



Coast to Coast

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 23

FALL 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello GLC-SOPHE Members!!

My name is Heather Alberda and I am very excited to be your new president for the 2007-08 year. I have been a member of GLC-SPOHE for about 6 years. This is my first active role in the chapter and I am looking forward to an exciting year.

I am employed at the Ottawa County Health Department in Holland, MI. I have been a health educator for 7 years with my focus being Teen Pregnancy and Reproductive Health. I truly enjoy my work and the people I work with. Some of my responsibilities include: chairing the Ottawa County Teen Pregnancy Resource Coalition in which we hold an annual Pregnant and Parenting Teen Conference, chairing the Challenge of Children Conference (a free parenting conference for Allegan, Ottawa and Muskegon counties with around 1000 participants annually), teach contraception and STI's in area middle/high schools and other community groups, sit on area PA226 committees, and have recently taken on a new endeavor with reaching youth through technology. And I do it all in 20 hours a week!!

GLC-SOPHE has had a great year!! With our annual spring conference in April, receiving one of four Health Disparities Grants, holding a town hall style meeting regarding rural health disparities, and participating in Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference in October.

My goals for this upcoming year include:

- Membership, Membership, Membership!! We have one of the most active chapters in SOPHE I would also like to have the chapter with the most members!
- Keeping our website up to date and user friendly for all health educators in the Great Lakes area. Members, please forward any information that you would like to highlight and share with others in GLC-SOPHE.
- Continue to advocate for health educators in Michigan.
- Promote the importance of GLC-SOPHE to area schools of public health.

For over 38 years now GLC-SOPHE has been on the front lines, helping health educators improve the standards of wellness and health in the Great Lakes area. Please join us and be a proud member of one of the most active SOPHE chapters in the nation!! Together, we will continue to strive to make GLC-SOPHE the premier public health organization in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Heather Alberda
Health Educator
GLC-SOPHE President 07-08

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2007-2008 EXEC.

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NATIONAL DELEGATE

Irene O'Boyle, PhD, CHES

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Mark Minelli, PhD, CHES

Jennifer Crawford, BS, CHES

STUDENT MEMBER

Amy Cooper

Contact information can be found at :
www.glcsphe.org

NEWS

2007-2008 Executive Board



The new e-board is hard at work setting direction for GLC-SOPHE. Meetings are held monthly in Okemos and via telephone. Thanks to all that nominated and voted for the new leadership. There is a lot of energy with our leaders and the next year will bring new opportunities to GLC-SOPHE members. The next two editions of *Coast-to-Coast* will feature members of e-board. The new officers are listed on the front page of the newsletter. There is still one opening for Treasurer! Contact [Heather Alberda](#) if you are interested in joining the e-board. More information can be found at the website at: www.glcsope.org.



The rural counties of central and northern Michigan comprise some of the most impoverished areas in the state. Women are particularly vulnerable in these areas. The purpose of our town hall meeting was to address the issue of health disparities in rural women in Michigan and provide additional support to eliminate racial and ethnic incongruities. The town hall meeting was held on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 in the Health Professions Building at Central Michigan University. The event was co-sponsored by GLC SOPHE, CMU, Central Michigan District Health Department, Eta Sigma Gamma chapter of CMU, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

There were three different sites linked via video conferencing with a total of 52 participants and 30 professional staff. The sites included the Clare-Gladwin Intermediate School District, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and CMU. Andrea Tabor from Mid-Michigan District Health Department gave the opening keynote address and this was video broadcast live across the internet. Special guest for the event included the National SOPHE President, Elizabeth Howze.

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Health Disparities con't

Evaluations indicated that 87% of participants "strongly agreed or agreed" that the keynote speaker helped them to understand the health differences among women in this area and 85% "strongly agreed or agreed" that the format for the meeting was comfortable to share information. Over 83% of participants "strongly agreed or agreed" that they could share their thoughts and feelings with others at the meeting.

The biggest surprise was the number of women who participated in this event. The women received a \$40 gas card as an incentive for attending. The participants were honest and frank with their discussions and did not appear intimidated with the technology, university personnel or the academic building. This was a great partnership and provided an opportunity for women to discuss issues openly and honestly.

Drs. Irene O'Boyle and Jodi Brookins Fisher wrote the grant, facilitated the sessions and completed the evaluation efforts on behalf of Great Lakes SOPHE. These results will be used in future community efforts for programming and strategic planning.

