COLLABORATIONS WITH HEALTH PROFESSIONS, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

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LEARNING OBJECTIVE

- Increase awareness of strategic approaches to building sustainable academic collaborations and diverse community partnerships that mutually benefit the institution, students, community partners, and the health of the populations served.

Definitions

- Partnership - A relationship between individuals or groups that is characterized by mutual cooperation and responsibility, as for the achievement of a specified goal.

- Collaboration - Working together to share knowledge and learning, build consensus, and realize shared goals and objectives. Most often requires a leader(s) who provides leadership within a decentralized and egalitarian group, encourages introspection and communication, critical thinking, and problem solving.
STRATEGIC APPROACHES

- Academic Collaborations

CT Undergraduate Public Health Initiative
STRATEGIC APPROACHES

- **Academic Collaborations**
  - The CT Undergraduate Public Health Initiative (CUPHI)
    - APTR 2009 - Collaborative Integration of Public Health Content into Undergraduate Education (grant award, Fri., 05/29/09)
    - CUPHI Advisory Committee (1st meeting Mon., 06/01/09)
  - UCHC: ComMed Chair, MPH Director, faculty, students
  - UConn: Administrators
    - Vice-Provost, Undergraduate Education
    - Associate Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, CLAS
    - Director, Interdepartmental and Interdisciplinary Studies
    - Director, General Studies
    - Chair, UICC
    - Director, Center for Public Health and Health Policy
    - Director, Instructional Design and Development, ITL
    - Program Director, Public Health House Learning Community

S1: Plan ahead, start early
STRATEGIC APPROACHES

× Academic Collaborations

× CUPHI Advisory Committee

√ UConn: *Academia*

× Dept. of Physiology and Neurobiology: Chair, Faculty (also faculty advisor for Honors Program and Pre-Med Society)

× Dept. of Anthropology: Chair, Faculty

× Dept. of Sociology: Chair, Faculty

× Dept. of Human Development and Family Studies: Chair, Director Academic Affairs, Faculty

× CANR/AHS: Assoc. Dean/Chair, Director Academic Affairs

× School of Pharmacy: Faculty

× School of Business: Faculty

× School of Nursing: Dean, Associate Dean

× Students

S2:

• *Anticipate key stakeholders, and power “players”*

• *Early inclusion in planning and development*
STRATEGIC APPROACHES

- Academic Collaborations

- **Courses that reinforce partnerships**
  - Introduction to Public Health – CANR/AHS (Spring ’10, ’11; Fall ’11, ’12)
  - Introduction to Epidemiology – CLAS/HDFS (Fall ’10; Spring ’12)
  - Introduction to Anthropology – CLAS/ANTH (Spring ’11, Fall ’12)

- **“Campus Community” partners** (IPH experiential learning)
  - Food Services
  - Health Services
  - Housing (Residential Life)
  - Facilities Services (Operational/Utilities)
  - Environmental Health and Safety

- S3: Strengthen collaborations

- S4: Think outside the box: Nurture new and diverse partnerships Expand the definition of “community partner”
STRATEGIC APPROACHES

× **Academic Collaborations**

× **Institutionalizing and sustaining CUPHI**

**White Paper**
Chair ComMed ➔ UConn Vice-President for Health Affairs and Dean UCHC School of Medicine
(December, 2010)

**Deans’ Council**
Dean School of Pharmacy
Associate Dean Undergraduate Academic Affairs, CLAS
(February, 2011)

**Administrative coups**
- PUBH (1001, 3001)
- Gen Ed CA2
- Office space

S5: Abandon pride (of ownership)
Empower others

S6: Keep the long-term goals in mind throughout early stages of (strategic) planning and development

(December, 2010)

(February, 2011)
STRATEGIC APPROACHES

- Academic Collaborations
  
  **Growing CUPHI**
  
  - ComMed Cluster Hire Proposal
  - UConn Incentive Grants Competitive Program:
    - Community-Engagement and Experiential-Learning (CEEL) – ComMed/CUPHI, OPE, OSL, School of Ed

1. Build effective sustainable and mutually beneficial collaborations and promote new CEEL interactions between academia and community partners

2. Evaluate, assess and support ongoing faculty research in health-related CEEL to inform planning and development, and assure quality, competitiveness, and maximal efficiency and effectiveness in new research and activities

S7: Continually build on the foundation, explore new partnerships, and strengthen existing collaborations

S8: Assure long-term success and sustainability through assessment, evaluation, and evidence-supported science
THE SCHEME OF THINGS – The Academic Community

University of CT

Health Center Campus (UCHC)
- Medical School
- Dental School
- Urban Service Track
- ComMed MPH Program
- AHEC
- TRIPP
- CICATS

Storrs and Regional Campuses
- Public Engagement Forum
- Office of Service Learning
- CHIP
- CPHHP

The Campus “Community”
- Food Services, Health Services
- Housing (Residential Life)
- Facilities Services (Operational/Utilities)
- Environmental Health and Safety

AHEC - Area Health Education Council
CHIP - Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
CICATS - CT Institute for Clinical and Translational Science
ComMed - UCHC School of Medicine Dept. of Community Medicine and Health Care
CPHHP - Center for Public Health and Health Policy
TRIPP - Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy
STRATEGIC APPROACHES

