

## **Local Public Health Institute (LPHI) Advisory Committee Meeting Notes**

**June 27, 2011: 10am to 12pm**

**Tower Hill, Boylston MA**

**Meeting Participants:** Marcia Benes, Bob Carr, Robin Chapell, Brad Cohen, Mike Coughlin, Harold Cox, Anne Fidler, Heather Gallant, Paul Halfmann, Alveta Haynes, Charlie Kaniecki, Laura Kittross, Wayne Lamorte, Phil Leger, Kathleen MacVarish, Eduardo Nettle, Sharon Ravid, Elena Savoia, Rob Schadt, Frank Singleton, Jennifer Tsoi, and Steve Ward.

### **Workplan/Timeline Review**

Jennifer Tsoi provided an update of the Institute's progress to date. LPHI is on track and meeting commitments for the first half of this year. More details are provided under **Training Updates**.

### **Funding Updates**

Mike Coughlin gave an overview of the recent budget cuts at MDPH.

Bob Carr also commented that this is a rapidly changing scenario.

Notice and decision making windows vary depending on the funding source. The recent cuts came with three weeks notice.

The feasibility of small reductions across the board is no longer effective. Therefore, entire programs are being cut.

State cuts will also impact federal grant funds. If state funds fall below a certain point to match federal dollars, we can lose those federal grants as well.

MDPH is working hard to minimize the impact of these budget cuts on local health departments.

Group acknowledged that local public health need to be engaged in the decision making process if timing and circumstances allow. These cuts ultimately impact the work of local public health.

### **Sustainability of the LPHI work**

How do we continue the work that we have started?

One suggestion is to look at our professional associations for support.

LPHI has a role in "change management" due to the cuts. We need to change our course delivery system. Suggestions:

- Train the trainer programs to grow the number of local trainers in MA.
- Content delivery can be done online, so classrooms can be the focus of interactive learning. Online modules already include a facilitator's guide, which allows LPH practitioner to conduct face to face trainings within their communities.
- Set up a classroom setting for distance education sessions to allow for small group participation.
- Coordinate with community college system
- There is a fundamentals need for minimum qualifications in local public health practice. Unlike fire and police, LPH trainings are not sponsored by the communities. Set "Certification" as a goal for the professional associations to push for.
- Post the Orientation module to MDPH website to help new staff learn the job

### **Fellow of LPHI**

Kathleen MacVarish presented the latest developments of the Fellows Program. Definition of “fellow” and language for disclaimer has been reviewed by Cheryl Sbarra. Priscilla Fox, Legal Counsel at MDPH, will be next to review and approve the language. The workgroup has agreed to the “Hall of Fame” model, which inducts new members every year. Members will become lifelong fellows of the LPHI.

Kathleen proposed an open application process once a year. A selection committee will be formed to review applications. A recognition ceremony and lunch can be part of an extended March Advisory Committee Meeting in 2012.

### **Feedback/Comments**

- This certificate will go a long way for small towns at budget meetings. It will prove the qualifications of the LPH staff.
- Add mentorship to Category 3.
- Generate lists of LPHI trainings and other trainings to meet criteria.

**Decision** - All in favor of Fellows program.

### **Next Steps**

Kathleen will draft an application this summer for Advisory Committee review and approval. Open application this fall. Plan for a Spring recognition event.

### **Alliance Update**

Alveta Haynes, Program Manager of the New England Alliance for Public Health Workforce Development (Alliance) thanked this committee for serving as the MA Advisory Committee for the Alliance. The major products that have been developed through the Alliance are the Foundations course, the E-Learning Center ([http://sph.bu.edu/otlt/alliance/training\\_elearning.php](http://sph.bu.edu/otlt/alliance/training_elearning.php)), and the MA PHIT series (Housing, Food and Wastewater...all in various stages of development).

### **Local Public Health Summer Internship**

With funding support from the Alliance, BUSPH has been able to connect undergraduate students with local health departments across the state. Interns are able to do the work that local health departments do not have the resources to do. At the same time, the internship is an opportunity to fill the public health workforce pipeline. To date, 15 students have been matched with 12 LPH agencies. Recruitment is ongoing for three LPH agencies with internship openings. For more information on the summer internship program, please see:

<http://sph.bu.edu/otlt/lphi/internship/>

## **Training Updates**

### **CDC Capabilities -**

In March, the CDC published the new Public Health Preparedness Capabilities, establishing national standards for state and local health department planning. The Institute will be using these capabilities as a framework for future emergency preparedness training modules.

### **Coordination with training partners –**

The Institute met recently with MDPH, DelValle, CEEPET and Harvard to establish a list of recommended emergency preparedness trainings for new public health practitioners. This group will also collaborate to offer a standard basic risk communication and advanced risk communication class across MA in 2012.

### **Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER) –**

EHTER provides training on how to apply environmental health information in an emergency setting and addresses the following environmental health issues from this perspective: food safety; potable water; wastewater; shelters; vector control; responder safety; disaster management; solid waste and hazardous materials; building assessments; and radiation.

The Institute will invite a team of CDC consultants to MA in 2012 to deliver this training. It is a 4 day classroom training plus a Trainer the Trainer component on day 5. The Institute aims to build local capacity to deliver this curriculum in MA regularly.

One suggestion is to add a component for colder events, such as ice storms.

### **Classroom and Blended Trainings**

The Institute ran ten classroom trainings in various part of the state this spring.

- Personal Protective Equipment in Northampton, Tewksbury, and New Bedford. A total of 32 participants completed this training. *Evaluation report is attached.*
- Legal Nuts and Bolts of Isolation and Quarantine (Part 1) in Northampton, Burlington and Bridgewater. A total of 55 participants completed this training.
- Legal Nuts and Bolts of Isolation and Quarantine (Part 2) in Northampton, Burlington and Bridgewater. A total of 41 participants completed this training.
- Infectious Disease Surveillance, Reporting and Control in Tewksbury. A total of 21 participants completed this training.
  - MDPH and the Institute will review and revised this curriculum 2012 so it'll be less resource intensive, but still delivers the content needed by local public health practitioners.

### **Foundations Course 2012 - SAVE THE DATE**

Worcester and Tewksbury are the selected location for the classroom sessions this fall. Course will start September 6<sup>th</sup> and run through December 7<sup>th</sup>. Registration will open in mid-July.

*Please circulate Save the Date flyer.*

## Online Modules

- Lyme Disease module was sent to the Advisory Committee for review. Feedback was gathered and we are close to completion.
- MAVEN module is complete. Please promote the use of this online module: <http://sph.bu.edu/otlt/lphi/MAVEN/>. Meanwhile, Jen will follow up with Mike Coughlin to get this module and others posted to mass.gov
- Swimming Pools and Tanning modules are next in line for Adv Committee review. Other modules in progress are Bed Bugs, Emotional Resilience for Disaster Workers, Public Health Workforce Protection, and Emergency Preparedness.
- Body Art – Wayne gave a demo of the current Body Art module. Original guidelines were developed in conversation with body artists. Body art is a wide field and no one expert is available.
- History of Public Health module has been developed by Dr. LaMorte for BU and he is willing to donate it to LPHI; there was enthusiastic support for this module.
- Surveillance module – Wayne will discuss with Bob Carr about using an introduction module that he has also created for BU.

## Discussion Items for Future Meetings

Community college engagement

Mentorship training

Sustainability and partnerships