

Friday Letter

ASPH
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOLS OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

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This Friday Letter, #1143, covers the events of interest to ASPH members for the week ending March 16, 2001.

PRESIDENT ISSUES A BLUEPRINT FOR FY02 BUDGET

Last week, President Bush sent Congress a rough outline of his FY02 requests for funds to support, increase, level-fund, and terminate many federal domestic assistance programs. Details of his \$1.9 trillion budget will be available around the first of April. We know that based on predictions of huge budget surpluses (\$281 billion in FY01, up 19 percent from FY00), he will propose a \$1.6 billion tax cut over the next ten years. He will also propose some increases in programs of concern to ASPH (e.g. \$1.2 million increase for international affairs; \$124 million increase for community health centers; \$2.8 billion increase for NIH), level fund others (many in CDC), and a reduction in some (BHP, especially public health train-

ing and education—see Friday Letter 1141).

According to the President's budget blueprint, BHP programs must be reduced because HRSA has spent over \$10 billion in the last 40 years to train health professionals, in general, and to "assure appropriate" number of medical core specialists, in particular. Therefore, the U.S. is faced with an over supply of physicians, according to the President, thus other health professions are in oversupply as well. We know that this not to be the case when it applies to the public health workforce. Ron St. Pierre (OSU) testified before Congress on March 13, on behalf of ASPH, to get the record straight.

As a side note, it can be said that the \$10 billion spent by the feds on health professions education was caused by a group of school of public health deans back in the mid-50s. The 11 member deans of ASPH were successful in "lobbying" congress to pass the Hill-Rhodes Act (1957) which provided funds to the schools of public health to train generations of public health professionals, researchers, and educators. This program was the first federal assistance initiative to fund higher education, since the enactment of the Morrill Act in 1865, which created this country's land-grant college system. Hill-Rhodes was truly a "landmark" piece of legislation.

We can expect reductions or at least level funding recommendations in many PHS programs, if Congress accepts the President's request. Why? Because if the Congress goes along with the President's goal of increasing the total federal budget by 4 percent in FY02 and then approves his promise to increase defense spending by 5 percent, education spending by 11 percent, and NIH spending by 14 percent, then some PHS programs are going to loose. We thought you all would like to know this.

ASPH certainly applauds the NIH increase, but it's far from the goal towards doubling the NIH budget by FY03. We're supporting the ad hoc medical group's target of bringing the total NIH budget to \$27.3 billion by FY03. The group (of which ASPH is a member) is recommending that Congress increase the NIH FY02 budget by \$3.4 billion (or 16.5 percent) to keep on the "doubling" path for 2003.

As far as the other parts of the Bush budget is concerned, the Coalition for Health Funding, the oldest

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national alliance of over 40 top health groups in town, expressed disappointment in the President's first budget request to Capitol Hill:

The Coalition for Health Funding appreciates and supports the President's recommendations to provide significant increases in FY 2002 for the National Institutes of Health, and for Community Health Centers. But these two very important entities within the U.S. Public Health Service cannot possibly meet the entire scope of health care need and health care challenges the U.S. now faces in the 21st century. This can only be done through strong support for the entire continuum of biomedical, behavioral, and health services research; disease prevention and health promotion; targeted health care delivery for the medically under-served; and education of a health and public health workforce in adequate numbers to address the breadth of need. It is only when the whole continuum of public health activity is strong that the nation will reap its investment: improved health outcomes.

There is a positive note as it relates to preventive medicine. HHS Secretary, Thompson, who testified before LHHHS appropriations subcommittee last week, said that he is proposing to "lead a nationwide campaign focusing on preventive medicine." We have no details to date. We'll keep you posted.

We've been following and analyzing presidential budgets for almost two decades and not since the first or second Carter spending proposals were drafted have they been taken seriously on Capitol Hill. Most of the Reagan and all of the Bush (I) budget plans were declared DOA as soon as they were sent to Congress. Not so with the one President Bush sent to the Capitol. Except for the tax cut proposal, there is definitely a bipartisan theme here; President Bush's speech on February 27 was full of pleas for Congress to adopt bipartisan approaches to help address the nation's problems, especially when it comes to balancing the federal budget.

Please remember that the President's blueprint, and the detailed budget package that will be sent to Congress soon, are just recommendations, political documents, if you will; they must be tested by the congressional appropriations process: public hearings, debate, committee markups, floor debates, etc. VSA is planning Hill visits for many of you over the next four weeks to make sure that our representatives "hear our side of the story."

ASPH/CDC PARTNERING MEETING

In next week's Friday Letter, Rita Kelliher and Kelly Crouch will fill you in on this year's ASPH/CDC regular/annual meeting between faculty and CDC pro-

gram officials interested in using the ASPH cooperative agreement (CA) with CDC as a vehicle to advance the agency's mission through projects conducted at our schools. From all accounts, the three-day meeting in Atlanta last week was highly productive. Evaluation forms for the Partnering Meeting are now available online at www.partneringmeeting.org/evaluation/index.htm, please fill one out if you have not already done so.

