



## Science Board 2022 Report to the Governing Council

November 5, 2022

### **Members of the 2021-2022 Science Board**

Danielle Campbell, MPH- Chair  
Apryl Brown, M, MPH- Vice Chair  
Ruchi Bhandari, PhD, MPA, MBA  
Alex E. Crosby, MD, MPH  
Barbara Giloth, DrPH, MPH  
Jeffrey Hall, PhD, MA, MSPH, CPH  
Jyotsna Jagai, PhD, MPH  
Ben King, PhD  
Diana Kingsbury, PhD, MPH, MA  
Sonia Lee, MSPH  
Kusuma Madamala, PhD, MPH  
Kathryn Mishkin, DrPH, MPH, MA  
Syrill Pettit, DrPH, MEM  
Sreelekha Prakash, MD, MPH  
Sarah Roberts, DrPH, MPH  
Kevin Sykes, PhD, MPH  
Kara Suvada, BS (Student Member)  
Catherine Troisi, PhD

### **A. Description of Issues**

The Science Board (SB) is pleased to submit its 2021-2022 Annual Report to the Governing Council

### **B. Discussion**

As stated in Article VII, Section 5, of the APHA Bylaws, the Science Board is tasked with stimulating and coordinating the development of the scientific basis for the Association's professional and public policy programs. The Science Board carries out these functions through the board and its subcommittees. As an integral part of the policy development process, the Science Board ensures that proposed APHA policy statements have scientific merit. The board

also sponsors a scientific session at the Annual Meeting and provides scientific advice to the association.

Over the course of the year, the full Science Board met virtually five times as follows:

- October 24, 2021- Annual Meeting
- January 24, 2022- Introduction to Policy Statement Review
- February 28, 2022- Business meeting
- April 20, 2022- Policy Review/Business Meeting Day 1
- April 21, 2022- Policy Review/Business Meeting Day 2

### Policy Review

During its April 20-21, 2022 meeting, the Science Board conducted a scientific review of proposed policy statement and made recommendations to the JPC on the scientific evidence reasoning and evidence. The Science Board criteria to assess the quality and strength of the scientific evidence and reasoning were as follows:

*Strength of the Evidence* - Ratings in this section reflect the strength of evidence included only (i.e., all seminal works were included, strength of evidence based on the study design/findings), regardless of whether the evidence is presented in a logical manner.

1. Strong Evidence
2. Sufficient Evidence
3. Insufficient Evidence
  - a. Requires minimal additional evidence
  - b. Requires a lot of additional evidence

*Strength of Scientific Reasoning* - Ratings in this section reflect the quality of the scientific reasoning, or logical progression of ideas to support the claims made, regardless of the strength of the evidence presented.

1. Strong Scientific Reasoning
2. Sufficient Scientific Reasoning
3. Insufficient Scientific Reasoning
  - a. Requires minimal revision
  - b. Requires major revision

Of the 19 proposed policy statements reviewed, 0 received an assessment of strong evidence, 0 received an assessment of sufficient evidence, 6 received an assessment of insufficient evidence- requires minimal additional evidence, and 13 received an assessment of insufficient evidence- requires major additional evidence; 0 received an assessment of strong scientific reasoning, 1 received an assessment of sufficient scientific reasoning, 8 received an assessment of insufficient scientific reasoning- requires minor revision and 10 received an assessment of insufficient scientific reasoning- requires major revision.

<b>Proposed Policy Statement</b>	<b>Science Board Initial Assessment (Evidence, Scientific Reasoning)</b>
<a href="#"><u>A1: Public Health as a Bridge to Peace in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza</u></a>	3b, 3b
<a href="#"><u>A2: Justice in Global Access to COVID-19 Vaccination</u></a>	3a, 3a
<a href="#"><u>A3: A Call to Cancel International Debt for Global South Nations and Increase Public Financing of Health Systems</u></a>	3b, 3a
<a href="#"><u>A4: Support Decent Work for All as a Sustainable Health Strategy for Improving Population Health and Well-being</u></a>	3a, 3a
<a href="#"><u>B1: The Overlooked Public Healthcare Crisis of Healthcare Waste: A Call for Oversight Protection and Tracking</u></a>	3b, 3b
<a href="#"><u>B2: Public Health Opportunities to Address the Health Effects of Gas Stoves</u></a>	3a, 3a
<a href="#"><u>B3: Ending the Practice of Conversion Therapy Among LGBTQ+ Populations</u></a>	3b, 2
<a href="#"><u>B4: Ensuring Women's Inclusion in HIV-Related Clinical Research</u></a>	3b, 3b
<a href="#"><u>C1: A Strategy to Address Racism and Violence as Public Health Priorities: Community Health Workers Advancing Racial Equity and Violence Prevention</u></a>	3b, 3b
<a href="#"><u>C2: Address Threats to Public Health Practice</u></a>	3a, 3a
<a href="#"><u>C3: A Public Health Approach to Gun Violence Prevention</u></a>	3b, 3b
<a href="#"><u>C4: A Public Health Approach to Firearms Prevention Policy</u></a>	3b, 3b
<a href="#"><u>C5: A More Equitable Approach to the Enforcement of Commercial Tobacco Control</u></a>	3a, 3a
<a href="#"><u>C6: The Misuse of Preemptive Laws and the Impact on Public Health</u></a>	3b, 3b
<a href="#"><u>C7: Advancing Health Equity Through Inclusive Democracy and Access to Early Voting</u></a>	3b, 3a
<a href="#"><u>D1: Defining Public Health Leadership to Achieve Health Equity: Merging Collective, Adaptive and Emergent Models</u></a>	3b, 3a
<a href="#"><u>D2: Ensuring Access to Affordable Medications</u></a>	3a, 3b
<a href="#"><u>D3: Falls Prevention in Adults Aged 65 and older</u></a>	3b, 3b

<a href="#">D4: Expanding Medicaid Coverage for Birthing People to One-Year Postpartum</a>	3b, 3b
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Throughout the year, the Science Board also met, as needed, as one of three committees, Joint Policy Committee, Annual Meeting Scientific Session, and Archiving Review.

