



## **Academic Health Department Learning Community Report**

**March 27, 2013**

### ***Overview***

Over the past year, interest in academic health departments (AHDs) and the [Academic Health Department \(AHD\) Learning Community](#), a national community of practitioners, educators, and researchers that supports AHD partnerships, has continued to increase. Membership in the Learning Community has grown to nearly 250 members, an addition of approximately 120 members since June 2012. In comparison, approximately 50 members joined the Learning Community from June 2011 to May 2012.

### ***Planning for 2013***

The AHD Learning Community has grown larger and quicker than anticipated when it was established by the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice in January 2011. To best serve the Learning Community, and best utilize the time and expertise of community members, a variety of next steps are being considered. These include:

- Holding several conference call/webinar meetings to introduce new members to the Learning Community and discuss basic elements of AHDs. Meetings would be open to all Learning Community members, but would be especially relevant to those professionals who have not yet attended a Learning Community meeting.
- Conducting a needs assessment to identify activities, topics, or resources of interest and value to Learning Community members. This would help provide direction for the group going forward.
- Developing subgroups to address specific topics, such as roles for AHDs in an evolving health system. These subgroups could meet independently of the full Learning Community meetings and periodically report back to the full group. Topics for subgroups would be based on interests of Learning Community members.
- Enhancing the [AHD Learning Community Profiles](#) to better facilitate connections between members. This may include increasing the number of profiles available online and making it easier to locate information about AHDs and member experience and expertise.
- Exploring hosting in-person Learning Community meetings at multiple national meetings. Holding Learning Community meetings during the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting has enabled interaction and relationship-building among Learning Community members; additional similar meetings would offer more opportunities for this interaction.

Feedback on these ideas and suggestions of additional ideas are welcome during this meeting or by email to Kathleen Amos at [kamos@phf.org](mailto:kamos@phf.org).