

# Project Advisory Committee

**J. Maichle Bacon, MPH, RS**  
Public Health Administrator  
Winnebago County (IL) Health Department

**Rebekah Barnes**  
Administrator  
Chattanooga-Hamilton County (TN) Health Department

**Lou K. Brewer**  
Director  
Tarrant County (TX) Public Health Department

**Jung H. Cho, DVM, DrPH**  
County Health Officer  
Camden County (NJ) Department of Health and Human Services

**Harold Cox**  
Chief Public Health Officer  
Cambridge (MA) Department of Health

**John J. Dreyzehner, MD, MPH**  
District Director  
Cumberland Plateau (VA) Health District

**Poki S. Namkung, MD, MPH**  
Health Officer, Director of Public Health  
Berkeley City (CA) Public Health Department

**Robert M. Pestronk, MPH**  
*Committee Chair*  
Health Officer  
Genesee County (MI) Health Department

## Invited Organizational Liaisons & Ex Officio Members

**Kristin Benn**  
National Environmental Health Association  
Project Specialist  
Denver, CO

**Ron Bialek, MPP**  
Public Health Foundation  
Washington, DC

**Joan Cioffi, PhD**  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Senior Service Fellow  
Atlanta, GA

**Shepard Cohen**  
National Association of Local Boards of Health  
Board of Health Member  
Wellesley, MA

**Lynn Frank, FACHE**  
*Ex Officio Member*  
Chief, Public Health Services  
Montgomery County (MD) Department of Health and Human Services

**Kristine Gebbie, DrPH, RN**  
Columbia University School of Nursing  
Director, Center for Health Policy  
New York, NY

**Patricia Hegadorn, RN, MPH**  
Columbia University School of Nursing  
Senior Public Health Specialist  
Center for Health Policy  
New York, NY

**Jody Henry Hershey, MD, MPH**  
*Ex Officio Member*  
Director  
New River (VA) Health District

**Maureen Lichtveld, MD, MPH**  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Associate Director for Workforce Development  
Atlanta, GA

**Charlyne Melville**  
Columbia University School of Nursing  
Project Manager, Center for Health Policy  
New York, NY

**Jay McNeal**  
National Association of Local Boards of Health  
Bowling Green, OH

**Tim Stephens**  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Director, Workforce Development  
Washington, DC

**Bernard Turnock, MD, MPH**  
Clinical Professor  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
School of Public Health

**Antigone Vickery, MPH**  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
Director of Practice and Workforce Development  
Washington, DC

**Kathleen Wright, EdD, MPH**  
Public Health Leadership Institute  
Network Chair, St. Louis University  
School of Public Health



## Project Public Health Ready

Project Public Health Ready is a collaboration of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the Center for Health Policy at the Columbia University School of Nursing, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## Project Vision

A public protected from bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.

## Project Mission

To prepare local governmental public health agency staff to respond and protect the public's health through a voluntary program combining competency-based training with agency certification.



Center for Health Policy  
Columbia University  
School of Nursing



## Project Public Health Ready

Project Public Health Ready builds on the practical experience and the research of partners. This foundation includes the workforce competency projects of the Center for Health Policy at Columbia University, the CDC-funded Centers for Public Health Preparedness program, and NACCHO's direct link to local public health agencies nationwide. The Project Public Health Ready partnership will result in voluntary certification of public health agencies whose public health workers have been trained on bioterrorism and public health emergency readiness competencies and have an approved agency-wide terrorism response plan evaluated through exercises and drills.

A NACCHO advisory committee guides the project to assure relevance to public health practice and sustainability into the future. Other partners, including the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), schools of public health and CDC, assure that all perspectives are integrated. During this year, the project team is working with the advisory committee to develop certification criteria, determine a process to certify local public health agency readiness, conduct pilot tests and plan for a national roll out.

### Sites selected to develop and provide input on the Public Health Ready project:

Allentown City Health Bureau  
Allentown, PA  
Berkeley City Public Health Department  
Berkeley, CA  
Cerro Gordo County Public Health Department  
Mason City, IA  
Cherokee Nation Health Services  
Tahlequah, OK  
Kansas City Health Department  
Kansas City, MO  
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services  
Rockville, MD  
Seminole County Health Department  
Sanford, FL  
Tarrant County Public Health Department  
Fort Worth, TX  
Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department  
Olympia, WA  
Tulsa City-County Health Department  
Tulsa, OK  
Wellesley Health Department  
Wellesley, MA  
Winnebago County Health Department  
Rockford, IL

### Web sites

For more information, visit:  
[www.nursing.hs.columbia.edu/institute-centers/chphsr/phready.html](http://www.nursing.hs.columbia.edu/institute-centers/chphsr/phready.html)  
[www.naccho.org/project83.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/project83.cfm)  
[www.phppo.cdc.gov/owpp](http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/owpp)

### Bioterrorism and Emergency Readiness: Competencies for ALL Public Health Workers:

[www.nursing.hs.columbia.edu/institute-centers/chphsr/btcomps.pdf](http://www.nursing.hs.columbia.edu/institute-centers/chphsr/btcomps.pdf)

## Project Values

- Public Health Ready partners will work collaboratively keeping the needs of local governmental public health practitioners and communities foremost in mind.
- Public Health Ready certification process will be readily accessible and financially affordable to the local governmental public health workforce.
- Public Health Ready certification shall add value to the day-to-day practice of the local governmental public health agency.
- Public Health Ready agency competencies shall reflect knowledge, skills, and abilities that are useful in “real-world” public health practice.
- Public Health Ready certification will complement, not duplicate, existing programs for professional development.
- An advisory committee comprised of leaders and practitioners from local governmental public health agencies and other relevant partners will direct the Public Health Ready certification process.
- The Public Health Ready certification process will be regularly evaluated to ensure benefits and avoid negative consequences.
- Public Health Ready certification shall be sought after by the local governmental public health workforce as evidenced by its success in the marketplace, i.e., the demand for its programs by the workforce.
- Public Health Ready training and certification will be implemented over time to allow for continuous quality improvement.

### For more information, contact:

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