



The Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

Academic Health Department Learning Community Report

November 29, 2018

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.

Activities and Accomplishments for 2018

Throughout the year, the AHD Learning Community was involved in a variety of activities, including the hosting of webinars, development and enhancement of resources and tools, and development and dissemination of related communications. The following summary details activities and accomplishments for 2018.

Engagement with the AHD Learning Community

- The AHD Learning Community grew to approximately 950 members, representing organizations in all 50 states, DC, and four US territories.
- To date in 2018, the Learning Community and its resources and tools have been accessed more than 8,000 times – an increase of nearly 2,000 visits over last year. This brings online usage of the Learning Community and its tools and resources to more than 50,000 visits since its launch in 2011.
- [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice](#) (Council) staff responded to more than 40 requests for distance technical assistance related to AHD partnerships, serving approximately 30 organizations in 23 states and DC.

Resources and Tools Related to the AHD Learning Community

- With the start of 2018, the AHD Learning Community transitioned its virtual meetings to an [AHD Webinar Series](#), which will continue to highlight successful AHD partnerships and other topics of interest to individuals developing, sustaining, and expanding AHD partnerships. Two webinars were held and were attended by more than 150 participants:
 - February – [How Academic Health Department Partnerships Can Support PHAB and CEPH Accreditation](#)
 - June – [Building Academic Health Department Partnerships in Rural Areas](#)A third webinar scheduled for October, [Utilizing Academic Partnerships to Enhance Capacity in Small Health Departments](#), needed to be postponed and is being rescheduled for January 2019. Webinars will be held twice a year beginning in 2019.
- AHD webinars were recorded and made available through the [Council website](#), [TRAIN Learning Network](#), and [YouTube](#) for continued access.
- The [Ask the AHD Expert](#) series that was launched in 2017 continued to be published quarterly on the [PHF Pulse blog](#), with columns in [March](#), [June](#), and [September](#), and a fourth planned for December. To date, this year's columns have been viewed nearly 550 times. Columns will be published twice a year beginning in 2019.
- In addition to the [Ask the AHD Expert](#) series, three blog posts highlighting work related to AHD partnerships were published on the PHF Pulse blog and viewed more than 500 times.

- In February, the [Wisconsin Public Health Research Network](#) (WPHRN) published a [paper](#) comparing the [AHD Research Agenda](#) and [WPHRN Priority Research Questions](#), proposing areas of overlapping research interest and potential opportunities for collaboration for AHD partnerships and public health practice-based research networks.
- In August, [The Nation's Health](#) from the [American Public Health Association](#) published a cover story, [Academic Health Department Partnerships Boost Training: Joining with Schools Benefits Students](#), highlighting the value of AHD partnerships and sharing examples from health departments and academic institutions that are meeting the needs of their communities through this collaborative approach.
- A [final draft of the staged model of AHD development](#) was developed in July. This model illustrates the potential development of AHD partnerships on a continuum with the aim of better articulating how these partnerships might develop. The model is expected to be available online in the near future, and stories of AHD partnerships are being developed to accompany the model.
- AHD partnerships continued to be added to the [list of AHD partnerships](#) on the Council website, as part of an ongoing effort to raise awareness of AHD initiatives nationwide, bringing the total number of documented partnerships to more than 60. Additional partnerships or [examples of partnership agreements](#) to be included in the online resources may be shared with Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.
- AHD partnerships and the staged model of AHD development were featured during a [session](#) at the [2018 Public Health Improvement Training](#) attended by approximately 25 participants and a [session](#) at the [National Association of County and City Health Officials Annual 2018](#) attended by approximately 20 participants.

More information about AHD Learning Community activities and accomplishments is available through the [AHD Learning Community](#) section of the Council website or by contacting Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.