To view the archived web cast go to: <http://webcast.cmich.edu/webcast/Catalog/Front.aspx?cid=3559ced8-9417-4b46-8513-9bb7ee20feb7>

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SOPHE NATIONAL NEWS



Rob Simmons, DrPH, MPH, CHES, program director of the Master of Public Health program in the Jefferson College of Graduate Studies at Thomas Jefferson University has been elected president of the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE).

Dr. Simmons, clinical associate professor of Health Policy, Jefferson Medical College, was named president-elect of SOPHE last year and officially took the post during SOPHE's 58th annual meeting beginning Oct. 31, 2007. SOPHE is an independent, international professional association made up of a diverse membership of health education professionals and students. The Society promotes healthy behaviors, healthy communities, and healthy environments through its membership, its network of local chapters, and its numerous partnerships with national and regional private and public health organizations.

"Rob has made the program an ideal educational tool to prepare graduates to assume professional and leadership roles as public health practitioners in the challenging healthcare environment," said David B. Nash, M.D., M.B.A., chair and the Dr. Raymond C. and Doris N. Grandon Professor of Health Policy, Jefferson. "His extensive community health program planning, implementation and evaluation experience will aid SOPHE in developing new public health education programs."

Dr. Simmons has a broad knowledge of national public health research and data, issues, and program services and initiatives. He has been a leader in a variety of community collaborative health initiatives emphasizing chronic disease prevention and reducing disparities of racial-ethnic populations particularly in Spanish-speaking populations.

He received both a bachelor's degree in political science and a California Teaching Credential from the University of California, Santa Barbara, a master's degree in public health from the Loma Linda University School of Public Health and a doctor of public health degree from the UCLA School of Public Health.



CALL FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

SOPHE 2008 MIDYEAR SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

Harnessing the Winds of Change: Learning from Our Past to Build Our Future

Submission Deadline: November 30, 2007

We invite you to submit an abstract for a paper, concurrent session, pre-conference workshop, or poster at the SOPHE Midyear Scientific Conference to be held May 21-24, 2008 in the Windy City of Chicago, Illinois. SOPHE's Midyear Scientific Conference theme, "Harnessing the Winds of Change: Learning from Our Past to Build Our Future", builds on lessons learned in the past with innovative new approaches, technologies and skills to address age-old problems as well as emerging concerns. This Midyear Scientific Conference calls on our profession's finest and most forward-thinking minds to guide us into the future with a renewed commitment to address the problems we face, recognizing the values that define us.

MEET YOUR LEADERS

Heather Alberda, President

My name is Heather Alberda and I am the new GLC-SOPHE president. I have been a member for about 6 years and this is my first active role in the chapter. I work 20 hours a week at the Ottawa County Health Department in Holland, MI. My focus is teen pregnancy and reproductive health. I am the chairperson for the Ottawa County Teen Pregnancy Resource and the Challenge of Children Coalitions. I sit on area PA226 committees, teach contraception and sti's in area middle/high schools and in other community settings, and I am working with UofM students in the development of a MYSPACE page for the county. I have been married for 7 years in January and have 3 great children Tyler (13) Elliot (5) and Olivia (3). I enjoy scrapbooking, baking, cooking, and taking family vacations on Lake Michigan. We have become recent active members in the LPA (Little People of America) upon the diagnosis of psuedoacron-droplasia for our daughter. We live on a small hobby farm in Holland with homegrown vegetables and animals.



Carrie Chanter, Immediate Past President

Carrie Chanter is a Health Educator for the Genesee County Health Department. In this role, she works in the areas of Communicable Disease, Immunizations, Emergency Preparedness, Quality Assurance and other pertinent public health areas. Currently she is involved in several Emergency Preparedness efforts region wide.

Carrie also assists the Genesee County Health Department's emergency preparedness coordinator in planning communications and outreach efforts. Carrie received her Masters of Arts in Health Promotion Program Planning from Central Michigan University, and is a Certified Health Education Specialist. She served as President of the Great Lakes Chapter of the Society for Public Health Education in 2006-2007. Carrie has been married to Brad for 3 years and they have a yellow lab named Austin.

