

Jennifer Lightbody – IPHA President - 1995

Thanks for collecting this information. In reading past newsletters I am struck by the themes that are still relevant today.

Lack of sustained funding for Public Health is still a major barrier in addressing what was known in my day as “Core Functions”. In the 1990s, concern centered on block grant funding, single-source contracting by IDPH, mandated changes to the way home health nursing could be billed, and support, or lack thereof, from the county board of supervisors. All those issues in some form still dominate how Public Health Agencies function today.

Health reform – a big topic then and still a huge topic. I am enough of an optimist to hope the current administration, with input from high level officials in the Department of Health and Human Services, will realize the critical role public health practice plays in improving community health and decreasing overall medical costs.

The treatment of HIV/AIDS has dramatically improved life expectancy and quality of life for those infected with the virus living in this country. The hard lesson of PREVENTION has still not been learned. Ironically one of our problems may be the knowledge that treatment is available and HIV is not an automatic, immediate death sentence.

The best part of my IPHA Presidency was working with a group of like-minded, dedicated and talented Public Health professionals who really cared about the health of their community. I am glad this is still the case.

Jennifer Lightbody

