Academic Health Department Learning Community Meeting

March 7, 2017
Housekeeping Items

- All attendees are muted. If you are using your phone, please choose the “Telephone” option and enter your Audio PIN (found in the “Audio” panel).
- Slides for today’s presentation are available for download in the “Handouts” panel.
- Please use the “Questions” panel to ask questions and submit comments throughout the webinar.
- This webinar is being recorded and will be archived. The archive will be made available following the webinar.
Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

To improve the performance of individuals and organizations within public health by:

- Fostering, coordinating, and monitoring collaboration among the academic, public health practice, and healthcare communities
- Promoting public health education and training for health professionals throughout their careers
- Developing and advancing innovative strategies to build and strengthen public health infrastructure

22 National Public Health Organizations:
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American Public Health Association
- Association for Community Health Improvement
- 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
- Council on Education for Public 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
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Staffed by
Public Health Foundation
Academic Health Department Learning Community

- A national community designed to support the development, maintenance, and expansion of AHD partnerships
- Facilitates shared exploration of the AHD concept and collaborative learning about AHDs
- Brings together public health and healthcare professionals to share AHD-related knowledge and experiences and work collaboratively to create AHD resources and tools
- Members can participate in meetings and webinars, engage in discussion, access resources and tools, and receive guidance to support AHD efforts
- Learn more: www.phf.org/AHDLIC
Today’s Speaker

Sophie Wenzel, MPH
Coordinator, New River Academic Health Department
Associate Director, Center for Public Health Practice and Research, Virginia Tech
NEW RIVER ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NEW RIVER HEALTH DISTRICT, AND THE VIRGINIA TECH DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION HEALTH SCIENCES

March 7, 2017

Academic Health Department Learning Community
WHAT IS AN ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT?

A partnership between a state or local health department and an academic institution

- The local health department provides a real world learning environment for students and a wealth of data for researchers
- Academia provides workforce development opportunities, research expertise and workforce support in the form of both faculty and students.
GETTING STARTED

• Informal relationship between New River Health District (NRHD) and VT MPH program since 2012

• No formal AHD mentorship community at the time we wanted to start an AHD (2013)

• Kathleen Amos at Public Health Foundation offered informal mentoring
  • Talked to other AHDs throughout the country (Julie Grubaugh in Tennessee)
  • Shared sample MOAs

• Bill Keck articles/presentations helpful to understand concept

• Attended sessions at national conferences, reached out to presenters

TIPS:

• Use the AHD mentorship community
  http://www.phf.org/programs/AHDLC/Pages/AHD_Mentorship_Program.aspx

• Informal mentorships are great too
RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

• Forming partnerships
  • Find out who might be willing - test the waters
  • Are there any natural partners?
  • Who are your outside the box partners?
  • Multiple LHDs/universities - how do you choose which ones to partner with?
  • Where do you have existing relationships? How can you leverage those?
  • Who has funding?

TIP:
• Leverage existing relationships
DEVELOPING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

- Existing MOA for practicums between NRHD and VT
- Started AHD MOA process in 2014, signed in 2015
- Reviewed example MOAs from Kathleen Amos

MOA categories:
- Purpose
- Scope of Activities
  - Opportunities for collaborative public health professional preparation
  - Opportunities for workforce development
  - Opportunities for enhanced public health practice and research
  - Shared personnel
  - Advisory committee
  - Shared resources
  - Timely communication
  - Future possibilities
- Payment
- Renewal, termination and amendment

TIP: Review existing MOAs to get inspired...

NEW RIVER ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
MAKING IT OFFICIAL

In May 2015, Virginia Tech President Timothy D. Sands and Virginia Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Marissa Levine signed a memorandum of agreement to establish the New River Academic Health Department.

“We have already taken the first step with our Master of Public Health students who have completed their practicum with the New River Health District and our faculty members who are working together on research and outreach projects, but now we will be taking another step to expand these efforts.”

