

Maine Public Health Association



Weekly E-News

February 9th Issue

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The **deadline** for the next MPHA Enews is **Thursday, February 15th** for the February 16th issue. *There will be no issue of MPHA E-news the week of February 19th, please keep that in mind when submitting information.*

Please contact Michelle Caliandro with content or questions about this publication at mcaliandro@mainelung.org or 1-800-499-5864 x 103.

Learning Opportunities

The Fifth Annual Maine Benzodiazepine Study Group International Conference & Fourth Annual Unused Drug Return International Conference

Wednesday, October 31 and Thursday, November 1, 2007 ~ Save the Date!

In beautiful downtown Portland, Maine.

The hotel, Holiday Inn by the Bay, will be the site of this year's conference.

Centrally located, the Inn is at the heart of the historic district, shopping and sight-seeing. You won't want to miss out on attending this year's dynamic two-day Conference - with an opportunity to enjoy the local venues.

More information to follow soon!

Homeland Defense Journal Training Conference

Transportation and Border Security Conference- What's Next?

March 7, 2007 ~ Registration Time: 8:00 am, Program Starts: 8:30 am, Wrap-up: 4:00pm

Special Keynote Speakers

Assistant Secretary Stewart Baker, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs, DHS

Deborah Spero, Deputy Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Maritime Security: A Look Ahead

March 8, 2007 ~ Registration Time: 8:00 am, Program Starts: 8:30 am, Wrap-up: 4:00 pm

Register for both events and save \$100!

Additional training courses are also available. For details go to:
www.homelanddefensejournal.com

Registration Options

[1] Register on-line at www.marketaccess.org

[2] Phone Katie Smith at (703) 807-2758

[3] E-mail Katie Smith at ksmith@marketaccess.org

[4] Mail the Registration Form provided below to:

Homeland Defense Journal, 4301 Wilson Blvd. #1003, Arlington, VA 22203

Location Information

Both conferences will be held at the Executive Conference Center, NRECA Headquarters Building, 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203. The Conference Center is one block from the Ballston Metro stop on the orange line. Please note: the parking garage and a side entrance to the building is on Taylor Street.

Maine Parent Federation Announces A Very Special One-Day Conference

Special Education and Advocacy Conference

WHEN: **March 8, 2007**

WHERE: Jeff's Catering, Banquet and Convention Center, Brewer, Maine

TIME: 8:00-4:30

If you are a parent or guardian of a child with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), or a professional trying to better serve kids with disabilities, you don't want to miss this training!

Register today and reserve your spot!

- Special education law, rights and responsibilities
- Tests and measurements to measure progress & regression
- SMART IEP's
- Introduction to tactics & strategies for effective advocacy

For More Information contact MPF at 1-800-870-7746 (ask for Penny); visit our website at www.mpf.org or email psteeves@mpf.org

Legislative Information

Legislative Update

MPHA priority areas are:

- Fund for a Healthy Maine;
- Environmental Issues;
- Health Care Access;
- Obesity;
- Tobacco;
- Public Health Infrastructure; and
- Other - as appropriate.

Regarding Legislative activity - A full public hearing schedule through February 16th is available by following this link:

<http://www.state.me.us/legis/senate/Documents/hearing/ANPHFrame.htm>

For additional legislative information:

<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/ljo/>

For more information regarding MPHA's legislative priorities go to:
mpha@mcd.org

Health Issue Briefs Given to Maine Legislators

A series of health-related issue briefs (including one on public health) were prepared for the Legislative Policy Forum on Health Care on January 26, 2007 by the Muskie School of Public Service and the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. The Forum was part of the Policy Leaders Academy for Maine legislators organized by the Maine Development Foundation, the Muskie School and the Smith Center. Funding for the briefs and the forum was generously provided by the Maine Health Access Foundation.

To review the issue briefs, please visit:

<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/news/resources/pla.jsp>

Call-In Day for State Children's Health Insurance Program

Tuesday, February 13, is National SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program) Call-In Day! A 1-800 number has been provided by the Campaign for Children's Health Care and the Catholic Health Association for APHA members and Affiliates to use on this day. Affiliate members can contact their members of Congress at 1-877-509-KIDS and use the talking points provided at:

<http://www.capwiz.com/apha/callalert/index.tt?alertid=9338891>

Also, APHA's online SCHIP advocacy and educational resource is now live.

