

# CEPH Accreditation News & Updates

Volume 6, Issue 1

January 2016

## Council on Linkages grants CEPH preliminary membership

The Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice granted CEPH preliminary membership at its January 2016 meeting.

The Council on Linkages is a collaborative of 21 national organizations, including CEPH's corporate sponsors: the American Public Health Association (APHA) and the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH).

"We are excited to be a part of this group of organizations that are all working for better education, workforce development, research and practice in public health," said CEPH Executive Director Laura Rasar King, MPH, MCHES.

"Building these linkages with other practice organizations is yet another way

to help CEPH stay up-to-date with the needs of the field."

Established in 1992, the Council on Linkages aims to improve public health practice, education and research by fostering, coordinating and monitoring links among academia and the public health and healthcare community; developing and



advancing innovative strategies to build and strengthen public health infrastructure; and creating a process for continuing public health education throughout one's career.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### MARCH 19-20, 2016

#### **ASPPH ANNUAL MEETING & UNDERGRADUATE SUMMIT**

*(Check program for details on CEPH sessions)*

#### MAY 3, 2016

**All materials due for spring 2016 Council meeting**

#### MAY 16, 2016

**Public comments due on proposed criteria draft 3**

#### JULY 28-29, 2016

**Accreditation Orientation Workshop**  
*(By invitation only)*

#### AUGUST 23, 2016

**All materials due for fall 2016 Council meeting**

## CEPH welcomes two new board members

Joyce Gaufin and John R. Finnegan, Jr, PhD, have joined the CEPH Board of Councilors for three-year terms. They represent public health practice and academic public health, respectively.

Ms. Gaufin's career in public health has focused on supporting and developing the workforce and creating and strengthening collaborative public health partnerships.

Ms. Gaufin worked in a variety of

#### **2016 CEPH Executive Committee**

##### President

Ian Lapp, PhD

##### Vice President

Nanette Lee Reynolds, EdD

##### Secretary

Rose Marie Martinez, ScD

##### Treasurer

Ruth Gaare Bernheim, JD, MPH

positions with the Utah Department of Health from 1973 to 2004. She was the first executive director of the Great Basin Public Health Leadership Institute (2004-2012). She also served as president of the American Public Health Association in 2014. Ms. Gaufin is currently working as a private consultant and advisor to state and local health agencies and community boards.

Dr. Finnegan is professor and dean of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health since 2005. He joined the faculty in 1986, pursuing a research program in media communication and public health and community health promotion campaigns emphasizing social structural impacts on health knowledge and other outcomes. From 2013 to 2015 (March), he served as board chair of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH).

Dr. Finnegan previously served a three-year term on the CEPH Board of Councilors from 2009-2011.

CEPH thanks the Councilors who have recently completed their terms for their valuable contributions and service to the organization. Alan Baker, MA, and Donna Petersen, MHS, ScD, CPH, served as Councilors from 2010-2015.



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## CEPH promotes 11 site visitors to serve as chairs of review teams

Eleven academic and practitioner site visitors who have demonstrated exceptional knowledge of CEPH criteria and procedures and commitment to the accreditation process were trained to serve as site visit team chairs.

Chairs have additional responsibilities such as reviewing the preliminary self-study and approving the agenda for the days on site. CEPH thanks these individuals for their continued service to the accreditation process:

**Carl Hanson, PhD, MS, MCHES**  
Department Chair  
Brigham Young University

**Michael D. Mink, PhD, MPA**  
Graduate Studies Coordinator  
Southern Connecticut State University

**Diane Marie M. St. George, PhD**  
Director  
University of Maryland at Baltimore

**Shan Mohammed, MD, MPH, FAAFP**  
Director  
Northeastern University

**Sara S. Plaspohl, DrPH, MHS, CHES**  
Program Coordinator  
Armstrong State University

**Kristin H. Hill, MSHSA, BSN**  
Director  
Great Lakes Inter-Tribal  
Epidemiology Center

**Nannette C. Turner, PhD, MPH**  
Chair  
Mercer University

**Kristine Tollestrup, PhD, MPH**  
Director  
University of New Mexico

**Matt Stefanak, MPH**  
Former Health Commissioner  
Mahoning County Health District

**Michael D. Barnes, PhD**  
Associate Dean  
Brigham Young University

**Amy F. Lee, MD, MPH, MBA, CPH**  
Director  
Consortium of Eastern Ohio MPH  
Program

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## Best practices in program evaluation shared at CEPH TA session

