

# Developing Boards of Health: Findings from a Training Pilot

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## Presenter Disclosures

### Phoebe Goldberg

The following personal financial relationships with  
commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed  
during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

## Disclosures

- ▶ This project was supported by the US DHHS, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant #UB6HP20200 CFDA #93.516. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA, HHS, or the US Government.
- ▶ This evaluation (HUM00098427) was determined Not Regulated by the University of Michigan Health Sciences and Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board.

## About Us



- ▶ University of Michigan School of Public Health Office of Public Health Practice
- ▶ Strengthen the skills of the current and future public health workforce
- ▶ Non-profit institute
- ▶ Dedicated to improving community health through collaboration
- ▶ Workforce development

*“In today’s public health system, the leadership role of boards of health makes them an essential link between public health services and a healthy community.”*

- National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH)

Source: NALBOH, n.d.

## NALBOH’s Six Functions of Public Health Governance

Policy Development

Resource Stewardship

Legal Authority

Partner Engagement

Continuous Improvement

Oversight

Source: NALBOH, 2012

## Why Train Boards of Health (BOH)

- ▶ NALBOH 2011 Local BOH National Profile
  - ▶ Conducting a board member orientation
  - ▶ Advocating for local public health
- ▶ Ohio requirement for BOH training
- ▶ In memory of Marie Fallon, former NALBOH CEO

Sources: Branco, 2012; Ohio, 2014

## *Governance in Action for Public Health*

- ▶ National audience
- ▶ Seven online modules
  - ▶ Examples of effective BOHs
  - ▶ Suggested resources
  - ▶ Suggested discussion topics



## The Pilot

- ▶ When: January - October of 2015
- ▶ Participants: 10 BOHs in Michigan and Ohio
  - ▶ 7 Rural, 2 Advisory, 2 New
  - ▶ Total individual participants: 84 BOH members
- ▶ Evaluation: Pre-Survey, Module Post-Surveys, Final Survey, Focus Groups
- ▶ Response rate: 48-58% for paired module surveys, 52-67% for unpaired questions/final survey

## Evaluation Findings

- ▶ Indicated that the course goals and learning objectives were met
- ▶ Some knowledge gains related to key public health concepts
  - ▶ Core Functions of Public Health (21% vs. 89%)
  - ▶ Stakeholders in public health system (57% vs. 88%)



Image adapted from CDC, 2014

## Knowledge Questions

Statement	Pre-test: correct	Post-test: correct	N
As of February 2015, national accreditation through the [PHAB] is mandatory for local health depts.	45%	86%	49
As of 2012, all states in the US have a state board of health.	45%	69%	42
Public health may be governed by boards of health with legal authority or advisory boards that inform decision-making.	91%	100%	44
The social determinants of health include factors beyond the scope of public health.	96%	96%	45
Health officers have a key role in the board of health's work to establish policy.	93%	100%	40

## Opportunities for Action

- ▶ Partner Engagement
  - ▶ Collaboration
  - ▶ Communicate with the Community
- ▶ Continuous Improvement
  - ▶ Community Health Assessments
  - ▶ Evidence-based Practice

## Opportunities for Action, Cont.

- ▶ Oversight
- ▶ Resource Stewardship
  - ▶ Exploring Funding Opportunities
- ▶ Policy Involvement
- ▶ Cross-cutting Sub-topics

## Feedback on Course & Methods

- ▶ Methods of implementation varied
  - ▶ Mixed feedback on effectiveness of learning method
  - ▶ Need time and/or discussion to process the material, need written materials
- ▶ Appreciation of examples
- ▶ Desire for tailored material
- ▶ Language



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## Changes Made to Course



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- ▶ Creation of a companion guide
  - ▶ Additional examples of effective BOHs
  - ▶ Written support documents
  - ▶ Technical support
- ▶ Updates to quizzes and evaluation

## Next Steps

- ▶ Final Package and Dissemination
- ▶ Evaluation



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## Potential Future Training Areas

- ▶ Templates and tools
- ▶ More examples!
- ▶ Board basics, operations, staying engaged
- ▶ More on specific activities within the Six Functions

## Thank You

**For more information, contact:**

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