

New River Academic Health Department 10 Years In

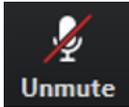


AHD Webinar
December 18, 2023

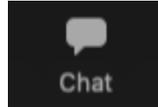
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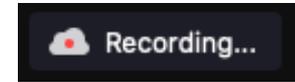
Welcome to Our Webinar!



All participants are muted.



Please use the Chat box and “Raise Hand” button to ask questions and share comments.



This webinar is being recorded.



Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice



American College of Preventive Medicine
physicians dedicated to prevention



Helping AHD Partnerships Grow

Academic Health Department Learning Community – www.phf.org/AHDLC

- ↴ National community of practitioners, educators, and researchers exploring and learning about AHD partnerships
- ↴ ~1,600 members

Variety of Activities:

- ↴ Examples and stories of AHD partnerships
- ↴ Webinars highlighting AHD partnerships
- ↴ Partnership agreements
- ↴ Listserv
- ↴ Technical assistance





What is an AHD Partnership?



An AHD Partnership...



- Joins a health department and an academic institution
- Institutionalizes collaboration
- Enhances public health education and training, research, and service



Perspectives from the Field

Sophie Wenzel, MPH, DrPH, CPH,
Founder and Director, New River
Academic Health Department, Associate
Director, Virginia Tech Center for Public
Health Practice and Research



NEW RIVER ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT. 10 YEARS IN...

Sophie Wenzel, MPH, DrPH, CPH
Associate Director, CPHPR
Director, NRAHD

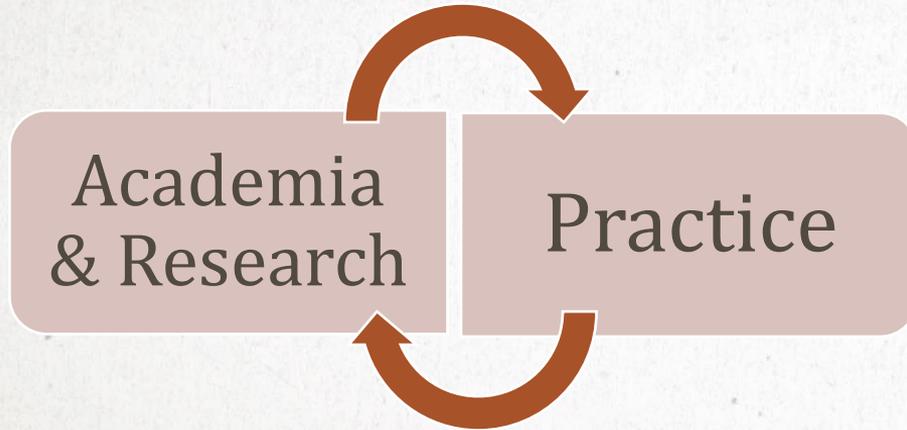


Virginia Tech
Center for Public Health
Practice and Research



WHAT IS AN ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT?

A partnership between a state or local health department and an academic institution



- The local health department provides a real world learning environment for students and a wealth of data for researchers
- Academia provides workforce development opportunities, research expertise and workforce support in the form of both faculty and students.

GETTING STARTED

- Informal relationship between New River Health Department (NRHD) and VT MPH program since 2012
- No formal AHD mentorship community at the time we wanted to start an AHD (2013)
 - Joint position started in Summer 2013
- Kathleen Amos at Public Health Foundation offered informal mentoring
 - Talked to other AHDs throughout country
 - Shared sample MOAs
- Bill Keck articles/presentations helpful to understand concept
- Attended sessions at national conferences, reached out to presenters

TIPS:

- Use the AHD mentorship community [currently on hiatus]
http://www.phf.org/programs/AHDL/Pages/AHD_Mentorship_Program.aspx
- Informal mentorships great too

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- Forming partnerships...
 - Find out who might be willing- test the waters
 - Are there any natural partners?
 - Outside the box partners?
 - Multiple LHDs/universities- how do you choose which ones to partner with?
 - Where do you have existing relationships? How can you leverage those?
 - Who has funding?

