

INTEGRATIVE WORKSHOPS

As described in the preface to this casebook, the MPH program holds integrative workshops three times a year for its students. These day-long workshops present students with an opportunity to bring the knowledge they have gained in the program to bear on a topical issue in public health. The following section provides an outline of each workshop held during 2014/15, with a view to sharing examples for others interested in this type of approach to teaching.

INTEGRATIVE WORKSHOP #1 Framing the Debate on the Public Health Aspects of Electronic (E-)Cigarettes

Speakers

Frank Welsh, PhD

Director, Policy Development, Canadian Public Health Association

Lynn T. Kozlowski, PhD

Professor, Department of Community Health and Health Behavior, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York

Scenario

You have been hired as a consultancy to advise Helen Angus, Associate Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Ms. Angus is head of the Policy and Transformation portfolio consisting of four divisions, one of which is the Health System Strategy and Policy division.

The Government of Ontario website states the following about the Health System Strategy and Policy Division:

“The division sets strategic directions for Ontario's health system and supports them with legislation and policy; monitors alignment with the strategic directions; selects and manages portfolios of initiatives within the ministry to further health system goals; and provides health research investments oversight.”

<http://www.infogo.gov.on.ca/infogo/office.do?actionType=servicedirectory&infoType=service&unitId=UNT0003118&locale=en>

Your consultancy (Learning Team) has been asked to advise the division on e-cigarettes. One of the features distinguishing your consultancy from others is your integrated expertise across the diverse disciplines of epidemiology, biostatistics, research methods, environmental health and socio-cultural determinants of health. Quickly inventory your knowledge base and understanding of this public health issue. The mandate of the Health System Strategy and Policy Division includes financing research and developing expert communication strategies.

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Integrative Workshops

Schedule

8:30 – 8:45	Introduction
8:45 – 9:10	Speaker 1 – Dr. Frank Welsh
9:10 – 9:35	Speaker 2 – Dr. Lynn Kozlowski
9:35 – 9:45	Brief questions for clarification
9:45 – 10:00	Break
10:00 – 10:30	Deliverable 1 (released on OWL at 8:15 am) Due on OWL by 10:25 a.m.
10:30 – 11:30	Question and Answer with the experts
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch (will be provided)
12:30 – 3:00	Learning Teams Prepare Deliverables 2 and 3 (released on OWL at 11:25 am) Due on OWL by 2:55 p.m.
3:00 – 4:30	Presentations
4:30 – 4:45	Faculty Discussion
4:45 – 5:00	Feedback from Faculty

INTEGRATIVE WORKSHOP #2 Organizational Response in Urgent Times

Background

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce you to the concepts of organizational response and communication during an urgent situation. In addition, you will be using your research skills to conduct an investigation of a health issue which has emerged in the City of London.

Learning Objectives

1. To apply epidemiologic and other skills in conducting an investigation of a health issue.
2. To develop skills in organizational response and crisis communication.
3. To gain an understanding of multiple stakeholder roles and responses in urgent public health situations.
4. To practice making decisions quickly under pressure.

Speakers

Peter Slade
Senior Director, Science and Technology
Maple Leaf Foods

Fatih Sekercioglu
Manager, Environmental Health
Middlesex-London Health Unit

Dan Huggins
Water Quality Manager
The Corporation of the City of London

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Integrative Workshops

Schedule

Location: Classroom

- 8:30-8:45am Introductions & Overview of the Workshop Day
8:45-9:35am Peter Slade - "Leading through Crisis"
9:35-9:55am Fatih Sekercioglu - "The MLHU: We do more than..."
9:55-10:10am Dan Huggins - "An Overview of London's Drinking Water Distribution System"

Location: Learning Team Rooms

- 10:10-10:15am Learning Teams Assemble
10:15-10:40am Learning Team Work

Location: Classroom

- 10:45-11:00am Situation Assessment – "The Case"

Location: Learning Team Rooms

- 11:05-11:55am Learning Team Work

Location: Classroom

- 11:55-12:15pm Situation Assessment – "The Case"
12:15-1:00pm Lunch

Location: Classroom

- 1:00-1:15pm Peter Slade – "A Primer on Risk Communication"

Location: Learning Team Rooms

- 1:15-3:15pm Learning Teams to Discuss Organizational Response, Crisis Management, Communication, and Prepare Press Conference Statement

Location: Classroom

- 3:15-4:15pm Learning Teams Press Conference Statements and Responses (8 min each including time for questions)
4:15-4:25pm Guest Expert and Faculty Feedback
4:25-4:30pm Conclusion & Close of Workshop

LEARNING TEAM TASKS

Prior to the Workshop

Read: Executive Summary of the "Report of the Independent Investigator into the 2008 Listeriosis Outbreak" – posted in OWL MPH 9015Y Announcements

Review: Middlesex London Health Unit Environmental Health Division Website – posted in OWL MPH 9015Y Announcements

Day of the Workshop

Presentations will be made by guest speakers from 8:45 to 10:10am, which will assist you with your tasks for the rest of the workshop. Each Learning Team will have five deliverables.

