

LPH Institute Update April 2011

Basic Risk Communication Training

The Local Public Health Institute of MA, the Center of Excellence for Emergency Preparedness Education and Training (CEPET) at UMASS Medical School, the DeValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness; and the Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center (PERLC) at Harvard School of Public Health met on April 19th and have agreed to collaborate on the development and delivery of the Basic Risk Communication training in 2012. With our combined resources, we hope to offer this class three or four times a year across the state. Next steps for this group are to define the learning objectives for basic risk communication and review the existing risk communication training content available.

Infectious Disease Surveillance, Reporting, and Control: *Celebrating Ten Years!*

This annual training was first developed in 2001 to improve the capacity of local public health to respond to infectious disease cases and emergencies in their jurisdictions. It familiarizes participants with the *Guide to Surveillance, Reporting and Control* to build upon skills relative to effective and timely communicable disease surveillance, reporting, and control in Massachusetts.

The training this year will highlight the accomplishments and challenges of emergency preparedness activities in Massachusetts over the past 10 years and will include an exercise specific to infectious disease emergency response.

This training will be offered at three locations in MA during June.

- June 2, 2011: Northeast Regional Health Office, Tewksbury: 8:30am to 3:15pm
- June 8 and 9, 2011*: Baystate Education Center, Holyoke: 5:00pm to 8:30pm
**Participation in both evening sessions is required to complete this training.*
- June 22, 2011: Wareham Town Hall, Wareham: 8:30am to 3:15pm

Foundations for Local Public Health Practice in MA

The 2011 Foundations course will be offered in Worcester and Tewksbury. Exact locations for the classroom sessions will be announced once the spaces are confirmed. Institute is currently reviewing and applying recommendations for quality improvement from the 2010 Foundations evaluation findings.

“How to Teach Effectively via Webinar” sessions will be offered to Foundations Instructors in July and October.

Year One Progress Report

In summary, 2010 was a very productive year for the Institute with significant progress made toward all program objectives, including:

- The LPHI Advisory Committee was rebuilt with representation from all MDPH EP regions, six public health associations, and two academic institutions and a set of operating principles was adopted.
- An inventory of trainings and a gap analysis were completed and priorities for training were established.
- The LPHI capacity for distance learning was enhanced following research on available technologies and the decision to obtain a license for Adobe Connect.

- The vast majority of planning for a marketing and communications plan for the LPHI was completed.
- The Foundations Course was re-launched and trained graduates in 12 of 17 program area and 7 of 10 cross cutting competencies at the awareness level. Evaluation results show that students feel better prepared to perform course learning objectives as a result of training, the course content will be useful in their jobs, and that statistically significant changes in knowledge took place in several sessions.
- The Orientation to Local Public Health module was developed and made available on-line and on CD.
- Collaborative planning with LPHI partners took place and will expand LPHI offerings in year two, including at least seven additional on-line modules which are, or will be, in development and completed in 2011.
- The LPHI evaluation strategy has allowed for the tracking of progress toward LPHI objectives and the identification of next steps for the year ahead.

The recommended next steps for year two:

- Increase the number of academic institutions on the LPHI Advisory Committee, develop a list of responsibilities associated with each of the LPHI staff, and allow for Advisory Committee meetings outside the quarterly schedule if needed.
- Deliver and evaluate the planned classroom sessions and the next iteration of the Foundations Course.
- Engage new partners and continue collaborative planning with partners and launch planned trainings. Activate the capability to track numbers of trainees who complete on-line courses and their demographic data.
- Complete the communications and marketing plan and implement products to increase awareness of LPHI offerings, including newsletters and training calendars.
- Continue discussions about incentives for training, including a possible fellowship program.
- Continue to evaluate LPHI progress toward objectives and plan for evaluation of the secondary/ long-term outcome - *Improved agency performance in areas related to competencies in which agency personnel have been trained by the LPHI.*

To see the full report, go to: <http://www.masslocalinstitute.org/> (also attached to this email)