

May 2020

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About ASPHN

**Fun New Format for A
SPHN's 2020 Annual Meeting, Register
Today!**

An interactive, fun, and educational virtual experience is in the works for ASPHN's Annual Meeting, June 15-18! [Register at no cost now through May 22.](#)



Our robust agenda opens with a leadership workshop led by [Sarah Davis, MNM](#) with the Rocky Mountain Training Center, Center for Public Health Practice, Colorado School of Public Health. Adobe Connect supported sessions will begin daily at 11:00 AM EST with half hour breaks that make it easy to stretch, grab a snack, or check-in with the office. [See the full agenda on the Annual Meeting webpage.](#)

Get continuing education credits for attending live sessions! Session highlights include Harvard's Department of Nutrition Chair, [Walter Willett, MD, DrPH](#); an FDA Update on the New Food Labels from [Maya E. Moroto, EdD, MPH, RD](#); and updates from MCHB, USDA, and CDC-DNPAO.

If you've already registered, watch for an email containing:

- a technology checklist to ensure your set-up is ready for the event,
- a brief survey that will allow us to customize your virtual attendance, email you personal log-in credentials, and make you eligible for drawings and prizes
- directions to update or locate your head shot, as we'll be using it to enhance our networking sessions!

Questions? Be sure to contact Cyndi Atterbury at cyndi@asphn.org.

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**One-Stop: ASPHN's Library of Reliable
COVID-19 Information**

Make just one stop for reliable COVID-19 guidance in public health nutrition. Go to [ASPHN's COVID-19 Library of Reliable Information.](#)



ASPHN has created this landing page with categorized links to help you quickly find relevant resources to support your initiatives during crisis. Categories include:

- General Information (CDC),
- Federal Public Health Nutrition Funders,
- Food Security,
- Breastfeeding & Infant Nutrition,
- K-12 & ECEs,

- Food Safety,
- Vendors & Food Service, and
- Farmer's Markets & School Gardens.

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. We hope you will bookmark this page and use it often during the coming months.

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COVID-19 Time-Sensitive Funding Opportunity

Voices for Healthy Kids COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant Opportunity

<https://voicesforhealthykids.fluxx.io>

These grants are targeted at safety net issues and support systems and policy change campaigns that focus on helping those most under-resourced better gain access to health care, healthy food, and income support and stability during this critical time.

In the lower right-hand side of the webpage, click the create account now button. Be sure to use Google Chrome, not Internet Explorer. Complete the eligibility quiz.

Find more funding opportunities on the [ASPHN COVID-19 landing page](#). Its new section on COVID-19 Funding Opportunities has a mix of quick action, easy application opportunities, as well as longer term funding for recovery support.

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Fresh Resource: Tips for Working from Home Webinar Notes

Get practical strategies for enhancing your effectiveness as you work from home!



[Check out the slides and notes from the "Tips for Working at Home Webinar" created for you by the ASPHN consultant team!](#)

ASPHN is standing with you as you adapt to the challenges of work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ASPHN consultants routinely work from home and share their best practices with you in this timely webinar.

This training was originally presented to the ASPHN Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Nutrition Council for their technical assistance call in April. The link to the recorded session is available by request. Contact Sandy Perkins at sandy@asphn.org.

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Announcing ASPHN's Newly Elected Leaders

Congratulation to ASPHN's newly elected leaders. This group has committed to making healthy living the easy choice for all people by guiding ASPHN to achieve its strategic plan goals. For that, we say thank you!

President-Elect: Mary Ann Ellsworth

Treasurer: Pat Simmons

Directors at Large: Becky Adams, Jill Lange, Susie Leo

Governance Committee: Emily Cervantez, Alison Conneally, Jennifer Kozaczek

MCH Chair-Elect: Nikki Davenport
F&V Chair-Elect: Danielle Conlon
Obesity Chair-Elect: Jillian Osborn

These leaders will begin their new ASPHN board terms in August 2020. [See the current board and learn more about their work on ASPHN's about page.](#)

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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.



