

National Network of Public Health Institutes News

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NNPHI Strategic Directions: Developing a Three Year Strategic Plan

At the annual conference this year, NNPHI announced that the board has undertaken a new strategic planning process. This process has begun in light of rapid recent growth, both in size and programmatic activity. There have been two strategic planning meetings, one in January and one in March, which were informed by the results of the 2006 NNPHI Member Survey. As a result, 3 strategic directions have been formed:

- 1) Foster high performing public health institutes within states and selected regions
- 2) Maintain a national network that effectively supports the establishment and growth of state and regional public health institutes
- 3) Improve the public's health through selected strategic initiatives that capitalize on the unique characteristics and potential of public health institutes and our national network

The conference presentation and a detailed outline can be viewed by clicking [here](#) and are also available on the [NNPHI website](#)

We are requesting comments and feedback from all of our members and partners by July 6th, 2007. Your feedback will be used to inform and guide further development of the strategic plan by the board. Please share your thoughts- contact Erin Bertschy at ebertschy@nnphi.org or 504-301-9823.

Summary of the 2006 NNPHI Member Survey is now available The preliminary results for a member survey conducted by NNPHI from September- November 2006 are now available at: <http://www.nnphi.org/home/section/3/publications/view/106/> The purpose of this survey was to learn more about NNPHI members and emerging public health institutes. The goal was to identify areas for improving NNPHI member services and planning content for future events such as the annual meeting and educational teleconferences. Key findings of interest include: For additional information and to request a mailed copy of the Summary of Results, please contact Erin Bertschy at ebertschy@nnphi.org.

- Common areas of programmatic or policy activity include: 84.6% of institutes perform programmatic or policy activities in Obesity. 76% of institutes work in Health Disparities. 68% of institutes foster projects in Tobacco, Uninsured Access to Care and Information Technology.
- 68% of institutes are engaged in activities related to policy analysis. The majority of institutes are formally committed to maintaining a neutral/non- partisan position on policy related issues (77%).
- 65% of institutes conduct training/educational seminars.

- 81% of institutes engage in research.
- 54% of institutes are involved in health information technology/exchange.

As always, we look forward to your feedback and future submissions to this newsletter. Please send all feedback, comments and submissions to kadams@nnphi.org.



NNPHI Updates



Special Journal Issue Examines Public Health Accreditation

The July/August issue of the *Journal of Public Health Management & Practice*, edited by Leslie M. Beitsch, MD, JD, looks at efforts to establish a national voluntary accreditation program for public health agencies and examines the potential of promising accreditation models.

This special issue contains the Final Recommendations of the Exploring Accreditation Steering Committee—a distinguished group of 25 public health leaders working with input from over 650 professionals—which included the recommendation to move forward with the implementation of a national voluntary accreditation program for state and local public health agencies.

Several analyses from states in the Multi-State Learning Collaborative also point to the promise of a national, voluntary accreditation program. These sites provide insight and lessons learned for those interested in harnessing the potential of assessment and accreditation programs.

This view is echoed in commentary from experts in the field, who view the move toward accreditation as another positive development in public health. They recognize such a system as an opportunity to strengthen public health and improve America's overall well-being.

[Free online access](#) available with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

NNPHI Job Opening

NNPHI is currently looking for a Program Assistant. The Program Assistant will be an employee of the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) and will be assigned to work primarily on projects for the National Network of Public Health Institutes. As such, the Program Assistant will report to the NNPHI Associate Director. The Program Assistant will be responsible for supporting NNPHI staff on numerous aspects of program operations including scheduling travel and large meetings, developing and editing draft correspondence, taking minutes for staff meetings, facilitating correspondence and assisting in the completion of general administrative tasks, such as copying, filing, directing calls and guests and arranging staff and team meetings. The Program Assistant will help to facilitate the flow of organizational information between related NNPHI projects. The Program Assistant will monitor the invoicing and contract processes, facilitate/assist program related purchases in conjunction with other LPHI support staff, and ensure that regular program activities and schedules are maintained. To read more about this opportunity please [click here](#).

2007 NNPHI Conference Highlights

NNPHI held its 6th annual conference at the Wyndham Canal Place in New Orleans last month. The theme of the conference was **Partnering for Public Health Systems Improvement**. Keynote addresses at the conference were made by Marie Fallon

(National Association of Local Boards of Health), Paul Jarris (Association of State and Territorial Health Officials), Patrick Libbey (National Association of County and City Health Officials), and David Kindig (University of Wisconsin). The conference also highlighted several programs and research activities conducted by public health institutes related to identifying and using population-based health data, addressing the obesity epidemic with innovated approaches, incorporating health information technology into public health practice, and developing health information exchange infrastructure. The conference program is posted on the [conference section](#) of our website. If you would like to receive a copy of the conference program and the conference CD, please contact Karen Adams at kadams@nnphi.org.

