



Council on Linkages: Accomplishments

For 15 years, the Council has worked to improve public health practice and education by:

- *fostering, coordinating, and monitoring links between academia and the public health and healthcare community;*
- *developing and advancing innovative strategies to build and strengthen public health infrastructure; and*
- *creating a process for continuing public health education throughout one's career.*



**Core Funding
Provided by HRSA**



**Staffed by the
Public Health Foundation**



Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

- Overall objective -- to improve the relevance of public health education to practice and to promote education throughout one's career
- Grew out of the Public Health Faculty / Agency Forum

www.phf.org/Link.htm

17 NATIONAL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American College of Preventive Medicine
American Public Health Association
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of University Programs in Health Administration
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
Council of Accredited Masters of Public Health Programs
Health Resources and Services Administration
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Environmental Health Association
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Library of Medicine
QUAD Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations
Society for Public Health Education



Progress has been made

...In Practice

- Major national associations have made workforce development a priority
- National public health practice guidelines effort (initiated by Council)
- Development of *Healthy People* Infrastructure Focus Area
- Academic health departments have increased in number and scope



Progress has been made

...In Academia

- Accreditation criteria include practice
- Most accredited public health programs include practice in mission
- Student practica are universal
- Majority of accredited schools and programs use Core Competencies



Academic/Practice Linkages have been enhanced

- Documented and developed database of over 200 collaborative projects
- Compiled and disseminated tools to foster academic/practice linkages
- Recognized exemplary partnerships with annual Linkages Awards
- Promoted and facilitated development of academic public health departments

www.pfh.org/Link/linkages.htm



Core Competencies guide practice and academia

Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals

- Consensus set of knowledge, skills, and attitudes
- Reviewed by over 1,000 public health professionals during a public comment period
- Endorsed by Council, April 2001
- Council provided direct assistance to 100's of agencies, communities, and academic institutions working to build workforce competence

www.phf.org/competencies



Core Competencies guide practice and academia (cont'd)

USES

- Curriculum and course content
- Training-program evaluation
- Job descriptions and staff assessments
- Analysis of knowledge and skill gaps of employees or organizations
- Starting point for discipline-specific competencies

USERS

- HRSA Public Health Training Centers
- CDC Centers for Public Health Preparedness
- TRAIN
- ASPH
- Numerous State Health Agencies



Public Health Systems Research has become a recognized field

- Brought together PHSR researchers, funders, and users at annual PHSR Leadership Forums
- Helped establish PHSR Interest Group at AcademyHealth
- Disseminated research agendas
- Worked on “the business case” for seeking funding for PHSR
- Developed strategies for creating national public health practice research agenda

www.phf.org/Link/research.htm



Recruitment and Retention strategies have been assembled

- Convened forum in January 2005 to learn from government, teachers, and healthcare
- Generated table of potential strategies to alleviate shortages, relevant evidence, and example programs
- Developed list of research questions

www.phf.org/Link/recruit.htm



More to be done...

- Provide additional tools and technical assistance for **academic/practice linkages** and **Core Competencies**
- Review/revise **Core Competencies** and assess efficacy in training and workforce development
- Prioritize **PHSR** agendas and make the case for funding
- Create toolkit to improve **recruitment and retention** and training program to prepare new non-PH workers



The Future

Council on Linkages no longer has core support to convene regularly.

If you are interested in partnering to continue the efforts of the Council, contact Chris Day (cday@phf.org, 202-218-4425)