Policy Committee actions on behalf of ASPHN for April 2020

Comments submitted:

Submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) opposing USDA's proposed ruling that would undermine existing nutrition standards by loosening vegetable requirements and allowing for increased a la carte selections.

Signed-on in support of:

No Kid Hungry letter to the USDA encouraging the extension of COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response waivers

United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC) letter urging members of Congress to support supplemental funding for infant and young child feeding in emergencies during the COVID-19 pandemic

Center for Science in the Public's Interest (CSPI) letter addressed to Congress and the White House requesting SNAP be included in the COVID 19 stimulus package and:

- Increase the maximum benefit available to all households by 15 percent,
- Increase the minimum benefit from \$16 to \$30, and
- Delay the implementation of proposed and final rules that the Administration has issued for SNAP

CSPI's letter addressed to Congress asking Congress to support schools in the fourth COVID supplemental request:

- Require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the USDA, to coordinate meal distribution through the course of the pandemic.
- Extend the Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) through the summer and permit additional P-EBT distribution sites.
- Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for food service workers and other staff handling meal preparation and distribution to work alongside FEMA.
- Provide funding relief for school nutrition programs to cover costs incurred during the pandemic response and school closures.
- Ease the administrative burden for school food service programs as they transition back in the next school year.
- Increase Section 32 funding to the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DoD Fresh).
- Increase funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP).
- Provide additional funding for School Meal Kitchen Equipment Grants.

- Increase access to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- Increase benefits for fruit and vegetable purchases through WIC.
- Encourage the Obesity Prevention and Nutrition Education Grant Program (SNAP-Ed) to provide new flexibility needed to respond to and address the increase in eligible SNAP participants by promoting local food access, healthy eating, and food security through safe and nutritious food preparation and distribution.
- Strengthen SNAP by increasing the maximum benefit available to all households by 15 percent and increasing the minimum benefit from \$16 to \$30 through the longer-term economic downturn and delay the implementation of proposed and final rules that the Administration has issued for SNAP.

[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 Women's Health Week

May 10-16 is Women's Health Week! Watch [ASPHN's Facebook page](#) this week for inspiration, training, tips and tools from our partners in support of healthy living for women across the lifespan.



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MCH Nutrition Council Highlight: Members are Sharing this Webinar!

There were nearly 100 unique log-ons for the April 16th webinar on "Nutrition and the Developing Child: A Brief Overview" presented by Jamie Stang, PhD, MPH, RDN, University of Minnesota, School of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Community Health.

Attendees were motivated to share this webinar with their colleagues because of the comprehensive research and practical intervention opportunities presented.

Webinar content includes:

- nutrients of concern among preschool-aged children,
- impact of iron deficiency on cognition, memory and behavior in early childhood,
- potential impact of obesity prior to pregnancy on the health of offspring during early childhood, and
- improving the nutritional status of preschool-aged children through Title 5 programs and services.

To get the link to the recorded webinar and slide deck, contact Sandy Perkins at sandy@asphn.org.

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

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

Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute (CGBI) has worked on a host of breastfeeding projects since its inception in 2006 at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, CGBI.

Projects include trainings and technical support for hospitals to achieve Baby Friendly status; emergency preparedness support of breastfeeding including responses to COVID-19; and development of programs at historically black and native American universities to support candidates of color to achieve the International Board Certified Breastfeeding Consultant designation.

[Visit the CGBI website](#) to learn about more programs and resources. Watch for more resources from BPHP members in upcoming ASPHN newsletters.

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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!](#)

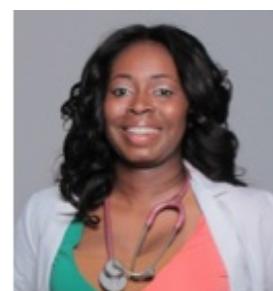
Contact Meghan Taylor with questions at 612-626-8434 or tayl0427@umn.edu.

