

LIFEPATH TN Public Health Training Center

East Tennessee State University College of Public Health



Overview

- The mission of LIFEPATH is to provide a home for the collaborative partnerships between Tennessee's academic public health training providers and Tennessee's public health workforce, and provide comprehensive competency-based training for that workforce.
- LIFEPATH serves the entire state of Tennessee and the southwestern counties of Virginia.
- Tennessee has diverse socioeconomic and geographical characteristics that stretch from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River. This creates unique challenges for health care providers and trainers. LIFEPATH enables access to services/training to these underserved areas.

Key Activities

- With the majority of the public health workforce fast approaching retirement age and only 20% of that workforce having formal education in public health, the need for public health training has never been greater. Many health outcomes in Tennessee and southwest Virginia lay at the hands of those public health professionals. LIFEPATH exists to ensure that those professionals have adequate training to provide services that will impact the overall health status of the entire population. LIFEPATH's service area is faced with unique health challenges from high infant mortality to increased chronic disease rates to high prescription drug abuse. LIFEPATH equips its public health workforce with the knowledge and skills to combat these public health issues.
- LIFEPATH provides a blended academic and nonacademic training approach for the public health workforce. This approach contains key building blocks for successful development of a public health professional.

Public Health in Action



Knoxville, TN; 114 public health professionals in attendance.

Impact on Public Health Workforce

- LIFEPATH provides cost of living stipends to current public health workforce employees to pursue multiple public health training options at both the undergraduate and graduate level. LIFEPATH also provides symposia, lecture series, seminars, course sequences, and has proposed a new leadership academy for the state of Tennessee. Each of the training opportunities responds to the voiced need of the workforce. This two pronged approach allows for public health workforce participants to not only gain skills and knowledge through formal education, but also cultivate and expand their everyday skills through application.
- The counties that comprise Tennessee and southwest Virginia are largely medically underserved areas. Access to health care services and training in public health is very limited. LIFEPATH bridges these gaps by partnering with various organizations to reach this population.
- The needs of the public health workforce in LIFEPATH's service area are currently accessed through discussion with state public health leaders and statewide focus groups. Development of a statewide needs assessment is underway and will be launched in 2012.
- Number of trainings conducted: six
- Number of workers trained: 419

Key Partners

- Tennessee Department of Health
- Tennessee Public Health Association
- Meharry Medical College
- University of Memphis
- University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Leadership

Principal Investigator: Robert Pack, PhD, MPH

Co- Investigators: Karen Ervin, M.Acc, Brian Martin, PhD, MBA, Randy Wykoff, MD, MPH, TM

Center Director: Paula Masters, MPH

Program Coordinator: Sean Hoyle, BBA

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HRSA Public Health Training Centers



The Health Resources and Services Administration funded Public Health Training Centers (PHTC) are partnerships between accredited schools of public health, related academic institutions, and public health agencies and organizations. The PHTC Network improves the Nation's public health system by strengthening the technical, scientific, managerial, and leadership competence of current and future public health professionals. Public Health Training Centers assess the learning needs of the public health workforce, provide accessible training, and work with organizations to meet other strategic planning, education, and resource needs.

<http://www.publichealthtrainingcenters.org>



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