



Looking Ahead: Council Contributions to Rebuilding the Public Health Workforce

November 30, 2022

Overview

For 30 years, the [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice](#) (Council) has been providing support for the US public health workforce and advancing workforce development efforts nationwide. This has included early work to lay the groundwork for [The Community Guide](#) (The Guide to Community Preventive Services) and the field of public health services and systems research (PHSSR), contributions to [Council on Education for Public Health](#) accreditation for schools and programs of public health and [Public Health Accreditation Board](#) accreditation for health departments, development of [foundational competencies](#) for the practice and teaching of public health, and strengthening [partnerships](#) and collaboration between public health practice and academia. Over this history, the Council has grown from nine member organizations to 24, expanding its breadth and bringing in a range of partners whose efforts align in the goal of improving the public's health.

Much has happened in the world of public health since adoption of the Council's [Strategic Directions](#) in 2016. Most recently, as demonstrated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, support for this workforce has been insufficient, jeopardizing the ability of governmental public health agencies to protect and promote the public's health. The public health workforce is critical for ensuring the health of the population, requiring action to revitalize and strengthen the workforce.

Considerable progress has been made by the Council in addressing its *Strategic Directions*. Of particular note are the adoption of revised [Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals](#) (Core Competencies) in 2021; continued expansion of resources and guidance to help establish and strengthen academic/practice partnerships; and important dialogue and sharing of lessons learned to address revitalizing and strengthening the public health workforce.

With nearly \$4 billion being allocated by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) to governmental public health agencies focused on workforce development, the time has never been better to build the workforce needed to protect and promote health. Input from the public health community is needed to guide future directions of the Council. How can the Core Competencies best strengthen the workforce? How can health department capacity be further enhanced through the [Academic Health Department Learning Community](#)? What other areas are important for the Council to address and take action?

During this Council meeting, discussion about future directions of the Council will occur as an initial step in laying the groundwork for updating the Council's *Strategic Directions* in 2023.