

Improving community health through an innovative collaboration between academics and practitioners through the Worcester Academic Health Department

Lecture Hall/Auditorium (2nd floor) AS2.2102

Moderators and Presenters: Marianne Sarkis, Ph.D. (Worcester Division of Public Health), Cassandra Andersen (Worcester Division of Public Health), Zack Dyer (Worcester Division of Public Health), Kolawole Akindele (UMass Medical School); Monica Lowell, UMass Memorial, Monica Lowell, UMass Memorial, Linda Laarivee, Worcester State University

Session Description

The newly established Academic Health Collaborative at the Worcester Division of Public Health links local universities with the Division of Public Health in a collaborative partnership that bridges health/public health academia and practice to improve community health. It allows the DPH to leverage academic and community resources and expertise to help it achieve its goal to become the “Healthiest City in New England by 2020”.

This innovative collaboration allows the DPH and local partners to train a future generation of students that can work and communicate across disciplines and settings. In addition, it provides structured practicum and internship experience for area college and university students that serves not only the needs of public health but enhances the learning experience for the student. So far, these experiences have been tailored to address priorities identified by the WDPH to support the Division’s Strategic Plan and CHIP are addressed and implemented.

Improving community health through an innovative collaboration between academics and practitioners through the Worcester Academic Health Department.

2016 UMCCTS Community Engagement and Research Symposium

Friday, March 25, 2016; 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

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Monica Lowell, UMASS Memorial

Zach Dyer, Worcester Division of Public Health

Kolawole Akindele, UMASS Medical School

Kelly Carlson, Ph.D. (Linda Larravee, Ph.D'), Worcester State University

Samantha Arsenault (Jim Gomes), Clark University

Cassandra Andersen, Worcester Division of Public Health



The Academic Health Collaborative of Worcester (AHCW)



- Partly funded by UMASS Memorial Medical Center part of their community benefits program
- Response to 2008 economic downturn → loss of staff at the Division of Public Health – down to 4
- How to enhance work of DPH through partnerships
- Providing DPH with resources (boots on the ground) and expertise in designing projects, gathering data, and implementing interventions

ABOUT ACADEMIC HEALTH COLLABORATIVES OR DEPARTMENTS



- Formal partnerships
- Long-term, sustainable joint projects
- Community focus and community benefits
- Minimize community burden and fatigue
- Moves from (research) clinical interventions to authentic community engagement and participation
- Faculty as
 - Initiators: Facilitate initiation of projects
 - Consultants: Commissioned research (DPH or community)
 - Collaborators: Provide technical expertise

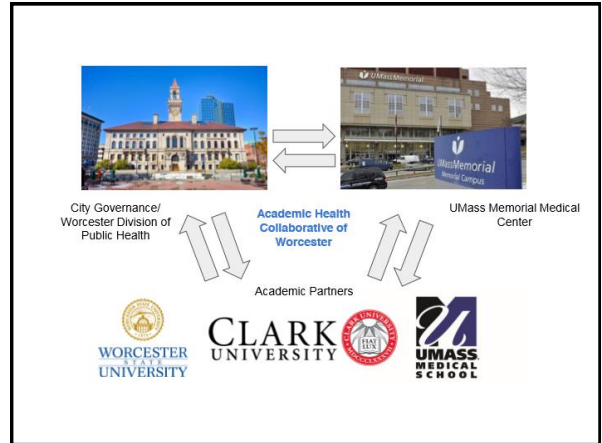
The Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

Where might this lead?



- Collaborative public health education or training
 - Workforce development training
 - Faculty appointments for health department staff
- Joint research projects
 - Collaborative funding proposals
 - Shared data collection and analysis
- Shared provision of public health services
 - Collaborative community health assessments

ACADEMIC HEALTH COLLABORATIVE OF WORCESTER (AHCW)



Academic Health Collaborative of Worcester (ACHW)

VISION:

- Deploy, share, and leverage the resources of the region's health and academic institutions to make the Greater Worcester the healthiest region in New England by 2020.

MISSION:

- To foster collaboration between the Worcester Division of Public Health, UMass Memorial, and academic partners to improve community health and develop public health research and practice leaders.

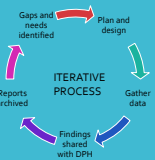
New Paradigms Of Collaboration and Partnerships

- Moves from internships (one off) projects to long-term sustainable partnerships
- Changes in paradigms about faculty, students, stakeholders, DPH involvement
- Purpose
 - Minimize duplication
 - Evidence-based policy
 - Documented and replicable research process
 - Increase transparency
 - Faculty-driven research
 - Joint publications
 - Joint grants

In collaboration and consultation with DPH:

What this model might look like

(not the only model)



1. Faculty

- Use knowledge and experience in research or topical expertise to design focused projects
- Collaboratively answer specific questions that are part of a broader study or initiative.