DEAN BEASELY GETS AWARD

We've just learned that Palmer Beasley was honored on March 15 by the government of Taiwan for his seminal work on Hepatitis B. The minister of health will confer on Palmer the "Health Medal of the First Order." Congratulations are in order.

LACEY AWARD IN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

The Loretta P. Lacey Academic Leadership Award is presented each year to a leader in academic maternal and child health. The award is sponsored by the Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health (ATMCH). This year's award goes to Dr. Donna Petersen at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health.

Dr. Petersen is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Alabama - School of Public Health and Associate Professor in the Department of Maternal and Child Health. Before coming to UAB, Dr. Petersen served as Director of the Division of Family Health at the Minnesota Department of Health and held an adjunct assistant professor position in Maternal and Child Health at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She received both her masters and doctoral degrees in Maternal and Child Health from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. As a Research Scientist in Maternal and Child Health at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Petersen directed several grant programs designed to provide technical assistance and consultation to state MCH and related programs in the areas of data management, perinatal health, childhood injury control, juvenile delinquency and runaway youth. She has also held positions with the federal government and the state of Maryland and has served on numerous community agency boards and gubernatorial commissions and task forces.

She is a frequent lecturer on topics related to maternal and child health, health care reform, and systems change and leadership and has provided extensive technical assistance and training to state health departments in the areas of needs assess-

ment, data system development, and public health roles within evolving health care systems.

She has devoted particular attention to public health responsibilities in monitoring health status, access, utilization, and quality of health care and in the area of systems level accountability and the development of population-based indicators.

An awards ceremony will take place at the annual meeting for the Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health (ATMCH) meeting on Sunday, March 25, 2001. For more information, contact Sandra Maldague at svm@asph.org or at (202) 296-1099 ext. 123. Please visit the ATMCH website at www.atmch.org for additional information.

MCH COMPETENCIES NOW AVAILABLE

ATMCH has revised its maternal and child health competencies. The competencies were developed by the ATMCH education committee and approved by the membership and the ASPH/MCH Council. Many thanks to Noel Chavez, chair of the ATMCH education committee, and her fellow education committee colleagues for their efforts in revising the competencies. Thanks also go to Pierre Buekens, past president of ATMCH, and Arden Handler, president of ATMCH, for their support of this effort to update the competencies.

The competencies are now posted as a downloadable PDF file on the ATMCH website at <http://www.atmch.org/meeting.htm>. Please direct inquiries concerning this document to the ATMCH secretariat Sandra Maldague at 202-296-1099 ext. 123 or via e-mail at svm@asph.org.

PRESS RELEASE ON WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

A new report released today by the University of Iowa, identifies workplace violence as a significant public health problem, affecting 2 million workers each year, and calls for a major research funding initiative to better understand its causes and prevention.

"Workplace Violence: A Report to the Nation," produced by the Injury Prevention Research Center (IPRC) at the UI, was the result of a workshop held last year in Washington, D.C. The workshop, funded by CDC, brought together representatives of industry, labor, academia and government to identify areas within the problem of workplace violence that are not well understood. These areas include data collection to better understand the extent of the prob-

lem, and evaluation of the effectiveness of prevention strategies that have been developed in some industries and in some regions of the country.

Jim Merchant spearheaded the effort that produced this report. "We have been viewing the problem of workplace violence too narrowly, and in so doing, we've not been able to get on top of it. It's not just a crime issue, or a private industry issue, or a labor issue. It's a much broader public health problem."

"Unfortunately, we really do not understand very well what works, and what doesn't, to prevent workplace violence. It's time for us to make a national commitment to reduce the toll of violence on American workers, and that commitment has to begin with good, solid research."

Participants in the April 2000 workshop also produced five position papers outlining specific concerns from the perspectives of researchers, regulators, labor union activists and business administrators. These papers, which address in greater detail the issues raised in the "Report to the Nation," appear in the February 2001 issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

Funding for the workshop was provided by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC). Both of these centers are part of the CDC.

Copies of "Workplace Violence: A Report to the Nation," are available from the UI Injury Prevention Research Center at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/iprc or by calling (319) 335-4415. A PDF version of the report can also be downloaded from the ASPH web site at: <http://www.asph.org/uploads/violence.pdf>.

CONGRESS OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATORS

You and your faculty are invited to attend the Eight Congress of Health Professions Educators on June 4-5 in Washington, DC; sponsored by the Association of Academic Health Centers (AHC) and HRSA. A brainchild of Roger Bulger, AHC president and leading advocate and promoter of interdisciplinary education and research at our country's top academic health centers, the congress is a unique national event that brings together educators and administrators from across the professions to not only address crucial questions confronting the health professions, but also to examine, address, and take action on issues of mutual concern.

