Mentoring Matters in Public Health

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Question for the Viewers

Describe your organization's involvement with mentoring programs:

A. We have a formal mentoring program
B. We have informal mentoring
C. We are currently looking into setting up a mentoring program
D. We do not have any mentoring programs, but want to start building mentorship skills

Why Mentoring Matters

Determining the Design

Equity in Action
Why Mentoring Matters

Project Background

Goal: Create a mentoring resource responsive to the needs of a diverse Public Health workforce

Focal areas:
- Structured mentoring
- Informal mentoring
- Relevance to young professionals

Inspiration: Personal and professional experience with public health mentoring

Recent PH WINS Data

Key findings from the deBeaumount Foundation's Public Health Workforce Interest and Needs Survey (2017):

- When and how to leave:

  - 22%
  - 25%

- Motivations for leaving:

  - Lack of advancement
  - Lack of recognition
  - Lack of support
  - Lack of impact
  - 2010
  - 2015
  - 2020
A Moment for Mentoring in Public Health

Questions for Public Health Administrators:

- Where there is greater interest in public health service, how might you seize the moment?
- Who will guide younger professionals to move from passion to practice?
- In the long-term, how do you retain and continue to develop this talent?

Determining the Design

Key Informant Interviews

Based on feedback from public health professionals in the Northwest Region, we learned that professionals seek the following from a mentoring course:

- Relatable examples from actual departments
- Specific documents and templates used in formal mentoring
- Plenty of opportunities to ‘practice’ mentoring as a skill
- Representation for communities traditionally excluded from public health leadership
Mentoring Matters: The Course

Reasons for building a public health mentoring e-learning course:

- Respond to what public health practitioners have said they wanted
- Develop an all-inclusive organizational resource for mentoring
  - Reach larger organizations exploring complex, formal mentoring programs
  - Reach smaller organizations wishing to pilot programs at a smaller scale
- Meet the public health practice community where they are—and look ahead
  - Deliver to programs and participants (administrators, mentees, and mentors) holistically
  - Provide equity-centered perspectives and resources
  - Appeal to newer, younger audiences

Multiple Perspectives on Mentoring

Key audiences for Mentoring Matters include:

- Current or future mentoring program administrators
- Current or future mentors
- Current or future mentees

Secondary audiences include:

- Those seeking informal mentoring
- Those who are brand new to mentoring

Mentoring Program Administrators

Department directors, HR specialists, and any creative program staff can become public health mentoring program administrators.
Mentors can engage directly with a variety of mentoring activities, including Individual Development Plans.

Sample interactive content from the NWCPHP’s Mentoring Matters course.

Mentees to Be

Mentors at all stages of their mentoring journey can benefit from this course, including early career professionals, those seeking a career change, or career growth:

- Early Career Professionals
- Career Change
- Career Growth

Question for the Viewers

My organization needs to focus mostly on equity-centered resources for:

A. Program administrators
B. Mentors
C. Mentees
D. All of the above
E. Other (please type in chat)
In her review of the PH WINS data, Katie Sellers, DrPH highlighted four critical findings from the data that emphasize the need to incorporate more equitable workforce development goals:

1. The PH workforce doesn’t reflect the population it serves.
2. Underrepresented members of the Public Health workforce are leaving.
3. Wage gaps are increasing for women and people of color in Public Health.
4. Public Health workers feel that health departments are failing the goal of health equity.

Rather than reinforcing hierarchies and heightening miscommunication, Collaborative Mentorship approaches seek more equitable relationships:
Mentoring Mindfully

Resources that encourage mindful mentorship, such as implicit bias tests from Harvard University’s Project Implicit, are an excellent professional development tool.

Sample content from the NWCPHP’s Mentoring Matters course.

Managing Up

Originating in the corporate world, the Managing Up model was adapted by Judy Zerzan, MD, MPH for mentees working in health-specific settings.

Sample content from the NWCPHP’s Mentoring Matters course.

Key Takeaways

How can you ensure that mentoring truly matters for your organization?

- Invest in mentorship to prepare for and meet the big changes happening in public health
- Use mentoring models that work best for your organization – be they big, small, formal, or informal
- Make equity, diversity, and inclusion a priority in your mentoring program design
- Make use of creative training opportunities, especially those that leverage the strengths of all stakeholders in mentoring relationships
A Chat with Jackie Litzau

Aliene Mares

QUESTIONS?

To ask a question, please click the icon in the Zoom toolbar to open your Q&A Pod.

Resources

Mentoring Matters
Northwest Center for Public Health Practice
https://www.nwcphp.org/training/mentoring-matters

Individual Development Plans
Individual Development Plan Template

Project Implicit
Harvard University - Health Bias Tests
https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/user/%7Bindex.jsp

Managing Up for Mentees
Managing Up Checklist