Academic Health Department Learning Community: Supporting Collaboration in Public Health

Kathleen Amos, MLIS
Project Manager, Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice
Public Health Foundation

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Presenter Disclosures

Kathleen Amos, MLIS

(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose
Overview

- Introduction to the Academic Health Department (AHD) Learning Community and AHDs
- AHD Learning Community Activities
- Get Involved!
Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

To improve public health practice, education, and research by:

- Fostering, coordinating, and monitoring links among academia and the public health and healthcare community;
- Developing and advancing innovative strategies to build and strengthen public health infrastructure; and
- Creating a process for continuing public health education throughout one’s career.

20 National Public Health Organizations:
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American Public Health Association
- Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
- Association of Accredited Public Health Programs
- Association of Public Health Laboratories
- Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- Association of University Programs in Health Administration
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Association of Local Boards of Health
- National Environmental Health Association
- National Library of Medicine
- National Network of Public Health Institutes
- National Public Health Leadership Development Network
- Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations
- Society for Public Health Education

Funded by CDC
Staffed by PHF
Academic Health Department (AHD) Learning Community

- National community of professionals focused on developing, maintaining, and expanding AHDs
  - More than 300 members
  - Practitioners, educators, and researchers
  - Primarily working in public health

- Facilitates shared exploration of the AHD concept
Academic Health Department

- Affiliation of a health department and an academic health professions institution
- Public health’s version of the teaching hospital/medical school partnership
- Collaborative relationship to enhance public health education and training, research, and service
- Strengthens linkages between academia and public health practice
AHD Elements

- Relationship between an academic and a public health practice organization
- Formal written partnership agreement
- Collaborative public health education or training
- Joint research projects
- Shared provision of public health services
- Shared personnel
- Shared resources
- Compensation for services provided
AHD Benefits

- Address community health needs more effectively
- Build and use practice-based evidence
- Maximize resource use
- Better prepare students for public health practice careers
- Support recruitment of qualified professionals
- Facilitate lifelong learning
- Increase awareness of public health
- Meet accreditation standards
- **Improve public health system and community health**
AHD Learning Community

- Launched in January 2011
- Supports development, maintenance, and expansion of AHD partnerships
- Brings together practitioners, educators, and researchers to share experiences and collaborate
- Promotes knowledge sharing, collaborative learning, and resource development
AHD Learning Community Discussion

Meetings
  - Conference calls and webinars
  - In-person

PHF Pulse Blog
  - AHDs and the Learning Community
  - Steps in AHD Development
  - AHDs in an Evolving Public Health Environment
  - Exploring Health Reform Opportunities for AHDs

Add your comments at http://www.phf.org/phfpulse
AHD Learning Community Resources

- **Concept Paper**
  - Describes basic elements of the AHD model
  - Working draft

- **Bibliography**
  - List of AHD-related literature
  - Updated as new materials are discovered

- **Partnership Agreements**
  - Sample agreements for guidance
  - Seeking to expand collection
AHD Learning Community Profiles

Personal profiles for AHD Learning Community members to share their experiences

Available online
Recent AHD Learning Community Activities

Membership

- Rapid growth to 300+ members
- Primarily U.S. public health professionals
- Involvement from a variety of public health sectors

Meetings

- Introductory webinar meetings
  - Held 2 in May and archived for reuse
  - Provided an overview of AHDs and the AHD Learning Community
  - Available directly and through TRAIN
- September conference call meeting
  - Focused on potential roles for AHDs in the education, training, and practice of public health workers around health reform
Upcoming AHD Learning Community Activities

Next meeting

- TODAY from 4:30-6 pm in BCEC 256 (Session 4397.0)
- 3rd in-person meeting
- Focused on AHDs and health reform

Needs assessment

- Planning to conduct
- Identify activities, topics, and resources desired by members
- Help guide future activities
Upcoming AHD Learning Community Activities

- Topic-specific subgroups
  - Capture and share knowledge in a specific area
  - Facilitate working meetings
  - Help meet the needs of a diverse membership

- Improved profiles
  - Support connecting and sharing experiences
  - Help identify expertise

- Mentorship program
  - Support collaborative learning
  - Facilitate sharing and building expertise
Upcoming AHD Learning Community Activities

- Refine the AHD definition
  - Propose stages of AHD development
  - Help in identifying/recognizing AHD partnerships
- Considering a survey on AHD characteristics
  - Learn more about AHD partnerships
  - Working with researchers at the University of Tennessee and Washington University in St. Louis
- Continue to build awareness and connections
  - National associations
  - *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*
Get Involved!

- Visit the AHD Learning Community online: http://www.phf.org/programs/AHDLearningCommunity

- Join the AHD Learning Community or subscribe to the Council on Linkages Update: kamos@phf.org

Questions?

Thank you!