



State and Partner Report 2006*

State: California

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Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

The California Conference of local Health Department Nursing Directors took on 2 major projects over the last year.

1- Nursing Directors Manual- the members of the organization had reviewed our previous members manual and felt there was a need for an update- the directors from our southern region developed a new version, with an eye towards it being particularly useful to newly appointed public health nursing directors in our local jurisdictions. A copy will be available to view at the meeting.

2-Public Health Nurse Disaster Field Manual- the members of the organization reviewed our older Disaster Manual and determined that it was a valuable and still up-to-date document for use by management level Public Health Nursing staff, but that there was a need for a uniform body of information usable for field staff functioning in disaster situations. The Central Area directors, with input from the entire membership, developed the Disaster Handbook. It includes everything from model mass vaccination site layouts and supply lists, to water purification methods to disease investigation templates.

A copy will be available at the meeting to be viewed.

Projects/Issues Pending:

The organization is currently working on its 3 year Strategic Plan, goals address

- Increasing the memberships understanding of the NACCHO Accreditation Standards
- Active participation in initiatives aimed at development of a Date level department dedicated solely to public health
- Advocacy for a State Level Public Health nursing director
- Standardization of PHN competencies and the role of unlicensed personnel statewide
- Increased use of information technology
- Increasing the number of BSN prepared nursing available to fill public health nursing positions

Issues and Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:

For the local health jurisdictions' public health nursing directors, the major concerns include the shortage of qualified nurses applying for employment, continued struggles between categorically funded staff and the needs related to addressing broader public



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health issues, our lack of a State Department of Public Health including the fact that there is no position for a State Director of public Health Nursing.

The shortage of nurses has been exacerbated by California's initiation of staffing standards for inpatient hospitals. To avoid significant fines hospital are paying premium salaries and signing bonuses, something that most public agencies cannot do.

*Reports must be sent electronically to Justina Novak (justina.novak@doh.wa.gov) by April 15, 2006 in order to be included in packets. If your form is not received by then, you need to bring 50 copies of your report to the meeting.