Program evaluation is often a challenge for schools and programs of public health—whether they are at the applicant stage or have been accredited for many years. CEPH staff regularly provide advice and recommendations; however, it can be even more valuable to hear from programs who have put these recommendations into practice. To this end, CEPH invited two accredited programs to each present a case study about their approach to program evaluation and planning. These presentations comprised one of CEPH's technical assistance sessions held in conjunction with the APHA annual meeting in November 2015.

Bob Larson, DVM, PhD, represented the Kansas State University MPH Program and focused on answering the question 'Are objectives being met?' The case study focused on the program's process to establish objectives, develop and implement a monitoring plan, routinely survey stakeholders and share results

with governance entities. Dr. Larson clearly articulated a systematic process that is well incorporated into program operations and relies on a feedback loop to initiate changes when needed.

Dartmouth University's Director of Student Learning Karen Tombs, EdD, discussed how decreases in new student enrollment served as a catalyst for the most recent program evaluation efforts. The case study described the program's commitment to using knowledge to inform change, which is a critical element of strong program evaluation processes. In addition, since Dartmouth has a reaccreditation site visit scheduled for May 2016, Dr. Tombs detailed how the program's evaluation activities were incorporated into the self-study document, particularly Criterion 1.2.

The presentations are available on the [CEPH website](#).

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## John Conklin celebrates 20 years at CEPH

CEPH Office Manager John Conklin celebrated his 20th anniversary with the organization on September 1, 2015. John began his career at CEPH as an administrative assistant and was promoted to office manager in 2000.

John is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the office, providing logistical and planning support for CEPH Board meetings and managing the financial tasks associated with accreditation reviews.

"John is extremely dependable and has a wealth of knowledge about CEPH—both past and present," said Executive Director Laura Rasar King, MPH, MCHES. "He is a wonderful resource for anyone contacting the CEPH office and makes every request his highest priority. We are lucky to have him as such a consistent presence at our organization."

Congratulations, John, on an impressive milestone! Thank you for so many years of outstanding work and dedication to the quality of education in public health.



## CEPH remembers long-time executive director Pat Evans

Patricia Evans, CEPH's executive director from 1981 to 2004, passed away in November 2015, but is remembered for her many contributions to public health practice and education.

She began her public health career as a public health educator for the West Virginia Health Department in the early 1960s. In 1966, her interest and dedication to public health intensified after graduating with an MPH degree from the University of California, Berkeley. She returned to West Virginia and became the first director of the Comprehensive Health Planning Agency for the Office of the Governor.

She later moved to New Orleans and worked as a senior health planner and as an instructor at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University. Pat then accepted a position as associate executive director of the Health System Agency of South Florida.

In 1981, Pat began her 23-year tenure as the executive director of CEPH and retired from this position. She held several appointed and elected positions at APHA throughout her career and was a founding member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA).

After retirement, Pat returned to West Virginia and spent time reconnecting with old friends and making new friends. She was an accomplished watercolor artist and enjoyed taking workshops and painting with other artists. She spent winters in Tucson, Ariz.

Pat had a long battle with cancer, but received a stem cell transplant that provided seven cancer-free years. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband and is survived by her sister Susan Neely.