#### Joint Policy Committee (JPC)

Four Science Board representatives served on the Joint Policy Committee. Ms. Danielle Campbell served as co-chair of the JPC and Dr. Apryl Brown, Dr. Kevin Sykes, and Dr. Sarah Roberts served as the additional three representatives of the Science Board on JPC. Science Board representatives on the JPC appropriately participated in JPC functions and meetings.

#### 2022 Sponsored Scientific Session

The Science Board planned and will host a virtual scientific session entitled “Uncertain, Unknown, and Uneven: Communicating evolving science during emergent public health crises on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 from 4:30-6:00PM ET.

This panel discussion will engage perspectives from experienced public health practitioners on the challenges of effectively communicating evolving science to the community during an emergent public health crisis. In these situations, public health is challenged by rapidly changing scientific data, evolving resource availability and priorities, uncertain epidemiology, and quickly modulating interventional recommendations. The panelists will first be asked to briefly share their own experiences in responding to emergent public health crises in their communities. The session will then open to exchanges between the panelists and participants around best practices for conveying uncertainty in the available information on an emergent crisis, for characterizing unknowns around emergent disease pathology or interventions, and for handling the frequent absence of data relevant to underserved populations. While these issues are relevant for all communities, the session will include particular focus on the impact of these challenges on communication and health protection within underserved communities.

**Learning Outcomes:** Following this session, the learner will be able to IDENTIFY key challenges and current best practices in communicating information during periods of rapid information change and intense public health pressures.

*Moderators: [fill in when confirmed]*

*Speakers/Panelist: Dr. Cathy Troisi, UHealth School of Public Health; Dr. David Scales, Cornell Medicine/Critica; Dr. Chris Coombe, University of Michigan; and Mr. Zachary Rowe, Friends of Parkside/Detroit URC*

#### Archiving Review

There are 13 policy statements adopted in 2002 scheduled for archiving at the close of the 2022 Annual Meeting (see list below).

#	Title
20021	<a href="#">The Role of Genomics in Public Health</a>
20022	<a href="#">Endorsing Caring For Our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs</a>
20023	<a href="#">Support of Healthy Aging through Health Promotion and Prevention of Disease and Injury</a>
20024	<a href="#">Reducing Sodium Content in the American Diet</a>
20025	<a href="#">Preserving the Right to Know Information and Encouraging Hazard Reduction to Reduce Risk of Exposure to Toxic Substances</a>
20026	<a href="#">Access to Safe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Promotion in Developing Countries</a>
20027	<a href="#">Protecting the Health and Safety of Workers Who Respond to Disasters</a>
20028	<a href="#">Alert on the Use of Tobacco Settlement Funds (2002)</a>
20029	<a href="#">Promoting Evidence Based Smoking Cessation Interventions for Women Before, During, and After Pregnancy</a>
200210	<a href="#">Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Data Capacity through the National Action Agenda</a>
200211	<a href="#">Opposing War in Central Asia and the Persian Gulf</a>
200212	<a href="#">Syringe Prescription to Reduce Disease Related to Injection Drug Use</a>
200213	<a href="#">Call for United States to Support a Strengthened Biological Weapons Convention</a>

APHA members were asked to review these policy statements and consider three potential options for each policy statement of interest:

1. Allow the policy statement to remain on the archiving consent agenda
2. Update a policy statement scheduled for archiving
3. Request to keep active a policy statement proposed for archiving

The Science Board received 1 completed request to keep active [Policy Statement 20023](#), Support of Healthy Aging through the Promotion and Prevention of Disease and Injury. In addition, the Board also received an email from a member of the OHS/ENV section regarding [Policy Statement 20025](#), Preserving the Right To Know Information and Encouraging Hazard Reduction to Reduce the Risk of Exposure to Toxic Substances. The message stated, the Section plans to submit an update of this policy statement in the 2023 cycle but wanted the existing

statements to remain active in the meantime. It was explained that to keep the statement active the Science Board would need to confirm the science; action steps and references remain current. It was confirmed new info was needed but the Section still asked the statement be kept it active. However, no formal justification to keep the statement active was ever received. Regardless, the Science Board reviewed the statement and assessed it is no longer current and therefore should be archived as scheduled.

The Board will meet on November 6, 2022 for a business meeting during the APHA Annual Meeting and Expo. At this time, it will finalize its recommendation regarding the archiving of Policy Statement 20023. This recommendation will then be forwarded to the JPC who will provide the Governing Council the recommendation in its report issued on the evening of November 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### Ex Officio Representation on Executive Board

The Chair of the Science Board served as an Ex Officio member of the Executive Board, as outlined in the APHA bylaws. She represented the Board on the Development and Personnel Committee of the Executive Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Campbell, MPH  
2021-2022 Chair, Science Board