

Section Descriptions:

Health Education Section:

Health education is a social science that draws from the biological, environmental, psychological, physical and medical sciences to promote health and prevent disease, disability and premature death through education-driven voluntary behavior change activities. The purpose of health education is to positively influence the health behavior of individuals and communities as well as the living and working conditions that influence their health. Health education is an important part of public health because focusing on prevention, health education reduces cost (both financial and human) that individuals, employers, families, insurance companies, medical facilities, communities, the state, and the nation would spend on medical treatment. Also and most importantly, health education enhances the quality of life for all people.

Public Health Nursing Section:

According to the American Nurses Association, public health nurses integrate community involvement and knowledge about the entire population with personal, clinical understanding of the health and illness experiences of individuals and families within a population. This KPHA public health nursing section represents public health nurses throughout Kentucky's 120 counties. The responsibility of this section is to plan and implement section activities for the year, including the Annual Convention, and to work closely with the KPHA officers, Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons to represent public health nursing issues. The Public Health Nursing Chairperson is also responsible for effectively communicating with all section members.

Environmental Section:

The Environmental Program consists of over 550 Registered Sanitarians throughout the state of Kentucky. There are several programs included in the Environmental Program such as Food Service establishments, Hotel and Motel, Mobile Home and RV parks, Public Building plans, Schools, Private Water, Nuisance Control, Onsite Sewage, Swimming pools and Spas and Tattoo parlors, just to mention a few. Environmentalists perform routine inspections to ensure the health and safety for the citizens of our communities. As an environmentalist I consider environmentalists to be the first line of defense in protecting the citizens of our communities. One asset to the job is that there is never a dull moment. What I like best about the job is that you get to meet new people in the community and improve your knowledge in the Environmental field which as a result benefits the community, your Health Department, Kentucky Public Health Association and the Kentucky Department for Public Health. Last but not least you get to meet and work with Environmentalists from across the state and form new friendships

Administrative Support Section:

This section is represented by a group of individuals who take care of many different tasks in the local health department. They provide support services such as scheduling, purchasing/ordering, data processing and an array of tasks which support or facilitate the services programs in health departments and they keep things running smoothly and efficiently. The purpose of this section is to promote educational opportunities through training and networking for clerical and administrative staff. Administrative Support is essential to clinic operations as "Nothing works, without the Clerks".

Community Health Planning Section:

The health of a community depends on many factors, including the health protection and promotion activities of local government agencies, not-for-profit agencies and private sector organizations. Involving citizens in making decision on matters that affect their health has been long supported by public health. Planning is best done by those individuals who will be the recipients of, or will be affected by, the resulting programs, policies, or services. Efforts to get people to change their lifestyle behaviors, their worksites, or their schools, will be most successful if those asked to make such changes are included in the planning process. The facilitator of the health planning process is often a public health professional and has been given the exciting role of bringing the public health system together in a united front to improve the health of their communities.

Nutrition Section:

Nutrition is a science that deals with the physiological and metabolic responses to nutrients that enhance the overall well being of the human body. The purpose of nutrition is to influence physical components of disease prevention through nutrient enhancement and behavioral intervention. Nutrition in public health positively influences communities by reducing disease risk and medical costs to individuals, insurance companies, employers and communities, as well as improving the quality of life for the individual. Nutrition intervention ultimately improves the health and well being of all humans and their families.

Administration Section:

The purpose of the administration section is representation of those performing the management of public health operations on a daily, short-term and long-term basis, along with the study, development and implementation of policy. Public Health administrators are responsible for the communication of relevant health information while addressing population health concerns and the management of crises.

Epidemiology Section:

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and frequency of diseases and their determinants within a population. Epidemiology encompasses many other scientific disciplines in public health, such as environmental, social, and biological factors. The field itself is broad in range, from outbreak investigations to actual applied research and many other avenues in between. This science is important in exploring the etiology of disease as well as prevention, which is key in the field of public health. Epidemiology is also vital to public health as it serves to help facilitate policy development, implementation, and evaluation.

Home Health/Home-visiting Section:

The Home Health/Home-visiting section consists of professional and para-professional providers who value the home as a therapeutic environment for the care and education of persons experiencing first time parenthood or an impairment of their health and wellness. To support this value, the section joins together those striving to improve the availability and quality of this care and education.

School Health Section:

The KPHA School Health Section represents the many voices of staff involved in school health across the State of Kentucky. The responsibility of this section is to strengthen and support the practice of public health staff involved in school health, to support school health nurses and other professional disciplines as they provide school health services, and to advocate for integration of health services in schools to promote the health and well being of our states most valuable asset- our children.

Board of Health Section:

This KPHA public health section represents members appointed to a local Board of Health (LBOH) throughout Kentucky's 120 counties. The responsibility of this section is to plan and implement section activities for the year, including the Annual Convention, and to work closely with the KPHA officers, Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons to represent public health issues that affect the whole community. In addition, this section promotes year long activities to understand the health needs of a community; to learn about ways to address the needs of their county; and to network with other members of LBOH.

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