



News from the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists

April 2020

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Register for ASPHN's Webinar on Working with Food Vendors to Offer Healthy Options

[Register now](#) for ASPHN's webinar on working with food vendors to offer healthy options! This no-cost education opportunity is open to members and non-members, alike. Plus, participants will receive certificates of attendance.

ASPHN's Vendors Training Guide Tool Webinar
Wednesday, April 15, 2020
12:30 - 2:00 PM ET

This webinar provides an introduction to ASPHN's Vendors Training Guide Tool, a data-driven resource for nutrition professionals who create trainings and educational sessions for vendors, blind vendors, and Business Enterprise Program (BEP) partners.

The webinar will help you:

- identify consumer and vending trends,
- use data to bolster your vending relationships,
- address key challenges identified by vendors, and
- employ messaging resources to guide effective communication.

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ASPHN's 2020 Annual Meeting Has Changed It's Location, Register Today

To keep you safe and (virtually) connected, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our in-person Annual Meeting and hold a virtual meeting instead. Because the health of our members, speakers, and consultants is our top priority, we're determined to get creative and come together in this different and powerful way.



Our meeting theme, Vision & Leadership in 2020, couldn't be more relevant during this public health crisis. Watch the Annual Meeting webpage for the most up-to-date information about the schedule, session topics, speakers, and networking opportunities we have in store.

There's no fee to register, so invite your colleagues and [register today](#).

Contact Cyndi Atterbury with questions at cyndi@asphn.org.

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Fresh Resource: ASPHN's Library of Reliable COVID-19 Information

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to unfold, it is the nation's public health nutritionists who are on the front lines of this public health emergency, ensuring that our most vulnerable receive vital nutritional assistance.



To help you with this critical work, [ASPHN has created this resource page of categorized links](#). These websites are ones which we know are offering accurate and timely information and guidance. We hope you will bookmark this page and use it often during the coming months.

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ASPHN's Policy Committee: Collective Action in Public Health Nutrition Policy

The Policy Committee is ASPHN's voice in promoting and influencing public health nutrition policies. It monitors key national issues that align with the strategic goals of ASPHN. Members lead collective action to support policy decisions that make healthy living the easy choice for all people.



Here are the major actions from ASPHN's March Policy Committee meeting. Watch for updates from the April meeting focused on COVID-19 in the May 2020 ASPHN Newsletter.

Policy Committee actions on behalf of ASPHN in March

SNAP Public Charge

The ASPHN Policy Committee discussed the diverse state-level impacts of the SNAP Public Charge [SNAP Public Charge legislation](#). This example was shared from [Hunger Free Colorado](#).

Action Alert: USDA- Simplifying Meal Service and Monitoring Requirements in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs [proposed rule \(85 FR 4094\)](#)

The ASPHN Policy Committee sent out an Action Alert to ASPHN membership requesting members submit their comments to USDA regarding this rule.

Signed-on in support of:

Black Maternal Health Caucus Omnibus Bill ([Senate](#)) ([House](#))

Addressing black maternal health disparities, the package includes a wide range of policies.

Action Alert: USDA- Simplifying Meal Service and Monitoring Requirements in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs [proposed rule \(85 FR 4094\)](#) (Described above.)

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' [letter supporting the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2020](#)

It is to be introduced by Rep. Engel and would extend Medicare Part B coverage for medical nutrition therapy to include obesity, hypertension, prediabetes, malnutrition, eating disorders, cancer, and more.

The 50th Anniversary of the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health: Honoring the Past, Taking Actions for our Future [report](https://sites.tufts.edu/foodnutritionandhealth2019/).

Letter to members of Congress on behalf of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV) asking for support during the COVID-19 emergency to include a one-time \$100 million appropriation for MIECH, virtual visits be considered home

visits and funding to maintain all staffing levels of MIECHV programs.

[Find out more about ASPHN's Policy Committee strategic priorities here.](#)

Contact Michelle Futrell with questions or to join the ASPHN Policy Committee at michelle@asphn.org. ASPHN Policy Committee meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of every month from 2-3pm ET.

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ASPHN Observes Minority Health Month

April is National Minority Health Month. This year's theme is [Active & Healthy](#) to remind us that incorporating small amounts of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity into our daily schedules can reduce the risk of chronic diseases and other conditions that are more common or severe among minority groups.



Watch [ASPHN's Facebook page](#) this month for inspiration, training, tips and tools from our partners in support of healthy living for all people.

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Powerful Partnerships: ASPHN Highlights Fellow Members of Breastfeeding Public Health Partners

As a member of Breastfeeding Public Health Partners (BPHP), ASPHN networks and collaborates with other national organizations to support breastfeeding.

The [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials \(ASTHO\)](#) is a member of BPHP and is building capacity in state public health agencies to support and promote breastfeeding through grants and learning communities. [Visit the ASTHO website to learn more about these programs and access related resources.](#)

Watch for more resources from these BPHP members in upcoming ASPHN newsletters.

