



**President's Notes
August 2014**

Dear Membership,

I cannot believe we are already into August. Where did July go? I am getting ready to go on vacation and can't wait for some downtime however, I am thinking the timing might be crazy because I will have a HRSA and CDC report due not long after my return along with my firstborn going off to college (☹) and two boys needing school supplies. And really, the list goes on! Oh well, is there ever a good time?

I hope all of you were able to participate in the DSHPSHWA educational offering, *Value Stream Mapping – A New Quality Improvement Tool to Add to Your Toolbox* on Tuesday, July 29. The presentation was provided by Kathleen Watts and Marcia Fort. They introduced value stream mapping as a simple diagram of mapping every step involved in a process and the information flow needed to provide a service. They suggested we engage our internal and external partners in this exercise to identify which steps in a process is value added, non-value added but necessary, or non-value added. By classifying steps in this way, PDSA cycles can be identified and prioritized for PDSA testing cycles. If you were not able to attend, you can still view the presentation, obtain the PowerPoint and visit the resources they recommended on the webinar. Visit the DSHPSHWA website, <http://www.dshpshwa.org/ProfessionalDevelopment.html>. The DSHPSHWA Board will notify you of additional educational opportunities as they become available.

A big thank you to those of you that submitted recommendations regarding plenary speakers for the 2015 National EHDI Meeting! You had great ideas for speakers and all of them will be considered and voted on in the next two weeks by the 2015 EHDI meeting planning committee.

Finally, the board is hard at work planning the 2015 DSHPSHWA meeting. The board plans to devote approximately an hour of the meeting for education. If you have any ideas for topics, programs you want to learn more about, partnerships, speakers you may want to hear from about research, etc. please email Tammy O'Hollearn, Tammy.Ohollearn@idph.iowa.gov or Linda Hazard, Linda.Hazard@state.vt.us as soon as possible. The goal is to send you a DRAFT agenda early fall.

I hope all of you are having a great summer and also got some much needed downtime or have some scheduled soon! Until next time, take care of yourselves and each other.

Tammy O'Hollearn, DSHPSHWA President