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INTEGRATIVE WORKSHOP - PART 1

On February 20, 2015, Dr. Blogs, MD, MPH, a family physician in London ON, notices an apparent familiar cluster of 3 cases of an unusual dermatological condition. Dr. Blogs consults with a dermatology colleague to try to establish the diagnosis. On a hunch, possibly due to public health training, Dr. Blogs also sends photos of the condition to a colleague at the Middlesex-London Health Unit.

10:15-10:40 WHAT IS THE CONDITION? Viewing the pictures that have been distributed (in OWL MPH 9015Y), your task is to identify the condition presented.

DELIVERABLE 1: By 10:40, each Learning Team will post their best 3 guesses to OWL MPH 9015Y Assignments and return to the classroom by 10:45 where they will present their best guesses about the condition and their rationale for this decision (1 minute for each Learning Team). This segment will end at 11:00am.

INTEGRATIVE WORKSHOP - PART 2

Later that day, Dr. Blogs' Middlesex-London Health Unit colleague receives 3 other reports of the condition. Dr. Blogs and the Middlesex-London Health Unit decide to conduct a Case-Control study by telephone-interviewing.

11:05-11:35 WHAT CAUSED THE CONDITION? (Learning Team Rooms)

DELIVERABLE 2: Beginning at 11:05am, Learning Teams will work on creating a questionnaire to assess exposures. These questionnaires are to be posted to OWL in MPH 9015Y Assignments by 11:20am.

At 11:20am, Learning Teams will receive the results of the interviews in 2 x 2 tables.

DELIVERABLE 3: Learning Teams will have 15 minutes (11:20 – 11:35) to calculate odds ratios using the 2 x 2 tables, and identify the most likely exposure. Post to OWL MPH 9015Y Assignments.

INTEGRATIVE WORKSHOP - PART 3

11:35-12:15 WHAT IS THE SOURCE? Dr. Blogs and the Middlesex-London Health Unit have now identified the condition, and the most likely exposure. They now turn to identifying the source of the exposure.

DELIVERABLE 4: Learning Teams will have 20 minutes (11:35 – 11:55, Learning Team Rooms) to create 3 questions they would like to ask to help identify the source of the exposure. Learning teams will post these questions to OWL MPH 9015Y Assignments, and return to the **CLASSROOM** at 11:55. Additional clues will be provided at this time & further discussion to identify the source will occur from 11:55-12:15pm.

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INTEGRATIVE WORKSHOP - PART 4

At 12:15pm, Learning Teams will be assigned roles to take on for the rest of the workshop. From 1:15pm to 3:15pm, Learning Teams will work on organizational response, crisis management, and communication according to their assigned roles. (Learning Team Rooms)

DELIVERABLE 5 – Press Conference: At 3:15pm, Learning Teams assemble in the classroom. Each Learning Team will have a role and will participate in a press conference at this time. Learning Teams will need to prepare a statement that will be presented at the press conference according to the role they are assigned. (Classroom)

INTEGRATIVE WORKSHOP #3 POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PART 1:

The morning will feature Sudit Ranade (MoH from Lambton Public Health), who will provide insight into the types of policy challenges facing Medical Officers of Health in Ontario. In addition, he will discuss the type of evidence needed to support policy decisions.

This will be followed by a presentation from Frank Welsh, (Director of Policy, CPHA) about their role in policy advocacy and influencing the policy agenda at the National level.

We will then hear from Kevin Churchill (Manager of Health Promotion, Lambton Public Health), who will discuss the local political environment that shapes public health, emphasizing strategies for getting political buy-in for initiatives in a context where the health board is comprised of local politicians, many without a health background.

Part 2:

We will have expert guests discuss cross cutting issues of public health and the social determinants of health. Then our guests will present a policy brief on an issue they are currently working on. The goal of the workshop is to provide students with a practical application of policy brief exercise.

Other guests include:

- Giovanna Longo, Social Determinants of Health Nurse, LPH;
- Simone Edginton, Registered Dietician, LPH;
- Lori Fellner, MLHU;
- Cross Cultural Learners Centre (Immigrant and Refugee Health) reps
- Erika Chamberlain, MPH and Law, Western

MPH students will work with our guests to come up with actionable items to deal with a current policy challenge in public health. The students and guests will work together to come up with recommended policy options. At the end of the day, students will present on the topics area. After the presentation, our guests will comment on the usefulness and feasibility of the plan. Students will prepare a policy brief to share with our guests.

