

**Board of Regents, University System of Georgia
Administrative Committee on Public Health (ACOPH)**

Meeting – May 4, 2009
College of Public Health
University of Georgia
Athens, GA

Summary of Proceedings

In Attendance

Georgia Southern University

Dr. Charles Hardy, ACOPH Chair & Dean JPHCOPH

University of Georgia

Dr. Phil Williams, Dean, College of Public Health

Dr. Marsha Black, Associate Professor

Dr. Joel Lee, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Georgia State University

Dr. Michael Eriksen, Director, Institute of Public Health

Fort Valley State University

Dr. Melanie Ragin, Program Director

Dr. Mygleetus Wright, Adjunct Associate Professor

Medical College of Georgia

Dr. Carol A. Campbell, Department of Health Informatics

University System of Georgia

Mr. Benjamin Robinson, Executive Director, USG Center for Health Workforce
Planning and Analysis

Kristi Fuller, Health Professions Policy Analyst

Office of Essential Preventive Clinical Services, Georgia Division of Public Health

Carole Jakeway, Chief Nurse

Carol Burnes - Northeast District

Dr. Hardy convened the meeting at approximately 10:00am with a welcome and introductions.

Center for Health Workforce Planning and Analysis Updates

Mr. Ben Robison provided an update of the Health Professions Advisory Committee which last met on March 13, 2009; this Committee will meet again in July 2009. Mr. Robison described the committee's membership and purpose which, in brief assess the current conditions of the health workforce in Georgia, understand factors contributing to identified shortages in this workforce and assist in the establishment of effective responses to these shortages. He also commented that the USG Center for Health Workforce Planning and Analysis is "one year and three days old." The Center has three

areas of focus: nursing, public health, and behavioral health. Ms. Kristi Fuller distributed the Center's website development; attendees reviewed and made several suggestions such as deleting reference to veterinary medicine and adding current areas of public health programs (i.e. health informatics, biostatistics, and health policy).

Nurses in Public Health

Carole Jakeway provided a PowerPoint presentation on "Georgia Public Health Nursing Workforce Crisis 2009: Opportunities." Included in her comments were issues related to the low salaries for public health nurses which can be 40% less than salaries of nurses in other areas. Ms. Jakeway reported that Georgia is below the minimum staffing standard for nurses in public health. Committee members discussed ways in which the schools and programs could collaborate in the Office of Essential Preventive Clinical Services; ideas included offering academic courses to nurses, C.E. training, and the potential for service cancellable loans. Discussion was held regarding the issue that currently there is no incentive for nurses to pursue an MPH degree – salaries are not competitive and nurse practitioner degrees are currently more attractive.

Program Proposals and Annual Reports

Dr. Hardy commented that the Committee's assessment of the Columbus State MPH proposal made an impact; he thanked the Committee for its efforts in preparing the response to the BOR. Dr. Hardy also reminded the Committee that the annual reports from each school/program are due in July (using CEPH templates); it was decided that these reports would be submitted to the next Chair of the Committee.

Accreditation Updates

UGA – Site visit results – no unmet and three partial met; expecting a CEPH decision in June.

GSU – Full accreditation

Georgia Southern – Letter of application for CEPH accreditation accepted -permission granted to move forward with self-study and site visit. Self-Study due no later than October 2010.

MCG – site visit conducted March 2009; no unmet.

Armstrong – Full accreditation

Reorganization of DHR

The reorganization of DHR was discussed; effective July 1 Public Health will be reorganized under the new Department of Health. Discussion was held regarding the potential impact of the department head role versus a division head role. The Committee suggested scheduling a meeting with the new department after the reorganization is completed.

Program and College Updates

Fort Valley:

FVSU's Master's in Public Health Program, with a concentration in Environmental Health currently has 30 students enrolled in the program, expecting 10 more in the fall. The program recently hired a new Director for the program, Melanie Ragin, Ph.D., replacing Interim Director Mygleetus Wright, M.D., who currently serves as an Adjunct Associate professor for the program. The program is not currently accredited; however we are preparing our application and communicating with CEPH to prepare us for the process. Accreditation is the priority for the program as it will enhance our image; help with funding, marketing and recruitment.

Georgia State:

Georgia State University received over 200 applications for Fall 2009, accepting 60 and enrolling 39, including four new Fulbright Scholars. This brings the total number of Fulbright Scholars enrolled in the Institute of Public Health to 16.

New external awards have been received in the areas of asthma prevention, HIV in community re-entry, decreasing inappropriate emergency room usage, tobacco prevention in urban communities and HIV risk behavior.

MCG:

The CEPH visit was conducted in March; there were no unmet. Student applications for Fall semester are in process; the program expects to enroll a full class (15 students).

UGA:

UGA has over 600 students, 43 faculty, and over 20 million in grants with an annual research budget of about 7.5 million. 250 applicants for this year's MPH class. CEPH visit was in February and anticipate College accreditation in July.

Georgia Southern University:

1. Letter of application for CEPH accreditation accepted -permission granted to move forward with self-study and site visit. Self-Study due no later than October 2010. Site visit targeted for fall 2010.
2. New facility being renovated to house the JPHCOPH - renovation will include offices, classrooms and laboratories. Target for occupancy is July 2010.
3. Spring enrollment = 109 (DRPH = 29, MPH = 67 and MHSA = 13). Spring graduates = 14 (12 MPH and 2 MHSA).
4. Faculty searches successful = (Environmental Health = 1, Epidemiology = 1, Health Policy and Management = 2, Community Health = 1)
5. JPHCOPH faculty submitted 11 Challenge Grants to the NIH.
6. JPHCOPH hosted a Junior Faculty Development Program Scholar - Dr. Chynara Bazarbaeva, an assistant of professor of Eye diseases at Kyrgyz State Medical Academy (KSMA), Kyrgyzstan.

Armstrong Atlantic State University (the following report was submitted 6/4/09):

Enrollments are holding steady at about 75 total enrollments, with about 30 new students starting and 30 students graduating in the 2008-2009 academic year. Our re-accreditation by CEPH is complete with no outstanding citations. Our next accreditation visit will be in 2013.

Election of new Chair of the Committee

According to ACOPH bylaws, the term of office for the elected Chair is two years. The Committee is grateful to Dr. Charles Hardy for his service as Chair of the Committee for the past two years. By way of unanimous vote, Dr. Michael Eriksen was elected as the new Chair of the ACOPH.

Adjournment

Dr. Hardy adjourned the Committee at noon.