

AHD Webinar Series: Building Academic Health Department Partnerships in Rural Areas

June 6, 2018

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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

Funded by
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Public Health Foundation



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

- A 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
- Members can participate in webinars, engage in discussion, access resources and tools, and receive guidance to support AHD efforts
- Learn more: www.phf.org/AHDLC



AHD Learning Community: Fast Facts

- Established in 2011
- ~800 members
- Webinars ~quarterly
- Listserv for communications
- Mentorship program for guidance
- Distance technical assistance to answer questions
- Resources for developing partnerships



Today's Presenter



Lisa Macon Harrison, MPH
Health Director
Granville Vance Public Health (NC)

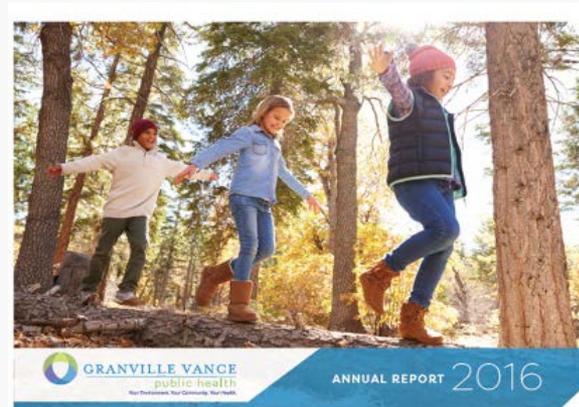




GRANVILLE VANCE
public health

Enhancing Rural Local Public Health Capacity:

Creating and Maintaining
A Rural Academic Health Department



Lisa Harrison, MPH
Granville Vance Public Health

Carmen Samuel-Hodge, RD, PhD
UNC Department of Nutrition
UNC-Chapel Hill
Gillings School of Global Public Health

...And many others...



Thank you

Learning Objectives

- Describe a rural academic health department (AHD) model and partnership in NC
- Discuss examples about how this model has been implemented: people, data, projects, evaluation, reports, grants, students, faculty, staff
- List factors that support successful AHD collaboration in rural NC

Academic Health Department

"...a formal affiliation between an academic institution and a public health practice organization..."¹

- 2 organizations (at a minimum)
- Formal written partnership agreement
- Shared personnel
- Org structure to share resources
- Exchange of resources/compensation
- Collaborative efforts to train students/practitioners
- Joint proposal/implementation of research projects
- Shared support/participation in providing public health services
- Collaborative/mutually beneficial relationships

¹Council on Linkages (2011)

Thank you

What are Academic Health Departments?

- Analogous to the concept of teaching hospitals
- Enhance public health education and training, research, and service
- Help to strengthen the links between public health practice and academia (reduce translation time)
- Lessen the separation between the education of public health professionals and the practice of public health
- Serve as sites for joint education, research, and practice
- Develop the current and future public health workforce
- Build the evidence base for public health by acting as incubator sites
- A **mutually-beneficial relationship** across agencies and staff



Thank you

Background: Partnership

- **Began in 2012** – Slowly added new projects and ideas over time
- **GVPH and NCIPH:**
 - Embedded research professor of Nutrition
 - Evaluation, QI, and program development
 - Student assistance
 - Project management (*Stepping Up Initiative and WOW Coalition, Talk-Test-Protect*)
 - CHA, SOTCH, data analysis and report production
 - Grant writing and report writing

Multi-faceted Partnership

- **Partners**

- Granville Vance Public Health
- NC Institute for Public Health
- UNC Gillings Faculty Member
- Health Education Team
- Community Members
- Additional Universities/Colleges



- **Multiple Projects**

- **Ongoing Collaboration**

Thank you

Background: AHD Model

- Projects initiated at local level/mutual support of practice-based research
- Academic partners in support role
- Diversity of projects, relationships, funding
- Provide surge capacity/expertise for rural agencies
- Connect practice to research and research to practice in direct ways

