



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

**July 26, 2012**

### ***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. Developed with the guidance of the [AHD Workgroup](#), the Learning Community connects public health and primary care professionals to share knowledge and engage in collaborative activities to support the development, maintenance, and expansion of AHDs. The Learning Community accomplishes this by holding conference call and in-person [meetings](#), creating and collecting [AHD-related resources](#), developing [profiles](#) of Learning Community members, and stimulating [discussion online](#).

### ***Current Activities***

Since its launch in January of 2011, the AHD Learning Community has grown to include over 130 members from more than 30 states and territories, the District of Columbia, and seven national organizations. The Learning Community continues working to identify AHDs across the country, to collect and share the agreements that established these partnerships, and to reach out to expand membership. Information about the Learning Community was recently shared with groups representing primary care providers and public health practice-based research networks in efforts to build connections to enhance the activities of the Learning Community.

Based on input from the AHD Learning Community, the AHD Workgroup was dissolved following a final meeting in May. The Workgroup was successful in its goal of establishing the Learning Community, and the Learning Community itself will guide its future development. A Learning Community meeting was held in early July to begin gathering feedback on progress made by the Learning Community and identifying avenues for further growth.

### ***Next Steps***

Over the next few months, the AHD Learning Community will be considering future directions for its growing membership, as well as exploring partnerships between AHDs and primary care organizations, such as community health centers, with the aim of identifying elements that contribute to success within these partnerships. The Learning Community will meet again in-person this fall at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. All Learning Community members and others interested in learning more about AHDs and the Learning Community are invited to attend this meeting on Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-10:00 am. Additional Learning Community meetings will continue to be held by conference call.