

OABH BOARD BRIEFS

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 3 December 2010

IRS Guidance for LBH members – Recently the issue of the IRS requiring board of health members to be local health department employees for the purpose of federal payroll deductions has been discussed. Many board of health members have asked the Ohio Association of Boards of Health for information and guidance on the issue. OABH contracted with Joseph R. Durham of Eastman & Smith Ltd. to conduct research and provide guidance that local boards of health could use as they look at the matter and make determinations for themselves.

OABH is pleased to provide the attached legal analysis regarding this issue. We hope it is helpful to you as you work with your auditor and/or prosecutor to identify a workable solution for your Board of Health.

Please don't hesitate to contact the OABH office via email or call 614-785-9303 if we can be of assistance to you on this matter or others related to your service with your local Board of Health.

Profile of Local Boards of Health Coming Soon – In January 2011, the Profile of Local Boards of Health will be launched online. We urge you to make sure that the chairperson of your local board of health completes the survey to ensure that your board is represented in the only national profile of local boards of health. Researchers, policy-makers, boards of health, NALBOH staff, and partner organizations use these data to develop programs and set priorities. Your input is critical to ensure that we portray accurate information about local boards of health and priorities and programs are shaped to accurately reflect existing needs. The profile provides information on board composition, duties and responsibilities, training, needs, and accreditation. For more information, visit www.nalboh.org. This project is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) – Pertussis, better known as whooping cough, is highly contagious and is one of the most commonly occurring vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States. People with pertussis usually spread the disease by coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others, who then breathe in the pertussis bacteria. Many infants who get pertussis are infected by older siblings, parents or other caregivers who might not even know they have the disease.

Pertussis is most severe for babies, who often catch the illness from a family member or other caregiver.

More than half of infants less than 1 year of age who get the disease must be hospitalized. In rare cases (1 in 100), pertussis can be deadly, especially in infants less than 1 year of age. [Read more.](#)

Child Nutrition Reauthorization Passes the House! – Thanks to efforts from NACCHO members and others in the public health and nutrition advocacy community, the House of Representatives passed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act December 2 by a vote of 264-157. This legislation provides increased reimbursement for school meals and improvements in child nutrition programs. President Obama has pledged to sign the bill soon.

[Click here](#) to find out how your Representative voted. If your Representative voted for the bill, please consider sending them a letter or making a phone call to thank them for their vote. Contact information for Members of Congress can be found at NACCHO's Legislative Action Center.

Below are some of the highlights of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which contains a tenfold increase in resources from the last reauthorization:

Increase Meal Reimbursement Rates. USDA is working on updated school meal standards which should be released this year.

Increased reimbursement rates are essential to help schools meet the updated standards and serve more fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

Improve Direct Certification. 120,000 more low-income children will receive free school meals each year.

Improve Community Eligibility. Approximately 2,500 schools will be able to use new methods of offering universal free lunches and breakfasts to children.

Implement National School Nutrition Standards. After 10 years of work to remove junk food from vending machines and a la carte lines, this would finally update nutrition standards for all food sold in schools.

Improve Access to Afterschool Suppers. Upon full implementation, 29 million more afterschool suppers will be provided each year. This translated to about \$14,000 in additional revenue for each site, on average, per fiscal year.

Strengthen School Wellness Policies. Support schools efforts to improve nutrition and physical activity for children

Increase Funding for Farm to School. \$40 million to bring more healthy foods into schools and support local farmers.

Streamline WIC Certification Periods. Increase participation in the WIC program.

2011 Business Meeting – OABH is already making plans for the 2011 Meeting, held as part of the PHCC in May. This is always a perfect way to hear up to date information on public health issues and interact with Ohio and national public health officials. **[Make plans now to attend Tuesday's session and the Business meeting!](#)**

U.S. Dietary Guidelines About to Change—Get Ready for a Serious Food Fight – A few more than the usual number of New Year’s pledges to eat better, exercise diligently, and shed flab just might be kept in 2011, pending the federal government’s about-to-be-unveiled revamping of the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Updated by law every five years by the Department of Agriculture and Department of Health and Human Services, the guidelines direct federal nutritional policy from the contents of an 8-year-old’s cafeteria tray to the numbers displayed on the nutritional label of a can of tomato soup. Few Americans are left untouched by their recommendations. [Read more.](#)

Sandusky County Youth Drug Use Prevention Strengthened – The Office of National Drug Control Policy announced that the Sandusky County Health Department will receive \$775,000 over the next five years from two separate Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grants. Sponsored by the Health Department, the Prevention Partnership Coalition of Sandusky County was one of 169 communities to receive the Drug Free Communities Support Program Grant and one of only 16 new DFC Mentoring grants across the country. The DFC Mentoring grant will allow the Prevention Partnership Coalition of Sandusky County to work closely with the Erie County Health Department to aid in the creation and sustainability of their newly organized Coalition efforts. For more information on the Prevention Partnership Coalition of Sandusky County contact Stacey Gibson at 419-334-6395 or visit www.sanduskycohd.org

Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force – On Friday, April 2, 2010 Governor Ted Strickland signed an executive order establishing the Ohio Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force (OPDATF).

The OPDATF submitted a final report to Gov. Strickland and other Ohio leaders on October 1, 2010. The report is the first step towards addressing Ohio's prescription drug abuse epidemic on a statewide level.

Prescription drug abuse is a rising public health problem on the national level and has reached epidemic level in Ohio. Ohio’s death rate due to unintentional drug poisoning has increased more than 350 percent from 1999 to 2008, and is now the leading cause of injury death in Ohio.

In order to ensure the state’s approach is both multifaceted and comprehensive, the OPDATF final report includes recommendations on legislative reform, increased funding and education, facilitating proper disposal of prescription medication, as well as establishing new and supporting existing coalitions to address the prevention of prescription drug misuse, abuse and overdose. [Read more.](#)

PHAB – The Public Health Accreditation Board is issuing a call for nominations to the Board of Directors. [Learn more at PHABOARD.org.](http://PHABOARD.org)

CDC Spotlights Global Efforts to Address Antibiotic Resistance – Expands 'Get Smart' programs to hospitals and nursing homes - Antibiotic resistance is one of the world's most pressing public health threats. To bring attention to this increasing problem, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other government partners will observe its third annual Get Smart About Antibiotics Week on November 15-21, 2010. The national campaign will highlight the coordinated efforts of CDC, state and local health departments, and non-profit and for-profit partners to educate the public about antibiotic resistance and the importance of appropriate antibiotic use in both community and healthcare settings. [More](#)

Have news of your Local Board of Health? – The OABH newsletter is a great way to share details about success programs, current news, begin to network with other board, etc. If you would like to contribute information please contact Gil Baker (grlbbake@verizon.net) or Becky Stewart (oabh_2@yahoo.com). We would like to include your information in a future Board Briefs.

Important Dates

December 29, 2010 – Board Meeting

May 9 - 11, 2011 – Public Health Combined Conference

May 10, 2011 – OABH Annual Meeting

September 7-9, 2011 – Annual NALBOH Conference "Public Health: Effective Governance, Strong Leadership, Engaged Citizens"– Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

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