

Board of Health Manual Public Health Sudbury & Districts Information Sheet

Category

Public Health System

Section

Provincial

Subject

Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa)

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Information

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) is the provincial representative body for boards of health and health unit management across Ontario. Membership includes board of health members of health units, medical and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health managers. The Association of Local Public Health Agencies has a mandate to, through a strong and unified voice, advocate for public health policies, programs and services on behalf of member health units in Ontario. alPHa advises and lends expertise to members on the governance, administration and management of health units. The Association also collaborates with governments and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective and efficient public health system in the province.

The alPHa Board of Directors recognizes that the mandate of local health units is complex and diverse. A number of highly specified disciplines are involved. Various pieces of legislation have an impact on the health units and a variety of “publics” are serviced through a growing number of programs. Representatives on the alPHa Board include seven board of health members (forming the BOH Section Executive

Committee) and seven medical officer of health members (i.e. COMOH Executive Committee), one non-voting representative from the Ontario Public Health Association, and an individual from seven affiliate organizations which include:

- Ontario Association of Public Health Nursing Leaders (OPHNL)
- Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators (AOPHBA)
- Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO)
- Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario (ASPHI-O)
- Health Promotion Ontario (HPO)
- Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD)
- Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH)
- Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA)

The Association also conducts regular meetings of its Board of Health Section and Council of Medical Officers of Health to discuss issues particular to their positions. The alPHa Advocacy Committee meets regularly to discuss action plans for Association Resolutions, as well as emerging issues raised by members, public, government or media. This committee is designed to give opportunity for wider participation in alPHa business by interested health unit staff.

alPHa is governed by a Board of Directors, which provides strategic direction to the Association, and is led by an Executive Director, who is responsible for the day-to-day operations. Through policy analysis, discussion, collaboration, and advocacy, alPHa members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention and surveillance services in all of Ontario's communities. It is their continued responsibility to act on the policies and demands of the Association and its board. By providing regular mailings, newsletters and bulletins and by acting as the members representative at related business meetings or seminars, the alPHa staff provides the membership with a supply of current information on topics ranging from legislation and collective bargaining to budgeting, public relations, community programming and education.

Their role extends to do whatever possible to help the Association achieve its ultimate goal - the betterment of public health services in Ontario.