



Jamaica Association of Public
Health Inspectors
JAPHI



Special Edition
NEWSLETTER
January 2019



Vision Statement

"Environmental/Public Health Professionals, Building the Profession, Safeguarding Environmental/Public Health, Achieving and Advancing Excellence."

Mission Statement

The mission of the Jamaica Association of Public Health Inspectors is to advance and promote the Environmental Health profession, the welfare and interest of its members, through: Training and professional development, Advocacy, Negotiation Motivation/empowerment and Collaboration. In doing so; promote and reward excellence, endeavour to maintain a healthy and harmonious professional climate, conducive to the productivity of its members.

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The New Executive, 2018-2019:



Photo1: Members of the Executive, JAPHI.

Table1: Showing Executive members, Position and Contacts

Names	Position	Contacts
Paul Ximines	President	1876-813-1943
Karen Brown	Vice President	1876-364-3426
Rowan Stephens	Vice President	1876-899-6632
Orvelee Douglas	Secretary	1876-448-9777
Steve Morris	Assistant Secretary	1876-433-8677
Michelle Rhone	Treasurer	1876-317-9505
Oniel Brown	Assistant Treasurer	1876-357-9953
Michael Myles	Public Relation Officer	1876-477-7518
Natalie Blake	Executive Member	1876-845-1665
Dr. Marcia Reid	Executive Member	1876-894-5941
Sherian Reid	Executive Member	1876-885-3510

JAPHI Team meeting with Permanent Secretary and Director of IR&HR



Photo 1: Left to right: Michael Myles (Executive Member), Rowan Stephens (IP President), Derron Williams (Vice President-Industrial Relations), Oniel Brown (Secretary), Paul Ximmines (President), Sheriann Reid, Everton Baker (Director EHU,MOH) & Joel Myers (Vice President-Professional Development).

Missing from Photo: Collin Cooper (National Food Safety Co-ordinator, MOH), Dr. Peters (Veterinary Division)



Issues addressed at meeting held with Minister of Health and the Jamaica Association of Public Health Inspectors

1. Status of the establishment of an Environmental Health Management Information System for Jamaica and in particular the methodology by which the Ministry of Health's (MOH) proposes to do so.
2. Port Health and Quarantine situations at Seaport and Airport.
 - Quarantine officers at the airport are the only government officers being subjected to frisking. JAPHI had written to the former CMO Dr. Ducasse on the matter. Subsequent meeting was held at Sangster's International Airport where she committed to resolve this issue. However, to date it has not been dealt with.
 - The recent practice of the disembarkation and embarkation of crew members (including sick crew members) at 'outer anchorage' possess a serious risk in protecting our country from the entry of communicable diseases.
3. Urgent finalization of the Promotional bar-PHIs are currently being appointed using an outdated Promotional Bar to the severe detriment of the profession while the MOH had proposed a new Promotional Bar for the PHIs which has been agreed to by JAPHI. We are seeking the immediate implementation of the revised Promotional Bar.
4. MOH's current position on the Zoonotic Diseases, Food Hygiene and Safety Unit. JAPHI was informed at a meeting held on July 01, 2015 with the Minister of Health about the creation of a new unit Zoonotic Diseases, Food Hygiene and Safety Unit. This new unit would merge food safety and veterinary public health. JAPHI stated its objection to the removal of food safety from the Environmental Health Unit. Subsequently, no further update was supplied to the association despite written communication from the former CMO Dr. Ducasse committing to hold discussions required on the matter with MOH senior team.
5. Composition of the Environmental Health Unit. Are Medical Entomology and Veterinary Public Health division's currently parts of the EHU?



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6. Appointment of Public Health Inspectors to MOH Boards.
7. Specialist staff at EHU not having Graduate degrees in each area of responsibility. (The MOH has not consistently failed to honour this agreement nor has any effort made on its part to build the required capacity.
8. The issue of the non-payment of session to PHIs who work at special events and a need to review the present arrangements.

Launch of JAPHI STUDENT'S CHAPTER at Orientation of New Students to Public Health Programme, University of Technology (UTECH), Jamaica.



Photo2: JAPHI Public Relations Team



Photo3: JAPHI President (Paul Ximines) addressing Students

JAPHI launched its Student Chapter in September 2018 at the orientation of New Students to the Public Health Programme, University of Technology, Jamaica.



Jamaica Association of Public Health Inspectors (JAPHI) ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

JAPHI 72nd Annual Educational Conference held October 23rd -25th at the Royalton White Sand, Trelawny was a success with a great turn out of Public Health Inspectors, local and International Partners embracing the theme; Environmental Health; An essential Partnership for Sustainable Development.



Public Inspector of the Year-Ms. Charmaine McNee Simmonds – St Catherine

This Award is presented Ms. Charmaine McNee Simmonds, who started working as a Temporary Public Health Inspector in 1983 and is the longest serving officer in the parish of St. Catherine.

