

UNCHealthySolutions

enhancing public health capacity and strategy

Who We Are

UNC Healthy Solutions uses evidence-based solutions to help government agencies, foundations, organizations, and citizens transform communities to achieve equitable health and social outcomes.

We are a service-oriented team within the Department of Health Behavior at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Because we are part of a major research institution, we specialize in tailoring evidence-based practice to help local, state and national organizations build their public health capacity and strategy.

Long-standing partnerships demonstrate our success engaging with the public health workforce and communities.

Our Team

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Our Website

<http://UNCHealthySolutions.web.unc.edu>

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What We Do

Systems Change: Governance and Organizational Strategies

Healthy living can only happen in healthy communities. We specialize in improving governance systems, physical environments, and cultural norms - the building blocks of our communities. Our team applies systems thinking that is informed by public and private policy. We can help you assess systems, identify leverage points, and develop interventions. Your team will learn new skills along the way.

To help you engage with systems change initiatives, we provide hands-on training through our nationally-distributed *Systems Change for Health™* curriculum. Choose from five 2-day skills-building courses, or take the entire set to gain proficiency in influencing governance and organizational systems.

Training and TA: Strengthening the Workforce

Busy professionals need training that quickly boosts their skill set. We use adult-learning methods to ensure what you learn is relevant to the job or project. All of our learning events are grounded in evidence. Our goal is for you to gain new skills and the strategic insight to use them effectively. Our workshop topics include: influencing governance systems, policy analysis, rules & regulations, evaluation, opioid overdose prevention, core injury and violence prevention strategies, multiple generations in the workplace, and many more.

Planning and Implementation: Building Program Capacity

We bring the public health evidence to guide your planning, strategy development, implementation/evaluation, and staff collaboration dynamics. Your interventions will be more focused, opportunistic, and powerful. We can match our assistance to your level of need: from driving, to guiding, to merely advising. Our experienced team can become your "staff extension" and help you design and facilitate your strategic planning, meeting planning, and staff development activities.

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Our Experience

Systems Change Curriculum. Our competency-based curriculum teaches professionals how to influence systems, policies, and built environments to improve public health problems. The curriculum consists of five skills-based courses: 1) defining the problem; 2) analyzing potential solutions; 3) influencing change; 4) implementing enacted policies; and 5) evaluation. The copyrighted curriculum was supported by the Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE) with CDC funding. For more information visit: www.SystemsChangeForHealth.com.

Safety Culture. For the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation we conducted an assessment of their safety culture that included management dynamics, operations, policies/procedures, and training. System-wide recommendations focus on generating improvements in safety culture at all levels.

Policy/System/Environmental Strategy. We provide advice and guidance to national, state, and local organizations seeking to use policy, system and environmental strategies. For state agencies, we have analyzed policy, developed project strategies, and suggested implementation adjustments to better respond to opportunities and challenges. We have facilitated multi-agency collaboratives to promote statewide public health initiatives.

Coordinated Chronic Disease Planning. We guided a participatory process to coordinate chronic disease planning in North Carolina based on disease burden, modifiable risk factors, and evidence-based strategies.

Injury Prevention. We provide academic advising for the Epidemiologic and Program Development Fellowship programs at IHS. We have also provided program planning, evaluation, training, and technical assistance to the national Indian Health Service (IHS) injury prevention program. For the NC Injury Branch (DHHS) we facilitated their statewide, suicide prevention strategic planning process. Through our SKIPP curriculum we teach core IVP competencies to state and local practitioners. We provide workshop training on opioid overdose prevention systems. For more information visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/skipwakecounty>.

Leadership and Management Capacity. We provide training and consultation to help improve team collaboration and coach leaders in the management of multiple generations in the workplace. In multiple states we have helped public agency executives and managers enhance their leadership skills.

Health Equity and Cultural Respect. For over 20 years, we have cultivated close alliances with 130 American Indian tribes and Alaskan native populations. These relationships have helped us develop a uniquely respectful approach toward serving culturally and geographically diverse populations, especially groups experiencing health and social inequities.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA). We teach a 2-day HIA workshop that provides an interdisciplinary experience for public health professionals and land-use/transportation planners. Participants learn to use several tools to screen, scope and plan an HIA project.

Walking and Bicycling Environments. We developed tools and training for communities to audit their local built environments for walking and bicycling. With the mapped data communities can advocate for improvements. To download the free tools visit: <https://WABSA.web.unc.edu>.

Environmental Health and Justice. With the *Exchange Project* we promoted dialogue among government leaders, attorneys, and communities striving for environmental health and justice. Our website provides free tools and videos to encourage dialogue and understanding: www.ExchangeProject.unc.edu.