National Board of Public Health Examiners

April 28, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Gillian B. Silver, MPH
Board Administrator
National Board of Public Health Examiners
c/o the Association of Schools of Public Health
1101 15th Street, NW, Suite 910
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: 202-296-1099, ext. 132
Email: gsilver@asph.org

National Board of Public Health Examiners Launched with
Selection of Inaugural Board and Officers

The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) announces the selection of its
inaugural Board and officers. The organization dedicated to credentialing public health graduates
is officially launched; this is a landmark event for public health, the only health profession
without a credential. The Board includes organizational members appointed by the American
Public Health Association (APHA), the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), the
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the Association of Teachers of
Preventive Medicine (ATPM) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials
(NACCHO), as well as at-large members.

Elected officers are Dr. Bernard Goldstein, Dean Emeritus of the University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public Health, chair; Dr. Donna Petersen, dean of the University of South
Florida College of Public Health, chair-elect; and Dr. Cheryl Healton, President and CEO of the
American Legacy Foundation, secretary-treasurer. The Executive Committee also includes Dr.
Patricia Buffler, Dean Emerita of the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health,
chair of the Nominations Committee and Dr. Terry Dwelle, North Dakota State Health Officer,
chair Testing Committee.

Organizational board members selected are Dr. David Gregorio, director University of
Connecticut Graduate Program in Public Health; Dr. Sally Guttmacher, New York University
MPH Program; Dr. Robert Harmon, President of the Harmon Health Group; Dr. Diane
Matuszak, director of the Community Health Administration, Maryland Department of Health
and Mental Hygiene; Dr. Alan Melnick, Health Officer for Oregon’s Clackamas County Public
Health Division and faculty at Oregon Health & Science University; Dr. Andrew Sorensen,
President of the University of South Carolina; and Dr. Walter Tsou, past-President of APHA and
public health consultant.
NBPHE’s by-laws stipulate that twelve members of the board will represent the organizations listed above. These representative board members, selected in December 2005, convened in Washington, DC March 31 through April 2, 2006 and elected seven additional at-large board members: Dr. Jack Barnette, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health; Dr. Mindy Fullilove (Mailman School of Public Health) and Dr. Kristine Gebbie (School of Nursing), both at Columbia University; Dr. Fernando Guerra, Director of Health, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District; Dr. Camara Jones, Research Director on Social Determinants of Health, CDC; Dr. Edward Mamary, Director, MPH Program, San Jose State University; and Dr. Adewale Troutman, Director of the Louisville Metro Health Department and faculty at the University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences.

The NBPHE will develop a voluntary credentialing exam for graduates who earn masters or doctoral degrees from the 37 public health schools and 65 programs accredited by the Council on Education of Public Health (CEPH)–currently over 8,000 per year. This public health credential will ensure that graduates have mastered competencies in the 5 core public health disciplines: biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences.

The NBPHE was launched to assure graduates from CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health have mastered required competencies and to address the need for greater recognition of public health as a health profession. Employers hiring credentialed graduates will be assured that these candidates have a fundamental breadth and depth of public health knowledge. Graduates achieving the credential will be able to more easily transfer their experience from state to state. Dr. Charles Mahan, President of the National Board of Public Health Examiners, says, "It is my prediction that having a national credential for our graduates will have a similar impact the public school teachers have seen when they started their exam some 15 years ago: better career ladders, better salaries, better retention and increased portability moving around the country."

The Board has met with test development companies to select a vendor. The first exam is scheduled for 2008. Information will be available on the organization’s website at http://www.nbphe.org, which will be launched soon. For more information, contact Gillian Silver, Board Administrator, at 202-296-1099, ext. 132, or mailto:gsilver@asph.org.

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