Emerging Institute News

Strategic Transformations Workshop held at 2007 NNPHI Conference A workshop for emerging institutes entitled Strategic Transformation was held as a pre-meeting at the annual NNPHI conference in May. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Karen Minyard, Director of the Georgia Health Policy Center, who has worked extensively with the board and staff of NNPHI to develop a technical assistance model tailored to emerging institutes. The workshop explored some of the principals and strategies behind systems thinking, a foundation for building organizational sustainability. Session materials and readings, as well as the conference CD and program are available; please contact Erin Bertschy, Program Manager for the Fostering Emerging Institutes Project at ebertschy@nnphi.org or 504-301-8923.

FEIP Matching Grant Program Kickoff held at 2007 NNPHI Conference

A kickoff workshop was held for the five FEIP Matching Grant Program grantees at the May NNPHI conference. The workshop focused on building a learning community among the grantees, and increasing skills and tools in creating organizational sustainability. The session was facilitated by Dr. Karen Minyard, Director of the Georgia Health Policy Center and Mary Eggers, partner at Dannemiller Tyson Associates, specialists using Whole-Scale® Change methods. Grantees shared their institute's stories, heard from public health institute leaders about the origins of their organization, learned about new ways to engage stakeholders and build partnerships and learned a technique for breaking through "what keeps you awake at night". Grantees shared ideas for how to continue learning among emerging institutes; NNPHI will utilize these suggestions to create opportunities for exchange among all EI leaders.

New FEIP List Serve Now Available

The Fostering Emerging Institutes list serve is a forum for emerging institute leaders and interested parties to share ideas and resources in the process of creating a public health institute. Participants are invited to pose questions to the group and share their experiences and knowledge. The list serve is moderated and administrated by the National Network of Public Health Institutes.

To sign up, please visit: http://nnphi.org/mailman/listinfo/feip_nnphi.org

For more information regarding the Fostering Emerging Institutes Project, please contact Erin Bertschy at ebertschy@nnphi.org or 504-301-9823.

Public Health Leadership Society/ NNPHI Members Services

Please join us for a reception at the **2007 NACCHO Conference** in Columbus, Ohio on Thursday, July 12th from 5:30 - 7:00 PM at the Hyatt Regency. Members and friends of PHLS and NNPHI are welcome to attend. Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Please send an email to anguyen@lphi.org to RSVP for the reception. For more information, please refer to the [flyer](#).

Multi-State Learning Collaborative II (MLC-2)

The Multi-State Learning Collaborative II (MLC-2) held its Open Forum on May 23rd and 24th in conjunction with the NNPHI Annual Conference in New Orleans. The Open Forum convened the ten MLC- 2 participant states, representatives from 10 other

interested states, national partners, and other interested parties. At the Open Forum participants were able to share their knowledge and experiences of performance assessment and quality improvement with one another and receive training on quality improvement tools.

Two weeks after the Open Forum, the MLC-2 hosted its second teleconference-"What Will Drive the Spread of Quality Improvement?"-on June 15, 2007. Stacy Baker, Director of Performance Improvement at the Public Health Foundation, along with Elissa Bassler, Executive Director of the Illinois Public Health Institute, facilitated a dialogue session about Illinois' success with utilizing a quality improvement tool called the Interrelationship Digraph. This interactive session allowed participants to complete their own Interrelationship Digraph to explore the drivers of change around quality improvement.

National News

American Public Health Association

APHA announces the [American Public Health Association's \(APHA\) Public Health Fellowship in Government](#). The fellowship will offer a public health professional the opportunity to spend one year working in Washington, D.C., on legislative, regulatory and policy issues that would benefit from the input of someone with public health expertise.

APHA is looking for candidates with strong public health credentials who wish to work in a congressional office on legislative and policy issues related to health and the environment. The fellowship will begin in January 2008 and continue through December 2008. The fellowship is designed to provide a unique public policy learning experience, to demonstrate the value of science-government interaction, and to make practical contributions to enhancing public health science and practical knowledge in government. The process of applying for this fellowship is an open competition. A committee of APHA leaders and policy experts will review the applications and select the finalists. The application is due to APHA by **July 20, 2007**. The committee will make its decision by September 30, 2007. All candidates must have a MPH or a Doctorate in a public health discipline plus 5 years of experience in a public health setting.

You can find a brochure with more information, the application and instructions for completing the application on our Web site at [www. apha.org/advocacy/fellowship/](http://www.apha.org/advocacy/fellowship/).

