

# **AHD Webinar Series: Utilizing Academic Partnerships to Enhance Capacity in Small Health Departments**

January 9, 2019

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# Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

To improve the performance of individuals and organizations within public health by:

- Fostering, coordinating, and monitoring collaboration among the academic, public health practice, and healthcare communities
- Promoting public health education and training for health professionals throughout their careers
- Developing and advancing innovative strategies to build and strengthen public health infrastructure

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## 23 National Public Health Organizations:

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American Public Health Association
- Association for Community Health Improvement
- Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
- Association of Accredited Public Health Programs
- Association of Public Health Laboratories
- Association of Schools and Programs 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 on Education for Public Health
- 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 Library of Medicine
- National Network of Public Health Institutes
- National Public Health Leadership Development Network
- Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations
- Society for Public Health Education
- Veterans Health Administration



# What is an Academic Health Department?

- Affiliation of a health department and an academic health professions institution
- Public health's version of the teaching hospital/medical school partnership
- Collaborative relationship to enhance public health education and training, research, and service
- May include a written partnership agreement, shared personnel, and shared resources
- Strengthens linkages between academia and public health practice



# Academic Health Department Learning Community

- National community designed to support the development, maintenance, and expansion of AHD partnerships
- Facilitates shared exploration of the AHD concept and collaborative learning about AHDs
- Brings together public health and healthcare professionals to share AHD-related knowledge and experiences and work collaboratively to create AHD resources and tools
- Learn more: [www.phf.org/AHDLC](http://www.phf.org/AHDLC)



# Helping Academic Health Departments Grow

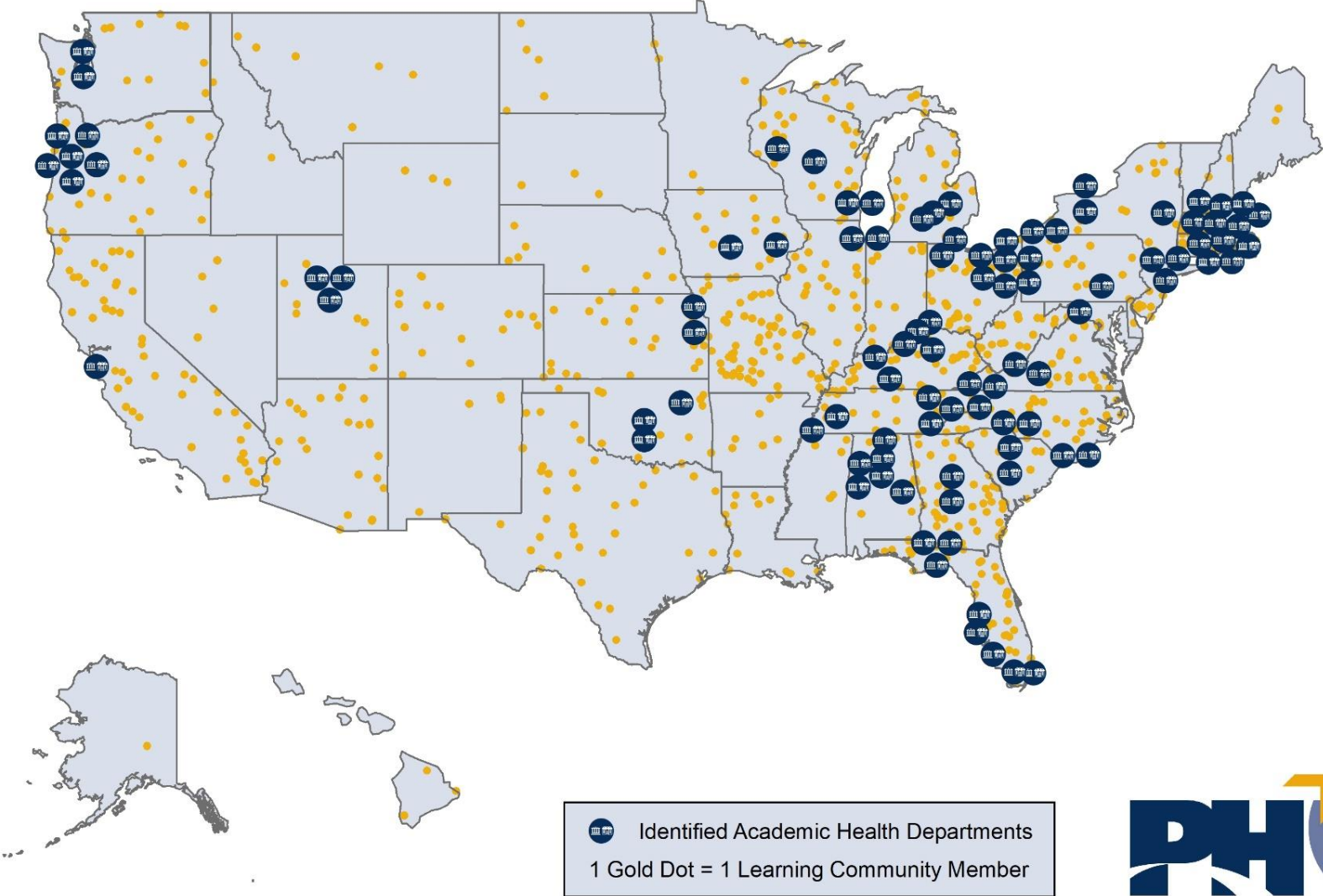
- ~1,000 members
- Over 60 AHD partnerships