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Learning Team Preparation beforehand:

1. Readings on policy development processes
2. Background readings on issues and best practices in the areas identified by our guests

Group Deliverables (end of workshop):

1. Presentation (slides)
2. Policy brief for MPH 9010 (Managing Health Services) (Group assignment due next day)

Schedule

8:00-8:30 Arrival, coffee & tea

Part 1

8:30-8:40 Introduction to the day – Dr. Lloy Wylie

8:40-10:30 ***Public Health Policy and Healthy Public Policy***

- **Dr. Sudit Ranade**, Ontario Public Health Policy: Issues and Evidence for Decision Making
- **Dr. Frank Welsh**, Policy Advocacy and Agenda Setting at the National Level
- **Kevin Churchill**, Politics and Policies in Public Health at the Local Level

10:30-10:45 ***Health Break***

Part 2

10:45-11:25 ***Topic Briefs (10 min each max)***

1. Making Healthier Choices Act – (**Simone Edginton**, Lambton Public Health)
2. Immigrant & Refugee Health - (**Rita VanMeyel**, London Health Sciences Centre, **Val Marochko**, London Cross Cultural Learners Centre)
3. Smoke Free Movies (**Lori Fellman**, MLHU)
4. Alcohol Policy (**Dr. Erika Chamberlain**, MPH and Law, Western)

11:25-12:15 ***Cross Cutting Challenges***

- **Giovanna and Lloy facilitate guest discussion panel on topics including**
 - Public Health Competencies to address policy
 - Social Determinants of Health
 - Health Equity
 - Evidence for Policy
 - Public Health Roles

Wrap up

Instructions for Policy Action Session

12:15-1:00 Lunch

Part 3:

1:00 – 3:00 **Policy Action Session**

3:00 Teams submit presentations online

3:00 – 3:10 **Break**

3:10-4:30 Presentations (10min presentation + 5minQ) + Guest Debrief (5min each)

4:30-4:45 Workshop Wrap Up

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Policy Action Session

In your policy area group, students and guests will discuss the issues and policy ideas. The group will narrow the focus to two policy options, with 1 taken up by each sub-team (team 1 and 2). The group will prepare a presentation for the afternoon. Each policy sub team will prepare a policy brief due the following day at 12 pm.

Groups will stay put whilst 'expert panels' made up of guests and faculty circulate from group to group

- Panel A: Frank and Shannon
- Panel B: Giovanna and Lloy
- Panel C: MPH Faculty

Purpose:

This Integrative Workshop is one of the learning activities for MPH 9015Y Transforming Public Health. Its purpose is to introduce students to an exercise of synthesis and integration of the body of knowledge developed to date in the MPH Program.

Each of the specific situations presented in the Integrative Workshop are meant to provide a backdrop and a context to which key concepts and learnings from each of the courses can be synthesized and integrated. The most advanced team presentation will demonstrate holistic integration of learning across courses.

Objectives of the Integrative Workshop (same as the course MPH 9015Y Transforming Public Health):

By engaging with your colleagues and professors after studying and thinking deeply about the material presented, you will be able to:

1. Analyze information from multiple disciplinary and indigenous stakeholder perspectives to determine appropriate implications, uses, gaps and limitations in a specific situation;
2. Determine the meaning of this information, considering the current ethical, political, scientific, socio-cultural and economic contexts;
3. Synthesize and integrate knowledge across disciplines, situation specific information and meaning of this information;
4. Recommend specific actions based on the analysis, synthesis and integration of information from multiple disciplinary and indigenous stakeholder perspectives; and
5. Revise judgments and change behaviour in light of new evidence.

Competencies Assessed:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the systems in which public health functions, including current public health challenges.
2. Recognize how the determinants of health (biological, social, cultural, economic and physical) influence the health and well-being of specific population groups.
3. Critically appraise the literature to understand patterns of health and ill health, establish causal associations, and recommend courses of actions.
4. Demonstrate a professional appreciation of the ethical, legal and social issues in public health policy & practice.
5. Develop and implement a sustainable plan to address public health challenge(s).

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6. Discuss the legal framework of public health practice including legislative authority, rights, obligations and risks, at the federal, provincial and municipal levels.
7. Optimize organizational performance by applying systems thinking.

Grading:

Consistent with the overall grading for MPH 9015Y, the deliverable from the integrative workshop will be a pass/fail. The presentation is intended to be a team effort.

Resources:

General Resources

Policy Brief – a How to guide:

http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Resources/Tools_and_Training/Documents/how-to-write-a-policy-brief.pdf

Other Public Health Policy papers

National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy <http://www.ncchpp.ca/en/>

Making Healthy Food Choices Act

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2939

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/living/agency-food-standards.shtml>

Immigrant and Refugee Health:

<http://www.cmaj.ca/content/early/2010/06/07/cmaj.090313.full.pdf+html>

<http://www.kidsnewtocanada.ca/>

<http://www.ccirhken.ca/Resources.html>

Smoke Free Movies:

<http://otru.org/category/special-reports/> : Exposure to Onscreen Tobacco in Movies among ON Youth 2004-2013

<http://smokefreemovies.ucsf.edu/>

Alcohol Policy

www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Making_the_Case_2013.pdf

<http://www.apolnet.ca/>