TIPS:

- Leverage existing relationships

DEVELOPING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

- Existing MOA for practicums between NRHD and VT
- Started AHD MOA process in 2014, signed in 2015
- Reviewed example MOAs from Public Health Foundation

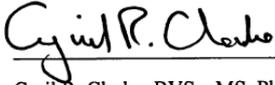
MOA categories:

- Purpose
- Scope of Activities
- Opportunities for collaborative public health professional preparation
- Opportunities for workforce development
- Opportunities for enhanced public health practice and research
- Shared personnel
- Advisory committee
- Shared resources
- Timely communication
- Future possibilities
- Payment
- Renewal, termination and amendment

TIP: Review existing MOAs to get inspired...


Robert W. Hicks
Deputy Commissioner
Community Health Services
Virginia Department of Health

4/29/15
Date


Cyril R. Clarke, BVSc, MS, PhD
Dean, Virginia-Maryland College of
Veterinary Medicine

5-1-15
Date


Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH
Commissioner
Virginia Department of Health

5/1/15
Date


Timothy D. Sands, PhD
President, Virginia Tech

5/1/15
Date

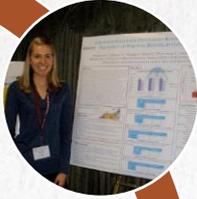
JOINT POSITION

- A full-time shared AHD director manages the day-to-day operations.
- The director position is a permanent faculty position, which is held by VT, and is funded in part (15%) by NRHD.
- The director invests her time between the two organizations.
- Having a person in a joint position ensures:
 - a) a central point of contact;
 - b) implementation of initiatives; and
 - c) clear and consistent communication between the two organizations.

NEW RIVER ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



New River Academic Health Department



New River
Health District



Center for
Public Health
Practice and
Research



VT Department
of Population
Health Sciences

This mutually beneficial partnership is designed to enhance public health training, practice, research and workforce development to improve community health in the New River Valley. Main scope of projects:

- Joint Practice-Based Research Projects
- Public Health Education and Training
- Workforce Development

ADVISORY BOARD

New River Health District

Noelle Bissell, Director

Gary Coggins, Environmental Health Manager

Tiffany Norman, Business Administrator

Virginia Tech

Laura Hungerford, Head, Department of Population Health Sciences

Nicole Holt, Program Director, Public Health Program

Kathy Hosig, Director, Center for Public Health Practice and Research

Sophie Wenzel, AHD Director

NEW RIVER ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN ACTION

Major accomplishments,
2015-2023

Joint
practice-
based
research

Public Health
Education
and Training

Workforce
Development

JOINT PRACTICE BASED RESEARCH PROJECTS

- AHD director, along with the NRHD health educator writes the grants
- NRHD staff implement the project on the ground, manage programs
- CPHPR staff evaluates. Built in external evaluator, successful model.

JOINT GRANT APPLICATIONS

A sample of funders for our practice based projects...

- Virginia Department of Health
- Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth
- Community Foundation of the New River Valley
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- United States Department of Agriculture
- American Rescue Plan Act

JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Evaluation of educational sessions at New River Valley Regional Jail
 - Assessment of contraceptive needs in female inmates
 - Network Analysis of the NRV Public Health Task Force
 - People of a Pandemic- stories from marginalized populations in the NRV
 - Economic Evaluation of a Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Response in New River Valley
 - Other research projects with other PHS faculty members
-

LEVERAGING RESOURCES

- AHD director joint position (85% VT CPHPR, 15% NRHD)
 - External evaluator available to NRHD health education grants as needed
 - Student engagement on various research and practice based projects at NRHD
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PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION AND TRAINING