Achievement over the Period

This officer collects and submitted samples for 10 water sources for the detection of heavy metal throughout the parish. This was done in an effort to satisfy the requirements of the WHO of sampling the water source at least once every three years. Records showed that this was never done in the parish.

This officer was also instrumental in getting all 18 Water trucks in the parish marked in accordance to the National Drinking Water Quality Management Plan (NDWQMP) DRAFT. These are monitored monthly which is increased during drought periods. The officer was



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instrumental in getting all 25 water stores within the parish to be certified despite operators' resistance to the certification process.

The officer trained 23 water plant operators in Safety, Chlorine use and Proper treatment procedures and awarded 4 plant operators for their work in ensuring that water distributed from these water sources were safe for residents. She also organized annual **"BEST KEPT WATER SOURCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF POTABLE WATER"** AMONG THE ST. CATHERINE MUNICIPAL WATER SOURCE OPERATORS.

She restarted sampling of Recreational Beaches in the parish which had ceased for five years.

She is regarded by her colleagues as dedicated, reliable, disciplined, and industrious.



Dr Sylvanus Thompson Food Safety Officer of the Year – Ms Anna kay White – St Thomas (Award being received by PHI Malvie Williams).

This Award was presented to Ms, Anna Kay White- St. Thomas

Outstanding Achievement



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The officer has achieved a 98.4% compliance rate for food safety in her Health District, surpassing the parish target by 3.8% and the highest within the parishes 4 Health Districts.

This officer has purchased critical equipment from her own pocket when not available from the Department in order to attain and maintain standards.

She gives individual attention to Food Establishment Operators that were unsatisfactory ensuring a good working relationship. One on One education of Food Operators is always part of her routine assessment, hence her very outstanding compliance.

She has played a very important role in the restructuring of the food handlers training health education material.

This officer has implemented HACCP in several large food handling establishments (Golden Grove Sugar Factory and Serge island Dairies) by conducting walk through with management to ensure CCPS (critical control points) were properly identified and gave advice as to corrective measures.

She is described by colleagues as someone who can be relied on to assist in the planning of staff welfare functions and Christmas treats to ensure there is a bond within the PH fraternity and is always willing to take on additional duties even outside her core duties.

Resolutions Accepted at JAPHI AGM 2018

Five (5) amendments were moved and accepted at the recently held Annual Educational Conference. These amendments are as follows:

1. Election Process:

Whereas the current constitution states that Nomination papers for persons wishing to run for the post of President shall be submitted to the Executive Committee not less than 30 days before the Annual General Meeting, however, nominations can be taken from the floor of the AGM.

And whereas election for the posts of vice president, secretary, Assistant secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and PRO are not required to be submitted prior to the AGM and are taken from the floor.

And whereas the election process at the AGM is a long and tedious process that is usually left for the end of the AGM.



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And whereas this is carried out when most of the membership has left or are rushing out to leave the AGM and only a minority of the membership is left to carry out this vital process,

Be it resolved that:

1. All nominations for the posts of President, Vice president, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and PRO are required to be submitted at least 30 days prior to the AGM.
2. The election process is carried out beginning on Day one of the AGM and continues throughout Day two of the AGM
3. Ballots of the election are tallied at the end of day two and the results are presented at the Business Session.
4. Nomination for the three (3) Executive Officers is then taken from the floor and elected executive officers complete the slate of the executive council along with the IPP.
5. All elections are done by secret ballots.

2. Extension of Life of Executive Council

Whereas the present constitution mandates that the tenure of the Executive Council is for one year,

And whereas this one year tenure ship of the Executive council is inadequate to properly implement and advance programme that are initiated,

And whereas an extension of the life of the executive council can ensure proper planning and completion of programs,

Be it resolved that the life of the Executive Council shall be extended for two years so that elected officers and members serve for two consecutive years.

Be it also resolved that these members are eligible for re-nomination after this period except for the president who must sit out for at least one year.

3. President Elect to Executive Council

Whereas the constitution allows for the election of a President from the conference floor at Annual General Meeting

And whereas the this structure has been in place for many years and have resulted in a president being elected with sometimes little or no knowledge on how the organization conducts its affairs and all the nuances involved in running an organization of this magnitude.

And whereas this structure does not lend itself to proper grooming of candidates for presidency,



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And where this stifles the development of the organization as it fails to build this secondary leadership,

And whereas there is no clear path of succession for president in the organization,

And whereas at almost all AGM there is difficulty in identifying suitable candidates to succeed the president,

Be it resolved that the position of President Elect shall be added to the executive council.

4. Regional Chapters

Whereas Regional chapters have not been instituted in JAPHI constitution to be official part of organizational structure

Be it resolved that the constitution be restructured to allow for:

The Regional Chapters to be instituted and recognized by the parent body and also a part of its organizational structure.

Be it further resolved that each Regional Chapters provides an annual report on its operations to parent body no later than 30 days prior to AGM.