## Variety of Activities:

- Examples and stories of AHD partnerships
- Webinars by AHDs
- Partnership agreements
- Listserv
- “Ask the Expert” column
- Technical assistance



# Academic Health Department (AHD) Partnerships and AHD Learning Community Members



# Today's Presenter



**Michael Anguilano III**  
**Accreditation Coordinator**  
**Kent City Health Department (OH)**



# Utilizing Academic Partnerships to Enhance Capacity in Small Health Departments

Michael Anguilano III, BSPH

October 24, 2018



# About Me

- ▶ Graduate of the Kent State University College of Public Health with a concentration in Health Administration
- ▶ Began working as an unpaid intern with Kent City Health Department in May 2017
  - ▶ Assumed role of interim Accreditation Coordinator in July 2018 on a part-time, intern basis
  - ▶ Hired full-time in March 2018
- ▶ Duties include:
  - ▶ Directing accreditation tasks
  - ▶ Director of academic health department interns and accompanying projects
  - ▶ Helping oversee performance management and continuous quality improvement activities
  - ▶ Assist in the completion of grant deliverables, currently tobacco cessation, prevention, and policy



# Kent City and Health Department Profile

- ▶ Located 20 minutes North of Akron, 50 minutes outside of Cleveland
- ▶ Population of 29,915 (as of 2017 US Census, without Kent State population)
- ▶ Kent State University adds 27,143 students (as of Fall 2018)
- ▶ 7 full-time staff, one sanitarian who splits time between the health department and water reclamation plant
- ▶ Kent City health department is mainly an environmental one, has a few main programs that serve/assist the public that reflect that:
  - ▶ Housing inspections
  - ▶ Food safety/inspections
  - ▶ Offers ServSafe classes for food operators
  - ▶ Mosquito surveillance

# Relation to Accreditation

- ▶ As we all know, accreditation takes time. Whether a state, local or tribal health department, a significant amount of time and resources must be spent on accreditation.
- ▶ The state of Ohio has mandated that all health departments must be accredited by July 2020 (Ohio Revised Code section 3701.13)
  - ▶ Otherwise, there is a risk of reduced funding for non-accredited health departments
- ▶ For smaller city health departments like Kent, accreditation can seem like a daunting and even insurmountable task.
- ▶ However, through the academic health department, our scope of ability has greatly increased and several gaps have been filled.



