

# LPHI Monthly Update: October 2016

## BU SPH Workforce Development



**LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH**  
INSTITUTE OF MASSACHUSETTS

### Changes coming to the LPHI website:

Listening to the feedback of our end users, and with the help of the Educational Subcommittee, the LPHI is in the final stages of re-designing the LPHI webpages and training portal. Working with our Instructional Designer, we are making the site easier to navigate, maintaining or improving on the links and search functions to the trainings, and highlighting new information and calendar events. We are also making the changes to make the site more useable on mobile devices such as tablets and phones, as well as making sure it meets 508 compliance (Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA]) as we had begun doing with our latest *On Your Time* trainings. The new website will go live in November, and we will send out a separate email to let you know when this happens.

### Updating of *On Your Time* Trainings:

All trainings are being reviewed internally and by Subject Matter Experts (both within and outside of MDPH) for changes in policy and/or laws, with our instruction designer who assesses the trainings from an educational and ADA compliance view.

Our first two modules are either finished or nearly so: Orientation to Local Public Health is complete, but because of changes in the way it will be displayed on the re-vamped website, we are still about 2 weeks away from making it live (see the description of changes above). Hoarding: A special Housing topic is in the final stages of review and then will go live shortly.

As we have worked out the scoping of training review, we recognize that some trainings will take longer than others to revise, and that the process from beginning to end can take 3 – 6 months. However we have put together a schedule of review based off of the information and feedback that we have received from Bureau and Office Directors that will take us through the end of the calendar year:

1. Public Health Law in MA
2. Immunization
3. Case Management
4. Surveillance of infectious Disease
5. Dealing with Stress in Disasters: Building Psychological Resilience
6. Public Health Workforce Protection

We've heard from our MDPH subject matter experts that food code and recreational camp regulations may be fairly far along in the revision process come the end of the calendar year and will devote attention to those modules once they are sufficiently developed. MA PHIT Food training will also be updated to reflect these regulatory changes during that time.



## **Managing Effectively in Today's Public Health Environment:**

Registration for this course has opened, and the course itself will begin in late November and run through March 2017. This year's course page has been moved to a more interactive Learning Management System (LMS). This LMS will allow students to see week by week their assignments, activities, and biographical information on that week's instructors. It will also allow the students and their assigned mentors to have discussions in the online environment, avoiding long and messy email chains. We see the use of an LMS like this as a critical part of all of our long-term online courses going forward.

For this course we are partnering with many of the LPH associations in Massachusetts to be able to offer this training nearly free of charge: the Massachusetts Health Officers Association, the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association, and the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses. Lastly, we are working with the Boston Public Health Commission to have 30 members of their staff be part of the training: they will participate alongside the other students for the majority of the webinars and for the last session and graduation, but will also have some parallel, but separate, training during the course.

## **LPHI Fellows:**

The application period for the LPHI Fellows program is now open. As with last year, you can apply directly, or you can nominate a colleague. More information is available at [www.masslocalinstitute.org/fellows](http://www.masslocalinstitute.org/fellows), including the application and nomination packets and all relevant dates for the program. We will hold our annual induction ceremony as part of the graduation of the Management course on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017.

## **MHOA Annual Conference:**

As in past years, the LPHI took the lead in the Emergency Preparedness track at the MHOA annual conference. The sessions were very well attended with some interesting and dynamic speakers, and will use the feedback from our evaluations when planning next year's sessions. We thank both the track participants and OPEM in being accommodating and flexible when our last session cancelled at the last moment due to illness, and PHEP funding course credit was transferred to another session so as not to leave attendees short on required time.

The LPHI partnered with our sister organization the New England Public Health Training Center (NEPHTC) to sponsor a booth at the event and market our trainings. We displayed many different types of new marketing materials for the first time and initial feedback is that they were quite popular. We continue to reach new LPH practitioners at this event every year, as well as being able to further educate practitioners who know us already about our opportunities and options for training.

