



# News from the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists

July 2018

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## ASPHN Policy Committee Update: Farm Bill Progress Notes

Stay engaged with national nutrition policy through progress notes on the farm bill from the [ASPHN Policy Committee](#). ASPHN supports the position of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (the Academy) on the farm bill. This article includes information that was shared by the Academy.



On June 21st, the House narrowly passed [H.R. 2](#) (commonly know as the farm bill) with a vote of 213-211. The House Bill will end or reduce food assistance benefits for a substantial number of people who are struggling to put food on the table.

On the other side of the congress, the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee advanced its version of the 2018 farm bill with bipartisan support on June 13. The [Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, S. 3042](#), would build on what has worked in the past with common sense investments and targeted improvements to strengthen nutrition programs to ensure critical food access for families in need, continue advancement in agricultural research and support nutrition education to empower people to make lasting, healthful food choices. The Senate's version of the farm bill is expected on the floor by the end of June.

The U.S. farm bill is a comprehensive piece of legislation that covers most federal government policies related to agriculture in the United States. It guides the U.S. and global food supply and improves food security for millions of people. Nutrition programs account for 80% of farm bill spending, which is primarily directed to the Supplemental Nutrition Education Program (SNAP). It is typically renewed every five years.

To learn more about the farm bill and the Academy's recommendations, visit the Academy's [farm bill webpage](#) or check out [Farm Bill Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Contact Michelle Futrell and the policy committee at [michelle@asphn.org](mailto:michelle@asphn.org).

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## Thank You for Serving on the ASPHN Board

ASPHN offers a special note of thanks to the outgoing members of the [ASPHN Board of Directors](#).



These volunteers have completed their term commitments and left a legacy in policy and management oversight that will cause our Association to thrive for decades to come. We have had a fun and productive year with accomplishments that include the

design and implementation of the 2017-2022 strategic plan.

Outgoing Board members include:

Becky Adams (AR)+  
Terrell Brock (WI)+  
Ashley Davis (OH)+  
Tiffani Grant (MS)+  
Leslie Lewis (LA)+  
Donna McDuffie (MN)\*

\*Completed 2 or more consecutive terms  
+Continues in ASPHN leadership in a new role

For more information about the ASPHN Board of Directors, contact Karen Probert at [karen@asphn.org](mailto:karen@asphn.org).

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## Online Learning: Resilience

An exciting webinar that was offered to the Children's Healthy Weight CoIIN members is now available to all!



Watch the May webinar recording by Virginia Crow and be inspired to apply resilience theory to your public health nutrition programs.

[Watch the video.](#) [Get the slides.](#)

For questions related to the Children's Healthy Weight CoIIN and this webinar, contact Sandy Perkins at [sandy@asphn.org](mailto:sandy@asphn.org).

Also, find more archived webinars from ASPHN [here](#).

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## Get Involved: Join the 2019 ASPHN Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Interested in planning fun and engaging experiences for professional learning? Join the 2019 ASPHN Annual Meeting Planning Committee!



Tasks: Committee members are asked to give input about potential speakers, flow of the meeting, activities, and optional excursion(s).

Commitment: Being a member of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee is a short term commitment.

Schedule: The Annual Meeting Planning Committee will begin to meet in the fall. The committee meets for 2 (approximately 1 hour) conference calls per month through April. Then the meetings decrease to 1 time per month until the annual meeting in June.

Benefits: Advance your meeting planning skills. Influence speaker selection and activities. Build relationships with national colleagues. Enhance your resume.

For more information about this committee contact Cyndi Atterbury at [cyndi@asphn.org](mailto:cyndi@asphn.org).

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## ASPHN Internship Highlight: Establishing Partnerships to Address Childhood Obesity

ASPHN Intern, Shannen Johnson, was placed at the [West Alabama Area Health Education Center \(AHEC\)](#), which serves Sumpter County, AL. This county has some of the

highest childhood obesity rates in the state. According to Johnson, children are overfed in terms of consumption of processed foods that lack essential nutrients. To address the need to improve child nutrition, AHEC, in partnership with the Sumpter County Board of Education and community stakeholders, implemented a community event- Iron Chef Competition and Community Food Expo- designed to bring awareness to the importance of child nutrition.



Johnson was an integral leader in planning this event. During her internship, she conducted needs assessments, reviewed established nutrition programs accessible to the community, and convened meetings with childhood obesity prevention stakeholders. In addition to designing the cooking competition for students, Johnson was able to increase the community awareness of and access to underutilized health programs and organizations within the county by bringing together key stakeholders.

According to the [State of Obesity report](#), Alabama ranks 6th for childhood obesity. An alarming 35.5% of children in Alabama are obese or overweight. Similarly, in neighboring and regional states; Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas, over one-third of children are obese and overweight. Although children in Alabama may have behaviors that facilitate overeating, social and environmental challenges often impede Alabama families' ability to provide nutritious food for their children. This is truly the norm in many rural areas as well as among ethnic and racial minority communities throughout the state and region.

Upon completing her master's degree at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Johnson plans to pursue a master's in public health degree. "I plan to be an ambassador for wellness," said Johnson. "Nutrition and physical activity are very important to me. Helping people live their best life improves their mental and physical wellbeing. Bringing the right partners together to address a variety of issues that facilitate obesity will lower the childhood obesity rates and improve quality of life & health outcomes for children in all communities."

Click here to find more information about the [ASPHN Health Equity Internship Program](#). Contact Steve Owens with questions at [internship@asphn.org](mailto:internship@asphn.org).

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## Welcome New Members!

ASPHN expands its network of talented professionals as it welcomes 6 new members in June! Thank you for joining us.



Our ASPHN member-network is strengthening our nation through collective action that makes healthy eating and active living possible for everyone.

Expanded Members:

Jana Gach, MPH, RDN, LDN, IBCLC in the Indiana State Department of Health

Sierra Kirby and Julia Lang, student interns in the Minnesota Department of Health

Shawn Meyer, RN, BSN, CLC in the Wisconsin Department of Health

Hannah Nolan in the Arkansas Department of Health

Phyllis Putman in the South Carolina Department of Health

Associate Member:  
Laura Hormuth, MD, RDN - consultant

You, too, can join this dynamic group of Public Health Nutrition leaders. Check out our [member benefits](#) and [become a member now](#).

Contact Allison McGuigan at [allison@asphn.org](mailto:allison@asphn.org) with questions.

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## About ASPHN



**ASPHN**  
Advancing Health Through Leadership

The Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN) is a non-profit membership organization that strengthens nutrition policy, programs and environments for all people through development of public health nutrition leaders and collective action of members nationwide.

Our vision is healthy eating and active living for everyone. We welcome your involvement in our growing organization. Learn more about us at [About ASPHN](#).

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