

Joint Policy Committee (JPC)

Overview- The policy statement development process is the mechanism by which APHA leverages member expertise to draft evidence-based and/or evidence-informed statements addressing issues of concern and importance to the public health community. Adopted policy statements help inform APHA's position on legislative, regulatory, scientific and health policy and practice issues related to public health and can be used by members to support policy priorities and actions.

The Joint Policy Committee (JPC) is charged with overseeing the annual policy statement development process; including supporting understanding and access by membership. It is the JPC's task to review and assess all proposed and late-breaking policy statements and report its final recommendations for adoption to the Governing Council at the Annual Meeting.

Composition- The JPC consists of 12 members: 4 members from the Science Board, 4 members from the Education Board and 4 members from the Action Board. The Chairs of each Board serve as co-chairs of the JPC.

Assessments- All policy statements are put forward for Governing Council review (unless the policy statement is voluntarily withdrawn by the author or originator).

Initial Assessment Report: In May, following its spring meeting, the JPC informs the author(s) of each proposed policy statement of the initial JPC assessment (Positive, Conditional, or Negative) along with any recommendations for editing.

Second Assessment Report: In September the JPC reviews revised proposed policy statements and makes its second assessment (Positive or Negative). Authors are provided additional suggestions for improvement and informed of their roles and responsibilities for the Annual Meeting, including details for the public hearings.

Public Hearings: Public hearings on proposed policy statements are held at the Annual Meeting. Public hearings are open to all members of APHA and are intended as an open forum provided for detailed exploration, discussion, and debate of assigned proposed policy statements. An author of each proposal is expected to be present at the public hearings to answer any questions that may arise regarding their proposal. Following the hearings, any modifications or wording changes must be submitted in writing by the authors to the JPC.

Final Mark-Up Session: At the conclusion of the public hearings, proposed policy statements are owned by APHA and the JPC is assigned responsibility and authority for determining their final content. At the final "mark-up" meeting (on Monday of the Annual Meeting), the JPC reviews recommendations from the public hearings and highlights any additional changes agreed to by the author(s) of the proposed policy statements. The Committee votes on its final recommendation (positive or negative) for each proposed policy statement and prepares its final report to the Governing Council.

Report to Governing Council: During the Tuesday meeting of Governing Council at the Annual Meeting, the JPC presents a consent agenda which lists proposed policy statements recommended for adoption, as well final recommendations for each remaining proposed policy statement. The Council then votes. Policy statements adopted by the Governing Council will be posted on the APHA website by January of the following year.