

Puerto Rico-Florida Public Health Training Center

Puerto Rico, Florida International



Overview

- To address the public health training needs for both Puerto Rico and Florida public health workforce through a partnership between the University of Puerto Rico and the Florida International University, two CEPH accredited academic institutions. The Puerto Rico-Florida PHTC (PR-F) is the first institute to develop the infrastructure for timely and culturally sensitive public health training both in English and Spanish to improve the public health practice among Hispanics.
- Being recognized as the main resource for strengthening the competencies of the public health workforce, who will foster improvements in the health, well being, and quality of life of the public, through an advanced innovative competency based curriculum.
- Our vision and mission will be accomplished through partnerships, leadership, creativity, innovation, shared resources, accountability, cultural proficiency and excellence.

Key Activities

- Hispanics in Florida believe the most important health problems are Diabetes, STI, high blood pressure, and teen pregnancy.
- Main PH issues in Puerto Rico are Healthcare Reform, Cardiovascular Diseases, Cancer, Asthma, Diabetes and the elderly population.
- The PR-F PHTC is the first PHTC to address the public health training needs of Hispanics in both Puerto Rico and Florida.
- The PR-F PHTC website is under continuous development by the Office of Informatics and Educational Resources of the UPR School of Health Professions. The Blackboard platform will be used for online courses. The website was fully uploaded on February 1, 2011.

Public Health in Action



PH Employee completing needs assessment

Impact on Public Health Workforce

The PRF PHTC will benefit the constituents of covered states providing excellent resources, tools, and capacity building for improving the population outcomes and will impact the health system performance. The future trainings proposed in this project will improved the knowledge and skills of public health workers.

The Needs Assessment Tool

- The instrument consists of six sections: 1) socio-demographic profile and experience in PH; 2) perceptions of PH functions; 3) Ranking of PH competencies domains; 4) perceptions of PH competencies; 5) issues in PH; and 6) technological capacity and professional development. The instrument is available in Spanish and English versions taking into consideration cultural differences.
- The survey was answered by the PH workforce (intermediate and high level managers) in both jurisdictions using electronic or paper survey.
- Florida completed the survey in May 2011 with a total of 3,635 surveys (20% sample) with the collaboration of the Florida Department of Health, and the University of South Florida - Florida Public Health Training Center (FPHTC) and Preparedness Center.
- Puerto Rico distributed the survey among the 2,686 employees of the Puerto Rico Department of Health over the Island. Preliminary analysis and results will be completed during June 2011 and will determine the venues and type of trainings on both jurisdictions.

Key Partners

Florida

- Florida Department of Health – Office of Workforce Development
- University of South Florida – Florida Public Health Training Center and Preparedness Center

Puerto Rico

- Puerto Rico Department of Health – Office of Human Resources
- UPR Center for Public Health Preparedness
- Florida Caribbean AIDS Education and Training Center

Leadership

Principal Investigator: José A. Capriles, MD, MPH, MHSA

Co-Principal Investigator: Ruth E. Rios, PhD – Puerto Rico, H. Virginia McCoy, PhD - Florida

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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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