- Dr. François Elvinger, head of Department of Population Health Sciences
JOINT POSITION

• A full-time shared AHD coordinator manages the day-to-day operations.

• The coordinator position is a professional faculty position, which is held by VT, and is funded in part (20%) by NRHD.

• The coordinator maintains an office at both locations and invests her time between the two.

• Having a person on the ground at both sites has been vital to assuring:
  • a) a central point of contact;
  • b) implementation of initiatives; and
  • c) clear and consistent communication between the two organizations.
This mutually beneficial partnership is designed to enhance public health training, practice, research and workforce development to improve community health in the New River Valley. Main scope of projects:

- Joint Practice-Based Research Projects
- Public Health Education and Training
- Workforce Development
NEW RIVER ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Kathy Hosig, PhD, MPH, RD
Director, VT Center for Public Health Research and Practice

Sophie Wenzel, MPH
AHD Coordinator
Associate Director, VT Center for Public Health Research and Practice

Hannah Menefee, MPH
Practicum Coordinator, Virginia Tech Public Health Program

Molly O’Dell, MD, MFA
(Retired) Director, New River Health District
ADVISORY BOARD

Gary Coggins
Environmental Health Manager Senior, New River Health District

Tiffany Norman
Business Administrator, New River Health District

Kerry Redican
Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences, Virginia Tech

Susan Marmagas
Associate Professor of Practice
Program Director, Public Health Program, Department of Population Health Sciences, Virginia Tech
NEW RIVER ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN ACTION

Major accomplishments, 2015-2016

Joint practice-based research
Public Health Education and Training
Workforce Development
**GRANTS (2015, 2016)**

**FUNDED**

- Virginia Department of Health- Obesity Prevention in Christiansbug, VA
- Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth- Obesity Prevention in Pulaski County, VA
- Community Foundation of the New River Valley- SCRIPT (smoking cessation for pregnant women)
- NACCHO- Chronic Disease Self Management Program implementation
- Virginia Department of Health-Tobacco Use and Control Program
- USDA- Farm to School in Pulaski County, VA

**NOT FUNDED**

- March of Dimes tobacco cessation for pregnant and pre-conception women
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Evidence for Action-Focus on Communities Utilizing Services, Giles County
- Aetna Foundation- Community gardens in Giles County
- Hillman Foundation- Expansion of Babycare program
- NIH- Home based obesity prevention with WIC clients
- NIH- Academic Community Partnership workshop series
JOINT PRACTICE BASED RESEARCH PROJECTS

• AHD coordinator, along with health educator writes the grants
• NRHD staff implement the project on the ground, manage programs
• CPHPR staff evaluates. Built in external evaluator, successful model- this is the strongest collaboration for the AHD to date.
• Bigger research grants written by VT faculty
• Pilot projects lead to more funding opportunities
LEVERAGING RESOURCES

• AHD coordinator joint position (80% VT CPHPR, 20% NRHD)
• NRHD Health Educator- 80% employee, works at Health Department, paid by Virginia Tech (grant from health department)
• External evaluator built into all NRHD chronic disease grants
• Student engagement on various practice projects at NRHD to save on costs
AHD COORDINATOR OTHER DUTIES

- Lead strategic planning process for NRHD [approximately 10 meetings, develop comprehensive strategic plan]
- Convene and lead NRHD marketing team to market the health department
- Lots of grant writing!
- Other duties as the need arises
PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION AND TRAINING
A SAMPLING OF HEALTH EDUCATION PROJECTS

• Develop NRHD marketing materials and strategies

• Assess women's knowledge and utilization of preconception healthcare services in Giles County

• Conduct needs assessment survey for restaurant owners and general public to identify risk factors associated with food safety violations

• Identify barriers that prevent men and women from accessing prevention services and women from accessing prenatal care in Giles County

• Analyze Montgomery County restaurants, including frequency of inspections, violations, and outbreaks, and knowledge of employees

• Evaluate Blacksburg Market Kids program to determine feasibility of nutrition education integration

