Science Board 2018-2019 Report to the Governing Council

November 2, 2019

Members of the 2018-2019 Science Board
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A. Description of Issues
The Science Board (SB) is pleased to submit its 2018-2019 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 makes recommendations on the annual meeting themes, sponsors scientific sessions, and provides scientific advice to the association.
Over the course of the year, the Science Board met four times as follows:
- November 11, 2018- Annual Meeting (in-person)
- February 5, 2019- Orientation (via videoconference)
- March 15, 2019- Business meeting (via videoconference)

Policy Review
During its May 1-2 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 17 policies reviewed, 0 received an assessment of strong evidence, 2 received an assessment of sufficient evidence, 7 received an assessment of insufficient evidence- requires minimal additional evidence, and 8 received an assessment of insufficient evidence- requires major additional evidence.

Of the 17 policies reviewed, 0 received an assessment of strong scientific reasoning, 2 received an assessment of sufficient scientific reasoning, 6 received an assessment of insufficient scientific reasoning- requires minor revision and 9 received an assessment of insufficient scientific reasoning- requires major revision.

Throughout the year, the Science Board also met, as needed, as one of four committees, Joint Policy Committee, 2021 and 2022 Annual Meeting Theme, 2019 Annual Meeting Scientific Session, and Archiving Review.
Joint Policy Committee (JPC)
Four Science Board representatives served on the Joint Policy Committee. They were Dr. Nandi Marshall, Dr. Diana Kingsbury, Ms. Danielle Campbell, and Dr. Barbara Giloth. Science Board representatives on the JPC appropriately participated in JPC functions and meetings.

2021 and 2022 Annual Meeting Themes
The Science Board submitted 4 themes for consideration by the Governing Council for 2021 and 3 themes for consideration by the Governing Council for 2022 (APHA’s 150th Anniversary). The recommended themes are:

2021
1. Creating the Healthiest Nation in a Generation: Healthy Aging for All Ages
2. Creating the Healthiest Nation: Technological Innovations in Public Health
3. Creating the Healthiest Nation: Strengthening Social Cohesion and Connectedness
4. Creating the Healthiest Nation: Public Health’s Greater Return on Investment

2022
1. Celebrating Our Past & Building Our Future
2. APHA @ 150: The Bending Arc of Public Health
3. APHA @ 150: What’s Next in The Evolution of Public Health

2019 Sponsored Scientific Session
The Science Board planned and will host a scientific session entitled Measurement and Targets for Healthy People 2030: Improving Health and Well-Being in All Policies, Systems, and Approaches on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 from 5:00-6:30p.m.

The goal of this session is to enhance attendees understanding of the goals and opportunities to facilitate the inclusion of science and data in the development of evidence-based policies and interventions. In addition, implementation and evaluation will also be covered, as they are necessary to ensure that interventions and policies are having the intended impact without unintended consequences. The session will highlight how organizations and communities can employ data and scientific approaches using national and other objectives and indicators - like those in Healthy People- to determine their own health goals and priorities, and to detail challenges, gaps, and opportunities in methodology and data availability in achieving the goals set forth in HP 2030.

Learning Objectives:
1. Describe and discuss the goals and opportunities to facilitate the inclusion of science and data in the development of evidence-based policies and interventions
2. Identify ways to employ data and science approaches using national and other objectives and indicators to determine their own health goals and priorities
3. Assess opportunities, gaps, and challenges in methodology and data availability in achieving the goals set forth in HP 2030.

Moderator:
Archiving Review
Beginning in 2019, all active policy statements will be automatically scheduled for archiving (i.e. moved to the policy statement archive) 20 years after adoption. 623 policy statements adopted in 1999 and earlier are scheduled for archiving this year. 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

37 policy statements scheduled for archiving were requested to be kept active. The Science Board reviewed these policy statements based on the following criteria:

Current Relevance of Scientific Reasoning
1. Current
2. Outdated, needs revisions (major or minor)

Current Relevance of References
1. Current
2. Outdated, needs revisions (major or minor)

Current Relevance of Action Steps
1. Current
2. Outdated, needs revisions (major or minor)

If the policy statements received a 2 in any of the above categories, the Science Board recommended the policy statement be archived as scheduled. 35 of the policy statements reviewed were recommended for archiving. Recommendations on two of the policy statements reviewed, 8901- Safeguarding the Right to Abortion as a Reproductive Choice and 9115-
Support for Women’s Health Research, will be finalized at the Science Board’s business meeting on Sunday, November 3rd. The Science Board’s final recommendations will be presented by the Science Board chair to the Governing Council along with the archiving consent agenda. The additional 588 policy statements scheduled for archiving will be automatically archived.

On the recommendation of the Science Board, the JPC will present edits to the *Policy Statement Development Process Policies and Procedures*, which includes an outline of the policy statement archiving process and procedures, to the Governing Council for a vote at the Annual Meeting. These edits provide greater detail on the archiving review process, as developed by the Science Board.

**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 Strategic Planning Committee.

**C. Appropriate Action(s)**

As noted above, Science Board chair will present to the Governing Council, the results of the Science Board’s review of the 37 policy statements scheduled for archiving that were requested to be kept active, along with an archiving consent agenda for 588 policy statements scheduled for archiving in 2019. Additionally, on the recommendation of the Science Board, the JPC will present to the Governing Council edits to the *Policy Statement Development Process Policies and Procedures* for a vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nandi Marshall, DrPH, MPH, CHES
2018-2019 Chair, Science Board