INNOVATION SERIES

TRANSFORMING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH THE FOUNDATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Tuesday, January 31st | 1:30-2:45PM ET

SPEAKERS

https://ph.phnci.net/2023-webinars

Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, FAAN
President & CEO
Public Health Accreditation Board

Marie Flake, MPH, BSN
FPHS Project Manager
Washington State Department of Health

Chelsie Huntley, MPA
Division Director, Community Health
Minnesota Department of Health

Pam Pontones, MA
Deputy Health Commissioner
Indiana Department of Health

Reena Chudgar, MPH
Director of Public Health Systems and Services
Public Health National Center for Innovations at the Public Health Accreditation Board
Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, FAAN
President & CEO | Public Health Accreditation Board

Paul Kuehnert is President and CEO of Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), where he oversees all aspects of PHAB’s mission and work, including accreditation-related strategies, partnerships, long-range planning, PHAB’s Board of Directors, committees/think tanks, and student opportunities. Immediately prior to joining PHAB in January 2020, Dr. Kuehnert served for seven years at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in Princeton, NJ, most recently in the role of Associate Vice President for Programs. Prior to joining RWJF in 2012, he spent five years as the County Health Officer and Executive Director for Health for Kane County, Illinois, where he provided leadership and oversight to four county departments: Health, Emergency Management, Community Reinvestment and Animal Control. Earlier, he served as Deputy State Health Officer and Deputy Director of the state of Maine’s Health Department. Dr. Kuehnert is a pediatric nurse practitioner and holds the Doctor of Nursing Practice in executive leadership as well as the Master of Science in public health nursing degrees from University of Illinois at Chicago. He was named a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow in 2004, a Fellow in the National Academies of Practice in 2010, and a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in 2015.

Marie Flake, MPH, BSN
FPHS Project Manager | Washington State Department of Health

Marie Flake is a project manager at Washington State Department of Health where she leads the systemwide (local, state, and Tribal public health) collaborative effort to fully fund and deliver the Foundational Public Health Services. She provides vision and oversight for the concepts, processes, measurement, and funding, currently $100 million per year. Previously she provided vision and staff support for statewide workgroups on finance, workforce development, standards, measuring public health service delivery, indicators, communications, and access to health care and she served as the liaison between the state health department and the 35 county health departments.

Marie has worked as non-tenure track faculty at The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health designing and implementing program evaluations, training, and leadership development programs, managing the association for local public health officials, developing guidelines for the field of public health that served as a feasibility study for the Guide to Clinical Preventive Services, teaching and mentoring. As a registered nurse she has worked in a variety of healthcare settings and included a focus on systems, workforce development, quality improvement, and connecting with community resources.

Marie’s professional passion is to drive change to make systems work better for all people and communities. Outside of work you are likely to find Marie outdoors biking, kayaking, photographing, traveling, and generally out and about exploring and connecting with people, culture and community.
Chelsie Huntley, MPA  
Division Director, Community Health | Minnesota Department of Health

Chelsie Huntley serves as the Division Director of Community Health at the Minnesota Department of Health, where she is dedicated to strengthening capacity and improving the performance of Minnesota’s governmental public health system. Over the last 9 years of her career, she has developed expertise and passion around health assessment and improvement planning, state-local partnership facilitation, performance management, quality improvement, public health accreditation, practices to advance health equity, and Foundational Public Health Services. Chelsie holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Public Administration and worked in a local county health department prior to her current role.

Pam Pontones, MA  
Deputy Health Commissioner | Indiana Department of Health

Pam Pontones has served at the Indiana Department of Health for more than 30 years. She began her career as a microbiologist in 1990 and transitioned to epidemiology in 1999, serving as the Enteric Epidemiologist, Field Epidemiology Director, and Director of Surveillance and Investigation. Since 2009, Pam has served as State Epidemiologist and as Director of the Epidemiology Resource Center, overseeing programs including infectious disease epidemiology, vector borne and zoonotic diseases, syndromic surveillance, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, and public health geographics. She also serves as an agency spokesperson for infectious diseases and other health issues. In February 2017, she was appointed deputy state health commissioner, assuming oversight for the Office of Public Health Performance Management (OPHPM) and the Division of HIV, STDs, and Viral Hepatitis.

Pam is an adjunct faculty member for the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health and has been a member of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists since 2010. She was a scholar in the 2010 National Public Health Leadership Institute and a fellow in the 2001 Mid-America Regional Public Health Leadership Institute. She graduated cum laude from Indiana University Bloomington with a BA in biology and minor in journalism and holds a MA in microbiology from IU. Pam lives in Indianapolis with her husband and two sons.

Reena Chudgar, MPH  
Director of Public Health Systems and Services | PHNCI at PHAB

Reena is the Director of Public Health Systems and Services at PHAB supporting implementation of the Public Health National Center for Innovations (PHNCI) and Center for Sharing Public Health Services efforts. Reena joined PHAB/PHNCI in April 2019 and engages with health departments and communities in using innovation as a tool for transformation. Her work centers around strategy and program implementation, and she is passionate about social and systems change, addressing root causes of historical and current racial and health inequities, and local and people-centered decision making. Prior to joining PHAB, Reena served as Director for Performance Improvement at the National Association of County & City Health Officials, where she supported health departments in fostering partnerships, cross-sector collaboration, community and strategic planning, and more. Reena received a Master of Public Health degree and a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Emory University.

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