

Making the Case for a Standardized Health Education Curriculum in Accredited Public Health Institutions

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Presentation Overview

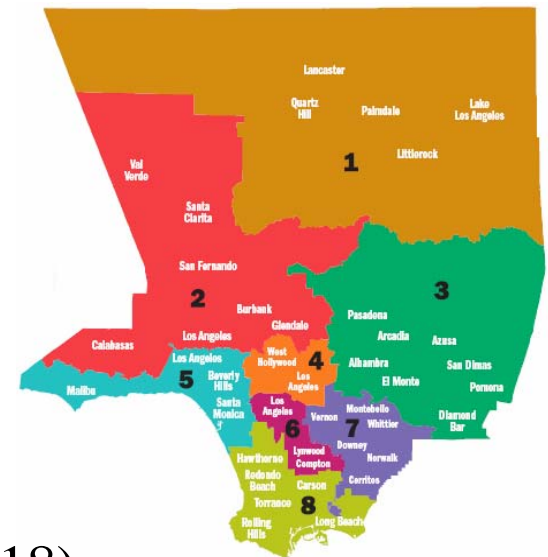
- Objectives
- Los Angeles County and Health Education Administration
- California Code of Regulations (CA Code)
- CA Code's Impact on Los Angeles County's Health Education Workforce
- Systematic Review of Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) Accredited Institutions
- Preliminary Findings
- Recommendations & Implications

Presentation Objectives

1. Identify ambiguities present in California Code of Regulations that complicates inclusion of qualified health education candidates in applicant pools.
2. Describe the review process used to identify the status of health education within varying CEPH accredited institutions.
3. Associate how a standardized health education curriculum would facilitate the recruitment of qualified health education candidates.
4. Describe the implications of developing and implementing a standardized health education curriculum throughout CEPH accredited institutions.

Los Angeles County

- 4,300 square miles
- 88 cities, 100+ unincorporated areas, 2 islands
- 10.2 million residents (> 42 States)
- 46% Latino, 32% White, 13% Asian/Pacific Islander, 10% African American, 0.3% American Indian
- Over 100 languages spoken
- 15% living in poverty (14% of families & 24% <18)
- 22% of adults & 8% of children have no health insurance



Health Education Administration

- Program within the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.
- Target population: L.A. County Health Education staff
 - Infrastructure development
 - Workforce support



California Code of Regulations

- What is the Code?
 - **SECTION 1303. Health Educator.**

A health educator shall hold a master's degree with specialization in public or community health education awarded upon completion of a program of study accredited by the American Public Health Association.



California Code of Regulations

- What's the problem?
 - **“...master's degree with specialization in public or community health education...”**
 - MPH vs. MSPH vs. Other degrees
 - No consistent title for health education track
 - No criteria to define health education track
 - **“...program of study accredited by the American Public Health Association.”**
 - APHA is no longer an accrediting body
 - CEPH is the accrediting institution

Impact on Recruitment of L.A. County's Health Education Workforce

- Local Public Health Institutions
 - Career advisement is ambiguous
 - Track name change to meet criteria
- Human Resources
 - Revision of class specs
 - Unclear on who is eligible for hire
 - Waste of time and resources
 - Loss of qualified candidates



Systematic Review of CEPH Accredited Institutions

- Data collection tool developed
 - Health Education track?
 - Track name?
 - Courses in health education curriculum?
- Identified 11 public health institutions in California
- Reviewed websites



Preliminary Findings: Health Education Track



Institution	No	Yes	Track Title
CSUF		X	Community Health
CSULB		X	Community Health Education
CSUN		X	Health Education
Loma Linda		X	Health Education
SDSU		X	Health Promotion
SFSU		X	Community Health Education
SJSU		X	Community Health Education
UCB		X	Health & Social Behavior
UCD	X		
UCLA		X	Community Health Sciences
USC		X	Health Education & Promotion

Preliminary Findings: Health Education Core Curriculum

- Course variation exists in required health education core classes
 - Common themes include: Program planning, health communication
- Students not required to take the same health education courses



Recommendations & Implications

- Standardization of health education tracks within CEPH institutions
 - Assures MPH graduates with health education concentrations possess a comparable knowledge base
 - Model after CEPH mandated 5 core MPH courses



Recommendations & Implications

- Health Education Curriculum Taskforce
 - Key Players
 - NCHEC
 - CCLDHE and comparable state entities CEPH
 - Academic Institutions
 - Key Functions
 - Investigate issues at a national level
 - Identify standard curriculum based on NCHEC's Areas of Responsibility
 - Identify how recommendations will be enforced
 - Describe implications for other disciplines (i.e. Epidemiology, Nutrition, Biostatistics)

Take Home Points

- Ambiguities in the CA Code exist
- Varying knowledge and skills across health education track graduates
- Makes it hard to hire/be hired in government institutions
- Need a standardized health education track curriculum



References

1. California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Chapter 3, Article 3, Sections 1303 (Health Educator) and Section 1304 (Directors of Health Education).
2. The National Commission on Health Education Credentialing. Seven Areas of Responsibility: A comprehensive set of Competencies and Sub-competencies. NCHEC Inc. 2006. Available at: http://www.ncheec.org/forms/Revised_Areas_of_Responsibility.pdf

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Thank You!