



Academic Health Department Learning Community Report

January 11, 2016

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. The Learning Community currently has approximately 550 members.

Recent Activities

Activities of the AHD Learning Community provide opportunities for members to connect with one another and engage in communication and learning about AHD partnerships. The [AHD Mentorship Program](#), which formally launched at the end of June 2015, helps to foster AHDs by building relationships between individuals involved in AHD efforts. Led by Learning Community member [Bryn Manzella, MPH](#), of the Jefferson County Department of Health (AL), this program connects individuals seeking guidance in an area of AHD development or operation with those having experience in that area, with a focus on creating ongoing relationships that support mutual learning and professional development. A number of Learning Community members have volunteered to serve as [mentors](#) through this program, and mentor/mentee matches are being created. Expressions of interest in participating as either a mentor or mentee are welcome by email to Janelle Nichols at jnichols@phf.org. The Learning Community also continues to organize webinar meetings to engage members in discussion about AHD partnerships. A [January 6, 2016 meeting](#) featuring Learning Community members Vicki Collie-Akers, PhD, MPH, of the University of Kansas, and Louise Kent, MBA, ASQ CQIA, of the Northern Kentucky Health Department, highlighted two examples of successful AHDs. An archived version of this webinar will be available for those who were unable to participate in the live meeting. In addition, the [AHD Learning Community listserv](#) established in early 2015 provides a means for communication within the Learning Community, and work continues to enhance [access to Learning Community activities and resources](#).

AHD Research Agenda

Following a discussion during the [August 2015 Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice \(Council\) meeting](#), an effort was begun to develop a research agenda focused on AHD partnerships. This newest initiative of the AHD Learning Community is being led by Learning Community member Paul Campbell Erwin, MD, DrPH, of the University of Tennessee Department of Public Health, and an initial draft of an AHD Research Agenda is expected to be completed by the end of January 2016. This draft will be shared with the Learning Community for review, refined based on the feedback received, and a final draft will be produced for Council review and approval. Questions about this process at any time may be directed to Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.