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP),
- Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP),
- Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute (CGBI),
- Moms Rising,
- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- National Association of Professional and Peer Lactation Supporters of Color (NAPPLSC),
- National WIC Association (NWA), and
- United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC)

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Responses Requested! Policy Impact and Feasibility Surveys

As part of an NIH-funded research study on national nutrition policies, ASPHN members along with other key stakeholders, are invited to complete either the brief (<15 minutes) [Policy Feasibility Survey](#) or the [Policy Impact Survey](#).

Complete only one of the surveys, not both.

The study will help researchers understand the perceptions

of the feasibility or impact of key nutrition policies designed to improve diets and reduce diet-related illness.

Responses will be combined with policymakers' and other stakeholders' responses and published and disseminated to academic, advocacy, and policymaker audiences. Contact Provost Rogan Kersh at Wake Forest with questions at kersh@wfu.edu.

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Education Opportunity: 2020 Summer Public Health Institute

Whether you'd like to broaden your career options, gain new skills or simply explore topics in public health, the University of Minnesota Summer Public Health Institute has courses to meet your needs.

More than 30 courses are offered in the following topics: the impact of globalization, food safety and protection, emerging infectious diseases, culturally responsive public health practices, health leadership and management, preparedness, woman and child health, and research methods.

Participants can design an educational experience that can be applied toward a degree program or professional continuing education. Most courses span one week and provide participants with skills that can be used right away. Space is limited. [Register today!](#)

Contact Meghan Taylor with questions at 612-626-8434 or tayl0427@umn.edu.

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Internship Highlight: Collaborations Advance Active, Healthy Living in Communities

Three ASPHN Interns worked on state-level and community projects to address barriers to active and healthy living in rural and minority communities. Being active and engaging in a healthy lifestyle could lessen the impact of many chronic health conditions. However, access to environments that promote healthy lifestyles and behaviors can be challenging for many minority communities.

Through the Georgia Department of Public Health, ASPHN Intern, Maher Ahmed, analyzed opportunities to sustain the Eat.Move.Talk! Program implemented in three counties in Georgia. The Eat.Move.Talk! program uses a toolkit to promote healthy behaviors in children. According to Maher, when early childhood educators/coaches model healthy behavior with eating, nutrition, and physical activity, and teach families to adopt these healthy behaviors at home, we can start to eliminate health disparities.



Collaborations between schools and health agencies are proven approaches to address community health. When buy-in from the community is overlooked, well-intentioned community-based health promotion programs may fail. ASPHN Intern, Marcelle Thomas-



Richardson reported there must be trust between the health partners and the community. During her placement within the Center for Minority Health Services at the Illinois Department of Public Health, Marcelle worked on building collaboration and community engagement with

minority and rural communities in the state. "Disadvantaged communities have assets too. Building upon these assets, trust, and addressing socioeconomic concerns must be considered for community-based programs to work," said Marcelle.

According to ASPHN Intern, Sonam Deki, cultural must be considered when implementing community-level health promotion programs. "The internship increased my overall knowledge about the role of social determinants of health in improving community health," said Sonam. Working through partners requires working across cultures. Sonam's internship project is primarily involved in collaborating with regional public health advocacy organizations, including Paso del Norte, the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and New Mexico Public Health Association.



These ASPHN interns have positioned themselves to be future leaders in public health. Upon graduating from Georgia State University, Maher plans to use skills acquired through the internship program to obtain an MPH with a health informatics focus. Recently, Sonam completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Texas El Paso. Additionally, she plans to obtain an MPH degree focusing on health education. Next month, Marcelle will earn her MPH from Andrews University in Michigan. She hopes to obtain a Doctor of Public Health and work with disadvantaged communities in the Midwest.

For more information about the health equity internship program, email internship@asphn.org.

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ASPHN Welcomes New Members!

ASPHN gained strength and perspective as it welcomed 24 new members in March.

Thank you for joining us!



Expanded Members:

Keneisha Barnett-Greer at the G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center in MS

Cindy Cohen, RDN in the NV WIC Program

Tracey Johnson in the GA Dept of Public Health

Emily Mattern, MA, RDN in the MI Dept of Education

Sarah Metcalf, MPH, NDTR, CLC in the NV Division of Public Health

Kelly Teeple, MS, RD, LD in the MO Dept of Health

Nila Williamson, MPH, RD, IBCLC in the WA State Dept of Health

Alan Brown, MS, RDN
Cristina Guterman
Brittany Howard, MS, RDN, CSP, CLC
Cayla Waxman, RDN, IBCLC
Tasha Williams, MS, RD
Devon Wilson-Torres, RDN
Lisa Winghart, MPA, RDN
Ivan Zacarias, RDN, IBCLC
-all in the AZ Dept of Health Services

Associate Members:

Tricia Alexander, student, University of MN

Natalie Nation, student, University of MN

Kyle Thompson, DCN, RDN, LDN, CNBC at Appalachian State University

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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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