

# Celebrating 20 Years

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Council on Linkages Meeting

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# Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

- Established in 1992
- Charged with implementing the recommendations of the Public Health Faculty/Agency Forum
- Facilitates academic/practice collaboration in public health
- Expanded from 5 to 20 national member organizations

# Mission and Activities

- To improve public health practice, education, and research by:
  - Fostering, coordinating, and monitoring links among academia and the public health and healthcare community
  - Developing and advancing innovative strategies to build and strengthen public health infrastructure
  - Creating a process for continuing public health education throughout one's career
- Activities in the areas of public health linkages, education and training, practice, and research

# Highlights over 20 years...

# Academic/Practice Linkages Awards

- 1993-2006
- Annual Linkages Awards
- Recognized exemplary community-based collaborative activities between practice organizations and academic institutions
- Highlighted the impact of such linkages
- Collected 200+ examples of linkages

# Academic Health Department Learning Community

- Launched in 2011
- Encourages collaborative learning, knowledge sharing, and resource development in support of AHD partnerships
- Brings together practitioners, educators, and researchers
- Held 8 meetings
- Grown to 300+ members

# Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals

- Developed in 2001, revised in 2010, reviewing in 2013
- Describe skills for delivering public health services
- Provide a foundation for public health workforce development
- Used by health departments, academic institutions, and others
- One of the most popular resources on the PHF website

# Accreditation Standards

## ➤ Academia

- Influenced the revision of CEPH criteria for schools and programs of public health to include practica and other linkage activities
- MPH students are now required to complete practica

## ➤ Health Departments

- PHAB Standards and Measures reference the Core Competencies
- Health departments are required to provide workforce development plans that include nationally adopted public health core competencies

# Healthy People 2010 and 2020

- Participated in the development of the Public Health Infrastructure topic area
- Core Competencies are incorporated into 3 objectives within this topic area
- Provided data on use of the Core Competencies by academic institutions

# Public Health Training Impact

- 2011-2012
- Explored ways to improve and measure the impact of training
- Convened an expert Training Impact Task Force
- Developed a set of strategies and methods and collected literature, tools, and other resources
- Useful for Public Health Training Centers, health departments, and others

# Recruitment and Retention

## ➤ Strategies

- 2005 forum convened representatives from government, education, and medical professions to share experiences with alleviating worker shortages
- Reviewed literature on recruitment and retention
- Developed a set of possible strategies for improving recruitment and retention of workers and students

## ➤ Public Health Workers Survey

- 2010 survey to learn about workers and their decisions to join and remain in the public health workforce
- Collected data from nearly 12,000 public health professionals

# Public Health Practice Guidelines

- 1994
- Developed an initiative funded by W.K. Kellogg Foundation to determine the desirability and feasibility of public health practice guidelines
- Created a set of draft guidelines related to cardiovascular disease prevention and tuberculosis treatment completion
- Led to CDC developing the Task Force on Community Preventive Services and *The Guide to Community Preventive Services (The Community Guide)*

# Public Health Research

- National Public Health Practice Research Agenda
  - 1998
  - Developed a plan and a framework as a foundation for a national public health practice research agenda
  - Identified, articulated, and prioritized research needs
- Public Health Services and Systems Research
  - Engaged in various activities to promote PHSR/PHSSR
  - Convened annual PHSR Leadership Forums at APHA annual meetings
  - Helped establish the AcademyHealth PHSR Interest Group
  - Disseminated research agendas and created brief agendas to highlight high priority research questions
  - Helped to increase funding for and publication of PHSSR studies

# Public Health Workforce Development Inventory

- 2012-2013
- Gathered information on the public health workforce development activities of Council member organizations
- Analyzed, synthesized, and summarized information provided
- Provides a foundation to help organizations communicate, plan, and implement workforce development activities



**And the next 20 years... ?**