



## **MICHIGAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (MPHA) HISTORY**

MPHA began in 1919 and became an Affiliate of the American Public Health Association in 1921. The earliest resolutions on record deal with public health personnel qualifications and standards (1966); smoking and health (1967); and family planning (1968). MPHA has adopted 65 resolutions since 1996, in 9 categories:

**#1 MPHA supports the implementation of health promotion and disease prevention measures: 19 resolutions;**

**#2 MPHA supports the enhancement of health care resources by progressive and innovative means, including improved financing of the public health care delivery system: 17 resolutions;**

**#3 MPHA supports health education as an integral component of elementary and secondary school curricula, of the public and private delivery systems and of voluntary health organizations: 8 resolutions;**

**#4 MPHA acknowledges the indissoluble linkages that exist between personal, occupational and environmental health and will develop and/or support policies and positions that protect the environmental and occupational health of Michigan residents: 2 resolutions;**

**#5 MPHA supports local, regional, state and federal health planning activities which have a positive impact upon the direction and strength of the public health system: 2 resolutions;**

**#6 MPHA supports improving the quality of health care service delivery via the licensure, certification and regulation of public health professionals and organizations: 5 resolutions;**

**#7 MPHA recognizes the valid concerns of consumers and supports their rights in the pursuit of health and quality health care: 8 resolutions;**

**#8 MPHA recognizes the efforts of health care professionals in providing necessary care and in working to improve the health of Michigan citizens: 2 resolutions;**

**#9 MPHA recognizes the interactions that exist between the health care system and other governmental programs and supports changes and actions in these programs that would result in better health care: 2 resolutions.**

In 1974, MPHA had about 800 members, and in the late '70's had an Executive Director. There were 22 Presidents between 1961 and 2004 that included 7 men and 15 women. MPHA was very active in legislative affairs in the 1980's. In the late 1980's, the Michigan legislature funded the Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH), which they wanted to become the focal point for public health policy in the state. MPHA chose to remain an independent organization and declined to combine with MALPH. MPHA viewed its mission as an organization to be one that would represent the voice of the people and has continued to do so throughout time.