



Academic Health Department Learning Community Report

July 16, 2018

Overview

The [Academic Health Department \(AHD\) Learning Community](#) supports development of [AHD partnerships](#) between health departments 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 AHD partnerships. Since its launch in 2011, the Learning Community has grown to more than 900 members and has continued to expand the resources and activities offered to these members and others in the public health community.

AHD Webinar Series and Ask the AHD Expert Column

Earlier this year, the AHD Learning Community transitioned its virtual meetings to an *AHD Webinar Series*. This webinar series is being held quarterly and will continue to highlight successful AHD partnerships and other topics of interest to individuals developing, sustaining, and expanding AHD partnerships. The first two webinars of 2018 focused on [how AHD partnerships can support Public Health Accreditation Board and Council on Education for Public Health accreditation](#) and [building AHD partnerships in rural areas](#). All webinars in this series are archived and made available through the [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice \(Council\) website](#) and the [TRAIN Learning Network](#). The AHD Learning Community also continues its quarterly [Ask the AHD Expert column](#) on the [PHF Pulse blog](#). Now up to six columns, the [latest column](#) in this series focuses on how AHDs are engaging a variety of partners to impact community health.

Staged Model of AHD Development

Building on the [working AHD concept paper](#) developed by the Council in 2010 to provide a definition for AHD partnership and experiences shared by AHD Learning Community members, in 2017, a [staged model of AHD development](#) was drafted to illustrate how such partnerships may develop. This draft model was made [available for public comment](#), and revisions are being made based on feedback received. The current draft of the model is included in the meeting materials. Version 1 of this model is expected to be available this summer, and an effort to capture stories of AHD partnerships that highlight different stages in the model will begin.

AHD Mentorship Program

The [AHD Mentorship Program](#) aims to foster the development, maintenance, and expansion of [AHDs](#) by building ongoing mentoring relationships between individuals involved in AHD efforts. Since its launch in 2015, this mentorship program, which connects individuals seeking guidance in an area of AHD development or operation with those having experience in that area, has offered support to 16 AHD mentees. Currently, additional mentees are waiting for a mentor with experience that matches their needs, and additional mentors for the program are needed. To volunteer as an AHD mentor or to learn more, please contact Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.

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