



Public Health Advocacy Consensus Task Force

September 16, 2024

Overview

Advocacy is a critical skill as the public health field continues to focus on rebuilding the workforce in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in preparation for the future. However, recent studies show that public health professionals may still be underprepared to engage in advocacy. During the June 2024 [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice](#) (Council) meeting, the Council was introduced to the [Public Health Advocacy Consensus Task Force](#) (PH-ACT), an initiative of the [Lerner Center for Public Health Advocacy](#) and the [de Beaumont Foundation](#) to gain consensus on the definition of public health advocacy; identify the essential advocacy skills needed to operationalize it; and draft guidance that could help schools and programs. The goal of the PH-ACT is to build a stronger, more effective advocacy competency training to improve public health policy at the federal, state, and local levels.

The PH-ACT will engage in a rigorous consensus-building process to define public health advocacy and essential skills to operationalize it, and the Council voted in August 2024 to endorse the PH-ACT. Endorsement by the Council entails addition of the Council logo to the consensus webpage; designating a representative to serve on the PH-ACT Advisory Committee (1 hour per quarter); providing occasional feedback; and helping to promote PH-ACT consensus efforts.

During this Council meeting, the Council will discuss next steps related to the PH-ACT, including the designation of a representative for the PH-ACT Advisory Committee.

Individual Council member organizations may also wish to consider adding their organizations to the list of individual organizational endorsers of this effort. To learn more about this opportunity, please visit the [PH-ACT website](#).

For more information about Council endorsement of the PH-ACT, please contact Mayela Arana at marana@phf.org.