



Academic Health Department Learning Community Report

September 18, 2013

Overview

The [Academic Health Department \(AHD\) Learning Community](#) supports development of AHD partnerships between public health practice organizations 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 AHDs.

Status of Initiative

As noted during the last Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice meeting in March 2013, the AHD Learning Community has grown rapidly since its launch in January 2011. Current membership is over 300, and members are located across the United States.

To help support this growth in membership, the AHD Learning Community held two webinar meetings this May. The webinar meetings were designed to introduce new members to the Learning Community and provide an overview of the elements of an AHD. An archived recording of the first of these webinars was created and is available, both on [TRAIN](#) or at this [direct archive link](#), to those interested in learning more about AHD partnerships. This archive is shared with new members when they join the Learning Community.

The AHD Learning Community will also be hosting two meetings this fall, one by conference call and one in-person. The conference call meeting will focus on potential roles for AHDs in the education, training, and practice of public health workers around health reform, and specifically health insurance marketplaces, and will be held on Wednesday, September 25th from 1-2:30 pm EDT. The in-person meeting will occur during the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting in partnership with APHA's Health Administration Section. This third in-person meeting of the Learning Community is scheduled for Tuesday, November 5th from 4:30-6 pm in the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Room 256 ([Session 4397.0](#)).

In addition to meetings, the AHD Learning Community is preparing to conduct a needs assessment to identify activities, topics, and resources of interest and value to community members. Learning more about what members hope to gain from participation in the Learning Community will help guide future activities.

Next Steps

Exploration of the needs of AHD Learning Community members and the possible resources that could be developed to meet those needs will continue. To date, requests for AHD information have often centered on how AHD partnerships have been developed. The establishment of a mentorship program within the Learning Community is being considered as a way to support these information needs.