• Assess breastfeeding decisions and practices among participants of WIC clinic locations in the New River Valley

• Conduct rabies knowledge, attitude, and perception survey
A SAMPLING OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES PROJECTS

• Conduct HPV Vaccine uptake Study: 2006-2011
• Assess geographic distribution and risk factors of Hep C in the NRV
• Conduct cost effectiveness analysis of the 2011 Pertussis outbreak in Floyd county
• Verify that the administration of epidural spinal injections was in compliance with established standards of care for the 2012 fungal meningitis outbreak
• Determine HSV prevalence and education in college students in SW VA
• Monitor infectious disease outbreaks in long-term care facilities in the NRV

• Conduct cost analysis of NRHD rabies investigations
• Conduct cost effectiveness analysis of 2012 Fungal Meningitis outbreak in Southwest Virginia from clinical local health department perspective
• Create a health education initiative on the risk factors and consequences of Hep C for Narrows High School students in Giles County
• Map Lyme disease cases in the New River Valley and create Lyme disease clinician education presentation.
• Conduct study on the diagnosis of Lyme disease association in canines and humans.
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT


PHAP FELLOW

• Applied for a CDC PHAP fellow through Health Department unsuccessfully 2 times

• Decided to take a different approach- applied as AHD.

• Antonio Brown, PHAP fellow (2016-2018)

• Works on Hepatitis C
  • Conducting case follow up and designing a prevention plan for NRHD
  • Mapping and modeling of disease at VT
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

• CEPH accreditation requires MPH program to perform workforce development activities
• Center for Public Health Practice and Research, through the AHD, conducts many of these activities
• Workforce development activities relate back to MPH program mission and faculty expertise
• Workforce development activities relate to community needs
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<tr>
<th>Outcome Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
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<td>Represent the program through faculty and student service in state/national/international public health and health-related organizations.</td>
<td>All primary faculty will engage in service activities related to public health at the state, national or international level annually (defined as serving on boards, editing journals, reviewing grant applications, or <strong>performing outreach activities</strong>).</td>
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<td>Develop partnerships with public and community health agencies.</td>
<td>All primary <strong>faculty will engage in at least one service activity per year</strong> related to public health with public and community health agencies (defined as providing technical assistance, workforce development, outreach, being a subject matter expert, or serving on a community coalition). At least one primary faculty will collaborate with communities to <strong>conduct at least one public health needs assessment</strong> every 2 years</td>
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<td>Implement an engagement agenda that enhances strategic public health plans in Southside, Southwest and Central Appalachia so as to promote health equities in communities through inter-institutional engagement efforts.</td>
<td>Survey public health agencies and existing strategic plans in the region to <strong>identify potential service and/or community intervention collaborations</strong> every other year Identify at least one public health priority related to health education and one public health priority related to infectious disease where the public health program has <strong>specific practice expertise and time to contribute</strong> At least 2 community agencies or organizations will be involved in collaborative service activities each year</td>
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<td>Address the workforce needs of the public health community in Southwest and Southside Virginia.</td>
<td><strong>Conduct a survey of Southwest and Southside Virginia community agencies to identify workforce needs</strong> every other year <strong>Conduct at least two workforce trainings or continuing education programs</strong> each year that align with the mission and meet the needs identified in the needs assessment</td>
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## NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Commonwealth Public Health Training Center Pipeline Initiative</td>
<td>A needs assessment with youth and parents to identify how to most effectively reach them with messages and interventions about public health and career opportunities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online workforce development needs assessment</td>
<td>Identifying the workforce development needs of health professionals in Southwest and Southside VA</td>
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<td>VDH-VT Health Literacy Kick-off</td>
<td>Collaboration with VT HNFE and VDH. Our role was to assess training needs of VDH employees in SWVA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VDH-VT Health Literacy Kick-off evaluation</td>
<td>Post event evaluation that included questions on training needs</td>
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TOP PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE NEEDS

