The Workgroup on Public Health Professionals’ Education and Training (WG-PET)
Ehud Miron
Conflict of interests

• None I could think of…
• But also none that anyone else could find…
• So - None…
Take Home Message

• We need a globally accepted Public Health Functions framework

• Professional competencies should be aligned to accomplish the public health system’s functions

• Professional competencies need to be established on the basis of dialogue between training entities (academia), employing agencies and the workforce

• Is this too much to ask for? Is this an elusive holy grail?
The Fragmentation of Public Health

- Multi-Disciplinary
- Varying Programs
- Different Nations and Countries
- Many Stakeholders
The Effect on Public Health

- There’s no agreement on what public health is
- There’s no agreement on what public health does
- There’s no agreement on the effectiveness of public health
- There’s no consistent direction in public health

SO…
Wittgenstein

The limits of my language
Means
The limits of my world
What is Public Health?

• Public Health = Government Provided Health Care

• Public Health = the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals

• Medicine = the science or practice of the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease
What is Public Health?

• Public Health = Part of medicine?
• Public Health = Encompasses medicine
What does Public Health do?

• Is public health a set of different programs?
• Does it focus on health behavior?
• Is it disease specific?
• Is it discipline specific?
• Is European public health different from American public health?
What is Public Health?
What is Public Health?

Figure I-1. Public Health Preparedness Participants

- Federal & State Law Enforcement
- U.S. HHS
- Local Health Depts
- U.S. DHS
- EMS
- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Educational & Training Institutions
- Community Health Centers
- Municipalities
- RPCs
- Public
- Public Safety Professionals Associations
- Governor’s Office

- Health Professionals Associations
- General Assembly
- Military Department
- Urgent Care Centers
- Medical Practitioners
- Public & Private Laboratories
What is Public Health?
What is Public Health?
What is Public Health?

Health Improvement
- Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Lifestyles
- Disease surveillance
- Family/Community

Equity
- Service planning
- Clinical effectiveness
- Clinical governance
- Audit & evaluation
- Efficiency

Health Protection
- Radiation
- Environmental health hazards
- Emergency response
- Chemicals & poisons
- Infectious diseases

Improving Services
What is Public Health?
Wittgenstein

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Effectiveness of Public Health

- Vaccines are effective
- Some screening programs are cost-effective
- Many of the currently used public health interventions other than the above do not have enough evidence-based effectiveness or have limited effect
Where is Public Health Going?

• Growth and shrinkage of the workforce and the programs according to political agenda
• The lack of a common vocabulary in public health is prohibitive for coordinated global efforts
• Are there too many organizations in Public Health? Is the field not sufficiently coherent?
Public Health Professionals

• A wide array of professionals trained in diverse environments and disciplines and employed by a plethora of governmental and non-governmental agencies

• How do you train effective public health professionals?

• What does it take to be an effective public health professional?
From the individual to the system

• Competent individuals enable achievement of system-wide goals
• A systems approach would allow planning and coherent training for the various professionals and the recognized needs of the agencies
Simple model of PH performance?
System Level

- There have been attempts at defining the scope of public health
- Defining what the boundaries of the system are
- And defining what it does
Preaching to the Choir

- US experience with public health essential functions has been greater than other countries
- It is not homogenous in using EPHFs
- There are several competing methodologies
- Different organizations look at public health system performance differently – CDC, PHAB
“The indispensable set of actions, under the primary responsibility of the state, that are fundamental for achieving the goal of public health, which is to improve, promote, protect, and restore the health of the population through collective action.”


A set of fundamental actions that address determinants of health, maintain and protect population health through organized efforts of society.
Public health functions represent public goods, and in this respect governments would need to ensure the provision of essential functions, but would not necessarily have to implement and finance them.

They prevent and manage the major contributors to the burden of disease by using effective technical, legislative, administrative, and behaviour-modifying interventions, and thereby provide an approach for intersectoral action for health.

There are several models of PH functions, and services, which are regional or country specific.
A Public Health System Is Complex
What the system does

- Process inputs
- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Can we therefore define what the expected goals of the system are?
Models of PH Functions ....

Essential Public Health Functions

EPHF 1. Monitoring, evaluation, and analysis of health status
EPHF 2. Surveillance, research, and control of the risks and threats to public health
EPHF 3. Health promotion
EPHF 4. Social participation in health
EPHF 5. Development of policies and institutional capacity for public health planning and management
EPHF 6. Strengthening of public health regulation and enforcement capacity
EPHF 7. Evaluation and promotion of equitable access to necessary health services
EPHF 8. Human resources development and training in public health
EPHF 9. Quality assurance in personal and population-based health services
EPHF 10. Research in public health
EPHF 11. Reduction of the impact of emergencies and disasters on health

PAHO/WHO, 2002
USA (CDC), 1994 - Essential PH Services

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
2. Diagnose & investigate health problems & health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, & empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify & solve health problems.
5. Develop policies & plans that support individual & community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws & regulations that protect health & ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services & assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure a competent public health & personal health workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, & quality of personal & population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights & innovative solutions to
Australia, 2000 - PH Core Functions

1. Assess, analyse & communicate population health needs & community expectations
2. Prevent & control communicable & noncommunicable diseases & injuries through risk factor reduction, education, screening, immunisation & other interventions
3. Promote & support healthy lifestyles & behaviours through action with individuals, families, communities & wider society
4. Promote, develop & support healthy public policy, including legislation, regulation & fiscal measures
5. Plan, fund, manage & evaluate health gain & capacity building programmes designed to achieve measurable improvements in health status, & to strengthen skills, competencies, systems & infrastructure
6. Strengthen communities & build social capital through consultation, participation & empowerment
7. Promote, develop, support & initiate actions which ensure safe & healthy environments
8. Promote, develop & support healthy growth & development throughout all life stages
Canada, 2003 - Essential PH Functions

