

# Navigating the Seas of Public Health Workforce Development: What Every Practitioner and Academic Needs to Know

## American Public Health Association 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting November 2, 2015

## Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

The Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice (Council on Linkages) is a collaborative of 20 national organizations focused on improving public health education and training, practice, and research. Established in 1992 to implement the recommendations of the Public Health Faculty/Agency Forum, the Council on Linkages works to further academic/practice collaboration to ensure a well-trained, competent workforce and the development and use of a strong evidence base for public health practice. Visit the Council on Linkages website at www.phf.org/councilonlinkages for more information.

### **Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals**

An initiative of the Council on Linkages, the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals (Core Competencies) are a consensus set of skills for the broad practice of public health, as defined by the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The Core Competencies reflect foundational skills desirable for professionals engaging in the practice, education, and research of public health. The current version of the Core Competencies was unanimously adopted by the Council on Linkages in June 2014 and is the result of more than 20 years of work by the Council on Linkages and other public health practice and academic organizations, beginning with development of the Universal Competencies by the Public Health Faculty/Agency Forum in 1991. Used by health departments and academic institutions across the country, the Core Competencies provide a framework for workforce development planning and action, and can serve as a starting point for public health professionals and organizations as they work to better understand and meet workforce development needs, improve performance, prepare for accreditation, and enhance the health of the communities they serve. The Core Competencies are available at www.phf.org/corecompetencies, and additional information can be found at www.phf.org/aboutcorecompetencies.

#### Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is the voice of accredited academic public health, representing U.S. and international schools and programs accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). ASPPH members represent over 9,000 faculty who educate over 33,000 students annually from every state in the US and most countries throughout the world.

ASPPH is dedicated to transforming public health by strengthening and promoting the education, research, service, and practice mission of member CEPH-accredited schools and programs while advocating for investments needed to advance population health and more effective public health programs, policies, and services. ASPPH also established a network for leaders of institutions with undergraduate majors in public health, global health, or global public health.

#### Framing the Future

ASPPH established the Framing the Future Task Force to guide the field in better preparing graduates for success in a changing world and global marketplace. This comprehensive

initiative to advance education in public health was timed to coincide with the 100-year anniversary of the seminal Welch-Rose report of 1915. A national employers' advisory board guided the task force's efforts. Between 2012 and 2014, hundreds of stakeholders contributed to producing expert panel reports on the following six topics:

- The MPH degree, which lays out an approach to transitioning the signature degree to a 21<sup>st</sup> century model
- The DrPH degree, a re-envisioning of the foremost, terminal, professional degree
- Baccalaureate degrees, applicable for advanced academic study as well as career pathways
- Population health across all professions, which offers bidirectional approaches for public health and professional degrees towards integrating health-oriented learning in free-standing programs as well as dual and joint degree programs
- Community colleges and public health, which provides prototype curricular models for associate degree and certificate programs in public health
- Governmental public health workforce development, which recommends collaborative models to improve employees' public health-related job performance towards supporting population health improvements

These reports are available at www.aspph.org/educate/framing-the-future.

### **Council on Education for Public Health**

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is an independent agency recognized by the US Department of Education to accredit schools of public health and public health programs offered in settings other than schools of public health. These schools and programs prepare students for entry into careers in public health. The primary professional degree is the Master of Public Health (MPH), but other master's and doctoral degrees are offered as well.

CEPH is a private, nonprofit corporation with the American Public Health Association and the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (formerly the Association of Schools of Public Health) as its two corporate members. The affairs of the corporation are directed by a 10member board. As an independent body, the board is solely responsible for adopting criteria by which schools and programs are evaluated, for establishing policies and procedures, for making accreditation decisions, and for managing the business of the corporation.

CEPH will release a second draft of its proposed revised curriculum criteria along with a first draft of its proposed revised criteria addressing all other areas. These documents will be released as soon as possible after CEPH's meeting concludes on October 24 and no later than November 10. Proposed revisions can be located at ceph.org/criteria-revision/.

#### de Beaumont Foundation

The de Beaumont Foundation's mission is to transform public health in the United States by improving the effectiveness and capacity of local and state health departments. The de Beaumont Foundation believes that a strong public health system is essential. The Foundation works to transform the practice of public health through strategic and engaged grantmaking. Programs funded by the Foundation build the capacity and stature of the public health workforce, improve public health infrastructure, and advance the distribution and relevancy of information and data in the field. Visit the Foundation's website at www.debeaumont.org for more information.