

Building the Practice of Public Health



OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

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# Academic-Practice Summit: Facilitating partnerships for better public health in Michigan

APHA Annual Meeting  
November 5, 2007

# Presentation Authors

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# Presentation Objectives

After this session participants will be able to:

- Describe the activities that occurred at the Academic-Practice Summits
- Recognize the importance of events that bring together practice and academic communities
- Discuss the impact an event like the Summit can have on building partnerships between the practice and academic sectors of public health

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# Presentation Overview

- Purpose of the Summit
- Background
- Event Details
- Outcomes
- Future Plans

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# Purpose

- The Summit was intended to offer practitioners and faculty the opportunity to network and interact, with the ultimate goal of establishing collaborative projects
  - Also served as a means of providing an update on SPHs involvement in “practice” activities
- Explain and discuss models of successful collaborations that include applied research
- No other event of this kind in Michigan

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# Background

- Created by the Office of Public Health Practice in 2006
- Annual event held in September
- Brings together academicians and practitioners from across Michigan
  - Invitees include local health officers and medical directors, designated officials from the state health department (Michigan Department of Community Health), SPH faculty

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# Event Details – Year One

- First event held prior to the official opening of the new “Crossroads” School of Public Health building
- Held in conjunction with monthly Michigan Association of Local Public Health (MALPH) Board meeting
- Offered travel stipends to health officers/medical directors traveling over 100 miles
- Social event/dinner the night prior
- Session on public health advocacy held for those not attending the MALPH Board meeting

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# Event Details – Year One, cont

- Participant lunch/networking time
- Afternoon welcome session included SPH Dean Kenneth Warner discussing the School of Public Health's work in public health practice
- Associate Dean for Practice, Matthew Boulton, gave an overview of the work of the Office of Public Health Practice
- Four presentations highlighting projects where academics and practitioners worked together

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# Outcomes – Year One

- Networking was described as the most useful outcome
- Success in attracting faculty despite challenges
- Evaluations showed that travel subsidies were not essential for participation
- 89 attendees throughout the day, 75 for the dinner

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# Event Details – Year Two

- Held day before the Annual Practice Symposium, *“Global Public Health Preparedness: Is It Possible?”*
- Held in conjunction with monthly Michigan Association of Local Public Health (MALPH) Board meeting
- Participant lunch/networking time
- Welcome session in afternoon with updates from the Dean and Associate Dean for Practice

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# Event Details – Year Two, cont

- Opening session by Dr. Stephanie Bailey, Chief of Public Health Practice, CDC
- Concurrent sessions:
  - Public Health Certificate Program
  - Connecting SPH with the Practice Community through Technology
- Open forum
- Summit Dinner with Symposium speakers

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# Outcomes – Year Two

- Networking was the most useful outcome
- Suggestion to include students in future Summits
- Success in attracting faculty despite challenges
- 72 attendees throughout the day, 83 for the dinner
  - Many more faculty attended the dinner than Summit

# Future Plans

- Continue as an annual or biannual event
  - Practitioners and faculty continue to see benefit in holding annual event
- Find ways to involve more SPH faculty and students
- Structure networking time for developing ideas for joint projects between faculty/practitioners
- Allow practitioners more time to showcase “best practices”

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# Thank you!

Erin Rothney, MPH

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