



Public Health Association of South Africa

2012 LEKGOTLA REPORT

City Lodge OR Tambo, Gauteng
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09h00 to 16h30



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
2. Session 1- Feedback	
2.1 The Memorandum of Incorporation	3
2.2 Networking	4
2.2.1 Special Interest Groups	4
2.2.2 Newsletter and Website	4
3. Setting the scene	5
Where PHASA see itself in 5 years	5
4. Strategic Focus Areas	6
WFPHA & WCPH.....	6
5. Phasa Awards	7
6. Phasa Conference	7
6.1 2011 Conference	7
6.2 2012 Conference – Bloemfontein.....	8
6.3 2013 Conference – Cape Town	8
7. Finances	8
7.1 Auditors Report	8
7.2 Current Status	9
7.3 Membership	9
8. Sustainability	9
8.1 Colgate Endorsement	9
8.2 Phasa Journal	9
8.3 Fundraising	10
8.4 Reflection on secretariat functioning	10

PARTICIPANTS

Laetitia Rispel (chair), Stephen Knight, Flavia Senkubuge, Thandi Puoane, Maggie Mokonoto, Waasila Jassat, Julia Moorman, Ehi Igumbor, Saiendhra Moodley, Tracey Naledi, Tladi Ledibane, Yolandi Swart, Mandy Salomo

Apologies: Annette Gerritsen

1. INTRODUCTION

This being the first face to face meeting of the new PHASA Executive for the year, all members were asked to introduce themselves.

- Laetitia Rispel: Wits School of Public Health
- Stephen Knight: Dept of Public Health Medicine, University of KZN
- Waasila Jassat: Health Systems Trust, KZN
- Tladi Ledibane: University of Free State School of Public Health
- Mandy Salomo: MRC Event Management Office
- Tracey Naledi: Western Cape Department of Health
- Thandi Puoane: UWC School of Public Health
- Julia Moorman: Wits School of Public Health
- Ehi Igumbor: UWC School of Public Health
- Saiendhra Moodley: UP School of Public Health
- Flavia Senkubuge: UP School of Public Health
- Maggie Mokonoto: Wits School of Public Health
- Yolandi Swart: University of Free State School of Public Health

2. SESSION 1: FEEDBACK

2.1 The Memorandum of Incorporation

In December 2009 the Executive had identified that the Articles of Association needed to be updated and reflect more how PHASA operates. At the last AGM in December 2011, changes made and approved by a lawyer were presented to members. Members gave the Executive Committee the mandate to adopt the revised document.

The executive suggested further changes required: the need for geographic representivity should specify that this is applicable at the time of election (Saiendhra Moodley); include clause for creation of sub groups within PHASA (Ehi Igumbor). Ehi also suggested that we should translate the MOI into simplified operating procedures, which Waasila and Ehi will work on. The Committee adopted the revised Memorandum of Incorporation.

2.2 Networking

2.2.1 Special interest groups

A proposal was presented by Ehi (Annexure A) to re-frame member Sub Groups in PHASA. He explained the categories of sub groups including provincial branches, special interest

groups, forums, caucuses and student assembly. The change from SIG to sub groups was adopted but the proposal would need to be revised to incorporate comments as follows:

- ✓ Prioritize which sub groups we should start with
- ✓ To start with formation of regional/ provincial branches (possibly Western Cape, Gauteng and KZN)
- ✓ Look at how we can create opportunities to get students more involved (Ehi, Tladi, Yolandi and current SIG chairs to take forward)
- ✓ Need to give more information on the different categories on website and membership form
- ✓ To consider whether PHASA can support sub groups financially
- ✓ Incorporate changes to MOI to reflect creation of sub groups

Ehi to circulate the revised document for comments to the executive; this will be ratified at the next executive meeting.

2.2.2 Newsletter and Website

On overview was presented on the review of the PHASA newsletter/website from 1 December 2011 – till 29 February 2012.

- ✓ In the past 3 months a total of 16 public health news items and 11 jobs have been published on the site.
- ✓ In January 2012 a Public Health Update was sent to subscribers, including recently published posts.
- ✓ In February 2012 the first Newsletter of the year was sent to 1167 subscribers, reporting on the 2011 conference.
- ✓ In February 2012 there were 1465 visits (from 1171 unique visitors) to the website.
- ✓ In the past 3 months 109 people sent in a membership form.
- ✓ Tweets/Facebook messages are posted for each item published on the Website; 95 people 'Like' the Facebook page and 73 'Follow' PHASA on Twitter

The committee complimented the progress but proposed the following:

- Archive of old conference websites on the PHASA website
- Have a calendar identifying health days
- Support enhanced connectivity, using blogs/chats to attract new members and maintain interest and participation
- Ensure the facebook page is more interactive e.g. upload newsletters and pictures
- As a member benefit, consider having added features that can only be accessed by members
- Website can be a repository for information and resources
- Exhibit the website at the upcoming WCPH

3. SETTING THE SCENE

In reflecting on PHASA's achievements, the general feeling was that the operational side of PHASA has improved having the secretariat on board, a more vibrant website, producing electronic newsletters, hosting another successful conference and being financially secure.