NNPHI Member Headlines

Medical and Health Research Association of New York City, Inc

MHRA manages the Ryan White Title I and HIV Prevention portfolio on behalf of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. MHRA is currently in the process of transitioning the hundreds of contracts it gives each year to community-based HIV care and prevention providers to being performance-based. To assure that this change goes smoothly and that CBOs are able to be successful under this new approach, MHRA's technical assistance division FITA (Financial and Infrastructure Technical Assistance) has implemented a new training called Managing Your Organization in a Performance-Based Environment. To date in 2007, FITA has trained more than 180 people from 72 agencies.

and government organizations who are doing health education on-line to create programs that are sound, measurable and ethical. For example, FITA is working with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and other organizations to increase proficiency in reaching clients at risk for STIs who meet partners on-line, monitoring and assuring accountability of internet outreach staff and developing partner notification protocols for counseling and referral.

North Carolina Institute for Public Health

For news of the North Carolina Institute for Public Health, see/link http://www.sph.unc.edu/images/stories/centers_institutes/nciph/documents/impact/may07.pdf

Iowa first to enact new Good Samaritan bill

With the Governor's signature on May 11, 2007, Iowa became the first state to extend its statutory Good Samaritan liability protection to corporations and non-profit entities acting in good faith to provide emergency aid during a public health disaster.

Section 21 of House File 925 extends liability coverage to "a person, corporation, or other legal entity, or an employee of or agent of such person, corporation, or entity, who, during a public health disaster, in good faith and at the request of or under the direction of the department or the department of public defense renders emergency care or assistance to the victim of a public health disaster..." To read more please [click here](#).

Upcoming Conferences, Meetings and Teleconferences

PHLS/NNPHI Reception at NACCHO Annual Conference

Hyatt Regency Columbus-- Columbus, Ohio
Union E Room
Thursday, July 12th
5:30 - 7:00 PM

Please join us for a reception at the **2007 NACCHO Annual Conference** in Columbus, OH. Members and friends of the Public Health Leadership Society and the National Network of Public Health Institutes are welcome to attend. Cash bar and hor d'oeuvres will be served.

Please feel free to pass along [our flyer](#).

RSVP:

Email An Nguyen at anguyen@lphi.org with your contact info.

NACCHO Annual Conference

Hyatt Regency Columbus-- Columbus, Ohio
July 11-13, 2007

The NACCHO Annual 2007 Conference brings together local health officials and their public health partners to examine strategies, share ideas, and plan actions designed to address issues of health inequality and environmental public health from local to global perspectives. This year's theme is "Health Equality and Environmental Public Health- From Local to Global." For more information, please visit the [NACCHO website](#).

Employment Opportunities

Public Health Institute (CA)

Several positions available at <http://www.phi.org/about-employment-open.cfm>

Georgia Health Policy Center

Several positions available at <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwghp/employment.htm>

Kansas Health Institute

EFL Associates has been retained to assist in the recruitment of a dynamic individual to serve as the Director of Health Care Financing and Organization for the Kansas Health Institute (KHI), a state based health policy and research organization. In 2006, KHI received a 10-year, \$30 million core funding grant to support its work in health care financing and organization, health informatics, public health, early childhood development and strategic communications. The organization works closely with policy makers in Kansas to make a real difference on important health policy issues. This new Director position will lead KHI's work in the area of health care financing and organization including Medicaid/SCHIP, private insurance, tracking the uninsured, safety net systems, health care markets, HIT/HIE, and others. Reporting the President/CEO of KHI, the Director will be responsible for the identification and development of strategic initiatives, management of projects and staff, participation on the senior management team, and interaction with health policy leaders and researchers in the state, region and nation. To learn more about this opportunity, please [click here](#).

Louisiana Public Health Institute

Several positions available at <http://www.lphi.org/home/>

Maine Center for Public Health

Several positions available at <http://www.mcp.h.org/news.htm>

Michigan Public Health Institute

Several positions available at <http://www.mphi.org/careers.aspx#openings>

Minnesota Institute Public Health

Now Taking Applications for Public Health Program Evaluator: FT position supporting management team and project staff with the 501(c)(3) Minnesota Institute of Public Health in Mounds View. Responsibilities include providing technical assistance to staff and state and community level organizations interested in assessing needs, resources, and readiness for substance abuse prevention; selecting evidence-based prevention strategies based on assessment; designing and conducting evaluations. For more information, please visit <http://www.miph.org/news.html>.

Medical and Health Research Association of New York City, Inc

Several positions available at <http://www.mhra.org/S5C1.cfm>.

Philadelphia Health Management Corporation

Several positions available at <http://www.phmc.org/appview/default.asp>

Disclaimer

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email: kadams@nnphi.org
web: <http://www.nnphi.org/>