virtual webinars are scheduled for October 2023.

**Dawn James**  
PHN Section Senior Director



**Ann Scarpita**  
PHN Section Associate Director





# EMERGING LEADERS

The Emerging Leaders Committee engages students and early career professionals across Colorado in the field of public health. Members of this committee come from a variety of specialties in the field and play an important role in CPHA's effort to educate, develop and galvanize the Colorado public health workforce. The Emerging Leaders Committee is a great stepping stone into the field of public health as it offers members opportunities to network, build leadership skills, and follow their passions in supporting healthy communities to thrive across our state.

This year, the Emerging Leaders Committee was led by Director, Samantha Bertomen and Associate Director, Jeni Mitchell. The Emerging Leaders Committee sent a call out to all emerging leaders to fill delegate positions for the 2022-2023 year. Over 45 incredible individuals applied for the role as a delegate. Thirteen total delegates were selected to serve as collaborators with CPHA's committees and support ELC's efforts towards building relationships and engage additional professionals who are new to the field.

## 2022-2023 Delegates:

- Alyssa Dalen, Executive Delegate
- Anna Woolrey, Membership Delegate
- Dorah Labatte, Health Equity Coalition Delegate
- Taylor Bostic, Health Equity Coalition Delegate
- Lexie King, Communications Delegate
- Sam Ciaravola, Public Health Education Delegate (PHiR)
- Angela Ohm, Public Health Education Delegate (CoD)
- Yesenia Wilson, Public Health Policy Delegate
- Brenna Coombs, Public Health Policy Delegate
- Senite Tewahade, Finance Delegate
- Nicole Tabor, Volunteer Delegate
- Jared Schenfeldt, Colorado School of Public Health Delegate

The Emerging Leaders Committee kicked off their first event in the Fall of 2022. This volunteer event called "No-Sew Social" was held in collaboration with the Colorado School of Public Health. At this event, ELC members and ColoradoSPH students worked together to make 40 tie fleece blankets that were then donated to patients at Children's Hospital Colorado. This event had over 20 participants who donated their time to make children's blankets.



# EMERGING LEADERS



At the start of the new year, ELC kicked off with a reboot of the Colorado Public Health Association Mentorship Program where emerging leaders were matched with seasoned public health professionals to learn from one another in a mentorship relationship. In reigniting this program, ELC received 60 mentor applications from public health professionals across Colorado and 90 mentee applications from emerging professionals. This program resulted in over 50 mentorship matches. The mentoring program was highly successful and ran from March 2023 to July 2023.



Later in the year, ELC worked in collaboration with leaders from the Culture of Data to host an abstract learning session to help emerging leaders prepare for submitting abstracts for conferences. ELC was particularly active during National Public Health Week. During this eventful week, ELC launched the second edition of RISE Magazine, an annual magazine dedicated to showcasing and educating emerging leaders, students, and other public health professionals, at a mixer co-hosted at Cheluna Brewing with the Colorado School of Public Health. National Public Health Week was completed with a yoga session hosted outside at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.



# EMERGING LEADERS



This spring ELC successfully planned and hosted the first ever Health Advocacy and Policy Summit which was a collaborative effort between the Colorado Public Health Association and the Colorado School of Public Health. This event was led by our two incredible policy delegates, Yesenia Wilson and Brenna Coombs. Yesenia and Brenna were integral to the success of this event along with our Health Advocacy and Policy Summit subcommittee which included Samantha Bertomen, Jeni Mitchell, and Lindsey Wyatt, and Cecilia Bedard.



This event featured speakers focusing on topics ranging from restorative justice to mental health advocacy to health care spending. The Summit was highly successful with over 75 event attendees. We received feedback that this was one of the most educational policy and advocacy event that they have ever attended. Many participants who attended also asked immediately if we plan to host this same event next year.

The 2022-2023 Emerging Leaders Committee was a fun and successful year!



**Samantha Bertomen**  
Emerging Leaders Senior Director



**Jeni Mitchell**  
Emerging Leaders Associate Director







WELCOME TO  
COLORFUL  
COLORADO

# CPHA 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## Vision

CPHA's vision is to create the healthiest Colorado for everyone.

## Mission

CPHA's mission is to educate, develop and galvanize the Colorado public health community.

## Commitment to Anti-Racism

In 2020, CPHA declared that we are actively working towards becoming an Anti-Racist Organization.

<https://www.coloradopublichealth.org/>