



Academic Health Department Learning Community Report

July 17, 2017

Overview

The [Academic Health Department \(AHD\) Learning Community](#) supports development of [AHD partnerships](#) between public health practice organizations and academic institutions. As a national community of practitioners, educators, and researchers, the AHD Learning Community stimulates discussion and sharing of knowledge; the development of resources; and collaborative learning around establishing, sustaining, and expanding AHDs.

Staged Model of AHD Development

To better articulate the development of AHD partnerships, a model is being drafted that illustrates the potential development of such partnerships on a continuum. The current draft of this “staged” model of AHD development is included in the meeting materials and describes partnership development as a series of five stages ranging from informal relationships through formal collaboration on education, research, and service with shared resources and personnel. This working draft is being shared with the AHD Learning Community for feedback and will be open for public comment. Feedback gathered will be used to refine the draft. Suggestions related to the model may be shared with Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.

In addition, the AHD Learning Community continues to hold meetings on a bimonthly basis, with meetings highlighting AHD partnerships in Illinois and Tennessee occurring in [May 2017](#) and on [July 26, 2017](#), respectively. The first two columns of the quarterly *Ask the AHD Expert* series have been published on the [PHF Pulse blog](#), the [first column](#) in March 2017 and the [second](#) in June 2017, and the [AHD Mentorship Program](#), which connects individuals seeking guidance in an area of AHD development or operation with those having experience in that area, continues to develop. Fifteen mentor/mentee pairs are participating in the program, and additional participants are welcome. There is a particular need for mentors currently, as the number of mentees has surpassed that of mentors. Expressions of interest in participating in the program as either a mentor or mentee can be sent to Janelle Nichols at jnichols@phf.org.

Demonstrating Impact

Similar to the [Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals](#), the impact of the AHD Learning Community can be demonstrated in a number of ways. Membership in the Learning Community has continued to grow, with approximately 700 people currently participating. The Learning Community and its resources and tools have been accessed 39,680 times online since its launch in January 2011; FY2017 (July 2016-June 2017) accounts for 7,061 of these visits. [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice](#) (Council) staff responded to more than 25 requests for distance technical assistance in FY17, serving more than 20 organizations in 15 states. The four blog posts published on the PHF Pulse blog in FY17 were viewed nearly 900 times, and FY17 Learning Community meetings were attended by more than 120 participants. Trends in these data can also be tracked over time. For example, online access of the Learning Community and its resources and tools has increased from approximately 1,800 views in FY11 to more than 7,000 views in FY17. Visual illustrations of these data are provided in the meeting materials. As Council leadership and staff work to better highlight the impact of Council activities such as the AHD Learning Community, input is welcome on the types of data or examples that can help illustrate the reach and use of these products. Suggestions may be shared with Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.