



Academic Health Department Learning Community Report

July 28, 2011

Overview

The [Academic Health Department \(AHD\) Learning Community](#) is a national community of practitioners, educators, and researchers interested in the use of the AHD model within public health. An AHD is formed by the formal affiliation of a health department and an academic health professions institution and can enhance public health education and training, research, and service. The AHD Learning Community brings public health professionals together to share knowledge and engage in collaborative activities that support the development, maintenance, and expansion of AHDs. The structure and activities of the AHD Learning Community are guided by the [AHD Workgroup](#).

Current Activities

Since its launch earlier this year, participation in the AHD Learning Community has steadily increased. Over 80 public health professionals have joined the Learning Community. The Learning Community has held two conference call meetings to engage members, and a number of Learning Community activities are underway. The Learning Community is working to identify AHDs across the country and to collect and share the agreements that established these partnerships. Building on input received from the Learning Community, a new [one page summary](#) of the AHD concept, its benefits, and steps toward beginning AHD development is now available online. This summary complements the previously created [AHD concept paper](#). Preliminary lists of competencies for AHD leaders and of roles and responsibilities for individuals involved in building, sustaining, and growing AHD partnerships are also being crafted.

Meetings

AHD Learning Community meetings will continue to be held by conference call. The next conference call meeting is anticipated to occur in fall 2011. Additionally, the Learning Community will hold its first in-person meeting at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting this fall in Washington, DC. All Learning Community members and others interested in learning more about AHDs and the Learning Community are invited to join us for the meeting on Tuesday, November 1st from 8:30-10 am.



AHD Workgroup Members

Chair:

- *C. William Keck*, Department of Community Health Sciences, Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy

Members:

- *Wanda Aberle*, Retired Health Department Director of Nursing
- *Christopher Atchison*, College of Public Health, University of Iowa
- *Gerald Barron*, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh, PA
- *James Burns*, College of Medicine, Florida State University; Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, FL
- *Marita Chilton*, National Association of Local Boards of Health
- *Larry Cohen*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- *Ralph Cordell*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- *John DeBoy*, Semi-Retired Public Health Laboratory Scientist; Retired Public Health Laboratory Director
- *Diane Downing*, School of Nursing and Health Studies, Georgetown University, DC
- *Patricia Drehabl*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- *Terry Dwelle*, North Dakota Department of Health
- *Linda Frazee*, Bureau of Local and Rural Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- *Julie Gleason-Comstock*, Center for Urban Studies and Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences, Wayne State University, MI
- *John Gwinn*, Kent City Board of Health, OH
- *Georgia Heise*, Three Rivers District Health Department, KY
- *Colleen Hughes*
- *Larry Jones*, City of Independence Health Department, MO
- *Louise Kent*, Northern Kentucky Health Department
- *Deb Koester*, West Virginia Bureau for Public Health
- *Cynthia D. Lamberth*, College of Public Health, University of Kentucky
- *Lisa Lang*, National Library of Medicine
- *Amy Lee*, Consortium of Eastern Ohio Master of Public Health, Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy
- *Susan Lepre*, Consultant
- *William Livingood*, Institute for Public Health Informatics and Research, Duval County Health Department, FL
- *Bryn Manzella*, Jefferson County Department of Health, AL
- *Marcia Mills*, Minnesota Department of Human Services
- *Janet Place*, North Carolina Institute for Public Health, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- *Beth Resnick*, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, MD
- *William Riley*, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota
- *David Steffen*, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- *Patricia Thompson-Reid*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- *Susan Webb*, Center of Excellence in Public Health Workforce Research and Policy, College of Public Health, University of Kentucky
- *Kathleen Wright*, School of Public Health, Saint Louis University, MO