

**MPHA Epi Section**  
**Section Meeting Minutes**  
**July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**2:00-3:00**

Present: Joyce, Brian, Carla, Roger, Diana, Scott, Donna, Erol, Jennifer, Kyle, Harolyn

- I. Section Membership
  - a. Introduction of new members/positions
  - b. Positions needed to fill after this year
    - i. We will need two counselors
  - c. Program Chair
    - i. Joyce put this on to see if there was any interest in re-establishing this position.
    - ii. Carla thinks that we are doing fine with out it.
    - iii. Joyce said cool we can retire this position.
  - d. Roger volunteered to be the Membership Chair.
  
- II. 2009 Conference

**Summary**

The evaluations suggest that the conference went well overall, however there were some hiccups.

- a. The panel discussion has been a problem for a few years now
  - i. Carla suggested that the panel just isn't necessary. It's evolved into a soapbox. The best option is to have a Q&A between the keynote and the speaker.
  - ii. Kyle agrees with Carla.
  - iii. Roger likes the panel, but believes it needs modification.
  - iv. Brian agrees
  - v. Joyce says that we will plan not to have panelists this year and see how it goes.
- b. Donna mentioned that MNA is not currently able to provide CEUs. Hopefully by the time we submit the package they will have crossed their bridges and be able to. Some of the other folks are going through other states like Ohio.
- c. The breakout sessions scored kind of lower. In the past we have approved abstracts because we got them.
  - i. We may want to consider adjusting our criteria for accepting abstracts

- ii. Roger suggested that we might provide a service to students to give the talk early for comment
- iii. Another suggestion was to include a list of helpful hints on giving a speech with the packet we send to speakers.
- iv. Offer students the option of going over their speech with one of the counselors. There are people willing to do it. If the students don't take advantage than they don't take advantage.
- v. Erol and Jennifer thing offering the service is a good idea as well as the list of helpful hits.
- d. A lot of people like Dr. Zikmund-Fisher. We should consider having him come back and discuss more on speaking and other health communication stuff.
- e. Several of the comments mentioned that we should include more "HBHE" type topics, in other words the how to's of health education.
- f. We need to consider how many posters we accept because a lot of people commented on overcrowding in the poster area.
- g. No shows is also a problem. We had 209 people register and only ~165 people came.
- h. There was a question about why the conference is free.
  - i. Joyce explained that it was free from the beginning because it was paired with the EIS conference.
  - ii. Last year it seems like we were one of the last ones to be free and it seems that maybe we will have to charge this year.
- i. We need to do something to get people to stay there during the last talks.
  - i. People need to have their posters up until the end of the conference. We should include this in the abstract submission and the notes for poster presenters.
  - ii. Roger suggests putting the most popular talks at the end of the conference to get people to stay, however you are still going to lose people because of travel.
  - iii. Donna says that we need to not give out CEUs until the END of the conference. We need to remind the nurses a couple of times throughout the day.

### III. Final Budget

- a. We got billed from Towsley and that was for \$4545.76. UM paid our food bill for \$2500. Mary Scoblic is cutting a check to Towlsey.

- b. Joyce mentioned that we gave Pam Masur a gift for her past years of service.
- c. After these expenses we have roughly \$5409 left over from last year.
- d. MDCH is going to give us \$1000 this year. So that's nice.

IV. Student Orientation/Panels

- a. Jennifer says that UM has already started extensively planning the orientation, but she will talk with the planners to see if there is a place for our committee.
- b. Erol will contact Dr. Anthony to see if there is room for us there.
- c. Both of them will get back to us by the next meeting.
- d. MSU has an undergrad class in epi so Brian has recommended that we contact them to work with that class, kind of give them an idea of heels to the ground epi.

V. 2010 Conference

a. Next Year's Location

- i. Looks like somewhere in the Lansing area is the logical option. The union was a nice location, but we don't know if MSU is willing to foot the bill again. We need to check with LCC if MSU isn't going to fund us to the level they did in the past.
- ii. Kyle is going to contact Dr. James Anthony (Jim) to see what their level of interest is.

b. Topics of Interest for Keynote and Morning Speakers

- i. Should we have another survey or should we go off the results of last year's survey.
- ii. It doesn't look like we need to do another, at least for the CMEs.
- iii. Obesity was a big hit in the survey. We need to find a speaker to work with that. Joyce knows of Dr. Sowers, but it's not likely that she would travel
- iv. Globalization
- v. Epi use of databases
- vi. At MSU they do the National Children's Study and Birth Defects. Dr. Nigel Paneth introduced it a couple of years ago and it's likely that he would like to come and give an update.
- vii. Swine Flu was mentioned... how about rather than Swine Flu we do something on zoonotics.

viii. The SHARP Unit might be a good morning talk. Roger can talk to Jennie Finks about it.

c. Assignment of Preparation Duties

- i. Roger pursue Jennie as Speaker
- ii. Joyce going to talk to Melinda about zoonotics and someone close to Mary Fran Sowers RE: obesity
- iii. Kyle going to talk to MSU RE: their speakers

VI. Conference Preparation Duties (are there others?)

- a. Logistics → Current Chair (Joyce)
- b. Budget → Treasurer (Fatema)
- c. Sponsors → Fatema
- d. Save-the-Date and Agenda → Carla, Brian, Joyce
- e. Abstracts → Diana
- f. CEU/CME → Scott will work on CEUs but he's not willing to work on CMEs because he thinks it's a waste of time. Joyce agrees. No one feels strongly about it so we won't pursue them.
- g. Registration → This will take some time to figure out. Betsy has always done this.

VII. Additional Items from the Group

- a. The conference line will change it will go to \$.05/person/minute so we really need to keep it on schedule from now on.
- b. Scott has been dealing with the website. MPHA has gone with a new web designer so the style has changed.
- c. This is Carla's last meeting before she leaves on Maternity.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Next Meeting
  - i. Generally is every second Tuesday around 2 or 3.
  - ii. Our next meeting will be August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 2:00.