



**DPHN**  
Directors of Public Health Nursing

# DPHN Update Fall 2023

Presented at the CCLHO Fall  
Conference

California Directors of Public Health Nursing (DPHN) is a statewide organization of Nursing Directors from the 61 public health jurisdictions in California, established in 1952

Due to the large geographic spread of California, DPHN is organizationally divided into four sub-regions: North, Central, Bay and South

In 1962 CCLHO passed a resolution supporting this organization which was named CCLHDND (CA Conference of Local Health Department Nursing Directors)

In 2007, we rebranded our organization and became CA DPHN (CA Director's of Public Health Nursing)



The Director of Public Health Nursing is an executive level or senior management level position in a Local Health Department

The Director of Public Health Nursing is recognized as integral to the organization and mandated in the California Code of Regulations and the California Health and Safety Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 17. Public Health, Division 1. State Department of Health Services, Chapter 3. Local Health Service, Subchapter 1. Standards for State Aid for Local Health Administration, Article 3. Personnel, section 1301. Director of Public Health Nursing).

Public health nursing is the “practice of promoting and protecting the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social, and public health sciences” (APHA PHN Section, 2013).

The Director of Public Health Nursing provides advocacy, direction, and support to all nurses regarding nursing scope of practice, professional development, public health emergency preparedness, communicable disease response, and establishes and maintains strategies and processes for achieving population health improvement



## Vision

Healthy people in healthy communities through excellence in public health nursing.

## Mission

To advance the practice of public health through innovative and effective public health nursing leadership.

## Values

- *Health Equity:*
- *Leadership:*
- *Quality:*
- *Collaboration:*
- *Advocacy:*
- *Diverse and Competent Workforce*



## Strategic Plan

Priority Areas include:

**Collaboration**- To promote optimal population health for Californians, Directors of Public Health Nursing must seek out, establish, and increase collaboration with key State level leadership, influencers and advocates of nursing and healthcare workforce. Public Health Nursing has a critical role in addressing social drivers of health, equity, racism, emergency preparedness/response/recovery and healthcare workforce investments. This role, however, requires partnership and collaboration with partners to achieve a collective impact.

**Diverse and Resilient Workforce**- Promote a workplace culture that supports diversity and resilience and reflects the communities it serves.

**Workforce Overview**- Assuring a competent and effective nursing workforce in public health is a top priority for DPHN. The current and future nursing workforce must be adequately prepared for their role in order to fully contribute to achieving optimal health outcomes for Californians. Effective recruitment and retention of highly qualified and diverse nurses in public health continues to be an important variable. Through achievement of this strategic plan, DPHN will develop a 'PH Nursing Workforce Toolkit' to communicate the role of public health nursing to support recruitment efforts



During Covid-19, Public health nurses stepped up beyond their normal duties and into emergency response roles

PHN's became vaccine givers, contact tracers, learned new processes, stood up vaccine sites, set up alternate sites for triage, and much more, responding with an all-hands-on-deck approach

With the nursing shortage, we are utilizing registry nurses, retired annuitants, State HCW's, the CDC Foundation, etc.

Therefore, it is imperative that DPHN identifies priority goals to assure that California's public health nursing workforce has the leadership, resources, skills and competencies to build a healthier California



Asks for CCLHO support

Possibly help to advocate for State PHN Director

Maintain the Title 17 required DPHN positions in your respective counties

Advocate for the DPHN in their county to be a member of DPHN and attend regional and statewide meetings and conferences