Thank you



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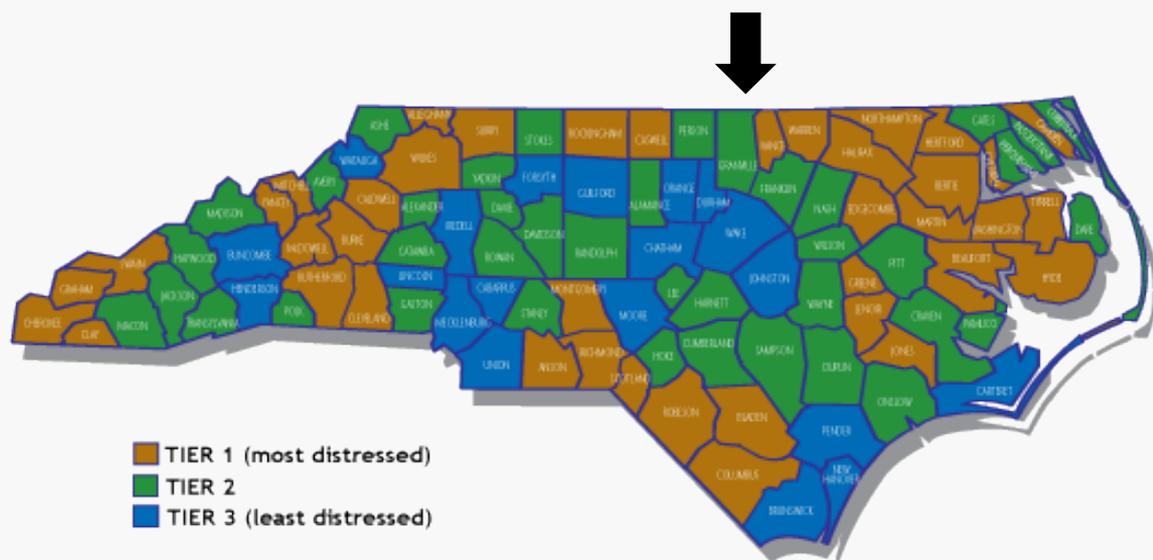
public health



GVPH Staff at Oxford location



GVPH Staff at Henderson location



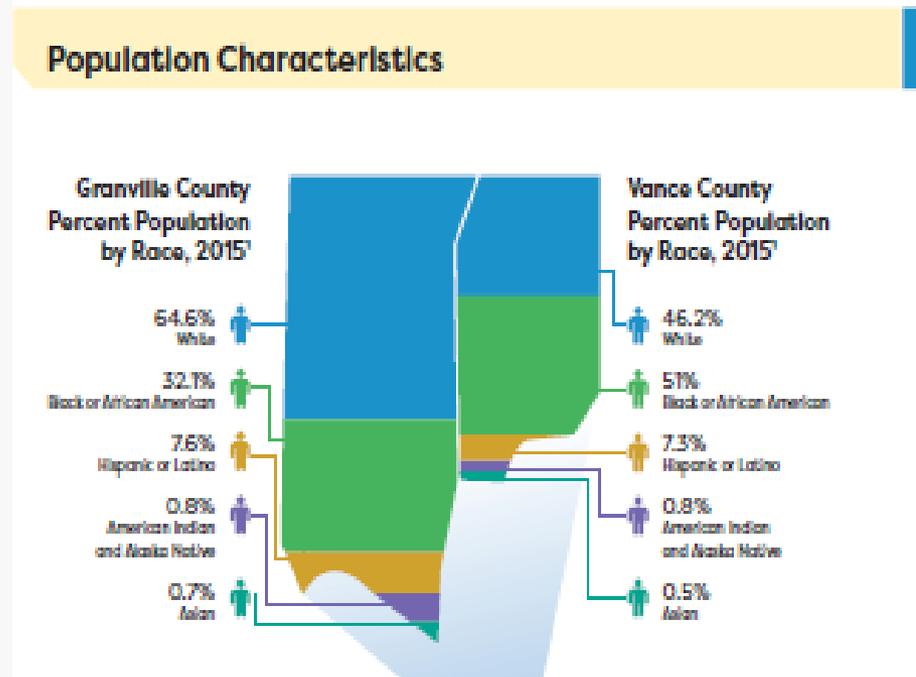
Source: N. C. Department of Commerce

Thank you

County Information -Demographics-

Population 2015

- Granville – 58,500
- Vance – 44,614



Thank you



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- The mission of Granville Vance Public Health is to **Protect and Promote Health** in Granville and Vance Counties.
- 75 staff members work with partners across the community to **assess** community health, **assure** access to health services, and work to **develop policies** that improve health and the environment.

