

Academic Health Department Learning Community: Strengthening Public Health through Collaboration

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Public Health Practice

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Presenter Disclosures

C. William Keck, MD, MPH

(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 Academic Health Departments (AHDs) and the AHD Learning Community
- Recent and Upcoming AHD Activities
- Small Group Discussions on AHDs and Health Reform
- Discussion and Next Steps



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



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 **The Council on Linkages
Between Academia and
Public Health Practice**

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



How Might an AHD Get Started?

- Collaborative public health education or training
 - Student internships or practica
 - Guest lectures by health department staff
- Joint research projects
 - Letters of support for funding proposals
 - Access to community populations and health data
 - Participation in Practice-Based Research Networks
- Shared provision of public health services
 - Consultations
 - Direct service delivery in community



Where Might This Lead?

- Collaborative public health education or training
 - Workforce development training
 - Faculty appointments for health department staff
- Joint research projects
 - Collaborative funding proposals
 - Shared data collection and analysis
- Shared provision of public health services
 - Collaborative community health assessments and improvement plans



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**



What Can Help an AHD Develop?

- Open communication
- Understanding and respect for organizational culture
- Informal relationships
- Champions in all partner organizations
- Leadership and staff support
- Mutual buy-in
- Time and patience
- Sharing of responsibilities and benefits



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>

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Academic Health Department Learning Community

Actions >> Clear All

Archives

August, 2011 (1)

March, 2011 (2)

December, 2010 (1)

Actions >> Show Years

Blog

Paul Campbell Erwin: Translating Research into Practice - Is Your Academic Health Department Leading the Way?

Posted in: Council on Linkages, and Workforce Development

August 29, 2011

Paul Campbell Erwin, MD, DrPH, Professor and Department Head, Department of Public Health, University of Tennessee

Academic health department (AHD) partnerships bring together academic institutions and health departments to strengthen public health education and training, research, and practice.

Continue Reading...

Louise A. Kent: Developing Academic Health Departments - A Practice Perspective

Posted in: Council on Linkages, and Workforce Development

March 31, 2011

Louise A. Kent, MBA, ASQ COIA, Health Planning Administrator, Northern Kentucky Health Department

With a growing interest to support the expansion of Academic Health Departments (AHDs) across the nation, it is worth taking time to mention the benefits of being an AHD and then briefly explore a "stepped..."

Continue Reading...

John Gwinn: What Does Your Model Academic Health Department Health Officer Look Like?

Posted in: Council on Linkages, and Workforce Development

Most Views

Most Comments

Joan Miles: PHF's New Vision

C. William Keck: Academic Health Departments

John Gwinn: What Does Your Model Academic Health Department Health Officer Look Like?

Ilya Plotkin: How does your organization track training?

Kaye Bender: What is the relationship between accreditation and quality improvement in public health?



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

The image displays three screenshots of the AHD Learning Community website, each showing a member profile. The website has a blue header with the PHF logo and navigation links: ABOUT PHF | CONSULTING & TRAINING SERVICES | CONTACT US | SUPPORT US. Below the header is a search bar and a main navigation menu with tabs for HOME, FOCUS AREAS, PROGRAMS, RESOURCES & TOOLS, NEWS, EVENTS, and PHF PULSE. The profile pages include a member's name, title, location, contact information, and a bio. The bio for Eric Gass, PhD, mentions his work at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Health Department. Bryn Manzella, MPH, is the Director of Quality Improvement at Jefferson County Department of Health. C. William Keck, MD, MPH, is a Professor Emeritus and Retired Director of Health at Akron, OH.

➤ 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

- Conducting a needs assessment
 - Identify activities, topics, and resources desired by members
 - Help guide future activities
- Refining 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



Additional AHD Activities

- American Public Health Association
 - Health Administration Section
 - Hosted this meeting
 - Expressed interest in other opportunities for supporting AHD awareness and development
 - Academic Public Health Caucus
 - Hosted a session this morning on Linking Public Health Teaching and Practice (Session 4075.0)
 - Session included an overview of the AHD Learning Community



Additional AHD Activities

- Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
 - Selected Effective Academic-Practice Collaborations as one theme for the Teaching Prevention 2014 annual meeting
 - Invited abstracts on building academic public health departments
- National Association of Local Boards of Health
 - AHDs is the topic for April 2014 Ned E. Baker Lecture
- *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*
 - Preparing a theme issue on AHDs
 - Planned for release in 2014



Small Group Discussions on AHDs and Health Reform

- How can practice organizations get involved in health reform and engage academic partners?
- How can academic institutions get involved in health reform and engage practice partners?
- Report back from groups
 - Next steps?



What's Next for the AHD Learning Community?

- Needs assessment
 - Identify priorities for Learning Community activities
- Topic-specific subgroups
 - Help capture and share knowledge in a specific area
- Improved profiles
 - Support connecting and sharing experiences
- Mentorship program
 - Facilitate learning and building expertise



Let's Keep the Conversation Going!

- If you're not yet a Learning Community member, join us
 - Contact Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org
- Watch for more regular Learning Community emails
- Sign up for the *Council on Linkages Update*
 - Contact Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org
- Visit us online at <http://www.phf.org/programs/AHDLC>

Thank you!