APHA Affiliates and members can learn more about SCHIP and how they can get involved in its reauthorization at:

<http://www.apha.org/advocacy/activities/schip/>

National Children's Dental Health Month Is Here

Watch Your Mouth and the Maine Dental Access Coalition invite everyone with an interest in oral health to help educate their legislative representatives on the importance of oral health to our state. There will be an opportunity for legislators and constituents to discuss the importance of improving oral health policy on **February 15th**, between 10:00 AM and noon. We will be at the Statehouse Welcome Center.

Southern Kennebec Child Development Corporation will also be receiving an award from the Watch Your Mouth Campaign for their excellent oral health policies at 11:30 AM on the 15th. Senator Elizabeth Mitchell and Representative Elizabeth Miller will present the award on behalf of Watch Your Mouth at the Welcome Center.

Raise Your Voice! Environmental Health Lobby Day

Thursday, April 5th, 2007, 8:00 AM, Maine State Capitol, Cross Cafe

Because Democracy is a tool that works best when used by many hands.

Protect Children's Health from Unnecessary Dangerous Chemicals like Deca

Chemicals are especially dangerous to our children when they break down slowly, build up in our food chain and are so pervasive that we come into contact with them daily. The unfortunate truth is that these persistent toxic chemicals are in a wide variety of household products and are in the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe. Help us protect our children and phase out Deca, a toxic flame retardant, here in Maine.

The Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine campaigns to phase out these unnecessary dangerous chemicals and replace them with safer alternatives. Public health, labor, community, and environmental organizations work together to prevent harm before it happens. PLEASE JOIN US to make your voice heard!

Come join us for a day at the Statehouse and add your voice to a growing chorus of Mainers that want a healthy environment where we live, work and play. Your legislators will be making critical decisions impacting the health of our families and our environment—we need to make our voices heard.

No prior statehouse experience is needed; organizers will brief you on issues and lobbying techniques.

Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly! To RSVP or find out more information contact: Harris Parnell 871-1810, harris@toxicsaction.org

Information

Cover the Uninsured Week

Please visit www.CoverTheUninsured.org to find news and information about Cover the Uninsured Week, April 23-30, 2007. The site also offers facts about the uninsured, personal stories and resources for people seeking health care coverage.

Maine Fire Commission Endorses Ban on Toxic Flame Retardant

The Fire Protection Services Commission voted 15-1 earlier this week to support a ban on a toxic flame retardant linked to learning disabilities, cancer and developmental disorders. The toxic flame retardant, known as "deca," steadily migrates from the products to which it is added and builds up in the fat tissue of people and animals. It is a global contaminant that is added to many TV's, mattresses, and upholstered furniture and is found in polar bears, breast milk and human blood. This has prompted legislative action in Europe and several states.

The commission, made up of representatives from the Maine Fire Chiefs Association, the professional firefighters union, volunteer firefighters, legislators and state agencies sent a strong message that phasing out deca will protect public health while not affecting fire safety.

Flame retardants used in fabrics, foams and various other plastics have helped to stop fires and save lives. However, many of the brominated ones are toxic. They can permanently damage brain and reproductive systems and cause learning disabilities in children. Fortunately, there are effective flame retardants already in widespread use that are far safer, and do not build up in people and animals and persist in the environment.

In 2004, the Legislature banned two of these dangerous brominated flame retardants, penta-BDE and octa-BDE. This session, legislators have an opportunity to protect Maine families by passing a bill, sponsored by Rep. Hannah Pingree, that phases out one of the most widely used of these poisonous compounds – "deca" – in electronics, and prohibits its use in new mattresses and home furniture.

