ASTHO Supported Primary Care and Public Health Collaborative

Background
In July 2012, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the Institute of Medicine (IOM), and United Health Foundation partnered to host a two-day meeting to develop a strategic map for primary care and public health integration. The meeting was held in response to IOM’s March 2012 report *Primary Care and Public Health: Exploring Integration to Improve Population Health* and brought together key individuals from both sectors. The map outlined a strategic approach to integration created in response to the IOM report. Meeting participants included state and local health officials, federal agencies, insurance providers, members of the IOM committee that wrote the report, academic organizations, and professional associations.

Through a facilitated process, participants developed this strategic map on integration to achieve the following:

- Develop a strategy to strengthen and support public health and primary care integration that builds on *Primary Care and Public Health: Exploring Integration to Improve Population Health*.
- Prioritize efforts to increase integration of public health-primary care infrastructure.
- Identify collaborations and partnerships in and between primary care and public health to strengthen resources to improve the health of populations, achieve higher quality of care, and lower costs in healthcare.

ASTHO-Supported Primary Care and Public Health Collaborative
As a result of this strategic mapping process, ASTHO launched a national collaborative to actively advance the priorities identified in the strategic map. The ASTHO-Supported Primary Care and Public Health (PCPH) Collaborative is a partnership of more than 50 organizations and more than 100 individual partners seeking to inform, align, and support the implementation of integrated efforts that improve population health and lower healthcare costs. Organizations representing public health at the state and local level include ASTHO, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, Trust for America’s Health, Association of Public Health Nurses, and Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health. Primary care is represented by lead medical societies including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American College of Preventive Medicine. Health insurer partners include the National Association of Medicaid Directors, America’s Health Insurance Plans, and Alliance of Community Health Plans. Federal partners include HRSA, CDC, CMS, CMMI, and AHRQ.

Six active “Tracks of Work” Committees were created out of the strategic mapping process to ensure ongoing active engagement, sharing of expert knowledge, and identification of needs. Each committee is co-chaired by a primary care leader and a public health leader to further model the desired partnership between primary care and public health. The six committees were:

- **Successes Committee**: Identify examples of integration.
- **Value Proposition/Business Case Committee**: Delineate the value proposition for integration.
- **Resources Committee**: Align resources and funding streams to support integration.
- **Measures Committee**: Measure integration.
• **Communication Committee**: Communicate the work of the committees and national integration efforts.
• **Workforce Committee**: Focus on training and education of primary care, public health, and multidisciplinary teams.

**PCPH Integration Strategic Map Update**
On May 28-29, 2014, national and state leaders in primary care and public health convened for a 1.5 day meeting to update the Primary Care and Public Health Integration Strategic Map. To update the strategic map, key stakeholders and partners representing 27 organizations deployed public health and primary care expertise with the goal of building upon the successes and momentum of the ASTHO-Supported PCPH Collaborative over the past two years while considering future opportunities and challenges. Several federal agencies were also represented, including CDC, HRSA, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. To realign with the revised strategic map, several committees were collapsed into the following new committee structure:

• **Successes/Measures Committee**: Determine appropriate measures for successful integration.
• **Sustainability Committee**: Identify resources available and needed to support integration work.
• **Communication Committee**: Support internal communication and promote/spread the collaborative's work externally.
• **Workforce Committee**: Identify opportunities for integration in primary care and public health workforce education, training, and certification.

**Structure and Products**
Frequent communication and development of stories, tools, and connections between partners have been key to the ongoing success of this national learning collaborative. The following are examples of this ongoing connectivity:

• Each Track of Work Committee meets bimonthly.
• All partners and committee members participate in a bimonthly All Partners call with presentations from primary care and public health and sharing of committee activities.
• A biweekly newsletter that highlights important resources, tools, and meetings is sent to all partners.
• The ASTHO website provides a clearinghouse of important resources and tools, including products developed by the Tracks of Work Committees and announcements of national meetings of partner organizations.

The ASTHO-Supported PCPH Collaborative has developed a number of products and tools to date, including an online tool to capture success stories from primary care and public health integration; a collection of more 50 state and local success stories captured, analyzed, and published; guidance documents to help communities and organizations align resources and promote sustainable funding models; and one-page briefs on the value of integration for primary care and public health. Projects aimed at aligning measures of integration success and improved population health are also under way.

To learn more about the ASTHO-Supported PCPH Collaborative, individual committees, and resources and stories related to primary care and public health integration, visit [http://www.astho.org/pcphcollaborative](http://www.astho.org/pcphcollaborative).