

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

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

September 28, 2007

Objectives and Outcome Measures

The following questions were addressed with regard to the objectives and outcome measures proposed for the self-study.

Questions:

- *Do the objectives capture the key concepts in the goals?*
- *Should we add, delete or modify and objectives?*
- *Do the outcome measures adequately represent the concepts in the objectives?*
- *Should we add, delete, or modify any of the measures?*
- *For each measure for which we have baseline data please suggest targets for three and five year timeframes.*

Modifications in wording of the objectives and outcome measures and in targets for the outcome measures were made.

Diversity

Data collected for the self-study indicated that our student body is considerably more diverse with regard to underrepresented groups (African American and Hispanic/Latino) than our faculty. The following questions/issues were posed to the committee in order to elicit suggestions for specific plans to address the disproportion.

Questions:

What are the characteristics of environment, experiences, and opportunities that our students need in order to become culturally sensitive and competent public health practitioners?

Identify the advantages and disadvantages of each of the following approaches that have been suggested to us:

- *Florida Opportunity Scholars (first in a family to attend college)*
- *Guest faculty for short or long-term visits*
- *Recruiting our own PhD graduates to the faculty*
- *Mentoring of MPH students by public health practitioners*

Please recommend other specific approaches to assuring that the students have the opportunities and experiences they need.

Committee recommendations:

- Invite minority faculty from other universities for short term (e.g., summer) appointments
- Involve public health students in the Interdisciplinary Family Health course, which involves visiting families in their homes and gaining first hand familiarity with the factors that influence health and receipt of health care. Students in some PPHP programs are involved in this course, which is open to all students in health science colleges, but it is not currently part of the public health curriculum.
- Encourage more students, perhaps through course credit, to become involved in ongoing community-based programs administered by local health departments and involve interaction with public health professionals and recipients of health department services.
- Engage more minority health department professionals and community members in meaningful and targeted discussions during required courses.