Minutes from OPHA Epidemiology/Biostatistics section meeting, February 13, 2013

We need volunteers for many activities including section activities and representing the section on OPHA committees. Please read through minutes to see what interests you.

**Attendees:**

SECTION CO-CHAIR: Kathleen Carlson (injury epidemiologist, VA), carlskat@ohsu.edu

SECTION CO-CHAIR: Viktor Bovbjerg (epidemiologist, OSU), viktor.bovbjerg@oregonstate.edu

Tahroma Alligood (OHSU), tahroma@yahoo.com

Ezekiel Alligood (2 years old)

Marit Bovbjerg (reproductive epidemiologist, OSU), marit.bovbjerg@oregonstate.edu

Isolde Knaap (informatician, Health Share of Oregon), I\_knaap@hotmail.com

Austin Phillips, OHSU MPH student; philliau@ohsu.edu

Ken Rosenberg (MCH epidemiologist, Public Health Division), rosenbergkd@yahoo.com

Amy Zlot (genetic epidemiologist, Public Health Division), amy.zlot@state.or.us

**1. Kathleen’s report on Board of Directors meetings**

Josie Henderson is now Executive Director of OPHA 930 hours per week). Kim Krull is now her paid assistant (20 hours per week).

We discussed ways to increase OPHA member awareness of Board activities. Kathleen will request that minutes from OPHA Board meetings be emailed to all members after they have been approved.

OPHA (especially the Development Committee) is doing a big push on fundraising – especially to support increased hours for Josie and Kim.

Legislative Action Day in Salem was a big success. A lot of students participated. OPHA’s focus during this legislative session will be on obesity prevention and tobacco policy.

**2. Epi/Biostat section activities**

2a. Mentoring

A recent announcement led to 7 inquiries in January 2013. Wide range of inquires.

2b. Epi-Biostat Listserve (“Email group”)

110 members now; no way to know how many are active.

2c. Epidemiologists’ Forum

January 16, 2013: Janne Boone-Heinonen, “Are Large Babies at Increased Risk of Adult Obesity and Chronic Disease?” This presentation has led to the development of its own spinoff, the Oregon Life Course Network.

March 5, 2013: Katrina Goddard on genetic epidemiology, “Universal Lynch Syndrome Screening.”

Many Epi Forum presentations are by epidemiologists who want to share their work and network with other epidemiologists. If you are interested in presenting or have a suggestion for a presenter, contact Ken Rosenberg.

2d. Science Olympiad

The Science Olympiad is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving kindergarten through 12th grade science education, increasing interest in science, and giving recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by students and teachers. Annie Raich and Jim Gaudino will not be able to organize the public health activities of this spring’s Science Olympiad. Tahroma Alligood may be interested in working on this.

2e. Epi/Biostat section membership

80 members as of February 2013 (up from 66 in June 2012). We discussed whether to start a directory of section members that would be accessible to members (perhaps in a password-protected section of the OPHA website). Kathleen will explore this with the OPHA leadership and ask about whether OPHA is interested in doing this for all OPHA members.

2f. Epi/Biostat section leadership group

We agreed that Kathleen Carlson and Viktor Bovbjerg will be the section co-chairs through the OPHA annual meeting in October 2013. After that, we will have one person be section chair for a year (October to October) and then rotate the chair. We discussed having a chair-elect position. We will try to select leadership by election. Viktor will begin work on a section charter that he will circulate among interested members for comment prior to the October OPHA meeting. Kathleen and Viktor will draft a succession plan for leadership. They may decide to propose that section secretary be a formal position or an informal position. (Ken Rosenberg is currently functioning as the secretary.)

2g. Section organization

We decided that the October section meeting (at the OPHA annual meeting) would be a business meeting and that we would have a networking dinner at the OPHA annual meeting in Corvallis.

**3. Epi/Biostat representation on OPHA Board and committees**

OPHA has a Board and committees that do the organization’s work. A full listing can be found at <http://www.oregonpublichealth.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35>.

Like all sections, the Epi/Biostat section is expected to have a representative on each committee. We need volunteers for many activities including section activities and representing the section on OPHA committees.

3a. Policy Committee: Tahroma Alligood is on the Policy committee.

3b. Communications Committee: We need a section representative on the Communications committee. They are currently active in developing social networking including Facebook, Twitter, etc.

3c. Development Committee: seeks new sources of funding for OPHA. We need a section representative on the Development committee.

3d. Membership Committee: Responsible for encouraging new membership and maintaining the current membership information and services. Tahroma Alligood is on the Membership committee

3e. Program Committee: Plans the program and arrangements for the Association's annual meeting. Members participate in year-round monthly conference calls. Some committee members have volunteered to review abstracts (in July) for the OPHA annual meeting (in October). Ken Rosenberg is the section representative to the Program Committee; contact Ken if you are interested in participating.

3f. Bylaws Committee: Reviews current Bylaws and identifies ones that need to be changed, deleted or added.

3g. Awards Committee: Accepts nominations and selects recipients for any award offered through or on behalf of the Association – mostly at the annual meeting.

3h. OPHA Board representative: Kathleen Carlson

4. Student and Young Professional Research Achievement Award.

This past fall there were 9-10 applicants and one $500 award for the Student and Young Professional Research Achievement Award. (The winner was Kimberly Repp.) All applicants became OPHA members. The group was satisfied that we should continue the award for at least one more year. There was some discussion about a formal evaluation of the award program. The OPHA Board was originally uncomfortable with using membership dues for an award and this precipitated an OPHA subcommittee that concluded that sections could use up to $500 of their own money for awards. Other options for sections include using free memberships as prizes or awards. And sections now have the option of “buying” additional “free memberships” to use as prizes or awards.

5. Section financial report: we have $1700 in our section bank account. We have received $700 from OPHA (allocation according to the number of OPHA members who identify Epi-Biostat as their section). The only expenses we have had in the past year were $500 for the Student award and $100 for apples for Legislative Action Day.

The next section meeting will probably be in June.

For more information, contact Kathleen Carlson, Viktor Bovbjerg or Ken Rosenberg