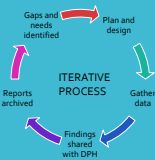
2. Students:

- Work closely with faculty to undertake study from initial design, to data gathering, to reporting.

In collaboration and consultation with DPH:

What this model might look like

(not the only model)



3. Findings

- Get shared with DPH and other stakeholders.

4. Reports and data

- Archived and accessible by next group of students
- Research can be advanced with as little replication as possible.

Overarching themes

(not comprehensive)

- Help with turning data to policy
- New CHA requires working groups and conceptual/design expertise
- Help design programs that could communicate policy change to the community and to the public
- Translational research
- Help move model of intervention from clinical to community-informed and community-engaged (ex: Community isn't demanding new research into the cure to diabetes – access to healthy food for people – not another clinical intervention)

Partnerships

UMASS Medical School

UMMS Continues to Fulfill its Public Service Mission

Education: UMMS leads the *Worcester Pipeline Collaborative* to prepare Worcester students for higher education and careers in health and science professions, we run high school and college *Summer Pipeline Programs* to increase the number of disadvantaged students entering health and medical research professions, and support educational initiatives such as *One City – One Library*.

Workforce Initiatives: Include the *Building Brighter Futures* summer jobs program for teens, longstanding partnership with the *Genesis Club* to provide supported employment to local individuals with mental illness, and *Work Without Limits*, a statewide initiative to support work opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Regional Public Health Partnerships: Multiple collaborations, including annual 'community immunity' drive to provide free flu vaccines, implementation of the Worcester Community Health Improvement Plan, coordination in implementing regional Prevention & Wellness grant.



April 11, 2016

Presentation Title

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Training the Next Generation of Physicians, Nurse Leaders and Research Scientists

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



- Admitted first class in 1970
- Ranked as one of the nation's best in primary care and one of the nation's most affordable medical schools.
- MD & Residency programs
- 24 Academic departments & 27 centers and institutes.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NURSING



- Established in 1986
- Graduates nurse leaders, including nurse managers and nurse educators
- Doctoral programs: PhD and DNP
- Master's degree and post-Master's certificates

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES



- Established in 1979
- 230 research faculty, including world renowned scientists
- 400 students from across the globe
- 11 Graduate programs.

DPH Partnerships

For years, UMMS has been actively involved with Worcester's Division of Public Health (DPH) on a variety of initiatives:

UMMS contributed staff time and resources to City Manager's Task Force on Public Health.

Our Graduate School of Nursing continues to partner with DPH to immunize the residents of Worcester each fall against seasonal influenza, a project called Community Immunity.

Each academic year, over 30 students from the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Nursing work collaboratively with DPH on efforts such as the Community Health Improvement Plan, and issues like food insecurity and non-regulated nicotine delivery products.

Prevention Research Center & WDPH collaborate on public health research projects. PRC also evaluating progress made in Community Health Improvement Plan.

Along with other community partners, UMMS worked with the Worcester DPH to support its successful application for funding from the commonwealth's Prevention and Wellness Trust fund to achieve the goals of fighting chronic illness, and improving health outcomes on the community level, and reducing health care costs.

April 11, 2016

Presentation Title

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Academic Health Collaborative creates a structure for communication and collaboration that...

Allows for a more strategic approach to partnering.

Strengthens existing relationships and builds new ones.

Fosters collaboration internally and externally.

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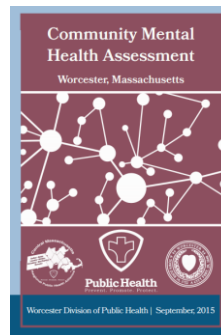
Partnerships

Worcester State

Partnerships

Clark University

Faculty & Student Research
Public Health Concentration



Internships/ Project Support



Summer 2015 Internship Projects

- 1) Healthy Markets
- 2) I'm About This Life - Youth substance abuse and violence prevention initiative
- 3) Safe Routes to School
- 4) Recreation Worcester
- 5) The 2015 Community Health Assessment



Current Initiatives

- Identify needs of DPH
- Match needs to local resources
- **Foster the creation of a collaborative and coordinated public health research network in Worcester**
 - Database of all on-going and one-off projects that have been taken place in coordination with the local universities
 - Roster of public-health researchers and their courses that could be approached for specific projects
- Points of contact as liaisons with universities
 - Design projects
 - Identify interested faculty
 - Opportunities for field-based experience for students

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