

Wisconsin Center for Public Health Education and Training

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health



Overview

- The Wisconsin Center for Public Health Education and Training (WiCPHET) works to ensure the development of a competent, sufficient, and diverse public health workforce to promote and protect health.
- The WiCPHET covers the entire state of Wisconsin and focuses on the existing public health workforce as well as students from the undergraduate to the post-graduate level through development of academic courses, continuing education, field placements, needs assessment and coordination with academic and practice partners.

Key Activities

- One of the most pressing issues for public health in Wisconsin may be the aging of the workforce. The Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH) estimated that nearly half of the DPH staff would be eligible for retirement by 2011 and recent budget issues have exacerbated this issue.
- The WiCPHET works in partnership across the three MPH programs within the UW system and the MPH program at the Medical College of Wisconsin and with our practice partners to ensure that the educational opportunities for the next generation of public health professionals is of the highest quality, that we are providing field placement opportunities that afford students a chance to use their knowledge to enhance their educational experience as well as build community capacity and that education and training for the existing public health workforce is coordinated and effective.

Public Health in Action



Committee working on the Laboratory System Improvement Project at the Milwaukee Health Department; a presentation to the Linking Education to Practice group in La Crosse; the WiCPHET booth alongside the University of Wisconsin MPH program and County Health Rankings booths at the Wisconsin Public Health Association Annual Conference

Impact on Public Health Workforce

- One component of the WiCPHET is to place MPH students in group placement projects that afford great learning opportunities for the students but also address community needs and build local capacity. An example is the Scenic Bluffs project, a partnership with a federally qualified health center, a local hospital and the UW La Crosse MPH program to place students in a project to assess the health needs of local Amish and Hispanic residents. Spanning the continuum from the undergraduate to post-graduate level the WiCPHET has placed:

- A total of 15 undergraduates in partnership with WI AHEC;
- Two post-graduate fellows through collaboration with the Wisconsin Population Health Fellows program; and,
- Six MPH students in the Assessing the Nutrition Environment in the Wisconsin Communities/Wisconsin Assessment of the Social and Built Environment studies, part of the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin.
- In conjunction with WPHCA, WiCPHET is providing sessions on public health issues for students in AmeriCorps placements.
- Working with practice partners from DHS and WPHA, WiCPHET is helping to develop an orientation program for New Local Health Officers.
- WiCPHET is utilizing two strategies to assess the learning needs of the workforce: a state-wide learning needs assessment that will utilize the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals to ascertain the needs of the workforce on a population basis and scenario-based assessment which utilizes computer based scenarios that allow workers to test their knowledge and receive recommendations for training.

Key Partners

- University of Wisconsin – Madison School of Medicine and Public Health
- University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
- University of Wisconsin – La Crosse
- Medical College of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers
- Wisconsin Public Health Association
- Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards
- Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center
- Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellowship
- Scenic Rivers Area Health Education Center
- St. Joseph’s Hospital (Hillsboro)
- Linking Education and Practice for Excellence in Public Health Nursing (LEAP) UW School of Nursing
- Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association (WPHCA)
- Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW)

Leadership

Principal Investigator: Tom Oliver, PhD, MHA

Deputy Director: Barbara Duerst, RN, MS

Program Coordinator: Mark Edgar, PhD, MPH

Program Assistant: Ann Paremski

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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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