Developing Boards of Health: Findings from a Training Pilot

Phyllis Meadows, Phoebe Goldberg, Hope Rollins, Laurie Taylor, Jane Boyden
Presented by: Phoebe Goldberg
Michigan Public Health Training Center

Presenter Disclosures

Phoebe Goldberg
The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:
No relationships to disclose
Disclosures

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- This evaluation (HUM00098427) was determined Not Regulated by the University of Michigan Health Sciences and Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board.

About Us

- University of Michigan School of Public Health Office of Public Health Practice
- Strengthen the skills of the current and future public health workforce
- Non-profit institute
- Dedicated to improving community health through collaboration
- Workforce development
In today’s public health system, the leadership role of boards of health makes them an essential link between public health services and a healthy community.

- National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH)

Source: NALBOH, n.d.

NALBOH’s Six Functions of Public Health Governance

- Policy Development
- Resource Stewardship
- Legal Authority
- Partner Engagement
- Continuous Improvement
- Oversight

Source: NALBOH, 2012
Why Train Boards of Health (BOH)

- NALBOH 2011 Local BOH National Profile
  - Conducting a board member orientation
  - Advocating for local public health
- Ohio requirement for BOH training
- In memory of Marie Fallon, former NALBOH CEO

Sources: Branco, 2012; Ohio, 2014

Governance in Action for Public Health

- National audience
- Seven online modules
  - Examples of effective BOHs
  - Suggested resources
  - Suggested discussion topics
The Pilot

- When: January – October of 2015
- Participants: 10 BOHs in Michigan and Ohio
  - 7 Rural, 2 Advisory, 2 New
  - Total individual participants: 84 BOH members
- Evaluation: Pre-Survey, Module Post-Surveys, Final Survey, Focus Groups
- Response rate: 48-58% for paired module surveys, 52-67% for unpaired questions/final survey

Evaluation Findings

- Indicated that the course goals and learning objectives were met
- Some knowledge gains related to key public health concepts
  - Core Functions of Public Health (21% vs. 89%)
  - Stakeholders in public health system (57% vs. 88%)

Image adapted from CDC, 2014
Knowledge Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Pre-test: correct</th>
<th>Post-test: correct</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As of February 2015, national accreditation through the [PHAB] is mandatory for local health depts.</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As of 2012, all states in the US have a state board of health.</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public health may be governed by boards of health with legal authority or advisory boards that inform decision-making.</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The social determinants of health include factors beyond the scope of public health.</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health officers have a key role in the board of health’s work to establish policy.</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Opportunities for Action

- Partner Engagement
  - Collaboration
  - Communicate with the Community
- Continuous Improvement
  - Community Health Assessments
  - Evidence-based Practice
Opportunities for Action, Cont.

- Oversight
- Resource Stewardship
  - Exploring Funding Opportunities
- Policy Involvement
- Cross-cutting Sub-topics

Feedback on Course & Methods

- Methods of implementation varied
  - Mixed feedback on effectiveness of learning method
  - Need time and/or discussion to process the material, need written materials
- Appreciation of examples
- Desire for tailored material
- Language
Changes Made to Course

- Creation of a companion guide
  - Additional examples of effective BOHs
  - Written support documents
  - Technical support
- Updates to quizzes and evaluation

Next Steps

- Final Package and Dissemination
- Evaluation
Potential Future Training Areas

- Templates and tools
- More examples!
- Board basics, operations, staying engaged
- More on specific activities within the Six Functions

Thank You

For more information, contact:
Phoebe Goldberg, MPH, CHES
Program Manager
Michigan Public Health Training Center

gophoebe@umich.edu
734-763-6526
www.mittrainingcenter.org
References