# Academic Health Department Partnership

- ▶ Consideration for the academic health department began in 2013
- ▶ Through the Kent State University College of Public Health, we work with graduate and undergraduate students on initiatives that are aimed at filling gaps in services and overcoming barriers
- ▶ Fall 2017 we had 12 interns working on three different projects:
  - ▶ Vaccination research and communication activities
  - ▶ Evaluation and management of the mosquito surveillance program
  - ▶ Risk communication, emergency preparedness, and how to write a formal plan
- ▶ Fall 2018, we had seven interns working on three different projects:
  - ▶ Tobacco grant deliverables based on youth, cessation, and policy
  - ▶ Assessing access to healthcare and barriers faced by various cohorts
  - ▶ Accreditation tasks and policy development

# Student Perspective

- ▶ Undergraduate students have the option to apply the internship experience toward a class for credit, if allowed by their academic advisor
- ▶ Graduate students can lead the internship process and the accompanying interns for two semesters as part of their practicum (required 300 hours of work)
- ▶ Students are not required to do the internship for credit, and several have been simply interested in acquiring real-world experience. If the internship is done for credit, there are additional requirements:
  - ▶ Weekly time logs to assure students are reaching required hours
  - ▶ Weekly group meetings/check-ins with health department
- ▶ All students, regardless of compensation, are to give a presentation to the Board of Health at the conclusion of the semester explaining the project and what was gained by completing it
- ▶ So far, there have been no financial incentives for students in terms of payment

# Filling the Gaps

- ▶ Some weaknesses identified in the health department's SWOT analysis that have been filled by the academic health department partnership:
  - ▶ Gaps in accreditation readiness
  - ▶ Lack of quality improvement initiatives
  - ▶ Lack of involvement in CHIP initiatives
  - ▶ Marketing of services
  - ▶ Small staff
  - ▶ Understaffed and staff "burnout"
- ▶ The staff identified additional weaknesses, including:
  - ▶ Lack of research being conducted
  - ▶ Few data collection opportunities
  - ▶ Not enough performance management and quality improvement opportunities

# Forging the Academic Health Department Relationship

- ▶ Discussions of the academic health department began in 2013 between the Kent City Board of Health, the City of Kent, and Kent State University
- ▶ A formal letter to the Kent City Manager was presented in 2014. In it was a description of the purpose of academic health departments and the advantages to such a partnership.
- ▶ The launching of the health department programs was put on hiatus due to several reasons
  - ▶ The threat of Ebola made its way to Northeast Ohio
  - ▶ The health department underwent two location changes
  - ▶ Staff turnover resulted in no dedicated health educator or other available employee to manage the program

# Goals of the Academic Health Department

1. Create an engaging and impactful environment for both undergraduate and graduate students to connect with the health department and the given tasks at hand
2. Enlighten students to the inner-workings of city and county health department structure, the role of the governing entity/board of health in decision-making, and the health department's role in population health
3. Allow the semester-long internship to be used as class credit for undergraduate-level students and as a practicum experience for graduate-level students
4. Enhance the health department's capacity and scope of ability
5. Improve outreach mechanisms and tactics to promote the health department as a comprehensive health resource
6. Utilize the programs, plans, and projects conducted by the interns to assist in achieving accreditation

# Problems and Barriers to AHD Success

- ▶ The first year of the academic health department model was up and down. For every success, there were more inconsistencies that took away from the experience:
  - ▶ Too Many Cooks in the Kitchen. The hierarchy of individuals overseeing the projects was overwhelming and students were reaching out to the wrong people. We had two health department staff members, one professor, one member of the board of health, and three ambassadors from the KSU College of Public Health.
  - ▶ Communication is Key. Like many things in public health, maintaining consistent communication is absolutely necessary. Many of the designated individuals above were not responsive enough toward the students, and many students were not responsive to supervisors.
  - ▶ Lack of Structure. There was not a clear enough plan in place for the students to follow. Full work plans with specific due dates, week-to-week requirements, and specific trackable goals were not available last year.
  - ▶ Wavering Student Interest. Last year, students were interviewed by the KSU College of Public Health, but were not placed into groups with topics that interested them. This led to significant disengagement and poor work.

