



## **Conference Calls with Council Member Organizations**

**July 26, 2012**

### ***Overview***

Engagement of Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice (Council) members was identified as an administrative priority during the Council's strategic planning in 2011. In an effort to facilitate member engagement, conference calls were conducted with individual Council member organizations during the spring of 2012 to discuss the current and future work of the Council, as well as how the Council can best serve its member organizations. Participants in these calls included Council Chair C. William Keck, MD, MPH; Council Director Ron Bialek, MPP; Council representatives; and CEOs/executive directors and Council staff contacts of member organizations.

### ***Discussion Summary***

The Council received a positive response to these conference calls from its member organizations. Discussion on the calls was open and direct, and Council members indicated that the calls were informative and beneficial, offering an opportunity for organizational leadership to become more familiar with the Council's work and make connections with the efforts of their own organizations. Council members were supportive of the Council and its initiatives, indicating a desire to begin or continue sharing Council activities and products with their constituents. The value of the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals to the practice of public health was emphasized, and interest was expressed in newer initiatives, such as the Academic Health Department Learning Community and the Public Health Training Impact initiative, as well.

A recurring theme throughout these discussions was that the field of public health is changing, especially with the increasing emphasis on integrating public health and primary care and the rise of undergraduate public health and interprofessional education initiatives, and there is a need to consider the impact this will have on the public health workforce. Ensuring a workforce that is competent and trained for the changing reality of public health practice presents a challenge for the Council and its member organizations moving forward.

The Council was encouraged to continue its collaborative efforts and support for its member organizations, as well as its communication activities to increase awareness of Council initiatives and products. The Council occupies a unique position within the public health field, and its future work will be best guided by considering how to leverage this position to advance the goals of public health.

### ***Next Steps***

The conference calls with Council member organizations provided an excellent opportunity to better connect the Council with its members, and many ideas were shared that will help inform the future work of the Council and ensure that work is relevant to the needs of its members. Specific follow-up items were generated for all organizations participating in these calls and will be pursued over the coming months. In addition, activities of Council member organizations in support of Council initiatives will be shared through the Council website to highlight the significant contributions made by Council members.