Collaboration: The Key to Public Health System Improvement

Instructor: Casey and Tom Milne

Public health is no longer just what governmental agencies do and it is no longer advisable to think public health professionals have done their jobs in providing silos of programs. For states and communities to be successful in creating conditions in which people can be healthy in a sustainable way, collaboration is essential. Collaboration, we think we do it….yet few actually do. This course covers why collaboration is essential to public health, how it differs from other strategies, what is needed for successful collaboration, what common pitfalls and challenges often occur and how to address them, as well as assuring results and keeping momentum. Additionally, it will cover resources available to support your efforts and the importance of celebrating successes and sharing the lessons learned. The course includes a workbook which contains exercises and content handouts to support the learner. This course will be extremely valuable to those involved in a community collaborative effort or those wanting to initiate one.

Learning Objectives

• Identify why collaboration is key to public health
• Increase understanding of what collaboration is and how it differs from other strategies
• Identify what is needed for success
• Understand common challenges and how to deal with them
• Identify strategies to maintain progress
• Identify how the learning can support collaboration in your community

Competencies

• Utilizes appropriate methods for interacting sensitively, effectively, and professionally with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, racial, ethnic and professional backgrounds, and persons of all ages and lifestyle preferences
• Collaborates with community partners to promote the health of the population
• Applies basic human relations skills to the management of organizations, motivation of personnel, and resolution of conflicts
• Facilitates collaboration with internal and external groups to ensure participation of key stakeholders

* Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

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