

Lessons and Thoughts from my Second Pandemic.

New Jersey PHA Annual Meeting. October 8th, 2021

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President



NORTHWESTERN SITS ON THE
ORIGINAL HOMELANDS OF THE
**COUNCIL OF
THE THREE FIRES**

(OJIBWE • POTAWATOMI • ODAWA)



Native American &
Indigenous Initiatives
www.northwestern.edu/native

N

Artwork by Brittany Tainter
(Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe)

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU



COVID-19 Conversations





Policies That Work to Reduce Gun Violence

https://apha.org/-/media/Files/PDF/advocacy/201209_2021_APHA_advocacy_priorities.ashx

Gun Violence Prevention: A Public Health Approach

2021 Advocacy Priorities

- Increase and protect funding for vital public health agencies and programs and strengthen the nation's public health infrastructure
- Uphold the Affordable Care Act and expand access to health coverage and services
- Address the health impacts of climate change
- Advance racial equity
- Uphold critical public health laws and regulations and reverse damaging rollbacks
- Address the nation's gun violence epidemic

Member Unit Effectiveness and Engagement Project



<https://www.apha.org/about-apha/governance/mueep>

Annual Meeting 2021

Denver, CO Oct 24 to 27.

Hybrid

10% discount for virtual attendees

CEs included in registration

<https://www.apha.org/annualmeeting>



“APHA at 150 - Leading The Path Towards Equity”



Then and Now



1981

- **June 5:** The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) publishes an article in its *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*: *Pneumocystis Pneumonia* (PCP), in five young, white, previously healthy gay men in Los Angeles.

Flashback to 1985



2019

Dec. 31, 2019 — Chinese authorities inform WHO’s China office of pneumonia cases in Wuhan City, Hubei province, China, with unknown cause. Days later, researchers in China identified a new virus that had infected dozens of people in Asia. At the time, there was no evidence that the virus was readily spread by humans.”

The New York Times, March 17, 2021

Back to the Present

Enter Covid-19

- Medicalization of a public health emergency
- No talk about a national prevention strategy
- Lack of cultural and linguistic parity between the health workforce and the populations at higher risk
 - Mental Health Coverage
- Employment-based insurance
- Racist practices and structures

What are the learnings here?

Preparedness

Workforce

Evidence-based informed policy

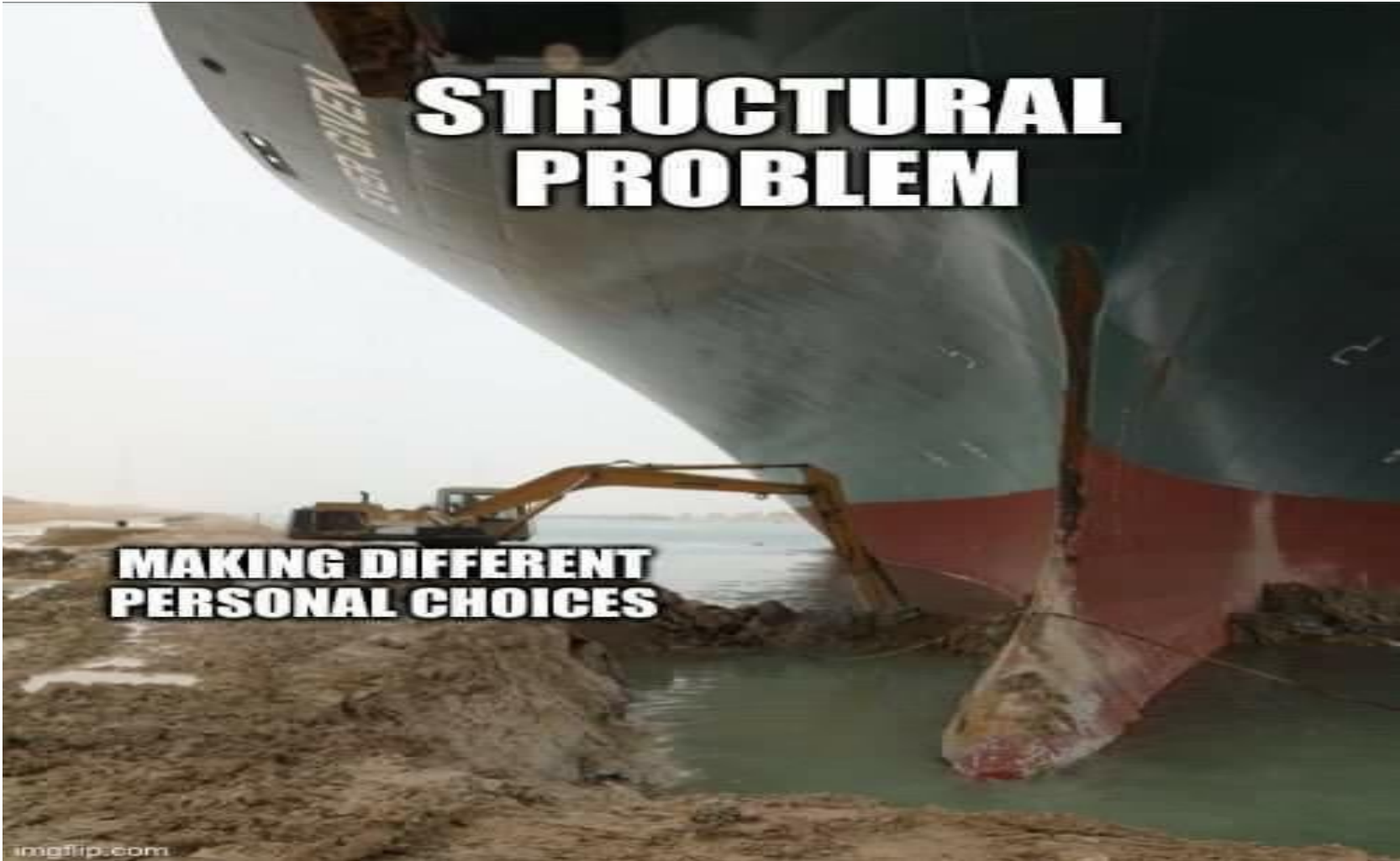
Leadership

The quest for health equity and social justice

The power of disinformation

To vax or not to vax?

- Anti Vaxers
- Vaccine “Hesitant”
 - Access
 - Unanswered questions
 - Historically mistreated
- **Disinformed/Misinformed**



About APHA

The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We strengthen the public health profession, promote best practices and share the latest public health research and information. We are the only organization that combines a nearly 150-year perspective, a broad-based member community and the ability to influence policy to improve the public's health. Learn more at www.apha.org.



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