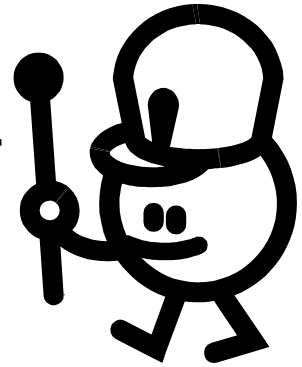


Go to www.glcsope.org for more information

MEET YOUR LEADERS

Angela Beck, President Elect

Angela Beck, MPH, CHES is President-Elect of GLC-SOPHE. She works as Program Manager for the Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness, the Preventive Medicine Residency Program, and the Public Health Consortium for Continuing Medical Education in the Office of Public Health Practice at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Ms. Beck is a former Association of Schools of Public Health/Health Resources and Services Administration Fellow who worked on the national Public Health Training Center Program. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University and a Master of Public Health degree in health behavior and health education from the University of Michigan.



Her current professional memberships include the American Public Health Association and the Society for Public Health Education. Ms. Beck serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Public Health Association and the state-wide planning committee for Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference, as well as the Workforce Development Committee convened by the Michigan Department of Community Health.

**If you know of advocacy issues you'd like GLC members to get involved with, please contact our Advocacy Chair,
Lynda Meade**

lmeade2@gmail.com

Irene O'Boyle, National Delegate

Dr. Irene O'Boyle is an Associate Professor in the School of Health Sciences in the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions, Central Michigan University. Prior to her faculty appointment at the University she served as the Director of Community Health and Education at the Mid-Michigan District Health Department.



She is currently serving as the GLC SOPHE National Delegate. Irene has been a Public Health Education Leadership Institute Scholar and faculty mentor. Scholars were chosen on their basis of critical thinking, identifying and articulating the future, community efforts and practical application of health education efforts in the community. She also serves as the Chairperson for the Gratiot County Community Mental Health Board.

National Delegate Report

Fall, 2007- Washington DC

Irene O'Boyle, PhD, CHES

The Annual SOPHE meeting was held in Washington, D.C. on October 30 through November 4, 2007. During this meeting several chapters were recertified and several others reorganized. This has helped several chapters maintain membership and offer several options for the future. During this meeting I was elected to serve as the Group 4 Delegate to the Board of Trustees. This means that I will be attending the House of Delegates meeting along with the Board of Trustees meetings. At this conference Dr. Jodi Brookins-Fisher and I made a presentation about the Great Lakes Chapter Health Disparities Town Hall meeting. During this meeting Eta Sigma Gamma celebrated its 40th Anniversary. This was the first time that SOPHE and Eta have partnered with a conference. The national office will be moving locations in Washington D.C. in the next few months. A new edition of the "Tools of Trade, volume II" is due out sometime in early January. The Mid-Year Scientific meeting will be held in Chicago, May 21-24, 2007. The call for abstracts is available on the national SOPHE website.

MEET YOUR LEADERS

Alison D. Nix, Secretary

Alison D. Nix is a Project Liaison for the Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH); the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports; and the Michigan Department of Community Health, serving as a conduit for physical activity and health promotion efforts throughout the state. In addition to her work as a liaison, Alison has a leadership role in Michigan's public health marketing project; she manages a marketing campaign, *Public Health – For Michigan, For You*, and a supporting online toolkit used to promote local public health services throughout the state. Prior to her work at MALPH, Alison worked as an Events Coordinator for a running specialty store in Ann Arbor and as a Planning Assistant for Washtenaw County's Department of Planning and Environment. Alison earned her bachelor's degree in Community Health Education from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo and her Master of Public Health and Master of Urban Planning at the University of Michigan. Alison lives in Ann Arbor with her husband, spending her free time being physically active and with family and friends.



YOUR NAME HERE, Treasurer

GLC-SOPHE is looking for a volunteer for the Treasurer position. This is a great opportunity to get involved and to help out your local chapter. The job responsibilities include:

Completes all financial bookkeeping for GLC, maintains all financial records, prepares IRS forms, and submits current and fiscal year financial statements to the executive board at each board meeting and to the membership at mid-year and annual conference.



MEET YOUR LEADERS

Jen Crawford, Member at Large

My name is Jen Crawford, and I am excited to be taking on a new position, serving as a Member-at-Large for the next two years. I am eager to promote our wonderful organization to new and existing members! I have been a member of GLC-SOPHE for about nine years, serving on the executive board for the past six in a variety of positions. I began exploring some of the leadership roles by first chairing a committee, and it was then that I realized just how much fun everyone was! I feel very fortunate to have found some wonderful colleagues and friends as a result of my involvement with GLC! Aside from GLC-SOPHE, I have been working for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe in Mt. Pleasant as the Prevention Coordinator for the Behavioral Health Program for over five years. In my position I supervise the prevention team, whose primary focus is on substance abuse prevention within the tribal community. I am currently enrolled at Central Michigan University (FIRE UP CHIPS!) completing my masters degree in administration (MSA), and am planning to graduate in May! On a personal note I consider myself to be more than blessed to be part of such a wonderful family. I have been married to my hubby, Kris, for a little over seven years, and we are the extremely proud parents of our 5 year old son, Trevor! Life is good!



