Informing Health Policy & Practice: Building Private & Public Partnerships
Mission

The Florida Public Health Institute advances the knowledge and practice of public health to promote, protect and improve the health of all.
The Florida Public Health Institute (FPHI) acts as a neutral convener by working with local, state and national leaders to develop private and public partnerships that contribute solutions to health-related issues throughout our community and nationwide.

Our history began with the Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) in 2001 and transitioned into the Florida Public Health Institute in 2006. FPHI received funding in 2007 from the Quantum Foundation and the National Network of Public Health Institutes/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to expand its infrastructure and outreach.

We now have a 16-member board as well as an increased number of programs for our five Centers of Excellence and Health Policy Bureau. We are pleased to have developed a five-year strategic plan, including execution of our sustainability plan, increased our funding sources and enhanced IT infrastructure.
Dear Colleagues,

2011 was another positive and eventful year for the Florida Public Health Institute (FPHI).

We are proud to reflect on our organization’s progress and continue to focus on its promise. Our emphasis concentrates on building private and public partnerships that will put Florida in the forefront of healthcare policy.

FPHI continues to act as a collaborator with state and local health departments, private business, communities and universities, while being a vehicle for positive health system change wherever and whenever appropriate.

FPHI hopes to evolve into an Institute with multiple governmental and private funding sources with connections to all academic public health institutions in Florida. These partnerships promise to bring intellectual capital to enhance healthcare services and an improved foundation throughout the state and nationally.

Focusing on our mission of advancing the knowledge and practice of public health to promote, protect and improve overall health -- we are humbled to observe our positive impact on healthcare and look ahead to another exciting and productive year!

Sincerely,

Rick Hunter, PhD
Board Chair
Dr. Fox is a public health physician who has headed federal, state and local agencies in a greater than three-decade career dedicated to equal access to healthcare. He is currently a professor in the Department of Epidemiology Public Health at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and the founding director of the Florida Public Health Institute. Dr. Fox is current Chair of the Florida Oral Health Coalition and sits on the Board of the Florida Public Health Association.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned his medical degree at the University of Mississippi. He completed Pediatric Residencies from the University of Mississippi and Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Fox then received a master’s of public health degree from the University of North Carolina. He is board certified in Prevention Medicine and Public Health.

Debora Kerr has been involved in numerous leadership roles locally and regionally, including serving on the steering committee for the 10-year Palm Beach County Economic Development Plan, Mobilizing for Planning and Partnership (MAPP), a county-wide strategic health services planning process, membership on the Advisory Committee for the Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine and Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness. She has a 13-year background in building cross-industry collaborations and development for healthcare, biotechnology, environmental health, and workforce sectors. She currently serves on the DOH HIA technical advisory committee, the SEFRPC Sustainable Community Regional Planning Equity Workgroup, the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation Advisory Board and served on the initial NNPHI HIA workgroup. She has played an invaluable role in securing the start-up funding for FPHI and brings a diverse expertise to the Institute.
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Our five centers include: workforce development; bio-preparedness and health system readiness; primary care and prevention; research, education and training; and a center for a sustainable environment and safe water.

Areas of future concentration include our Global Health Initiative and Health Impact Assessment (HIA) projects. The HIA Demonstration project is part of the broader “Increasing National Capacity for Health Impact Assessments” project. Its intent is to promote and support the growth of the field of HIA in the U.S. by increasing the capacity of Public Health Institutes (PHIs) to conduct HIAs in their respective regions. This will enable them to take advantage of PHIs geographic diversity, scientific credibility, policy expertise, multi-sectoral partnerships, and emerging leadership in the field of HIA.

Much focus has been placed by Oral Health Florida on policy solutions to reduce the increasing use of hospital emergency rooms for dental care, including:

- Expanding preventative services by dental hygienists
- Supporting and expanding county health department dental services
- Working toward 100 percent community water fluoridation

Below is a snapshot of our successes in each of our Centers of Excellence & Health Policy Bureau:

**Health Policy Bureau**
- Produced policy briefs for various centers
- Collaborated with Georgia Health Policy Center
- Developed Healthcare Reform Small Business Calculator
- Conducted Healthcare Reform Town Hall Meetings