For more information, please contact Matt Prindiville at the Natural Resources Council of Maine - Matt mattp@nrcm.org

National Public Health Week

April 2-8, 2007 ~ THEME: Take the First Step!
Preparedness and Public Health Threats

For more information: www.apha.org

NIMH: Extreme Irritability – Is It Childhood Bipolar Disorder? Brain's Electrical Signals Provide Clues

Results of a new study may help improve the diagnosis and treatment of two debilitating childhood mental disorders — pediatric bipolar disorder (BD) and a syndrome called severe mood dysregulation (SMD). When the brain's electrical signals were measured during mildly frustrating situations, researchers from the NIMH found a very different pattern in children with SMD, compared with children who had BD. The results indicate that different brain mechanisms may lead to irritability in children with SMD, suggesting that they may have an illness other than BD and may require different treatments. Results of the study were published in the February 2007 issue of the American Journal of Psychiatry.

For full press release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/press/ped-bipolar-irritability.cfm>

NIMH: U.S.-Born Children of Immigrants May Have Higher Risk for Mental Disorders Than Parents

In the first studies to examine the effects of immigration and years of residence on the mental health of Caribbean Black, Latino, and Asian populations in the United States, NIMH-funded researchers found that immigrants in general appear to have lower rates of mental disorders than their U.S.-born counterparts. A special section of the American Journal of Public Health published in January 2007 provides early findings from the National Survey of American Life (NSAL) and the National Latino and Asian American Study (NLAAS) on the prevalence of mental disorders and patterns of mental health service use among minority immigrants and later generations born in the U.S. It is also the first time that comparable studies of nationally representative samples of Caribbean Blacks, Latinos, and Asians have been published together in the same journal.

For full science update:

http://www.nimh.nih.gov/press/immigrant_mentalhealth.cfm

Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?

A forthcoming documentary series on health disparities

Along with the title comes a placeholder Web site <http://www.unnaturalcauses.org>. This is NOT the final site, (now in development) that will accompany the series. Rather, the purpose of this temporary, or 'placeholder', site is to create a virtual communications and planning hub among outreach partners as we prepare to launch the series and campaign.

Visit <http://www.unnaturalcauses.org> to find:

- Information about the series & view a short clip
- Background on the Public Impact Campaign & how to get involved
- A growing list of outreach partners & calendar of events featuring the series.
- The latest news, action tools and handouts which will be posted as they're developed.

If you haven't already, please consider joining the more than 60 outreach partners who are currently making plans to use the series and companion resources to promote health equity.

The series is a tool to:

- Educate about the extent and root causes of health disparities, demonstrating how it doesn't have to be this way.
- Organize alliances within and across sectors (e.g. housing, economic development, labor, racial justice, the faith-community, etc.) to get people involved, connected and eager for change.
- Advocate with government officials for "upstream" policies that promote health equity.

We look forward to working with you in using Unnatural Causes to help reframe the debate over health and what we as a society can—and should—do to tackle health inequities.

Check back often for the latest news and tools:

<http://www.unnaturalcauses.org>

For additional information: Rachel Poulain, MPH, Director of Outreach, California Newsreel, 500 Third Street, #505, San Francisco, CA 94107, 415-284-7800 ext 314

RP@newsreel.org, www.unnaturalcauses.org, www.newsreel.org

Career Opportunities

Nothing posted this issue.

Supporting Our Membership

Trek Across Maine and Employee Wellness

Does your organization have a wellness team or would you like to start one? Get healthy and help a great cause. Join the American Lung Association of Maine's Trek Across Maine ~ June 15-17, 2007. The Trek provides a wonderful bonding opportunity for co-workers while improving their personal health. Many companies have used the Trek as the beginning for their employee wellness program. For more information about the Trek go to: www.mainelung.org or for information on how to start a team contact Kristen Dummer at kdummer@mainelung.org

Walk America

Premature birth is the #1 cause of newborn death. It has reached epidemic proportions in the U.S., endangering the lives of more than half a million babies. And it's growing at an alarming rate. That's why we need you to participate in WalkAmerica.

Walk for a special child in your life – a healthy baby a premature baby or a sick one. Walk for all babies.

For more information: <http://www.walkamerica.org/>



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www.mcph.org/mpha/MPHAindex.html