Mark Minelli, Member at Large

Mark is a CMU professor and acting chair of the school of Health Sciences. He is an authority in the areas of addiction, personal growth, and drugs and the athlete. He has completed extensive research and field work concerning alcohol and other drug prevention program and performance enhancing drugs. He is the author of five books, more than 30 professional journal and magazine articles and has presented at many national, state and regional conferences. Under his direction, Central Michigan University was named a premier national university substance abuse prevention program. His book, "Drug Abuse in Sports: A Student Course Manual," covers the materials used and dangers to help people make informed decisions



GLC-SOPHE ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

Your voice does count! You have heard it said many times. In Michigan we “survived” the possible state government shut down but the crisis is far from over. The current budget is just another short term fix. Without a change to the tax structure Michigan will be in an even more difficult position next year. In the last budget debate several representatives stepped out of the partisan politics and made tough decisions to vote for Michigan’s future by investing rather than cutting. Now many of them are facing recalls. They need to hear that they have support!

Another near success is the smoke free air legislation. Though many counties (with the help of our members) have adopted smoke free policies, the law is not statewide. Michigan is closer than ever to a law to restrict smoking statewide. *Imagine smoke free workplaces and restaurants throughout the entire state!*

Get involved! Many representatives rely on their constituents to give them their thoughts on many issues. There are links on the front page of the [glc-sophe website](#) to help you contact your representatives on a state and local level. Quick emails are easy to do and believe it or not get a response and attention from the offices. I find it very rewarding to spend a short time on the weekends sending emails to let my representatives know how I feel about legislation or how they are representing me and my family. Take the first step with a note of thank you for the hard work for someone that has done a nice job representing you in Lansing or Washington DC!

Please share updates and comments with [Lynda Meade](#), Advocacy Committee Chair

(Views expressed are solely the opinion of Lynda Meade and do not reflect a position of glc-sophe)



Campaign for Smokefree Air Newsletter Legislative Update

On Thurs. Nov. 8, the debate on HB 4163 began in the Michigan House. As expected, several attempts were made to weaken the bill. Amendments were offered to exempt certain places such as bars and private clubs from becoming smokefree. Thanks to our advocates’ communications to lawmakers encouraging them to uphold the integrity of the bill, those amendments were defeated!

Further voting on the bill was postponed until the House reconvenes. Your continued advocacy is needed now more than ever - keep up the great work in encouraging lawmakers to make [MI Air Smokefree!](#)

WORLD AIDS DAY DECEMBER 1ST

The theme for World AIDS Day 2007 and 2008 is “leadership”. This theme will continue to be promoted with the campaign slogan, Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise.”

For more information: [World AIDS Campaign](#)



GLC-SOPHE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Advocacy Committee: [Lynda Meade](#)

Awards Review: [Stephanie Vandekooi](#)

CHES/CECH Review: [Sharon Schmidt](#)

Continuing Education: [Sara Wade](#) & [Jena Williams](#)

Historian: [Susan Dusseau](#)

Job Bank: [Lynda Meade](#)

Membership Committee: [Mark Minelli](#) & [Jennifer Crawford](#)

Membership Database Manager: [Kristin Roux](#)

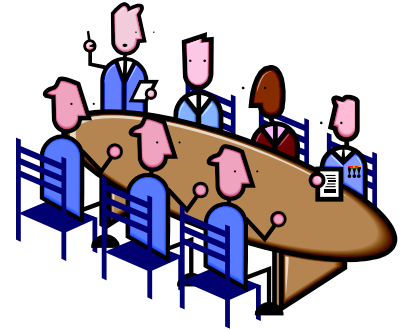
Newsletter: [Jill Dehlin](#)

Nominations: [Carrie Chanter](#)

Policy and Planning : [Angela Beck](#)

Professional Competence and Preparation: [Carrie Chanter](#) & [Irene O'Boyle](#)

Webmaster: [Lynda Meade](#)



Feel free to contact any chair if you have an interest in helping or have something you want shared with the membership!



Check out the **GLC-SOPHE** web site for the latest news, helpful links, job postings and more www.glcsope.org

