CAPHIS BUSINESS MEETING
May 24, 2010, 7:30 a.m.
Hilton Hotel, Oak Lawn Room, Washington, DC

CAPHIS Chair Ysabel Bertolucci welcomed everyone, noting the agreeable condition of there being too many attendees for the meeting room. She mentioned that MLA section council was offering free section memberships for 6 months for MLA members to try out the various sections. Ysabel mentioned that she had no formal written agenda for the business meeting. In the Section Council meeting, she was asked what she liked about CAPHIS. Ysabel said it was the group’s “hang-loose” unstructured style and its short meeting agendas to allow time for networking. She was going to try to follow that style in the meeting today.

Ysabel introduced the officers at the meeting. She asked for a report from the program chair, Rhonda Allard. Rhonda reported on the CAPHIS sponsored program Sunday, “Traffic Is a Good Thing.” She noted that CAPHIS cosponsored programs with the Technical Services Section, “Reflecting on Our Past and Connecting to Our Future” and the Cancer Librarians Section today, “Providing Quality Complementary and Alternative Medicine Information to Cancer Patients,” and the Research Section Wednesday, “Electronic Health Record and Librarians: Potential Roles and Opportunities for Information Research.” Rhonda reminded the attendees that even though some consumer health relevant programs weren’t sponsored by CAPHIS didn’t mean they weren’t important.

Ysabel then introduced a visitor from the MLA board, Jane Blumenthal. Jane reported on the board activities, including the Rising Stars pilot project. She said they hoped to reach out to sections for identification of new energetic leaders that might be groomed. She then invited questions from attendees.

Michelle Spatz asked about when the MLA meeting tapes would be available. Jane answered that they would be available on the conference community web site for 1 year, then in the MLANET members only section.

Jana Liebermann asked about a plan for mid-career librarians similar to the Rising Stars for new librarians. Jane noted that Rising Stars was a pilot program, and they were limited by the available time of MLA members to devote to such efforts.

Michelle asked how to identify new members in sections when they join. Jane mentioned the “New Member” ribbons for conference badges, the New Members SIG and the New Members breakfast at the meeting. Michelle clarified her question as not necessarily referring to new members at the conference. Meredith Solomon noted it wasn’t easy to tell from the membership lists. As CAPHIS membership committee chair, she planned to communicate with MLA headquarters to identify and welcome new section members. Ysabel noted that headquarters was arranging it so that sections could run their own membership data now, which would make things easier. She said that those signing up for the 6 months free section membership would get a welcome letter from the section. Meredith affirmed that the intent was to stay in better communication with members. Jane noted that the association management was getting better. Michelle suggested that a personal phone call following the welcome letter to new
CAPHIS members might be better than just a letter. Nita Ferree noted that she had recently volunteered as a membership committee member but was never contacted. Meredith said there hadn’t been that much to do so far, but once we identify the new members there will be. She also noted that when she recently left a chapter she got a letter, and wished there were a way to identify members leaving CAPHIS as well as new members. There was some more general discussion about modes of communicating with members as well as other membership matters.

Rhonda asked Jane if it were too late to offer suggestions about program scheduling, especially regarding conflicting programming. Jane responded that MLA had to put section and SIG programs and meetings where they fit. Michelle was pleased by the videotaping of sessions, which would help with conflicts in the schedule for attendees. Meredith acknowledged Max Anderson’s hard work on the taping of the sessions.

Ysabel asked Jana Liebermann to report on the 2011 program. Jana asked for ideas and noted ideas raised at the executive committee meeting, including health reform and its relevance to consumer health information (CHI), the electronic health record (EHR) and privacy issues, Medline Connect, and hospital CHI resource centers without librarians. Michelle suggested something on CHI librarians dealing with challenges and embedding ourselves to be a part of the process of change within our institutions. Jana said she thought both philosophical and practical program ideas were good. She also suggested evaluation of programs as another programming idea for CAPHIS. Linda Butson suggested something on competing with non-university affiliated consumer health resources, such as patient navigators in a hospital. Jana thought that perhaps something on marketing departments, health educators and librarians working together might be good. Rhonda suggested a focused program including practical guidance on managing a consumer health resource center along with promoting our value as librarians. Michelle agreed that a program on communicating our value would be valuable. Meredith suggested cosponsoring such a program with the Leadership Section. Jane suggested talking to the Rising Star peers about this idea, letting them know about CAPHIS’ interest in this issue of self-promotion. Meredith suggested it might be worthwhile to host a preconference symposium based on this issue. Michelle stressed that it was important for us to communicate to administration our worth. Barbara Bibel noted that public librarians also had to deal with city administrators looking to cut costs by eliminating library services. Patricia Reusing spoke about a palliative care pilot project in a patient-centered care lounge in her institution. She suggested finding something the CEO loves and embedding yourself in the program. Jana asked what about the EHR idea? Meredith said she thought other sections may be planning programming on that same idea. Rhonda agreed that the problem with EHR was that it could “shake out” in multiple ways.

Ysabel reminded the planners that there isn’t as much need in current MLA programming for lots of programs, the idea now is to be more selective and to cosponsor with other sections. Rhonda mentioned an idea for an informal meeting focused on practical issues for CAPHIS members. Ysabel approved of this idea and further noted that we might be able to do that as part of the business meeting. Jana stated that we would need to advertise that part of the business meeting to members. Debbie Magnan noted that something similar was tried in the Hospital Section. Getting back to general programming for 2011, Janet Schneider suggested programming on the healing environment in patient-
centered care, but Michelle noted that “healing environment” in the context of patient-centered care actually referred to the physical environment not consumer health information.

Jana thanked everyone for the great ideas and encouraged them to come to Minneapolis in 2011.

Ysabel introduced Steven Luce of the CDC, who had asked to speak to the CAPHIS members about the new CDC National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (www.cdc.gov/ephtracking). Steven described the Tracking Network as an organizational shift in focus from infectious disease to environmental health. This network data will be used to correlate information on environmental issues with data on health issues as they arise. It also allows users to find local environmental health data. In addition, there will be some funding opportunities through this network. Jana asked about end-user input, and mentioned her concern about alarming consumers. Steven noted that the data were being made available in order for local entities to build programs based on that data. The CDC were not recommending actions on part of the users. He also noted that privacy laws prevented access to some data at “very” local levels; that data would be available only to professionals with a need to know. Tricia Reusing asked if this product replicated NLM’s Toxtown. Steven said they were working with partnering agencies to reduce such duplication. He wrapped up his comments by inviting attendees to visit the Environmental Public Health Tracking Network exhibit booth in the exhibit hall.

Ysabel then introduced Barbara Bibel who announced that the 2010 Outstanding Consumer Health Information Service Award from CAPHIS was awarded to Michelle Spatz. Barbara stated that this recognition was long overdue, noting Michelle’s long service as past chair of CAPHIS, CE instructor and book author in addition to her work as CHI librarian. Michelle responded to the announcement, saying it was a “total surprise”. She professed that she was “passionate” about her work, “fully believing” in what we do. She was “deeply moved” by the honor.

Ysabel turned over the chairmanship to Rhonda, stating that it was wonderful to be chair and recommending involvement in CAPHIS to other members. Rhonda thanked Ysabel as she assumed the chairmanship. Michelle thanked both Ysabel and Rhonda for the CAPHIS program this year. Ysabel closed the meeting by recommending attendance at the Janet Doe lecture that morning.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Hogan Smith, Secretary