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Internship Highlight: Cardiovascular Disease and Reproductive Health Needs of Women

Each year in the second week of May, National Women's Health Week is observed. During the Spring 2020 internship session, four interns completed projects focusing on various health disparities in women's health across the lifespan.

ASPHN Intern Sheena Burley, was placed at the Florida Department of Health. During her internship, Sheena analyzed the Florida Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) data to assess and review a timeline of the pregnancy-related deaths (PRD) during the postpartum period from 2008-2017. Sheena's data analyses revealed significant risk



Sheena Burley

factors associated with PRDs that included race/ethnicity (Non-Hispanic Blacks), age 35 years or greater, less than college education, and no prenatal care during the first trimester or at all during pregnancy, cesarean deliveries and pre-pregnancy BMI ranging from obese I to III. Upon graduating with an MPH from Florida A&M University, Sheena plans to continue working as a nurse. "I would love to work in maternal & child health focusing on health disparities associated with maternal and infant mortality," said Sheena.

Additionally, ASPHN Intern, [Coralie Jean-Mary](#), project focused on women's health equity. Coralie, a Howard University junior, was placed at the National Birth Equity Collaborative, a non-governmental organization dedicated to eliminating racial disparities in birth outcomes as well as bridging communities, government and health systems to focus on social determinants of health and their impact on birth outcomes. Throughout the internship, Coralie was tasked to research and track the progress of birth equity related policies that could impact birth outcomes in ethnic and racial minority college-aged women. Plus, Coralie advocated for implicit bias training for health care professionals as a strategy to close the gap in infant and maternal mortality among ethnic and racial populations. "In the short-term, I plan to become a certified doula so that I can contribute to diversifying the perinatal health care workforce," reported Coralie. Eventually, Coralie will pursue admittance to a combined MD/MPH program. Upon graduation, Coralie plans to work in public health and advocate for birth equity for minority women.



Coralie Jean-Mary

The Black Women's Health Imperative served as the placement site for ASPHN Intern and Howard University junior, [Ehab Elhag](#). Through his internship project, Ehab evaluated data and policies that impact cardiovascular health in black women. "According to the American Heart Association, 49% of African American women over age 20 have been diagnosed with cardiovascular disease (CVD)," said Ehab. Approximately 50,000 African American women die every year from CVD. Cardiovascular disease is a critical national health concern for black women in the US. Womens Health Week and American Stroke Awareness month, also observed in May, are excellent venues to heighten awareness of CVD impact on women of color. Ehab plans to become a physician who will address these and other health disparities in African American women.



Ehab Elhag

ASPHN Intern, [Clevette Woodberry](#), reported many factors increase African American women and men CVD risks. Clevette, a Jackson State University MPH student, analyzed Jackson Heart Study data focusing on chronic disease and medication use. According to her findings, there are many reasons African Americans with CVD stop taking their medications. These reasons include "...lack of understanding the health benefits, experiencing side effects, access to medication during economic hardships and the potential to develop other problems if medications are not taken as prescribed were findings from my data analyses," said Woodberry.



Clevette Woodberry

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

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ASPHN Welcomes New Members!

ASPHN gained 6 new members in April. Each member, from student to seasoned professional, contributes to the depth and breadth of experience that ASPHN can draw from. It is our collective experience that allows us to make products, services and advocacy plans that make healthy living the easy choice for all people. Thank you for joining us!

Expanded Members:



Angel Cunningham, MS, RD,
LD in the WV Dept of Health

Jodi Giancola, MS in the WV Dept of Health

Brittany Martens, BS in the CO Dept of Public Health

Associate Members:

Elizabeth Brandley, student, American University

Taryn Smith, student, Tulane University

Jesell Souhrada, student, Western Illinois University

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About ASPHN



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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