

California

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Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors (ASTPHND) Involvement

Background/Introduction

I am an ASTPHND Board member, past chair of the MCH Nutrition Council, and liaison to the United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC) .

Goals

ASTPHND's Mission is to provide national and state leadership for achieving optimal health through optimal nutrition for everyone in the United States. The ASTPHND MCH Nutrition Council's purpose is to provide leadership to achieve optimal well-being through healthy eating and active living among the maternal and child health population.

The USBC's mission is to improve the Nation's health by working collaboratively to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding.

Methods

Conference calls, ASTPHND Board meeting in Atlanta and in Salt Lake City. The USBC meets twice a year in Washington DC.

Results

Participated in developing the ASTPHND MCH Nutrition Council paper: Improving the Nutritional Well-being of Women, Children and Families as a call to action with specific recommendations, for state and territorial health agencies to strengthen their public health nutrition services.

Developed a Collaboration Policy and restarted ASTPHND's Collaboration Committee to strengthen and improve ASTPHND's strategic work with partner organizations.

On the ASTPHND Board that approved many advocacy documents, including comments to the Department of Labor on promoting breastfeeding in the workplace, to the FDA on its proposed policy on donor and banked human breast milk, and on the new National Prevention Strategy. I was instrumental in initiating draft breastfeeding and nutrition/physical activity testimony to the IOM Committee: Preventive Services for Women.

As part of the USBC, participated in the Surgeon General release of the "Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding." Currently working on a Statement on Infant/Young Child Feeding in Emergencies and on Marketing of Human Milk Substitutes.

Summary/Discussion

Rewarding opportunities to advocate for the role of the public health nutritionist and national nutrition/physical activity policies are numerous in ASTPHND.