- Health communication
- Cultural competency
- Research methods
- Survey design
- Design and identification of evidence based programs
- Policy development/program planning
- Community dimensions of practice
- Financial planning and management/budgeting
SOME OF OUR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (PRE NEEDS ASSESSMENT)

• Let’s Talk Public Health- pipeline training for High School students
• NRHD In-service training on Civil Rights Act of 1964
• NRHD In-service training on the Affordable Care Act
• Public Health Career Day- for graduate students and employers across Virginia
• VT Biocomplexity Institute- summer conference for High School teachers (intro to public health)
• In-service for Virginia Cooperative Extension Agents participating in Balanced Living with Diabetes Program
• Graduate Medical Education Consortium Conference- Nutrition Tips for your Patients
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MOVING FORWARD

- Reach out to individual LHDs across region to offer specific trainings based on identified need
- Match community need with faculty expertise
- Deliver trainings in person, at their place of work
- Develop long term workforce development strategy
PROMOTING THE NEW RIVER AHD AND SHARING LESSONS LEARNED

• Mentor 2 professionals in AHD Mentorship Community

• November 2016- American Public Health Association Annual Meeting (poster)- pictured on right

• March 2017- AHD Learning Community (today)

• March 2017- Appalachian Studies Conference (poster)

• Statewide and National presentations promoting joint practice-based projects
MEASURING SUCCESS

- Student placements
- Quality of student placements
- Workforce development sessions conducted
- Quality of workforce development sessions
- Faculty members involved in workforce development sessions
- Collaboration across organizations
- Needs assessments conducted
- Formal presentations conducted
- Grant submitted and accepted
- Joint research projects
- Joint publications
- Number of new funding opportunities arising from joint research projects
LESSONS LEARNED

• Don’t reinvent the wheel

• Joint position is key

• Need buy-in from both organizations, including higher-ups who approve/sign MOAs/make funding decisions

• Need specific position/assignment and description for students and on-the-ground mentorship

• Hard to recruit professionals to attend workforce development trainings- make opportunities more tailored

• Leverage resources where you can
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

• Continue successful partnership and all activities
• Continue mentoring/sharing expertise
• Evaluate and refine scope of AHD activities as needed
• Proposal to Health Commissioner’s office to expand out to 3 other LHDs in the region
  • Hire a regional AHD coordinator
  • Hire a biostatistician for data analysis and research design
• Strengthen workforce development activities
  • Reach out to LHDs throughout the region to offer training opportunities
  • Develop workforce development strategy
MORE INFORMATION

RESOURCES

• Public Health Foundation – “Academic Health Departments” (http://www.phf.org/programs/AHDLC/Pages/Academic%20Health%20Departments.aspx)

• The University of Tennessee Knoxville Academic Health Department (http://publichealth.utk.edu/ahd/)

• The University of Kansas Academic Health Department (https://communityhealth.ku.edu/academic-health-department)

RESEARCH


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http://cphpr.mph.vetmed.vt.edu/nrahd.html
AHD Mentorship Program

- Connects individuals seeking guidance in an area of AHD development or operation with those having experience in that area
- Supports mutual learning and the sharing of expertise
- Mentors and mentees share information and advice and serve as mutual resources in enhancing AHD partnerships and improving the quality of public health
- Join today: www.phf.org/AHDMentorship
Additional Resources

Stay Informed:
- AHD Learning Community Listserv – kamos@phf.org
- PHF E-News – www.phf.org/e-news

Email Questions: Kathleen Amos, kamos@phf.org
Public Health Foundation
Strengthening the Quality and Performance of Public Health Practice

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**ACADEMIC PRACTICE LINKAGES**
Furthering academic/practice collaboration to assure a well-trained, competent workforce and strong, evidence-based public health infrastructure
- Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice
- Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals
- Academic Health Department Learning Community

[www.phf.org/councilonlinkages](http://www.phf.org/councilonlinkages)
[www.phf.org/corecompetencies](http://www.phf.org/corecompetencies)

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