## Town hall panelists highlight three priorities for public health graduates

Public health graduates need a strong foundation of public health knowledge and skills, soft skills and the ability to communicate information to diverse audiences, according to employers of public health graduates and preceptors of public health students. These skills were highlighted during a town hall meeting hosted by CEPH in November. The panelists, who represented various segments of the public health workforce, provided reactions to the curricular component of the draft criteria and answered questions from the audience.

The panelists noted the importance of a well-rounded, foundational public health education, and they said that the draft curricular criteria would adequately prepare students in that respect. They liked that the draft does not define any specific courses that must be included in an accredited curriculum and instead lists the foundational competencies that all students must achieve. This flexibility allows each school and program to determine how to address the required competencies within its context. The panelists also said that a practical experience outside of the classroom is critical.

In addition to public health-specific skills, employers also said

that soft skills such as teamwork, professionalism, adaptability and change management are important. They said that these skills are evident in their most successful hires and are used to determine whether applicants will be the right fit for the workplace.

The value of communication was consistently emphasized by all panelists throughout the town hall meeting. While communicating with other public health professionals with a shared vocabulary is invaluable, the panelists also agreed that communicating public health data and information to other stakeholders and audiences is equally important. One panelist reflected on an intern who was able to "crunch the numbers" perfectly, but struggled when



### Practitioner Panelists

*Wendy Braund, MD, MPH MEd, FACPM*  
State Health Officer & Public Health Division Administrator  
Wyoming Department of Health

*Ellen R. Eiseman, MPH, MSOD*  
Director, Health Practice  
Chemonics International, Inc.

*Jody Guastella Jones, MBA*  
Senior Workforce Diversity Consultant, Talent Acquisition  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

*Alison Sullivan, MPH*  
Senior Consultant  
Deloitte Services LP

trying to share the findings with other departments less familiar with the terminology.

CEPH greatly appreciates the public health professionals who took time to share their experiences and insights and the thoughtful comments received from the audience. This feedback continues to be used to refine the draft criteria. The next public comment period will be open from February to May. CEPH welcomes comments from all stakeholders.

## Leading and fostering innovation in quality improvement

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is an independent agency recognized by the US Department of Education to accredit schools of public health and public health programs offered in settings other than schools of public health. These schools and programs prepare students for entry into careers in public health. The primary professional degree is the Master of Public Health (MPH) but other baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees are offered as well. Visit [www.ceph.org](http://www.ceph.org) for more information.

## CEPH makes 15 accreditation decisions at fall 2015 meeting

### **Kent State University**

College of Public Health

Initial accreditation conferred to December 31, 2020

### **Loyola University Chicago**

Public Health Program

Initial accreditation conferred to December 31, 2020

### **Louisiana State University-Shreveport/Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-Shreveport**

MPH Program (collaborative)

Initial accreditation conferred to December 31, 2020

*The following schools and programs were granted continued accreditation*

### **Vanderbilt University**

MPH Program

Continued accreditation to December 31, 2022

### **University of Illinois at Chicago**

School of Public Health

Continued accreditation to December 31, 2022

### **St. George's University**

MPH Program

Continued accreditation to December 31, 2022

### **University of Southern California**

MPH Program

Continued accreditation to December 31, 2022

### **Johns Hopkins University**

Bloomberg School of Public Health

Continued accreditation to December 31, 2022

### **University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center**

College of Public Health

Continued accreditation to December 31, 2022

### **University of Maryland**

School of Public Health

Continued accreditation to December 31, 2022

### **Simon Fraser University**

Public Health Program

Continued accreditation to December 31, 2022

### **California State University, Long Beach**

Community Health Education Program

Continued accreditation to December 31, 2022

### **University of Pittsburgh**

Graduate School of Public Health

Continued accreditation to December 31, 2022

### **University of North Texas Health Sciences Center**

School of Public Health

Continued accreditation to December 31, 2022

### **Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

School of Public Health

Continued accreditation to December 31, 2022

For a complete list of accredited schools and programs, visit CEPH's [website](http://www.ceph.org).

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