# Recent Changes

- ▶ Reduced the number of people involved with the interns to one health department staff member and one ambassador from the KSU College of Public Health.
- ▶ Specific, accreditation-based programs, were decided upon in the summer. Work plans detailing specific goals, intern expectations, and due dates for all large pieces of work were completed one month prior to the start of the Fall semester.
- ▶ Interns were interviewed by the health department prior to being placed in one of the three groups. This assured that students interested in specific topics were placed where they could maximize their output.
- ▶ Weekly group meetings with the assigned health department staff member are required.
- ▶ One graduate-level student is required for each group of two students or more and are the designated group leader.

# Current Work and Scope of Ability

- ▶ At the conclusion of this Fall semester, the health department will have conducted and completed the following:
  - ▶ Four community events: one focus group on vaccines (2017), two roundtables with the LGBT community about health access and HIV testing (2018) and a discussion about tobacco cessation/policy with local stakeholders (2018).
  - ▶ Mapped out all health services in and around the city of Kent to provide to the Kent State geography department and produced a GIS map (2017-2018).
  - ▶ Created a brochure that lists all health services in and around the city of Kent, complete with contact information (2017-2018). The brochure will be available physically in multiple businesses and on the health department website.
  - ▶ Fulfilled several grant deliverables pertaining to smoking policy analysis, forging relationships with stakeholders to support anti-tobacco initiatives, creating advertisements and marketing materials, and conducting surveys with cessation partners
  - ▶ *Most importantly, become a more valuable resource to community stakeholders and the community.*

# Accreditation

- ▶ To date, the interns over the past two fall semesters have contributed to several documents that have been now been submitted to PHAB for accreditation. These include:
  - ▶ A full risk-communication plan that was Board of Health approved in October 2018
    - ▶ Measure 3.2.4
  - ▶ Research and community outreach for the health department's immunization clinic, including a 90 minute focus group.
    - ▶ Measure 1.2.3, 1.3.1, 3.1.2
  - ▶ Program evaluation of the health department mosquito surveillance program
    - ▶ Measure 9.1.3
  - ▶ Assessment of access to care and analyzing potential barriers, including conducting two focus groups with disparate populations
    - ▶ Measure 3.1.3, 10.1.1
  - ▶ Tobacco grant deliverables
    - ▶ Measure 1.2.3, 10.2.3

# Evaluation and Conclusion

- ▶ At the end of each working semester, we survey each intern by asking them five questions that ask to rate different aspects of the internship and its effectiveness.
- ▶ At the end of the first semester, that rating averaged at 2.67 out of five.
- ▶ At the end the second semester, following the revisions made, the rating averaged at 4.7.
  - ▶ Three individuals decided to continue the internship into this current spring semester
- ▶ The academic health department has proven to be a valuable part of our health department as a way to fill gaps in services and be more active in the community.

# Questions?



**Michael Anguilano III**



**Bill Keck**



# AHD Partnership Resources

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- Academic Health Department Learning Community: [www.phf.org/AHDLC](http://www.phf.org/AHDLC)
  - Peer community supporting public health practice/academic collaboration
- [AHD Webinars](#)
  - Regular webinars focused on AHD partnerships
- [Ask the AHD Expert Column](#)
  - Column on the PHF Pulse blog offering guidance on AHD development, maintenance, and expansion
- [AHD Resources and Tools](#)
  - Library of resources and tools to support development, maintenance, and expansion of AHD partnerships
- Council on Linkages Update: [www.phf.org/councilupdate](http://www.phf.org/councilupdate)
  - Newsletter featuring the latest AHD partnership resources



*Questions?*

Contact Kathleen Amos at [kamos@phf.org](mailto:kamos@phf.org).