- Community Partnerships

The MPH Program
**UConn MPH Program**

- “...a professional degree program for individuals seeking training and experience in **applied public health practice.**”
- Applied public health practice training and experience achieved through
  - Practicum in Public Health
  - Independent Practicum
  - Field Experience in Public Health Systems
  - CT-RI/ UConn Public Health Training Center, PHTC (DHHS/ HRSA grant)
  - Applied public health practice capstone
STRATEGIC APPROACHES

UConn MPH Program

Practicum in Public Health

Evolution

The Issues:
- Focus too limiting
- Too few preceptors
- Limited experience in the field

2005
- Childhood Obesity
2006
- Health Literacy
2007
- Disabilities
2008
- Un-/Under-Insured
2009
- Youth/Gang Violence

2010

2011
- Public Health Systems/Infrastructure, and it’s impact on Health Inequities and Social Injustice

2012
- NOW we’ve got it right!!

2013
- Public Health Systems/Infrastructure, and it’s impact on Health Inequities and Social Injustice

S9: Continual quality improvement
STRATEGIC APPROACHES

- UConn MPH Program
  - Practicum in Public Health
    - Community Partnership Committee - representative of workforce, plus new...
    - Practicum Community Partners
      - Agency/organization/association/program...not individual

- MOU
  - Goals and learning objectives of the Practicum
  - Responsibilities and expectations: MPH program, Community Partners, student(s)
  - Signatures
  - Contract/PHTC Student Practicum, funding for students, agencies, and preceptors

- Continuous contact and communication
  - Pre - contacts, discussions, problem-solving, agreements
  - First class - orientation, matching
  - Project - site visits: updates, progress, trouble-shooting
  - Last class - presentation
  - Post - evaluation, planning for next year

- S10: Be informed by key stakeholders and “clients” (sharing)
- S11: Create a “win-win” environment
- S12: Think globally, act locally
- S13: Formal document of understanding and agreement with community partner
- S14: Devise ways to “seal-the-deal”
- S15: Maintain & strengthen academic/community partner relationship
### Connecticut Community Organizations, Associations, and Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Agencies</th>
<th>Community Organizations, Associations, and Programs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DSS</td>
<td>CADH - CT Ass’n of Directors of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHRI</td>
<td>CHCATE - Community Health Center Association of CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPH</td>
<td>CCMC - CT Children’s Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCF</td>
<td>CPHA - CT Public Health Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>DMHAS</td>
<td>DCF - Dept of Children and Families</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHA</td>
<td>DMHAS - Dept of Mental Health and Addiction Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRC</td>
<td>DPH - Dept. of Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHC</td>
<td>DSS - Dept of Social Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHCATE</td>
<td>CPHA - Hispanic Health Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHRI</td>
<td>ICR - Institute for Community Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHA</td>
<td>HHC - Office of the Healthcare Advocate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRC</td>
<td>OHRI - Office of Health reform and Innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCF</td>
<td>OSC - Office of the State Comptroller</td>
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<tr>
<td>DMHAS</td>
<td>SRC - Town of Manchester School Readiness Council</td>
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THAT MUTUALLY BENEFIT...

1. **The Institution / Faculty** – recognition/reward for excellence and achievement
   a) Academic programs that are valued, sustainable, and accomplish their educational goals and objectives
   b) Generation of data that demonstrates evidence-supported effectiveness
   c) Opportunities for publications and presentations
   d) Enhanced competitiveness for grants
   e) Enhanced competitiveness for promotion and tenure

2. **Students** – enriched experience and opportunities
   a) Gain awareness, knowledge, and competencies
   b) Gain potential career contacts
   c) Research opportunities
   d) Capstone ideas and opportunities
3. **Community Partners**
   a) Gain academic/faculty partners and resources
   b) Build the workforce through bright faculty-supported highly motivated and productive students
   c) Systematizing above helps better assure quality, dependability, continuity, effectiveness, and sustainability

4. **Health of Populations Served**
   a) Through the community partners’ greater capability (3.a), capacity (3.b), and assurance of quality, continuity and sustainability (3.c), increases and improves products and services for the population served
   b) Demonstrated efficiencies, effectiveness and positive outcomes (1.b) helps ensure enhanced health and well being for the client population served
1. Plan ahead, start early
2. Think globally... act locally
3. Keep the long-term goal in mind throughout early and all stages of (strategic) planning and development
4. Anticipate key stakeholders and power “players,” and include in early and all stages of planning and development
5. Maintain and strengthen existing academic partner/community collaborator partnerships
6. Nurture new and diverse partnerships
7. Think outside the box: expand definition of “community partner”
STRATEGIC APPROACHES – Summary

8. Create a “win-win” environment
9. Be informed by key stakeholders and “clients”
10. Abandon pride (of ownership) - empower others, enable sharing
11. Continually build and improve on what has been accomplished
12. Formally document understanding of and agreement with partners
13. Devise ways to “seal-the-deal”
14. Practice continual quality improvement
15. Assure long-term success and sustainability through assessment, evaluation, and evidence-supported science
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Resources and References


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- Faculty Toolkit for Service Learning in Higher Education; (accessed 03/12/12) http://www.servicelearning.org/filemanager/download/HE_toolkit_with_worksheets.pdf


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THANKS! swolfe@uchc.edu

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