

1615 Capitol Ave., Suite 73.771 P.O. Box 997377, MS 7003 Sacramento, CA 95899-7377 PHONE: 916.440.7594 FAX: 916.440.7595 CCLHO website Jake Hanson, MPH
Executive Administrator
Jake.Hanson@cdph.ca.gov

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RE: American Public Health Association Sedgwick Memorial Medal

To whom it may concern,

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) enthusiastically nominates Barbara Cole for the American Public Health Association (APHA) Sedgwick Memorial Medal. Barbara Cole has worked in the field of Public Health for over 40 years and has a distinguished service track record that has advanced public health knowledge.

Having started her career in Riverside County, California back in 1980, CCLHO considers Barbara Cole the embodiment of Public Health and an unsung hero of the Inland Empire region. Barbara joined Riverside County first as a Public Health nurse and then moved up the ranks to her current position of Disease Control Director. As the Disease Control Director, she oversees the reporting of communicable diseases including COVID and tuberculosis. She leads a dynamic team of public health nurses, communicable disease specialists, and several supportive program professionals. Barbara has provided ongoing Communicable Disease guidance to the community, including health care organizations and individual physicians and health care providers that has helped to shape the way in which we approach communicable diseases in the Inland Empire area and across California. In all these ways and more, Barbara's contribution to the mission of Public Health in has been extraordinary.

In addition to these activities that illustrate Barbara Cole's unwavering commitment to public health for all Californians, she has served for several years as the co-chair of the CCLHO Communicable Disease Control & Prevention Committee and has previously served as President of the California Association of Communicable Disease Controllers. For the reasons stated above, CCLHO nominates Barbara Cole for the APHA Sedgwick Memorial Medal.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state, and local agencies, the Legislature, and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

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Anissa Davis, MD, MPH President, California Conference of Local Health Officers