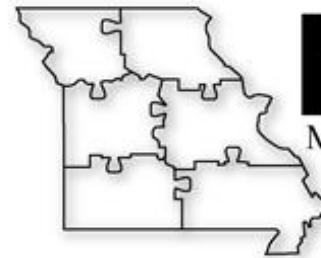


# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



**MoALPHA**

Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies

Connecting Public Health For All Missouri

# 2020 Legislative Session

- Limited session time due to pandemic and still ended on time
- During session, we send out weekly updates that are written by our legislative consultant, Will Marrs. They either come from Mike Herbert (Miller County) or Diane Weber (MOALPHA)
  - *If not getting updates, please let us know*

# Passed Legislation

- Vaping not permitted on public school property, including buses
- Medical marijuana edibles can't be in the shape of animals, humans, or fruit.
- Eliminated helmet requirement on motorcycles except for certain circumstances
- Free COVID 19 testing (Per appropriations, DHSS may use federal funds to cover cost of testing for non-insured people with “active” disease.”)

# Monitored legislation that did NOT pass

- PDMP, HB 1693 Rep Rehder
  - *Possibly would have passed with more time*
  - *Unfortunately her term expires, need to find a new champion*
- Tobacco Products, HB 2673 Rep Taylor and SB 1005 Rep Rowden (even though the feds passed T21, it is still necessary for each state to adopt similar language to be eligible for certain funding)
- LPHA Authority Threatened in SB 617 and SB 644

# SB 617 & SB 644, HB 1583

- Representative Dohrman (Johnson, Pettis, Saline) attempted adding language to SB617 and SB644 modifying RSMo 192.300 **“A county health board, or director or hired personnel thereof, shall only act in an advisory capacity to a county commission or other county executive.”**
  - *This could have led to LPHAs not having authority to pass orders, ordinances, and rules that have a public health impact.*
  - *205.100 requires the Commissioner to appoint the local health director as the local health authority each February*
  - *19 CSR Division 20 Chapter 20 consists of a variety of rules that give LPHAs authority to do specific things (or require us to do things)*
- Representative Haden (Audrain, Callaway) and others have introduced bills, including HB 1583, that prevent LPHAs from having any authority with agricultural facilities. Some stated that LPHAs are not permitted on the property. This would prevent follow up on septic complaints or inspections if the facility had a retail operation onsite. Could have also impacted communicable disease investigations.

# The Future

- LPHA authority will be questioned every legislative session. A handful of legislators are not happy with their local health agencies
- Generally an anti-vaccine bill each session
- We must do a better job of establishing relationships and educating our legislators
- We must do a better job of adapting to current legislative climates
  - *Public Health is naturally a more liberal program*
  - *Market our program a little differently with a conservative climate*
- We must recognize and partner with legislators (Dem and Rep) that support our mission
  - *Consider being proactive and introducing good sound legislation*
  - *MoCPHE and MoALPHA collaborated to write language that eliminated some immunization exemptions (but has yet to identify a champion legislator)*

# Recommendations

- Get to know your local Representatives and Senators
  - *Research what is important to them, their background, etc.*
  - *In the off season, invite them to your agency*
    - Tour, Review of all the programs
    - Highlight success stories and programs
    - Discuss goals and objectives for the community
  - *During the next session, request a visit with them at the Capitol. MoALPHA can assist with organizing appointments and/or group tours during statewide meetings*

# Recommendations

- Develop a good working relationship with your Commissioner(s)
  - *It is important for them to know our responsibilities*
  - *Share the statutes and rules*
    - Are they appointing you every February?
  - *Do they support LPHA authority?*
    - Do they want the responsibility?



# Use COVID for some good!

- Unless you live off the grid, everyone has learned a little about public health this year.
- Gives you something to talk about, everyone has this in common! Great ice breaker with your elected officials.
- An opportunity for all of us to drive home the importance of LPHA authority and why it is necessary to implement important public health interventions, sometimes as orders.
- If your legislators are upset with how the Stay at Home/Social Distancing orders were utilized, try to understand why. Statewide and if you had local orders.
  - *This will help us improve our emergency response plans too!*

# Communication

- Ultimately our goal is for law makers to see us as subject matter experts, and have mutual respect for one another
- To call us when a constituent is encouraging them to introduce or support bills that have a public health impact
- For us to establish an easy method to contact our legislator when we need help
  - *Maybe it is just their house.mo.gov email...but maybe you get their cell!*
- Encourage them to follow your social media, and even better share your posts

# BEAM (Building Expertise in Administration and Management)

BEAM is a 15-20 hour self-paced, interactive online program designed by public health professionals for public health professionals to strengthen foundational business skills. The curriculum is based on six areas that have been identified as learning priorities:

- Strategic Problem Definition
- Budgeting
- Procurement Contracts
- Contract Monitoring
- Financial Health

**This program will be FREE to 200 public health managers in Missouri through grants to MoALPHA from the Missouri Foundation for Health and de Beaumont Foundation.**

**Information on registration will be provided within the next couple of months.**

# Additional MoALPHA Updates:

- Annual Conference will be virtual during the week of September 21. All sessions will be recorded and available after the conference. More details will be provided within the next couple of months.
- Information regarding MoALPHA Awards to be presented during the Annual Conference in September will be sent shortly.
- MoALPHA Regional Representative Board Member positions will be up for election in the fall of 2020 for the next two year term, January 2021 – December 2022.

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