

**University of Florida
College of Public Health and Health Professions**

**Public Health External Advisory Committee
Summary of Small Group Discussions**

January 19, 2007

Identifying constituents and soliciting input

The accreditation criteria of the Council on Education for Public Health require external advice on a variety of issues related to the ability of the public health programs (MPH, Certificate) to meet the needs of practice. In addition to the members of this committee, who should we rely on for this type of advice and guidance?

- Former Secretaries of Health in Florida
- Disability advocacy groups (good voice in Tallahassee about what's going on in the college – input and future training)
- County health officers – FACHO, FEHA, FPHA
 - Within FACHO there could be a brainstorming session within their conference -- they would welcome it
- Elder Affairs, AARP, SHINE
- Insurance industry (leaders)
- Substance abuse and mental health abuse, child abuse – ALCH, MCH
- Academy of Health (meeting in June)
- DEP, DCA, DOT, DCM
- Florida rural health and Florida rural health emergency management
- EMS
- Nurses, Florida Nursing Association

Suggestions for soliciting input

- Use “Survey Monkey” to reach more groups
- Windows has “Share Point” to share documents
- Get information and share across clusters of focus groups
- Feedback from less vested groups –
 - Prioritize - Pick several (4 or 5) of the important constituent groups to focus on, as opposed to choosing 20+ → this would dilute impact

Environmental Health at UF & PHHP

The college is in the process of restructuring environmental health, with a goal of creating a department when we have a critical mass of faculty. We have recently had a consultation visit from Dr. Bill Spannhake, Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Spannhake suggested that our department serve as a starting point for development of a center for human health and the environment that would focus on chemical contaminants. Beyond the faculty that we are required to employ in PHHP to teach environmental health and meet CEPH criteria, the center would draw on researchers throughout the university and within the state health department. Comments from the committee:

- Human Health Outcomes are important
 - Environmental health and asthma
 - Human health outcomes identified from work in chemical contaminants
 - Funding concerns
 - Relating EH academics to the “human side”
 - Natalie Freeman talking to people working with disabilities → ADA application of EH
 - EH has opportunity to link with others not traditionally thought of as relating to EH
 - Occupational health & EH close association
 - Start with basics (air, water, etc.) then move into occupational health
 - Starting “too molecular” vs. more translational may lead to trouble
 - Florida occupations differ greatly from other states
 - Service industry, specifically agriculture
- Group is supportive of EH department with a foundation in basics and eventual development of a niche
 - Consensus, however, is to start with a division and grow into a department
 - Structure of faculty will depend on accreditation needs and politics, but it should relate to each of the other concentrations