**Center for Workforce Development**
- Created Public Health Nursing Staffing Metric (PHF)
- Facilitated Florida Physician Workforce Shortage Committee (DOH)
- Partnered with HealthMETRICS to evaluate clinical operations in county health departments

**Center for Bio-Preparedness and Health System Readiness**
- Conducted for the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)-Model Public-Private Partnerships for H1N1 Preparedness
- Collaborated on International Pandemic Advisory Committee (Roche)

**Center for Research, Education and Training**
- Worked with statewide University Academic Consortium
- Facilitated Public Health Master’s Course
- Collaborating on Palm Beach County MD/MPH program
- Provided articles for YourPBC.org
- Participated with the National Network of Public Health Institutes (Pew, RWJ), Health Impact Assessment Training

**Center for Primary Care & Prevention**
- Participated in the development of the Florida State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)
- Provided Community Health Center Technical Assistance
- Conducted Community Needs Assessment: Jupiter Medical Center*
- Developed static and interactive county needs verses assets map
- Facilitated Oral Health Coalition (local & statewide)
- Developed Oral Health Florida website
- Developed DentaQuest oral health community messaging and surveillance collaboration
- Launched Healthy Mouth/Healthy Body PR Campaign
- Planned State Oral Health Conference
- Launched Dental Training on Basic Screening Survey (BSS) in 3-month period
- Compiled Oral Health Emergency Room Data for 67 counties
- Participated on the Steering Committee for PBRN (Practice-Based Research Network)

*Concurrent with the Community Needs Assessment, FPHI was selected to coordinate the Florida release of the 2011 County Health Rankings. The statewide rollout generated at least 65 new stories and provided county health departments with the resources and platform to illustrate needs and accomplishments. FPHI plans to use 2012 Rankings to encourage community dialog and action statewide.

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**Center for Sustainable Environment & Safe Water**

- Convened Water Technologies Steering Committee
- Collaborated with Water Institute-Netherlands
- Collaborated with Florida Atlantic University-Adaption & Mitigation Strategies
- Submitted proposal to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Coastal Resilience Networks
- Submitted proposal to National Institutes on climate change and public health
- Partnered on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-Regional SE Sustainable Environment Community Regional Planning Grant Equity Workgroup
- Selected to participate on the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation Advisory Board
- Selected as one of 10 Public Health Institutes (PHIs) to submit application for the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Demonstration Project, a collaboration of the PEW Charitable Trusts and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Chosen to participate on the Department of Health (DOH) HIA Technical Advisory Committee
As a result of the formation of the Oral Health Coalition, FPHI is bringing together our network of statewide partners to forge relationships between private medical practice and oral health.

One such example in Florida involved a pediatrician who identified an abscess in an 18-month old during a wellness visit. Tooth decay in the child’s mouth had gotten so severe that it created the abscess. The child had no access to dental care and the mother was unaware of the severity of the condition until the doctor brought it to her attention.

Since an abscess in a child’s mouth can be extremely dangerous due to the fact it can systemically produce toxic bacteria and travel through the child’s body through the bloodstream, the pediatrician knew it needed to be addressed quickly.

The office manager immediately reached out to the Oral Health Coalition to tap into its network of resources in hopes of getting this child help. As a result of the networking ability of the state and local Coalition, the child was referred and treated by a pediatric dentist within hours.

This pediatrician’s office was also involved in a pilot program that included allowing a dental hygienist to apply fluoride varnishes during in-office visits.

Having the statewide and local Coalition provides these resources and acts as a neutral convener to connect them together.

It was a direct result of the collaborative efforts of the Coalition that aided in this child’s treatment. FPHI staff is proud to be forging relationships between private medical practice and oral health with the Coalition to assure this child’s story, as well as others (which are all too common), continues to have successful outcomes.
We are grateful to our generous donors and we continue to recognize the spirit of collaboration and support that the Florida Public Health Institute has received to date. We are currently seeking donations that will aid in shaping policy statewide and make our strategic vision a reality across Florida while building and bridging partnerships nationwide.

Choose where your donation goes:

- Centers of Excellence (indicate which Center):
  - Center for Bio-Preparedness and Health System Readiness
  - Center for Workforce Development
  - Center for Primary Care & Prevention
  - Center for Research, Education & Training
  - Center for Sustainable Environment & Safe Water

- Health Policy Bureau
- Programming
- Fundraising
- Underwriting Annual Report

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