

**NATIONAL TRANSITION TASK FORCE ON  
ACCREDITATION IN HEALTH EDUCATION**

**Abstracts for Presentations at  
SOPHE and APHA 2004 Annual Meetings**

**Society for Public Health Education Annual Meeting  
Capital Hilton  
Washington, DC**

**Date:** Saturday, November 6, 2004  
**Time:** 7:15 am – 8:15 am  
**Title:** SOPHE Faculty Caucus Meeting – Accreditation and Professional Preparation Issues  
**Presenters:** Kathleen Roe, DrPH, David Birch, PhD, National Transition Task Force Co-chairs

**Date:** Saturday, November 6, 2004  
**Time:** 1:15 pm – 2:30pm  
**Title:** Implementing the Findings of the National Task Force on Accreditation in Health Education  
**Presenters:** Kathleen Roe, DrPH, David Birch, PhD, National Transition Task Force Co-chairs

**Abstract**

In January, 2001, the SOPHE/AAHE Task Force on Accreditation in Health Education was charged with developing a detailed plan for a coordinated accreditation system for undergraduate and graduate programs in health education. The final plan was completed in February, 2004. In the spring of 2004 the plan was reviewed and approved by both the AAHE Board of Directors and SOPHE Board of Trustees. The purpose of this session is to provide an overview of the three year process, present the final accreditation plan, and describe the current implementation phase of the project. Included with the overview will be a description of the various methods used to solicit input from professionals and a summary of that input. Time will be allocated for attendees to respond to the final plan and provide input related to the implementation phase of the project.

**American Public Health Association Annual Meeting  
Convention Center  
Washington, DC**

**Date:** Tuesday, November 9

**Time:** 2:30 to 4:00 p.m  
**Title:** Moving Toward Accreditation in Undergraduate Community Health Education Programs

\*This session will be conducted as an interactive panel discussion with ample time for questions and discussion.

**Presenter:** Laura Rasar King, MPH, CHES  
**Title:** Accreditation in Health Education: Past, Present and Future

### **Abstract**

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is the only accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education to accredit graduate schools and programs in public health, a function which it has carried out for the past 30 years. While it accredits graduate programs with various public health specializations, it has always maintained a separate category for the accreditation of graduate community health education programs. In response to feedback from the public health community, including health education practitioners and academics, CEPH has nearly completed revision of its accreditation criteria, a process that began in 2001. This most recent revision, will likely lead to significant changes both in the categorization of health education graduate programs and the inclusion of community health education undergraduate programs in eligibility for accreditation. This presentation will explore the impetus, process, and timeline for change as well as potential effects this change might have on health education practice in the field. It will also explore parallels from similar movements in other professions.

**Presenter:** Kathleen Roe, DrPH  
**Title:** The Task Force Report Outlines a Plan for Quality Assurance at All Levels of Professional Preparation in Health Education

### **Abstract**

In January 2001, the SOPHE/AAHE Task Force on Accreditation in Health Education was charged with developing a detailed plan for a coordinated accreditation system for undergraduate and graduate programs in health education. The final plan was completed in February 2004. In the spring of 2004, the plan was reviewed and considered for approval by both the AAHE Board of Directors and the SOPHE Board of Trustees. This session will provide an overview of the three-year process, present the final accreditation plan, and describe the current implementation phase of the project. Included with the overview of the process, will be a description of the various methods used to solicit input from professionals, a summary of that input, and how the input was used by the Task Force in the development of the plan. The session will also include a presentation of potential roles of individual professionals and professional organizations in the implementation phase of the project. Special emphasis will be given to a discussion of issues specifically related to small programs and collaborative programs models.

**Title:** How Changes in the Field of Health Education Impact Training and Professional Preparation Needs

**Presenter:** TBA

**Abstract**

Professional practice in the field of health education and health promotion is rapidly changing, along with other critical fields of professional practice in public health. Based on the results of routine assessments of the training needs of health education and promotion practitioners in states as well as a 2003 report on State Health Promotion Capacity, the levels of training and professional preparation of practitioners in states varies and training needs exist. This presentation will provide a profile of the health education and health promotion workforce, professional preparation background, and training needs. It will address who is being hired to fill governmental public health positions at the state and, to some extent, local levels. It will also address the skills and training that new professionals will need in a changing workforce, the importance of quality assurance in their professional preparation and the need for accredited programs positioned to respond to new and emerging health issues to train the next generation of quality community health educators.

