



### **Title of Design Lab:**

#### **Developing Non-Partisan Health Policy Education Programs for Policy Makers**

### **Topic Champions:**

- Maya Pack and Lee Pearson, South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health (SCIMPH)
- Michele Lueck, Colorado Health Institute (CHI)

### **Summary of session**

The South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health and the Colorado Health Institute lead a discussion on how public health institutes play a role in developing non-partisan education programs and work to improve health through informed and evidence-based policy in their respective states. Discussion points included the challenges and opportunities in educating policy-makers; developing frameworks for engaging in open, balanced and effective dialogue.

### **Key Takeaway points:**

- The added value of PHIs is that they can serve as non-partisan experts and provide information to educate policy-makers. By staying “above the political fray,” public health institutes have the opportunity to become trusted sources and leaders for credible health information, data and analysis for local, state and national health care leaders.
- One of the goals of the non-partisan health policy program for policy makers is to create trust among colleagues. The PHIs do this by creating a safe space and by providing stakeholders with factual and useful, nonbiased, information related to possible upcoming policies or trends.
- Having the right people with clout issuing the invitations to the legislators is important for participation in the program
- “Building relevance in real time” is important because if you wait for the perfect evidence to come out, the vote has already moved on.
- To be seen as a reliable non-partisan source of information, it is important to never take a stance on political issues
- County Health Rankings is a great tool to use for tailoring information to a legislator based on their county.
- Consider tying the social determinates into the information.

### **Action Steps:**

Public health institutes can collaborate by sharing strategies and lessons learned. It is really important to share not only the good lessons learned, but also to share what did not work. PHIs and other partners could share ideas via Dropbox. NNPHI could facilitate and host informal sharing calls.