Table 1: Where PHASA sees itself in 5 years

Area	Activity	Actions
Organizational development and growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expanding quality ▪ Membership ▪ Core funding for core strategic staff (such as a policy coordinator, someone for fund raising) ▪ Office / permanent staff ▪ Hosting of World Congress ▪ Sub groups ▪ Vibrant student assembly ▪ Media visible ▪ Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint conferences ▪ Recruiting members – membership team ▪ Fund raising – funding proposal to enable permanent staff ▪ Hosting of World Congress (2018) ▪ African Congress on Public Health (inaugural congress) ▪ Students: involved in conference, sponsorship. Strategic document on how to actively engage students. Link to RUDASA student group / students
Public health stewardship, leadership and influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undergraduate and post graduate education (accreditation of MPH programmes) ▪ Policy, population health, such as climate change ▪ Resolutions, policy briefs and statement ▪ Define research agenda – influence research agenda. Encourage appropriate public health research ▪ Translational aspects ▪ African agenda ▪ “Go to” organization ▪ Funding and career path for public health professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Survey – session at Congress – increase the influence of PHAs on policy. ▪ Building stronger organization ▪ South African Public Health Day: World Health Day ▪ Three provincial branches - President to launch ▪ Identify interests of members ▪ One or two sub-groups
Social mobilization		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create sources ▪ Top Ten Public Health Achievements in South Africa ▪ Respond around miscommunication – function of forums. ▪ Database of experts to comment on specific issues
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public health journal ▪ Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main constraint is money ▪ Presence at World Congress

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interactive part of the website for broader public ▪ Expand resources for the website (with an editor), members only area. ▪ Concept note for PH journal
Partnerships, networking and collaboration		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen existing partnerships – African Federation, WHO, World Federation, Canadian Public Health Association and other health schools ▪ Next President of the World Federation should be a South African ▪ Inaugural Conference – African Public Health ▪ RuDASA ▪ SAMA? DENOSA? ▪ MRC conferences

4. STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

WFPHA and WCPH

Free registration has been given to each Public Health Association. Laetitia will be attending and Flavia will be representing the African Public Health Association as well. In addition, a PHASA member has also been invited to attend by waiving registration and paying for accommodation for the duration of the conference. Waasila has been nominated to attend and also to represent PHASA at the Student sessions.

PHASA will present a workshop on Policy influence of Public Health Associations which will include the results of the recent survey conducted on this topic by WFPHA on behalf of PHASA. Laetitia, Flavia and Waasila will work on the workshop presentation and send to the executive for inputs.

PHASA will also have the opportunity to get exposure so the suggestion was to display the website as well as some promotional material.

5. PHASA AWARDS

Julia was tasked to research whether PHASA should recognize achievements in the area of Public Health. She researched current public health awards made locally and internationally (Annexure B). She also

presented for consideration the purpose of the award, logistics for making the award, criteria for choosing awardees and what the award should be.

Comments

- ✓ Good idea and PHASA could get good media exposure
- ✓ Consider young researcher/Student award
- ✓ Consider an organisational award
- ✓ The award could include the chance to attend the next WFPHA conference, 3 years paid up membership, etc.
- ✓ These awards could be extended to non-members
- ✓ A suggestion that awardees should be announced at the Gala dinner each year
- ✓ No monetary value for the award
- ✓ Decide on whether we should continue the Colgate award

A revised proposal with an operation budget will be circulated by 31 March 2012 for comments and discussion at the next Executive meeting. This could be launched at the Free State conference in preparation for next year's conference.

6. PHASA CONFERENCE

6.1 2011 conference

The 57 evaluation forms indicated that the conference was very successful with 347 delegates attending, 14 exhibition stands and workshops being fully subscribed for 2011.

The conference programme was well accepted and delegates indicated that there was a good selection of diverse guest speakers and that their talks were very interesting. The poster sessions were well received and poster delegates complimented the committee for the organisation of the sessions they presented in.

Bad reviews were received on the Cocktail function meals and also a suggestion from exhibitors are that they should have a more professional layout with shell schemes, not only table & chairs. Last minute changes to programme should not be accepted and session chairs should be stricter with time keeping in order to award all presenters their time allocations on the programme.

A draft financial report was presented indicating R1 306 234.27 amount of income from registration and workshop fees, sponsors and exhibitors and a total expenditure of R1 213 232.21 leaving a small surplus of R93 002.06 Atlantic Philanthropies sponsorship to be finalized.

