Overview

- Academic Health Departments
- Academic Health Department Learning Community
- Discussion of Needs and Opportunities
Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

To improve public health practice, education, and research by:

- Fostering, coordinating, and monitoring links among academia and the public health and healthcare community;
- Developing and advancing innovative strategies to build and strengthen public health infrastructure; and
- Creating a process for continuing public health education throughout one’s career.

19 National Public Health Organizations:

- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American Public Health Association
- Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
- Association of Accredited Public Health Programs
- Association of Public Health Laboratories
- Association of Schools 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
- 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 CDC and HRSA
Staffed by PHF
Academic Health Department (AHD)

- Affiliation of a health department and an academic health professions institution
- Public health’s version of the teaching hospital/medical school partnership
- Collaborative relationship to enhance public health education and training, research, and service
- Strengthens linkages between academia and public health practice
AHD Elements

- Relationship between an academic and a public health practice organization
- Formal written partnership agreement
- Collaborative public health education or training
- Joint research projects
- Shared provision of public health services
- Shared personnel
- Shared resources
- Compensation for services provided
How Might an AHD Get Started?

- Collaborative public health education or training
  - Student internships or practica
  - Guest lectures by health department staff

- Joint research projects
  - Letters of support for funding proposals
  - Access to community populations and health data
  - Practice-Based Research Network participant

- Shared provision of public health services
  - Consultations
  - Direct service delivery in community
Where Might This Lead?

- Collaborative public health education or training
  - Workforce development training
  - Faculty appointments for health department staff

- Joint research projects
  - Collaborative funding proposals
  - Shared data collection and analysis

- Shared provision of public health services
  - Collaborative community health assessments and improvement plans
What Can Help an AHD Develop?

- Open communication
- Understanding and respect for organizational culture
- Informal relationships
- Champions in all partner organizations
- Leadership and staff support
- Mutual buy-in
- Time and patience
- Sharing of responsibilities and benefits
AHD Benefits

- Address community health needs more effectively
- Build and use practice-based evidence
- Maximize resource use
- Better prepare students for public health practice careers
- Support recruitment of qualified professionals
- Facilitate lifelong learning
- Increase awareness of public health
- Meet accreditation standards
- Improve public health system and community health
Academic Health Department Learning Community

- National community of professionals focused on developing, maintaining, and expanding AHDs
  - More than 250 members
  - Practitioners, educators, and researchers
  - Primarily working in public health

- Facilitates shared exploration of the AHD concept

- Encourages knowledge sharing, learning, and collaboration
AHD Learning Community Discussion

- Meetings
  - Conference calls and webinars
  - In-person

- PHF Pulse Blog
  - AHDs and the Learning Community
  - Steps in AHD Development
  - Translating Research into Practice
  - AHDs in an Evolving Public Health Environment

Add your comments at http://www.phf.org/phfpulse
AHD Learning Community Resources

- **Concept Paper**
  - Describes basic elements of the AHD model
  - Working draft

- **Bibliography**
  - List of AHD-related literature
  - Updated as new materials are discovered

- **Partnership Agreements**
  - Sample agreements for guidance
  - Seeking to expand collection
AHD Learning Community Profiles

» Personal profiles for AHD Learning Community members to share their experiences

» Available online
What’s Next for the AHD Learning Community?

- Improved profiles
  - Support connecting and sharing experiences

- Needs assessment
  - Identify priorities for Learning Community activities

- Topic-specific subgroups
  - Help capture and share knowledge in a specific area

- Mentorship program
  - Facilitate learning and building expertise
What Do You Think?

- What have been your experiences building partnerships? Successes? Challenges?

- What would you like to get out of participating in the Learning Community?

- How can the Learning Community be most helpful?

- Would setting up a subgroup around how to develop an AHD be useful? A mentorship program? Other activities?
Let’s Keep the Conversation Going!

▶ If you’re not yet a Learning Community member, join us
  ▶ Contact Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org

▶ Watch for more regular Learning Community emails

▶ Sign up for the Council on Linkages Update
  ▶ Contact Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org

▶ Visit us online at http://www.phf.org/programs/AHDLCC

Thank you!