



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 5, 2019

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Pima County Health Department Continues Work as Recognized Academic Health Department**

In 2018, following significant work by our Pima County Health Department staff, the Department in conjunction with its partner The University of Arizona, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health was recognized as an academic health department. With less than two percent of local public health agencies in the country attaining this status, it places the Pima County Health Department among 51 state or local health departments in the country to achieve this recognition.

Attached is a May 13, 2019 memorandum from the Pima County Health Department Director Marcy Flanagan delineating the progress to date.

CHH/lab

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco Garcia, Assistant County Administrator for Community and Health Services

Date: May 13, 2019

To: Jan Lesher
Chief Deputy County Administrator

From: Marcy Flanagan 
Director

Via: Francisco García
Assistant County Administrator

RE: Pima County Academic Health Department Initiative

Background

An academic health department (AHD) partnership is formed by the formal affiliation of a health department and an academic institution that trains future health professionals. This relationship is sometimes described as the public health equivalent of the “teaching hospital” affiliation found between hospitals and medical schools. AHD partnerships can enhance public health education and training, research, and service and may offer a variety of benefits, both for the organizations involved and for the community as a whole.

AHD partnerships help to strengthen the links between public health practice and academia and to lessen the separation between the education of public health professionals and the practice of public health. AHDs can serve as sites for joint education, research, and practice, enabling the practice and academic communities to work together to develop the current and future public health workforce, build the evidence base for public health, and better deliver the Essential Public Health Services.

Pima County

In July 2017, the Pima County Health Department (PCHD) director and senior leadership team began to explore the positive benefits of becoming an academic health department and made the commitment to achieve this status.

Today, there are over 3,000 local public health agencies, less than 2% of these agencies are recognized as academic health departments. In late 2018, PCHD and the University of Arizona MEZCOPH became one of the only 51 state or local health departments to achieve this recognition.

Attached you will find a summary of the timeline and continued work PCHD and UA will collaborate on to continue this status and partnership.

Pima County Health Department Academic Health Department Initiative

MEZCOPH and PCHD collaborative objective is to identify roles, responsibilities, and commitments to strengthen and support activities of an Academic Health Department

History

2017- The Pima County Health Department (PCHD) took steps to build a robust public health internship process. An interactive website for internship recruitment and application was developed and since its launch, PCHD has accommodated *over 135 internship requests*. Of those, more than *100 were UA students*.

2018- A faculty meet and greet discussion forum was hosted at PCHD to explore collaborative opportunities between the University and the Health Department.

2018- PCHD collaborated with the Western Regional Public Health Training Center to conduct employee assessments and develop a public health core competency training module for PCHD employees.

2018- PCHD submitted information to the Public Health Foundation to be recognized as an Academic Health Department and was formally recognized by the end of the year.

2019- The MEZCOPH identified staff as primary leads for creating pathways and building partnerships that expand the Academic Health Department.

- Cecelia Rosales - Associate Dean, Chair of Public Health Practice and Translational Research
- Emily Waldron- Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator

2019- PCHD invited to participate in a planning committee in support of the Western Regional Academic Health Department Summit.

Ongoing Activities

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) developed with the University of Arizona MEZCOPH to formalize collaboration
- Develop an annual work plan to support objectives identified in the MOU
- Identify PCHD staff to serve as Designated Campus Colleagues and adjunct faculty
- Create a series of mini public health learning sessions with MEZCOPH faculty and PCHD staff
- PCHD staff attend orientation and tour of MEZCOPH, followed by attendance at a college-wide seminars (4x's a year)
- PCHD staff engage in collaboration on research and co-authoring of manuscripts for publication with MEZCOPH faculty.
- UofA to host website promoting activities between PCHD and MEZCOPH (joint publications, projects, and calendar of topics offered through mini-public health school program)
- Coordinate student poster forum for PCHD staff, student interns, faculty, and advisors followed by a meeting with PCHD and UofA regarding internship experiences
- PCHD staff and UofA faculty mixers