Thank you

Local Community Health Priorities

- **Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder**
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity**
- **Education and Success in School**
- **Addressing Poverty and Health Equity in everything we do**



Thank you

GVPH Agency Strategic Goals



Improve population health and health equity for Granville and Vance Counties



Improve our financial security and future viability as an independent agency



Increase our value among our partners, community members, the health system, and other agencies and businesses within Granville and Vance Counties

Thank you

Goals – Practice Agency

- **Bring research-based knowledge into practice** through translational activities that support health department activities to address
 - Chronic disease
 - Health disparities
- **Gain surge capacity** support as needed
- **Increase grant funding support**
- **Access resources** (e.g., IT)



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Thank you

Goals – Academic Partner

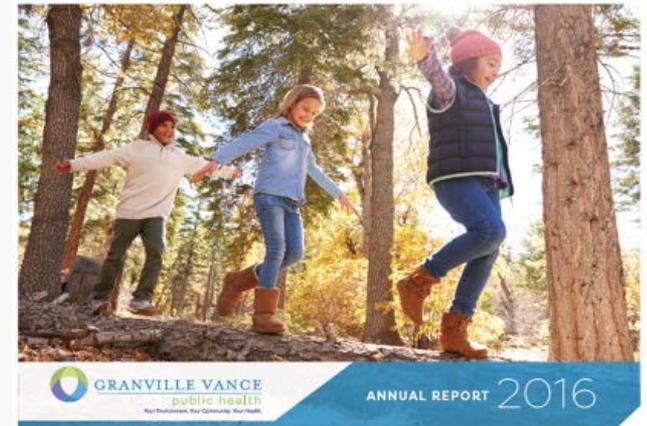
- Key alignment with mission
- Support capacity building
- Bridge research and practice
- Work at intersection of implementation science, evidence-based practice, and quality improvement



Thank you

What is the work?

- **Surge capacity for CHA**
 - Data collection, analysis, facilitation, report writing
 - Informal capacity building for health education team
- **SOTCH & Annual Reports**
 - Professional marketing/design services



Thank you

What is the work?

- **Short-term systems and services research projects**

- Example: budget research comparing state vs. county sources across LHDs

- ***Stepping Up Initiative***

- Short-term staffing to support GVPH's coordinating role in 5-county effort

- Research, process mapping



Thank you

What is the work?

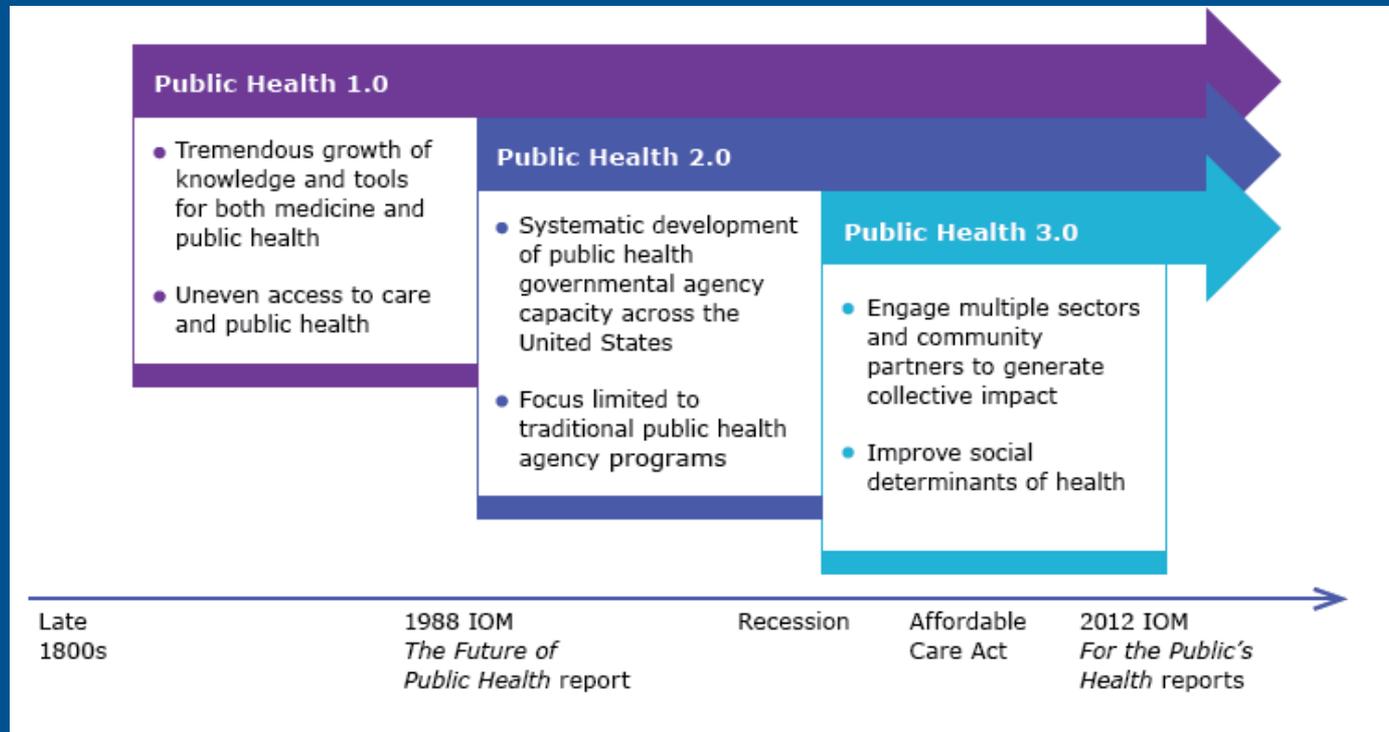
- **WOW Coalition and beyond...**
- Translational and implementation activities around chronic disease prevention, nutrition and physical activity, health disparities
 - Faculty member on site 1-2 days/week



