Evaluating the Impact of Academic-Public Health Partnerships on Health Professions Schools & Programs

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Presentation Outline

➢ Current research findings re partnerships between health departments and academic health centers

➢ Recommendations for considering costs/benefits of partnerships for health professions schools and/or programs

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Original Research (2003)

What is the scope and nature of collaborations in place for teaching, research, and service between academic health centers and the nation's public health departments?

Methods

➤ Surveys distributed to health departments and academic health centers located within relative proximity nationwide
➤ N = 201 health departments and 50 academic health centers

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Health Departments			Academic Health Centers
Report some relationship with an AHC	86%	75%	Report some relationships with a HD
Median annual number of AHC trainees per HD	29	19	Median annual number of trainees sent to HDs
Report *no funds exchanged* for training purposes	80%	75%	Report *no funds exchanged* for training purposes
Report **other types of relationships** with AHCs:	70%	84%	Report **other types of relationships** with HDs:
Research	40%	19%	Research
Research and Service	43%	23%	Research and Service
Funds sent to AHCs	54%	8%	Funds sent to PHDs

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Key Finding

Were these relationships in place prior to September 11, 2001?

Health Departments:	Academic Health Centers:
17% Yes	*94% Yes*
83% No	6% No

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What should your
school or program consider?

➢ Who's in charge of what?

➢ Costs/benefits

➢ Structural requirements for partnerships

Who's in charge?

Academic Program

- Key contact to practice site
- Course objectives (general)
- Providing appropriate faculty training (ongoing)
- Ultimate student oversight, w/support of community faculty (aka, "*Our* students")

Practice Site

- Key liaison to academic program
- Student activities (specifics), based on agency's needs
- Specify appropriate faculty and support structure for students
- On-site student management (aka, "*Our* students")

What are the costs of partnerships?

- Recruitment, training, and development of community sites and faculty
  - Designated academic faculty members' time
- Rewards/incentives for community agencies and/or faculty
  - Monetary payments
  - Faculty status (and accompanying privileges)
- Ongoing relationship management
  - Designated faculty or professional staff time
  - Tracking systems, web access to resources (IT support)

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What are key benefits??

Shared benefits are essential to identify and explicitly define:

➢ The health agency expects that the association w/the health professions school will result in improvements in its quality of core services and programs; and

➢ The health professions school expects that the association will help meet its mission of improving health services in the community and training its students oriented to community-based practice.

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Example: Health Professions School/Program Benefits

➤ Provides "laboratory" for population or community medicine curriculum

➤ Health agency faculty can be resources for teaching (as "clinical" faculty)

➤ Collaborative research is encouraged and supported (Publications/presentations of work must recognize both the school/program and the health department)

➤ Supports overall mission of improving community's health

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What type of partnership??

Essential components of any agreement:

➢ Consider differing levels of relationship, based on academic program's (and the health agency's) capabilities and needs

- Ex: NEOUCOM "Association" vs. "Affiliation"

➢ Established guidelines to identify what elements/resources are necessary in order to enter into any relationship (i.e., what each partner has to offer in regard to resources up front)

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Example:
Essential Structural Elements

➢ Health Department Director who is an MD; <u>or</u> non-MD Director w/appropriate PH training and a Medical Director w/OH license

➢ Adequate staff for wide range of PH activities who can supervise or assist students

➢ Supportive environment for academic activities

➢ Adequate facilities (parking, desks, phones, computers, etc.)

➢ Eligibility for state subsidy payments

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JRB's Four Elements of A Successful Partnership

- An **OPEN**
  - All parties know why each other are involved
- **COLLABORATION**
  - All parties are willing to work together toward goal
- of **SHARED RISK**
  - All parties have something invested in the effort
- and **SHARED REWARD**
  - All parties benefit if/when the goal is achieved

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