

ABSTRACT: 2017 ELAM Institutional Action Project Poster Symposium

Project Title: Community and Academic Partnership to Enhance Research, Education, and Population Health: MSU-MPHI **CAP** Initiative

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Topic Category: Research

Background, Significance of project: The Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) is a non-profit institute aimed at advancing population health through public health innovation and collaboration. A strong partnership among Michigan State University (MSU), MPH I and MSU-Extension will; **a)** enhance collaborative planning of innovative research projects and grant funding; **b)** enhance implementation and dissemination of interventions that will impact population health; **c)** inform policy intervention; and **d)** increase research/mentorship opportunities for trainees and early career faculty.

Purpose/Objectives: To enhance collaborative research, service opportunities, and population health in Michigan and enhance trainees' & early career faculty research opportunities.

Methods/Approach/Evaluation Strategy

Objective # 1: Define the capacity, and collaborative opportunities: **a)** interviews/ Qualtrics survey. Major stakeholders (CEO, Department Chairs, Program directors and PIs) at MSU and MPH I were engaged in 60-90 minutes interviews. Our interview guide identified the partners' vision and implementation plans; and **b)** meeting of stakeholders.

Objective # 2: Enhance research opportunities for trainees and early-career faculty. In collaboration with MSU College of Human Medicine (CHM) Research Office, we conducted **a)** a Qualtrics survey of faculty perceptions of engaging and mentoring students in research and students' research perception. The survey was sent to all faculty (~4,000); and **b)** we obtained 22 months of data on proposals submitted for funding in CHM to create a database of research activities. We reviewed and analyzed the survey/interview data.

Outcomes/Results: We conducted 15 interviews of major stakeholders at MSU (11) and MPH I (4) and held a meeting between MSU and MPH I. Major findings revealed: **a)** as a priority, MSU & MPH I want to engage in collaborative research projects and apply for funding; **b)** MPH I and MSU-Extension can enhance MSU faculty research implementation and dissemination; **c)** MSU faculty expertise and grant writing skills can enhance funding opportunities; **d)** areas of priority and common interest included opioid and behavioral health interventions, aging research, nutrition, chronic disease management and addressing social determinants of health; and **e)** need for legislative/policy implementation informed by research findings. To encourage collaboration, we invited MPH I to a 2 hour MSU-Extension Health Research "Speed meeting" (scheduled for March 29, 2018). MSU Extension educators will present a rapid series of 10 presentations on health programming.

239 faculty surveys were completed. 77% (184) faculty are currently engaged in research. 70% had a very positive or somewhat positive experience with students. Common themes: **a)** availability of students and faculty may not align; **b)**, faculty need protected time to work with students; **c)** students need time in program to do research; **d)** students lacking research skills take more time for the mentor; **e)** funding for small projects would be helpful; and **f)** substantial need for statistical training and support.

Discussion/Conclusion with Statement of Impact/Potential Impact: We anticipate that the MSU-MPH I collaboration will strengthen community and academic partnership and leverage innovative research projects and grant funding, and will increase reach and impact of research findings that could lead to legislative/policy changes thus impact Michigan population Health. In addition, students and early career faculty will more readily identify mentors and research opportunities.