



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

**December 12, 2017**

### **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.

### **Activities and Accomplishments for 2017**

Throughout the year, the AHD Learning Community was involved in a variety of activities, including the development and enhancement of tools and resources, hosting of virtual meetings, and development and dissemination of related communications. The following summary details activities and accomplishments for 2017.

#### *Engagement with the AHD Learning Community*

- The AHD Learning Community grew to approximately 750 members, representing organizations in all 50 states, DC, and four US territories.
- To date in 2017, the Learning Community and its resources and tools have been accessed more than 6,000 times. This brings online usage of the Learning Community and its tools and resources to more than 42,000 visits since its launch in 2011.
- [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice](#) (Council) staff responded to more than 25 requests for distance technical assistance, serving more than 20 organizations in 13 states.

#### *Tools and Resources Related to the AHD Learning Community*

- Four AHD Learning Community Meetings were held to highlight progress being made on AHD partnerships and were attended by more than 120 participants:
  - [March](#) – *New River Academic Health Department*
  - [May](#) – *University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health: Establishing a Progressive New AHD Partnership*
  - [July](#) – *AHD Partnerships of East Tennessee State University's College of Public Health*
  - [September](#) – *Creating a Staged Model of AHD Development*
- Learning Community meetings were recorded and made available through the [Council website](#), [TRAIN Learning Network](#), and [YouTube](#) for continued access.
- A new quarterly *Ask the AHD Expert* series was launched on the [PHF Pulse blog](#), with columns published in [March](#), [June](#), and [September](#), and a fourth planned for December. To date, these columns have been viewed nearly 600 times.
- A [staged model of AHD development](#) was drafted, with the aim of better articulating how AHD partnerships might develop. This model illustrates the potential development of such partnerships on a continuum and is currently open for feedback. Suggestions related to the model may be shared with Kathleen Amos at [kamos@phf.org](mailto:kamos@phf.org).
- The draft of the staged model of AHD development was shared with the public health community during a workshop at the [National Association of County and City Health Officials Annual 2017](#) and [session](#) at the [American Public Health Association 2017 Annual Meeting](#).

- An [article](#) describing the development of the [AHD Research Agenda](#) was published in the September 2017 issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*.
- Seven AHD partnerships were added to the [list of AHD partnerships](#) on the Council website, as part of an ongoing effort to raise awareness of AHD initiatives nationwide. In addition, three partnership agreements were added to the [collection of AHD partnership agreements](#). Additional partnerships or examples of agreements to be added to these resources may be shared with Janelle Nichols at [jnichols@phf.org](mailto:jnichols@phf.org).
- The [AHD Mentorship Program](#), which connects individuals seeking guidance in an area of AHD development or operation with those having experience in that area, created seven additional matches, bringing the current total to 15 mentor-mentee pairs. Expressions of interest in participating in the program as either a mentor or mentee can be sent to Janelle Nichols at [jnichols@phf.org](mailto:jnichols@phf.org).

More information about these AHD Learning Community activities and accomplishments is available through the [AHD Learning Community](#) section of the Council website or by contacting Kathleen Amos at [kamos@phf.org](mailto:kamos@phf.org).