6.2 2012 PHASA conference – Bloemfontein

The 2012 conference will be jointly hosted by PHASA and RuDASA. The theme has been identified which is 'Bridging the health divide: from policy to practice' and arrangements are as follows:

Organising Committee	<p>Chair: Hannes Co-chair: Flavia</p> <p>Members: Stephen, Laetitia Maggie, Ehi, Tracey, Yolandi Tladi, Estelle, Kirsten, Richard, Mandy, Deon, Meagan and Ellen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ President Hotel booked for the conference ✓ Accommodation booked at the hotel but additional options within walking distance will be published on website ✓ Budget finalized and PHASA will be signing the contract with MRC EMO ✓ Design finalized for the conference
Fund Raising Committee	<p>Chair: Co chair:</p> <p>Members: Ellen from Event Office, Laetitia, Stephen, one registrar each from Wits and UP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ This process will start shortly once flyer and website is published.
Scientific Committee	<p>Chair: Waasila Co chair: Hannes</p> <p>Members: Stephen, Bernhard, Julia, Marije, Maryke, Saiendhra, Thandi, Deon (MRC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Theme identified ✓ Subthemes to be finalized at next meeting ✓ Workshops will be presented shortly but a total of 8 can be accommodated this year ✓ Student track will be incorporated into this year's programme ✓ PHASA & RuDASA will have Exec meetings and AGMs listed on the programme ✓ Flyer and website will be published shortly

6.3 2013 PHASA Conference – Cape Town

The 2013 conference will be jointly hosted by the African Public Health Association and PHASA in September 2013. Flavia will start with these arrangements to secure date and venue as well as the themes which we should advertise at the Free State conference.

7. FINANCES

7.1 Auditors report

The auditors' reports were presented from 2002 to 2010 financial year. PHASA received a disclaimer for 2002 – 2008 and an unqualified report with minor comments around membership from 2008-2011.

The committee thanked Stephen and Ellen (Event office) for finalizing these reports and agreed that the audit opinion should be accepted and PHASA should move forward with new systems. The fee will be R6000 per year audited; the executive approved the decision to sign off the audit report and pay the auditors (Stephen recommended, Flavia approved and Maggie seconded).

7.2 Current status

A draft financial report was compiled by Ellen indicating a balance of R787 945.68 as at 24 February 2012. The Event office also compiled a draft budget for the 2012 financial year.

Comments were as follows:

- ✓ Include the following:
 - the legal fees for MOI
 - Conference start up fee
 - WCPH costs
- ✓ Need to cost the Programme of Action (Ehi) and set aside budget for regional events and Sub groups
- ✓ Need to develop policy on reimbursement of Executive members (Saiendhra)
- ✓ Newsletter reimbursement and accreditation from Colgate to be finalized
- ✓ Include report on financial statement as standing item on executive agenda

7.3 Membership

Membership Committee discussed the issues pertaining to membership which included period, fees, communications, etc. and presented a proposal (Annexure) for adoption. The Executive adopted the proposal but made the following suggestions:

- ✓ Executive members should pay membership fee
- ✓ Consider differential rate for members outside South Africa
- ✓ More information required on forms such as qualifications, Training institution, age, gender, areas of expertise/interest, bank charges for own account (with drop down menus where possible)
- ✓ The committee to investigate organisational/ institutional membership

8. SUSTAINABILITY

8.1 Colgate Endorsement

According to Executive members, the contract was not renewed however it seems that the endorsement may still be appearing on the products. Members discussed the promotion of this product and agreed that it was fair to endorse hand washing but not one particular type of soap over another.

Stephen will investigate but if Colgate is currently still using PHASA logo, accreditation fees should be paid to PHASA. Mandy to then submit these invoices and also respond to auditors on end date of the contract. Tladi, Tracey and Waasila to develop a policy on PHASA endorsements.

8.2 PHASA Journal

In 2008 a special group was set up consisting of Supa Pengpid and others to come up with a proposal for a journal by 2009 but this was not completed. What is needed is a champion that will investigate options around the journal. Some of the options were discussed including the SA Journal of Infection and Epidemiology's proposal last year to combine with this publication; and the possibility that the newsletter could grow into a journal. At the time Colgate was really interested in this idea.

The executive agreed that the current challenges are limited capacity to drive this effort and a lack of funding. It was decided that this will be held over for next year. Ehi will look into this matter again and put forward a proposal at the next Executive meeting.

8.3 Fundraising

The executive discussed the need to explore options for core funding and Laetitia gave information on Atlantic Philanthropies funding mechanisms. Maggie and Tracey will draft a funding proposal to AP highlighting PHASA's contributions, past achievements and impact. The first draft is due 5 April for inputs from the executive.

8.4 Reflection on secretariat functioning

Members agreed that the MRC Event Management office has provided good support especially with secretarial functions as well as the tedious auditing process. The contract has been renewed till September 2012 with some revisions (Annexure).