



Promoting Healthy Communities by Enhancing the Practice of Public Health Nursing

The Profession

Public Health Nursing is a specialty field within nursing. Public Health Nurses focus on the health of populations, working with communities, and the individuals and families who live in them. With an emphasis on prevention, their practice has resulted in positive health outcomes including enhanced surveillance; higher rates of breastfeeding; reductions in pre-term births and low birth weight rates. In this time of increasing demands on public health to respond to issues such as emergency preparedness, new emerging infections, and significant increases in chronic illnesses, public health nurses are more in demand than ever.

Mentor Program

The mentor program is available to PHNAC members, and provides opportunities to:

- Connect experienced public health nurses with those seeking expertise
- Address the unique role of public health nurses within the county government setting
- Increase the expertise of nurses new to public health and/or a leadership role
- Provide a recruitment strategy for filling nurse vacancies

Legislation

PHNAC employs a contract lobbyist to represent the organization in pursuit of public health nursing-specific issues. The lobbyist prepares a legislative survey to gather input from the membership about priorities for each upcoming year. PHNAC members work with the lobbyist throughout the legislative season.

2009 Legislative Priorities (based on member survey completed in the Fall of 2008):

- Support continued and increased funding for local public health agencies
- Support efforts to improve school nutrition and physical activity to combat childhood obesity
- Support efforts to reduce the number of uninsured Coloradans
- Monitor sunset legislation for the Nurse Practice Act for its impact on public health nursing

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