• Population health assessment;
• Health surveillance;
• Health promotion;
• Disease and injury prevention;

National Working Group
Estonia, 2008 - Essential PH Operations

1. surveillance and assessment of the population’s health and well-being;
2. identifying health problems and health hazards in the community;
3. health protection;
4. preparedness and planning of public health emergencies;
5. disease prevention;
6. health promotion;
7. evaluation of quality and effectiveness of personal and community health services;
8. leadership, governance and the initiation, development and planning of public health policy;
9. ensuring a competent public health workforce; and
10. public-health-related research.
WHO Europe, 2011 - Essential PH Operations

1. Surveillance and assessment of the population’s health and well-being;
2. Identification of health problems and health hazards in the community;
3. Preparedness for and planning of public health emergencies;
4. Health protection services (environment, occup., food safety);
5. Disease prevention;
6. Health promotion;
7. Assurance of a competent public health and personal health care workforce;
8. Governance, financing and evaluation of quality and effectiveness of PHS;
9. Communication for PH; and
10. Health-related research.
## Compare and Conquer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO-EURO’s Essential Public Health Operations (EPHOs)¹</th>
<th>Western Pacific Essential Public Health Functions (EPHF)²</th>
<th>CDC’s Essential Public Health Services (EPHS)³</th>
<th>PAHO’s Essential Public Health Functions (EPHF)³</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Identification of priority health problems and health hazards in the community</td>
<td>2. Epidemiological surveillance/ disease prevention and control</td>
<td>2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community</td>
<td>2. Public health surveillance, research and control of risks and threats to public health</td>
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<td>3. Preparedness and planning for public health emergencies</td>
<td>-/-</td>
<td>-/-</td>
<td>11. Decreasing emergencies and disasters in health including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and rehabilitation</td>
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<td>4. Health protection operations (environmental, occupational, food safety and others)</td>
<td>5. Regulation and enforcement to protect public health</td>
<td>6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety</td>
<td>-/-</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Disease prevention</td>
<td>See in part No. 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>See in part No. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Core communication for public health</td>
<td>-/-</td>
<td>3. Inform, educate and empower people about health issues</td>
<td>5. Development of policies and institutional capacity for planning and managing public health</td>
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¹ WHO-EURO (World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe)
² Western Pacific Regional Office of WHO
³ CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
⁴ PAHO (Pan American Health Organization)
Can all these models be integrated?

- The models have been adopted to varying degrees
- Their use is limited by diversity of adoption
- Impact on current system
Does your country use a national model of Essential Public Health Functions? (see Model.pdf file attached to the e-mail for several examples of such a model)

- Yes: 43.3%
- Non: 60.0%

WFPHA survey

1. Is your Public Health Association member of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)?
   - Yes
   - No

2. If your association is not a member yet, would you be interested in becoming a member of the WFPHA?
   - Yes
   - No

3. Please specify your name and contact details:
   - Name: 
   - Association name: 
   - Country: 
   - Email Address: 
   - Phone Number: 

WFPHA Survey, 2012
Public Health System - Israel
Take Home Message

• We need a globally accepted Public Health Functions framework
• Professional competencies should be aligned to accomplish the public health system’s functions
• Professional competencies need to be established on the basis of dialogue between training entities (academia), employing agencies and the workforce
• Is this too much to ask for? Is this an elusive holy grail?
Model for PH Education Assessment

- Public Health Workforce Competencies
- Public Health Needs
- Public Health Agencies
- Public Health Training
Wittgenstein

I don't know why we are here, but I'm pretty sure that it is not in order to enjoy ourselves.
What do we need?

• Advocates for a global system…
• Key organizations to participate in a global taskforce
• Key figures to participate in a global taskforce
Thanks for Listening
Background of WG Activity

• The WG was formed in 2010 with 3 specific items in its action plan:
  1. Develop a strategy to globally harmonize essential public health functions and competencies based on practice needs (performance standards)
  3. Develop academic and institutional capacity (based on a needs and demand analysis).
• The members of the WG represent the Public Health workforce in its global variety and are therefore well-equipped to undertake the task at hand while bearing in mind the need for a flexible approach.
What is needed for better integration and improved effectiveness?

• One system?
• One language?
WG Activity

• The meeting with the ASPHER WGI (Workgroup on Innovation)
• The model put forth by the WGI
• In March 2011 the WG convened via Internet for its first meeting
• The model was adopted by the WG as the basis for the workplan and the partnership with WGI.
• The WG has agreed that the current 10 Essential Public Health Functions will serve the need for competency harmonization, while acknowledging possible revisions may be applied, requiring re-alignment of the competencies if that should happen.
• The WG has divided the work of examining current competency frameworks around the globe among its members. The results of progress so-far will be discussed at the planned meeting on May 13th 2011.
WG Workplan

• The WG intends to draft a competency assessment after completing the previous item and validating it as an Internet-based self-administered questionnaire for Public Health professionals.

• The WG also plans to approach National Public Health Associations for assistance in local implementations of the assessment questionnaire, i.e. translating to local languages and dialects, adaptations to reflect multi-cultural diversity, logistics in data collection.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Bailey</td>
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<td>Yohane Nyasulu</td>
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<td>Bujin Tserensodnom</td>
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<td>Vamsi Vasireddy</td>
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<td>Germán Cedeño Volkmar</td>
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<td>Dejana Vukovic</td>
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