The Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

The Year in Review

November 30, 2022

Overview

Throughout its 30-year history, the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice (Council) has focused on building and strengthening public health infrastructure. The Council brings together public health practice and academia to advance workforce development for the public health and population health workforce. Current Council initiatives focus in two main areas: the Academic Health Department (AHD) Learning Community and the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals (Core Competencies).

Academic Health Department Learning Community

The 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 AHD partnerships.

Throughout the year, the AHD Learning Community was involved in a variety of activities, including engaging in webinars and conference presentations, providing technical assistance, and developing and disseminating related communications. The following summary details activities and accomplishments for 2022.

Engagement with the AHD Learning Community

- The AHD Learning Community continued to grow and now includes approximately 1,500 members.
- To date in 2022, the Learning Community and its resources and tools have been accessed more than 8,500 times. This brings online usage of the Learning Community and its tools and resources to more than 84,000 visits since its launch in 2011.
- AHD partnerships continued to be added to the list of AHD partnerships on the Council website, as part of an ongoing effort to raise awareness of AHD initiatives nationwide, bringing the total number of documented partnerships to more than 100. Additional partnerships or examples of partnership agreements to be included in the online resources may be shared with Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.
- Council staff responded to more than 15 requests for distance technical assistance related to AHD partnerships, serving 14 organizations in 12 states and DC.

Webinars and Conferences

- The AHD Learning Community continued to offer the *AHD Webinar Series*, which highlights successful AHD partnerships and other topics of interest for developing, sustaining, and expanding AHD partnerships. Two webinars were held and were attended by nearly 500 participants:
    - February – *Envisioning and Building the Public Health Workforce of the Future: The Critical Role of Partnerships*
    - November – *Ask Me Anything – Academic Health Department Partnerships*
- *AHD Webinar Series* events are recorded and made available through the Council website, TRAIN Learning Network, and YouTube for continued access.

- AHD partnerships were highlighted during a webinar hosted by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in April: *Partnerships Between Academic Health Departments and Schools of Nursing*. This webinar was archived and is available on the AACN website.
- AHD partnerships were also featured in four sessions at conferences:
    - May – Missoula Academic Health Department Conference virtual session: *Academic Health Department Partnerships*
    - June – 2022 Public Health Improvement Training (PHIT) virtual session: *Envisioning and Building the Public Health Workforce of the Future: The Value of Partnerships*
    - July – 2022 National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) 360 Conference virtual livestream session: *Envisioning and Building the Public Health Workforce of the Future Through Partnerships*
    - November – American Public Health Association (APHA) 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo session: *Strengthening the Public Health Workforce: The Role of the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice*

More information about AHD Learning Community activities is available through the AHD Learning Community section of the Council website or by contacting Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.

Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals

The Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals (Core Competencies) reflect foundational or crosscutting knowledge and skills for professionals engaged in the practice, education, and research of public health. Guidance for Council efforts related to the Core Competencies is provided by the Core Competencies Workgroup, which includes approximately 120 members representing a variety of practice and academic organizations and interests within the public health field. The Core Competencies were recently revised, with the current version completed in October 2021.

Activities supporting implementation of the Core Competencies continued in 2022, with sustained usage of the Core Competencies and tools, training, and technical assistance being provided. The following summary details activities and accomplishments for 2022.

Engagement with the Core Competencies

- To date in 2022, the Core Competencies and resources and tools designed to support implementation have been accessed online more than 88,000 times, with more than 53,000 visits to the Core Competencies webpage since the 2021 version was released.
- Council staff responded to more than 40 technical assistance requests, serving 30 organizations in 17 states, DC, and Tanzania.
- Council staff participated in working groups supporting the development of the Racial Justice Competencies for Public Health Professionals by the Public Health Training Centers (PHTCs) and updating of the Applied Epidemiology Competencies by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.
- The Core Competencies were highlighted in the October *New to Public Health Residency Program: Building Core Competencies for Public Health Practice* post by the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing on the PHF Pulse blog.

Resources and Tools Related to the Core Competencies

- Updated versions of the competency assessments were created based on the 2021 Core Competencies. Four competency assessment instruments are available – one that

includes only the competency statements in the Core Competencies and one for each of the three tiers in the Core Competencies.

- The 2021 Core Competencies were made available as a search filter on the TRAIN Learning Network, allowing course providers to indicate which competencies their trainings address and learners to search for trainings that build specific competencies.
- A prioritization tool that supports organizations in identifying the most essential Core Competencies for different jobs within public health was updated with the 2021 Core Competencies. Facilitation materials for conducting a workshop-based voting process to prioritize Core Competencies are provided.

Webinars and Conferences

- The Core Competencies were featured at four webinars or virtual meetings, attended by more than 1,200 participants:
    - February – Region 2 PHTC Log-in2Learn Webinar: *Introducing the 2021 Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals*
    - March – *Introducing the 2021 Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals*
    - March – Network of the National Library of Medicine's Public Health Collaborative meeting: *Introducing the 2021 Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals*
    - March – National Indian Health Board's Tribal Accreditation Learning Community Webinar Series: *Introducing the 2021 Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals*
- The Core Competencies were also highlighted during seven conference sessions:
    - January – 2022 Open Forum: Next Generation virtual session: *Introducing the 2021 Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals: Crosscutting Skills for a High-Performing Workforce*
    - June – 2022 PHIT virtual sessions:
        - *Building a Strong Workforce Development Program*
        - *Who Has Time for Workforce Development? Reinvigorating Your Workforce Development Program*
    - July – 2022 NACCHO360 Conference on demand session: *Introducing the 2021 Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals: Crosscutting Skills for a High-Performing Workforce*
    - November – APHA 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo sessions:
        - *Strengthening the Public Health Workforce: The Role of the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice*
        - *New Tools for Using the 2021 Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals*
        - *Advancing Health Equity with the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals*

More information about activities related to the Core Competencies is available through the Core Competencies section of the Council website or by contacting Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.