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Oregon Public Health Association

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Website: www.OregonPublicHealth.org

August 2011 Announcements

2011 Oregon Legislative Session Summary

The 2011 Oregon Legislature adjourned on June 30

The 2011 Legislative session was a historic session before it even began. This session was the first annual session of the Oregon Legislature, following voter approval last November. It was also the first time in Oregon's history that the House had been evenly divided with 30 Democrats and 30 Republicans, resulting in quite a balancing act for most bills being considered. Governor Kitzhaber began a historic third term as Oregon's Governor, and Senator Peter Courtney became the longest serving Senate President in Oregon history. The session also was plagued with the fiscal realities of the ongoing recession, and an estimated budget shortfall of \$3.5 billion over the next biennium.

This session will be remembered not only for its historic firsts, but for beginning the transition to a healthcare system that incentivizes primary and preventive care, seeks to improve population health, and to limit overall costs. The largest reforms to our healthcare system this session were the creation of a Health Insurance Exchange and the establishment of Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs). We still have a significant number of challenges ahead, but progress is being made.

While most of OPHA's 2011 legislative priorities did not pass this legislative session, there were a few bright spots in achieving public health improvements in Oregon, including:

- [HB 2800 Farm to School and School Garden Program](#)
- [HB 2960 Energy Efficiency and Improved Air Quality in Schools \(Cool Schools\)](#)
- [HB 2371 Vaccine Stewardship and Training - to Improve Storage and Administration of Vaccines](#)

- [HB 2325 Protections Against Elder Abuse](#)

OPHA's Newest Section: Healthy Environment

The Healthy Environment section casts a wide net for encouraging people to join. Healthy Environments include many things:

- Safe and healthy workplace
- Access to nutrient rich foods
- Clean and affordable housing
- Safe drinking water
- Clean air to breathe

The purpose of the OPHA Health Environment section is to bring together a broad array of people working toward creating and maintaining healthy environments.

A healthy environment encompasses the places we work, live, and play. In those places it encourages and sustains the health of current and future populations.

The Healthy Environment section will host monthly challenges--The August challenge is to eat locally - spend 10% of your grocery budget for one week on food grown in a 100-mile radius of your home. The challenge is posted on [OPHA's Facebook page](#), please visit us there and update us on how you are doing meeting the August challenge!

The Healthy Environment section, co-chaired by Jessica Nischik and Tom Engle, is actively seeking new members. For more information, including how to join and meeting information, visit the [OPHA Healthy Environment webpage](#) or contact [Jessica Nischik](#).

Nursing Section Fundraiser: OPHA Tote Bags

Details: Show your commitment to public health wherever you go with a handsome and sturdy reusable tote bag printed with the OPHA logo and slogan, "Working together to make health happen." The OPHA Nursing Section is offering these totes for \$6.00 each plus shipping and handling (waived if picked-up) to raise funds for its activities.

Order online here: [OPHA Tote Bag](#) or download and mail an order form by visiting the [OPHA website](#)

Join OPHA Today!

OPHA members are individuals and organizations across the state working together for a healthy Oregon. OPHA educates the public and advocates for laws, policies, and programs that protect the health and safety of our families and communities. By joining OPHA, you are strengthening the voice for preventing disease and injury and expanding access to health care.

For more information on the benefits of OPHA membership, including membership fees and an online registration application, please visit the [OPHA Membership webpage](#) or contact [Josie Henderson](#).

OPHA is now on Facebook

Connect with other people in Oregon's public health community by visiting the [OPHA web page on Facebook](#). Help OPHA expand our message by liking us on Facebook and also hitting the like button at the top of individual posts.

Upcoming OPHA Events:

Susan Johnson Presentation

Susan Johnson, Region X HHS Director in Seattle, will speak on the Public Health Impacts of the Affordable Care Act. Susan served as the director of the King County Health Action Plan for the Public Health Department in Seattle and King County for two years, prior to her appointment as HHS Regional Director in 2009.

Date: Friday, September 23, 2011

Time: 1:30-3:00 pm

Location:

Portland State Office Building, Room 1B
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland

Look for more information soon on the [OPHA website](#).

OPHA Annual Meeting & Conference, October 10 – 11, 2011

Online registration opens September 5

The Annual OPHA Meeting and Conference is the largest, most influential collaboration of public health professionals in Oregon. Administrators, nurses, physicians, researchers, policy makers, educators, and students from across the state will meet to shape the future of public health in Oregon. Partnering for the first time with the Oregon Environmental Health Association, the 2011 Conference will showcase the latest research, trends, strategies, and policy changes in public health.

More information about the Conference, including a preliminary program, registration fees, sponsorship opportunities, and hotel accommodations, can be found on the [2011 OPHA Annual Meeting & Conference Webpage](#).

Community Announcements & Upcoming Events:

Developmental Origins of Health & Disease: 7th World Congress

Date: September 18-21, 2011

Location: Portland, Oregon

Details: We have crafted the 7th World Congress on DOHaD to immerse you not only in the latest knowledge of the traditional spheres of this growing field, but also in newly emerging areas (e. g. innate immunity; gut microbiomics) that will inevitably impact our understanding of developmental programming. [Click here for more information.](#)

Public Health Law and Policy

Date: October 6, 2011

Location: Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

Time: 8 am – 4 pm

Details: A partnership conference and workshop for the Public Health Law Network - Western Region. This event will bring together leading public health officials, attorneys, and practitioners across the 11 states of the Western Region of the Public Health Law Network to examine and discuss areas of law and policy that promote, protect and improve the public's health. [Click here for more information.](#)

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

Date: October 29 - November 2, 2011

Location: Washington, D.C.

Details: The APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition is the premier national Public Health Educational Forum! Learn from the experts in the field, hear about cutting edge research and exceptional best practices, discover the latest public health products and services, and share your public health experience with your peers. [Click here for more information.](#)