5. JAPHI Student Chapter Dues

Whereas the JAPHI constitution states that student membership to the Association shall be fifty percent of the regular dues for membership

And whereas this clause was instituted when the training of Public Health Inspectors was the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and therefore student were being paid a stipend,

And whereas the current Public Health Inspector student are required to fund their full tuition and cost of study,

And whereas the Association see the need to have an active interaction with these student while at school to ensure the continued professionalism of this noble profession,

Be it resolved that the dues for student membership shall be two thousand dollars (\$2000) per year or any sum set by the Annual General Meeting from time to time.



N.B. All amendments were:

Moved by: Steve Morris

Seconded by: O'Neil Brown

JAPHI Parish Representatives Policy 2018

This policy shall be used in the selection of Parish Representatives by each parish.

The position of Parish Representative for the parishes on behalf of the JAPHI is an office that requires suitable members of the Association, who are willing and able to communicate the happenings and wishes of the Association to its members residing in that parish.

This person must be chosen by the members within that parish and not be someone thrust upon the members without their consent. Therefore every JAPHI member within that parish shall have a say in the selection process of this individual.

Selection of JAPHI Parish Representative may become necessary as some parish reps may become inactive, while others may be promoted to executive positions on JAPHI's Executive Council at the AGM. Others may even choose to give up the portfolio for various reasons. Being an executive member does not mean that one cannot also be the parish rep, however, a parish may decide to choose another parish rep if they so desire once their parish rep has been promoted to the national level.

This policy shall mandate that an annual selection or reconfirmation of the parish rep for each parish is carried out by the membership within that parish soon after the Annual General Meeting and the names submitted in writing to the secretariat of JAPHI.

It shall be the duty of the parish rep to liaise with the secretariat and provide up-to-date and relevant information to the membership within that parish as well as to attend convened parish representative meeting held by JAPHI.

Procedure:

1. At the first meeting of members of JAPHI within a parish following the AGM, these members shall select or reconfirm one of that member as the parish rep for JAPHI.



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2. Where more than one persons are selected, the members shall vote by secret ballot and the person with the majority vote selected as the parish rep.
3. This information shall then be written and sent to JAPHI secretariat by the duly selected parish rep with the signatures of at least two other members from the parish.
4. The secretariat shall then be responsible to contact the parish and verify the information.
5. Once this is verified, this person shall be listed as the parish rep for that parish by JAPHI

Sponsorship Policy

JAPHI is accepting application for sponsorship to pursue short courses (Meat and Other Foods etc.). Sponsorship is available for (10) individuals at a maximum of \$50,000 per person.

The deadline for sponsorship application is **March 15, 2019**.

Applications should be submitted to the President at email address: info@japhi.org.jm

OR President@japhi.org.jm



Dengue Fever is a painful, debilitating mosquito-borne disease caused by any one of four closely related dengue viruses, namely Den V1, Den V2, DenV3 and DenV4. Dengue fever is transmitted by the bite of an Aedes mosquito infected with a dengue virus. A person can be infected with anyone strain of the virus. Immunity to one strain will provide lifelong immunity to that strain of the virus. However, that individual is at risk of infection with any of the other three (3) strains.



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The mosquito becomes infected when it bites a person with dengue virus in their blood (infested person).

Signs and Symptoms

Sudden, High Fever, Severe Headaches, Pain behind the eyes, Severe Joint and Muscle Pain, Fatigue, Nausea, Vomiting, Skin rash, which appears 2 to 5 days after the onset of fever, Mild bleeding (such as nose bleed, bleeding gums, or easy bruising).

Treatment for Dengue Fever

There is no specific medicine to treat dengue infection. If you think you may have dengue fever, you should use pain relievers with acetaminophen, which could worsen bleeding. You should also rest, drink plenty of fluids and see your doctor. If you start to feel worse within the first 24 hours after your fever goes down, you should get to a hospital immediately to be checked for complications.

Protect yourself: Use mosquito repellents, even indoors, wear long sleeved shirts and long pants tucked into shoes when outdoors; Make sure window and door screens are secure and free of holes. If sleeping areas are not screened or air conditioned, use mosquito nets. **If you have symptoms of dengue, speak to your doctor.**

To reduce the mosquito population: Get rid of places where mosquitoes can breed. These include old tires, cans, or flower pots that collect rain, regularly change the water in outdoor bird baths and pets' water dishes, cover water-holding containers to prevent mosquito access to deposit eggs, when refilling water-holding containers, frequently scrub the inside to remove any eggs deposited by mosquitoes.



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If someone in your home gets dengue fever, be especially vigilant about efforts to protect yourself and other family members from mosquitoes. Mosquitoes that bite the infected family member could spread the infection to others in your home.

Message: “At least once per week search and destroy all mosquito breeding sites around your premises/home”,

Commercial Property

Members at the Annual Educational Conference voted to use \$1,500,000.00 from the general funds to add to the \$1,000,000.00 in property funds to use as deposit on a suitable property for JAPHI.

The update will be provided at the next Annual Education Conference.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!!!