



**COUNCIL ON LINKAGES BETWEEN
ACADEMIA AND PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE**

**Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice
April 18, 2006 Meeting Summary**

Critical Funding Alert from the Council

The Chair of the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice (Council), Dr. C. William Keck, presented the news to members that funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for continued operations of the Council is scheduled to end on September 30, 2006. Without another source of funds, the Council will have to cease all operations. Members voiced concerns about losing the only independent collaborative and deliberative action-oriented body that addresses important academic/practice issues. While the option was discussed to acknowledge the many accomplishments of the Council and close up shop, members in attendance voted unanimously in support of seeking funding to continue this unique institution for the betterment of public health nationwide. The overarching message was that we cannot afford to lose valuable infrastructure that supports the practice and teaching of public health.

Over the past several years, core financial support from HRSA has allowed the Council to:

- convene meetings of its members;
- develop, disseminate, and document use of the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals;
- define and promote public health systems research (PHSR);
- compile resources to help academic and practice communities form partnerships;
- begin to identify and present evidence-based strategies to improve worker recruitment and retention;
- present the annual Linkages Awards; and
- publicize Council initiatives through the Council website and presentations at national conferences.

In addition to seeking funding for core Council support, members reaffirmed their desire to seek funding for special/categorical projects that can address specific Council priorities as well as support portions of ongoing Council operations. Several Council members volunteered to be involved in an advisory group to develop strategies for securing the funding necessary to maintain the Council.

If you would like to express your thoughts on the continued operation of the Council, please contact Jessica Kronstadt at jkronstadt@phf.org.

Members Continue to Advance and Promote Council Objectives, Activities, and Products

During the meeting, Council members also described how the organizations they represent have been helping to advance the Council's initiatives related to the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals, PHSR, and worker recruitment and retention. Member organizations have been helping to disseminate Council tools and resources to their constituents through websites, publications, newsletters, conferences, and meetings with organizational leadership. Among activities to alleviate worker shortages, organizations have polled their members about worker shortages, organized mentoring for new professionals, and worked on developing new courses to introduce students to the public health field. Meeting participants said their organizations would benefit from the Council's continued efforts to provide information about successful recruitment and retention efforts in public health and other fields, and related research. An important role identified for the Council is in assembling, translating, and disseminating evidence-based strategies to promote effective recruitment and retention in public health.