This year's theme is *Solving the Workforce Crisis: Lessons from Clinical Practice and the Corporate World*. The focus is on strategies, programs, and initiatives that are addressing workforce shortages and resolving an array of complex workforce problems.

Noted experts will address the declining interest in health careers along with issues of professional relationships, diversity, recruitment, retention, aging faculty, applicant pools, leadership, quality, public perceptions, accountability, and the congressional agenda—all of which impact health professions schools and academic health centers nationwide.

We urge you to visit our home page www.asph.org and check out details regarding the conference. There you will find the agenda and registration forms. For questions, contact Elaine Rubin [202-265-9600].

PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK, APRIL 2-8, 2001

"Healthy People in Healthy Communities" is the 2001 theme for National Public Health Week, which will be celebrated April 2-8, 2001. This national celebration provides us with an opportunity to recognize the contributions of public health to the nation's well-being, as well as help focus public attention on major health issues in our communities. It is also an opportunity for schools to reach out to their communities.

Thanks to public health professionals, National Public Health Week is now celebrated in communities in 46 states and by 60 percent of local health departments.

For a copy of the planner's guide to national public health week, visit the APHA website at <http://www.apha.org/news/press/nphw.htm>. Let us know how your school participated in National Public Health Week!

UPCOMING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MEETINGS

The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) is hosting its annual conference from March 24 - 28, 2001, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. For information regarding registration and a conference program, visit the AMCHP website at <http://www.amchp.org/wnew/meeting.htm>.

The ATMCH spring meeting will take place on Sunday, March 25, 2001, from 1:00 - 5:00 PM in conjunction with the AMCHP conference. For more information on membership and the ATMCH meeting, please contact Sandra Maldague at 202-296-1099 ext. 123 or at svm@asph.org, or visit the ATMCH

web site at www.atmch.org.

25 ASPH/CDC FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The ASPH Center for Graduate Practice is pleased to announce an additional 25 fellowship opportunities for graduate degree candidates and alumni (within 5 years of graduation) from ASPH schools of public health. All fellowship opportunities are at CDC. ASPH/CDC fellowships provide a unique training experience! Complete program information, eligibility requirements, fellowship descriptions, and application materials/instruction may be accessed via the ASPH web page: www.asph.org.

Program information was recently mailed to each school (dean's office, department chairs, and student affairs/career/alumni offices). Included in the information is an announcement poster that we hope you will display in a place of prominence for students to view. We hope that you will also make this information available to your alumni.

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 27

The deadline for round (II) of the fellowship applications is Friday, April 27, 2001. Fellowship positions hold a term of one to two years and begin September of 2001. The locations for these positions will be either at the CDC in Atlanta or at CDC geographical locations throughout the United States. Specific locations are identified in the fellowship description. Applications and fellowship descriptions are currently available on our web site at www.asph.org or in the Dean's/Director's Office, Student Affairs/Alumni Office, or Department Chair's offices at your school. For further information, you may also contact the ASPH Center for Graduate Practice at (770) 455-6898.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Gemmell, CAE
Executive Director

Job Announcements

Please see www.asph.org/jobs.htm for current job announcements.

Project Coordinator (Full-Time)

ASPH, Distance Learning
March 23, 2001

http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/5806

Chief, Division of Family and Community Health Services

State of Ohio Department of Health
March 30, 2001

http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/5805

Assistant Professor of Public Health, Tenure-Track

Columbus State University
March 30, 2001

http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/5803

Staff Research Associate

University of California, San Francisco: Substance Abuse Research Program
March 31, 2001

http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/5808

Public Administrative Analyst

University of California, San Francisco: Inst. for Health Policy Studies
March 31, 2001

http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/5807

Programmer/Analyst

University of California, San Francisco
March 31, 2001

http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/5809

Analyst

Public Health Foundation

http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/5795

Assistant Research Professor

George Washington University, School of Public Health, Institute for Mental Health Initiatives

http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/5796

Research Associate Scientist/Data Analyst

Yale School of Medicine

http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/5797

Senior Epidemiologists

The Battelle Centers for Public Health Research and Evaluation (CPHRE)

March 31, 2001

http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/4332

Submission Guidelines

To submit job announcements for distribution with the *Friday Letter*, the submission must be:

- clear and proofread
- written in third person
- sent in an electronic format
- for positions requiring an MPH or doctoral level public health degree
- sent including a closing date for the position (if no closing date is included, the position will not be posted)
- submitted to Bianca Norris ban@asph.org in electronic format by **Friday** close of business before the Friday you would like it posted (submit at least 20 working days before the closing date of the position)

ASPH reserves the right to decline posting a position for any reason.

Note: Not all *Friday Letter* recipients receive attachments; if you would like a copy of one or all of them in a particular *Friday Letter*, please contact Bianca Norris (ban@asph.org).