NEW RIVER ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

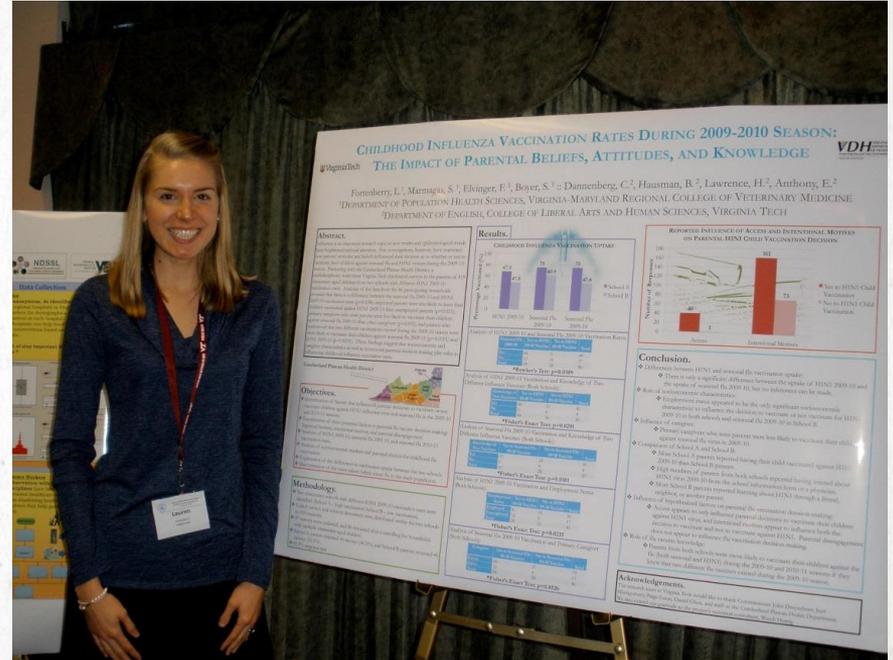
A SAMPLING OF COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION AND EQUITY STUDENT PROJECTS

- Develop NRHD marketing materials and strategies
- Assess women's knowledge and utilization of preconception healthcare services in Giles County
- Conduct needs assessment survey for restaurant owners and general public to identify risk factors associated with food safety violations
- Identify barriers that prevent men and women from accessing prevention services and women from accessing prenatal care in Giles County
- Analyze Montgomery County restaurants data, including frequency of inspections, violations, and outbreaks, and employee knowledge
- Evaluate Blacksburg Market Kids program to determine feasibility of nutrition education integration
- Assess breastfeeding decisions and practices among participants of WIC clinic locations in the New River Valley
- Conduct rabies knowledge, attitude, and perception survey

A SAMPLING OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES PROJECTS

- Conduct HPV Vaccine uptake Study
- Assess geographic distribution and risk factors of Hep C in the NRV
- Conduct cost effectiveness analysis of Pertussis outbreak in Floyd county
- Verify that the administration of epidural spinal injections was in compliance with established standards of care for the fungal meningitis outbreak
- Determine HSV prevalence and education in college students in SW VA
- Monitor infectious disease outbreaks in long-term care facilities in the NRV
- Conduct cost analysis of NRHD rabies investigations
- Conduct cost effectiveness analysis of Fungal Meningitis outbreak in Southwest Virginia from clinical local health department perspective
- Create a health education initiative on the risk factors and consequences of Hep C for Narrows High School students in Giles County
- Map Lyme disease cases in the New River Valley and create Lyme disease clinician education presentation.
- Conduct study on the diagnosis of Lyme disease association in canine and human.