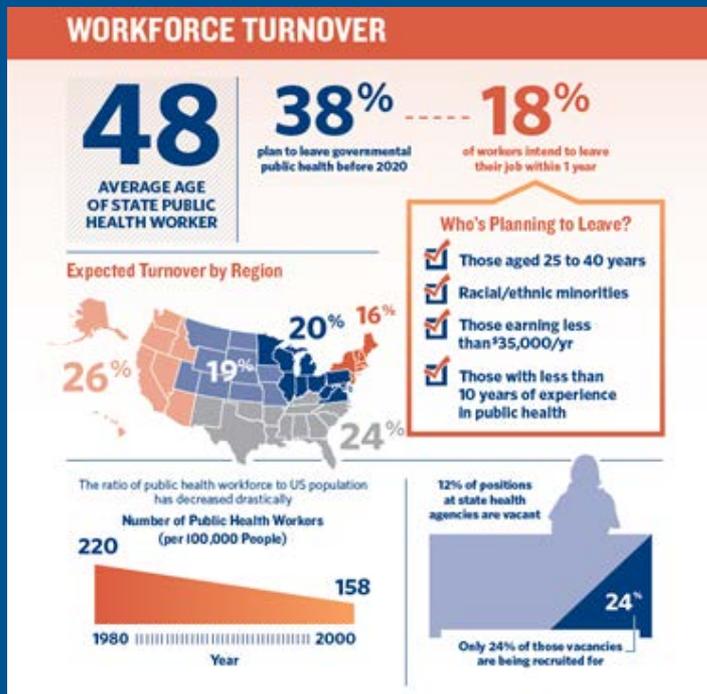
*Dr. Carmen Samuel-Hodge
Research Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition
Research Fellow, UNC Center for Health Promotion and
Disease Prevention*

Thank you

IMPORTANCE OF ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS – FUTURE IMPLICATIONS



IMPORTANCE OF ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS – FUTURE IMPLICATIONS



WHY MIGHT A LHD BE INTERESTED – FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- Medicaid Transformation in NC now – SDOH and local Demonstration pilots
- LHDs are primed to be the leading partners in this work
- LHDs can act as the incubator for the innovation
- University partners are super helpful in, and good at, evaluating the outcomes
- Grants are easier to write and manage with the assistance of those who do that for a living
- Elevating public health practice has many facets – this can be one of them

Results

- Informal/formal capacity building for health education team
- Final products (CHA report, SOTCH) that meet requirements and serve as promotional materials for funders and non-traditional partners
- Increased funding support from county level

Thank you

Results

- Over \$2.8 million in new grant funding to support diabetes prevention program and health education in the district
- New organizational strategies for grants management – from simple to complex
- New evaluation, QI, and project management strategies
- Emerging rural academic health department model

Thank you

Successes & Lessons Learned



Thank you



Lisa M. Harrison, MPH

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919.690.2108

<http://gvph.org>

<http://sph.unc.edu/nciph>

Thank you

Questions?



Lisa Macon Harrison



Bill Keck



AHD Partnership Resources

- Academic Health Department Learning Community: www.phf.org/AHDLC
 - Peer community supporting public health practice/academic collaboration

- [AHD Webinars](#)
 - Regular webinars focused on AHD partnerships

- [AHD Mentorship Program](#)
 - Connects individuals seeking guidance in an area of AHD development or operation with those having experience in that area

- [Ask the AHD Expert Column](#)
 - Quarterly 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
 - Monthly newsletter featuring the latest AHD partnership resources



Questions?

Contact Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.