



State Report

State: Massachusetts

Date: June 2010

Contact Person: Glynnis LaRosa, MPH, RN, CPHQ

Email: Glynnis.LaRosa@state.ma.us

Phone: 617-983-6569

Fax: 617-983-6925

Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses (MAPHN)

- Kitty Mahoney, MS, RN, completed her first year as the new President of MAPHN.
- Fourteenth annual Public Health Nursing Conference entitled “Cultivating Public Health Nurse Leaders in 2010” was held on May 6, 2010. Rita J. Lourie, MSN, MPH, RN was the keynote speaker. Several New England public health nurses were in attendance.
- Memoranda of Understanding were signed between MAPHN and the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization (MSNO) and the Massachusetts Association of Occupational Health Nurses (MAOHN).
- Massachusetts quadrennial public health nursing enumeration survey 2009-10 is underway. This is a follow-up to the initial 2005-06 survey.
- MAPHN convened a workgroup to look at restructuring the organization’s governance.
- MAPHN provided letters of support for pending state legislation.
- President attended Coalition for Local Public Health meetings where important legislative, regulatory and lobbying efforts were discussed.
- President attended Local and State Advisory Council meetings where local, state and national public health emergency response matters were reviewed, proposals and recommendations were made and guidelines proposed.
- President attended meetings with the new Massachusetts H1N1 Task Force along with 25 other public health, academic, emergency and municipal leaders.
- Meetings held with the state Pandemic Vaccination Working Group where Public Health Nursing role was advanced as vital pandemic responders to best serve the Commonwealth’s residents.
- MAPHN newsletter is published twice a year and can be viewed on the MAPHN website at www.maphn.org

Massachusetts ASTDN State Report

June 2010

- MAPHN public health nurses presented “*The Real Public Health Nurse Story: Local Tuberculosis Case Management*” to local town officials across the state in November 2009.
- MAPHN representatives presented at the annual disease surveillance trainings in March 2010. The topic was “*Surveillance and Response from the Public Health Nursing Perspective*”.
- Public health nurses, including school nurses were on the front lines and responded to the H1N1 pandemic.

National Public Health Nursing

- Glynnis LaRosa ends her two year term as a Member at Large representative to the ASTDN Executive Committee on June 12, 2010. Glynnis will continue to serve as the Massachusetts ASTDN state representative.
- Glynnis LaRosa is member of the 2010 ASTDN Program Planning Committee.
- Glynnis is member of the ASTDN By-Laws Committee.
- Glynnis is the Chairperson of the ASTDN Membership Committee.
- Glynnis LaRosa continues to be a member of the APHA PHN Section Development Committee.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health Nursing Activities:

Bureau of Infectious Disease Prevention, Response and Services

- MDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease Prevention, Response & Services public health nurses developed an H1N1 vaccinator training that covered the background of seasonal and pandemic influenza, vaccine overview with screening, storage and handling, standing orders, documentation & record keeping, adverse event reporting, infection control procedures and immunization administration (both intramuscular and intranasal) for children and adults. Each session allowed for attendees to practice administering both intramuscular injections and nasal influenza spray. Numerous training sessions were offered across the state. Continuing education credits were offered.
- MDPH public health nurses staffed H1N1 vaccination clinics.
- MDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease Prevention, Response & Services public health nursing staff continues to work on specific public health competency development and cross training. Immunization competencies were the focus this past year given the H1N1 pandemic and the vaccination clinics that were necessary.
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Emergency Preparedness/Bioterrorism trainings continue across the state. Modular sessions offering continuing education credits include: BT agent overview, pandemic flu, smallpox, emergency dispensing site clinics, rash surveillance, behavioral health disaster response and psychological first aid.

Other Public Health Nursing Activities

- New England Alliance for Workforce Development, located at Boston University School of Public Health, has allocated funding for New England public health nursing education which includes: sponsoring attendance at a PHN leadership seminar on 5/5/10 as well as attendance at the Massachusetts Public Health Nurses annual conference 5/6/10, sponsoring New England PHN leaders attendance at the ASTDN annual conference 6/10-6/12/10.
The Alliance is also funding four webinar educational sessions for New England public health nurses during July and August 2010. These educational webinars will be made available to ASTDN members as well. One nursing contact hour will be awarded for each session.
- MDPH public health nursing staff continued to visit undergraduate and graduate nursing programs across the state to give presentations on public health nursing and emergency preparedness and response.
- Public health nurses continue to provide educational support and volunteer for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) in Massachusetts.
- Public health nurses at the local and state level continue to be mentors and preceptors to nursing students.
- Public health nurses continue to sit on various statewide planning and advisory committees.

Issues & Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:

- State and local budget deficits continue to impact public health and public health nursing services. There are cities/towns that do not have local public health nurses, while other cities/towns only have part time public health nurses. We are seeing some cities and towns reducing and/or eliminating their public health workforce including PHNs.
- We continue to actively promote the value and importance of Public Health Nursing across the state!