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS



COVID CRUSHERS



- Group of graduate and undergraduate public health students
- “Helping spread facts, not fear, about COVID-19 in the New River Valley”
- Handed out information and resources
- Helped at testing and vaccine events
- Served as role models in the community

ACADEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH CORPS

- Started Fall 2023
 - 20 MPH students
 - Matched with projects at NRHD
 - Emergency Preparedness & Response
 - Environmental Health
 - Health Education
 - Administration
 - Goal is to get on the ground experience while helping out the health department
 - Ultimate goal is to evaluate and show success and get funding from VDH
-

CDC/CSTE FELLOWS

- Applied for a PHAP fellow through Health Department unsuccessfully 3 times
- Decided to take a different approach-applied as AHD.
- Miebeka Kalama, PHAP fellow
- Erica Short, CSTE fellow



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- CEPH accreditation requires MPH program to perform workforce development activities
- Center for Public Health Practice and Research, through the AHD conducts many of these activities
- Workforce development activities relate back to MPH program mission and faculty expertise
- Workforce development activities relate directly to community needs

WE CONDUCT REGULAR NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

2021 top needs:

- Staffing and retention
- Leadership and management
- Collaboration
- Cultural competency
- Grant writing and project management
- Data analysis
- Marketing and communication
- Program evaluation
- Public health 101



SOME OF OUR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- Let's Talk Public Health (high school students on VT campus)
- VT Biocomplexity Institute- summer conference for High School teachers (intro to public health)
- In-service for Virginia Cooperative Extension Agents participating in Balanced Living with Diabetes Program
- Graduate Medical Education Consortium Conference- Nutrition Tips for your Patients
- Career transition for veterinarians
- Health Professions- climate and health
- Field personnel training on infectious diseases

PUBLIC HEALTH 101/CPH EXAM SERIES

- October 2023-May 2024
- 10 sessions
- Open to all NRHD staff
- Taught by VT faculty
- Goal is for NRHD staff to sit for CPH exam next spring



AHD DIRECTOR OTHER DUTIES

- Lead strategic planning process for the New River Health District [approximately 10 meetings, develop comprehensive strategic plan]
- Convene and lead NRHD marketing and wellness teams
- Event planning and facilitation
- Participation on Healthy Roots, CHATs, SHAB community teams
- COVID-19 response (case investigations, vaccine clinics, equity officer)
- Other duties as the need arises

NRHD STAFF LECTURE IN MPH CLASSROOMS

- Environmental Health
 - Epi outbreak investigations
 - Working with the media
-

LESSONS LEARNED

- Joint position is key (but you can do it without one!)
- Need buy- in from both partners- including higher-ups who do the signing
- Need specific position and description for students with on-the-ground mentorship
- Stay connected- communicate!
- Leverage resources where you can

MEASURING SUCCESS

- Number of student placements
- Quality of student placements
- Workforce development sessions conducted
- Quality of workforce development sessions
- Number of faculty members involved in workforce development sessions
- Collaboration across organizations
- Needs assessments conducted
- Presentations conducted
- Number of grants submitted and accepted
- Joint publications

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Continue successful partnership and all activities
- Continue mentoring/sharing expertise
- Evaluate and refine scope of AHD activities as needed
- Strengthen workforce development activities
- Consider expanding to other health departments

NEXT STEPS FOR THOSE THAT WANT TO GET STARTED...

- Review our MOA online: <http://cphpr.mph.vetmed.vt.edu/nrahd.html>
 - Contact Mayela Arana at the Public Health Foundation: marana@phf.org
 - Reach out to potential partners
-

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<http://cphpr.mph.vetmed.vt.edu/nrahd.html>

Questions and Discussion



AHD Partnership Resources

- ↵ Academic Health Department Learning Community: www.phf.org/AHDLC
 - ▷ Peer community supporting public health practice/academic collaboration
- ↵ [AHD Webinars](#)
 - ▷ Webinars focused on AHD partnerships
- ↵ [AHD Resources and Tools](#)
 - ▷ Resources to support development, maintenance, and expansion of AHD partnerships
- ↵ Council on Linkages Update: www.phf.org/councilupdate
 - ▷ Newsletter featuring the latest AHD partnership resources

Questions?

Contact Mayela Arana at marana@phf.org.





THANK YOU!

www.phf.org/AHDLC

For more information or to join, contact:

Mayela Arana

marana@phf.org

