



ALBERTA COALITION FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES UPDATE – APRIL 2010

1. ACHSC Board Members and Executive Positions

On March 22nd, 2010 Dave Colburn stepped down from the position of Education Co-Chair. Dave's passion and commitment to school health was the driving force behind many ACHSC initiatives over the past two years. On behalf of the Board, I would like to say thank you to Dave for the huge amount of volunteer time that he put into ACHSC. His dedication to the health of Alberta students will be missed.

Welcome to Laureen Lailey, who was acclaimed as Education Co-Chair at the April 9th ACHSC Board Meeting. Laureen works as the Health Specialist for the Calgary Board of Education. We look forward to having her as a part of the team.

Also, welcome to Libby Coldbeck who has stepped into the position of Secretary. Libby works with the Alberta Healthy School Communities Wellness Fund and is replacing Meg Irwin, who served as Secretary for the past year. On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend a big thank you to Meg for the time and energy that she put into the Secretary position.

Thank you to Lyndsey Robinson, Joann Lloyd, Marg Schwartz and Sharon Boechler who have stepped down from their positions as Board Members. Welcome to Andrew McCloskey, who joins the Board of Directors from the University of Alberta's School of Public Health.

Please visit our website for an updated list of Board Members.

2. Public Health Agency of Canada Grant

We just wrapped up our project funded from the Public Health Agency of Canada on March 31st. In the past year, this funding supported: five regional school health team meetings around the province; seven meetings about school health and the Aboriginal community; a partnership with Ever Active Schools on the Shaping the Future Conference and a pre-conference event with Dr. Martin Brokenleg; a research project in partnership with CUP at the U of A; and a project coordinator to manage the project. Thank you to all ACHSC members who took part in these meetings and events, as well as our partner organizations. We will be working in the next few months to put together detailed reports on this work to provide to ACHSC members.

3. Presentation at Public Health Agency of Canada Knowledge Exchange Forum

ACHSC was invited by the Public Health Agency of Canada to present at their Knowledge Exchange Forum: Creating a Culture of Learning and Improvement in Health Promotion on March 29th and 30th in Ottawa. The forum was focused on organizations that are documenting, sharing and/or using evaluation findings from a learning and improvement perspective to improve program practice. Bill Gordon (Treasurer) attended this presentation on behalf of ACHSC, and took part in a panel discussion on the second day of the event.

ACHSC was the only “grass roots” organization chosen from among all the PHAC projects in Canada, our invitation coming as a result of PHAC’s recognition of our use of membership surveys, Board discussions, end of Symposium evaluations, and regional action planning feedback to guide our work plans and to increase our knowledge of the kinds of actions our stakeholders wanted the Coalition to take.

4. Upcoming Work

The ACHSC Board of Directors will be working over the next few months to reflect on the current momentum around comprehensive school health in Alberta, determine where there are gaps and opportunities, and then work on developing a plan for the future work of the Coalition. In this process, the board will consider how best to support current initiatives and what new initiatives to move forward with. Our structure, composition, model of governance and terms of reference will also be considered as a part of the process. Look for updates on this work in future communications.

Rhonda Patton, Health Co-Chair

For more information on ACHSC or if you are interested in being involved in any ACHSC activities, please visit www.achsc.org.