March 2015

Dear Healthy Community Design News Subscribers,

As public health professionals and urban planners begin to work more closely, they need the ability to speak each other’s languages so they can work together effectively. “A Training Framework for Public Health and Planning Professionals” has online resources from CDC’s Healthy Community Design Initiative that will help both professions learn concepts to foster this collaboration. Check it out at http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/training_framework.htm.

Limited scholarships for registration and travel expenses are available to attend the 2015 National Health Impact Assessment Meeting, to be held June 16-18, 2015, in Washington, DC. The scholarships are open to individuals or agencies that would be unable to attend without financial assistance. Applications are being accepted now through 5 p.m. PST on March 27. Learn more and apply at http://www.cvent.com/events/national-hia-meeting-2015/custom-17-c369f2399d87421f9af72797974c05a3.aspx?sl&utm_campaign=2015-02-20%20HIP&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua. The meeting is organized with assistance from CDC’s Healthy Community Design Initiative.

Until next time, keep up the great work!

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“Health is like money, we never have a true idea of its value until we lose it.”
-Josh Billings

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

March 30-April 2, 2015, National Main Streets Conference, Atlanta, GA
http://www.preservationnation.org/main-street/training/conference/
April 12-14, 2015, **National Keeping Our Communities Healthy Conference**, Houston, TX
[http://www.hungerfreetexans.org/annual-conference.html](http://www.hungerfreetexans.org/annual-conference.html)

April 13-14, 2015, **Moving Active Transportation to Higher Ground: Opportunities for Accelerating the Assessment of Health Impacts**, Washington, DC

April 18-21, 2015, **American Planning Association Planning Conference**, Seattle, WA
[http://www.planning.org/conference/](http://www.planning.org/conference/)

April 29-May 2, 2015, **Congress for the New Urbanism 23**, Dallas, TX
[http://www.cnu.org/cnu23](http://www.cnu.org/cnu23)

June 16-17, 2015, **2015 National Health Impact Assessment Meeting**, Washington, DC

July 6-8, 2015, **1st International Conference on Transport & Health**, London, England

September 2-4, 2015, **National Brownfields Training Conference**, Chicago, IL
[http://www.brownfieldsconference.org](http://www.brownfieldsconference.org)

October 6-7, 2015, **8th Annual Growing Sustainable Communities Conference**, Dubuque, IA

October 28-30, 2015, **National Walking Summit**, Washington, DC

**Webinars**

**Tools for Building Bridges Toward Better Health** *(March 25, 2-3 p.m. EST)*
[http://action.apha.org/site/MessageViewer?dlv_id=58541&em_id=53881.0](http://action.apha.org/site/MessageViewer?dlv_id=58541&em_id=53881.0)

Newly developed tools are generating innovative solutions in communities across the country by guiding planners, architects, and public officials as they assess, forecast, and create healthy places. In this webinar, a panel of professional and academic leaders will discuss emerging tools for building bridges toward better health through the built environment. These tools include:

- The Georgia Institute of Technology's Atlanta Neighborhood Quality of Life and Health Dashboard
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's EnviroAtlas
- The Urban Land Institute's Building Healthy Places Toolkit

The following speakers will discuss these tools:

- **Nisha Botchwey**, PhD, MPH, MCRP, associate professor at the Georgia Tech School of City and Regional Planning
- **Laura Jackson**, PhD, research biologist at the EPA's Office of Research and Development
- **Sara Hammerschmidt**, senior research associate at the Urban Land Institute
Matthew Trowbridge, MD, MPH, assistant professor and associate research director at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, will moderate.

America Walks Taking Action at the Local Level Webinar Series (April and May 2015)  
http://americawalks.org/america-walks-launches-take-action-webinar-series/

The series “will target advocates and professionals working to build community and institutional support for walkable design. Each of the Webinars in this series will include a “Call to Action” - a specific task for webinar participants all over the country to complete, that will move the needle at the local community level.”

Funding Opportunities

National Public Transportation/Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Technical Assistance Initiative (deadline April 10, 2015)  
http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13077_16298.html

The Federal Transit Administration funding opportunity provides technical assistance for transit-oriented development activities around public transportation stations, including technical assistance to economically distressed communities across the country.

Community Health Projects Related to Contamination at Brownfield/Land Reuse Sites (deadline May 29, 2015)  
https://extranet.acf.hhs.gov/hhsgrantsforecast/index.cfm?switch=grant.view&gff_grants_for ecastInfoID=100000486

“The purpose of the Community Health Projects “is to increase responsive public health actions by promoting healthy and safe environments and preventing harmful exposures related to contamination at Brownfield/Land Reuse Sites....These projects will have a particular emphasis on identifying health issues prior to redevelopment and/or assessing changes in community health associated with reuse plans and redevelopment.”

Job and Fellowship Openings

Director of Research and Partnerships, Conservation Law Foundation Ventures, Boston, MA (no deadline)  
http://www.clf.org/about-clf/employment-opportunities/#clfv-rp-director

Healthy Community Design Program Analyst, National Association of County and City Health Officials (no deadline)  
http://careers.naccho.org/jobs/6802219/program-analyst-hcd

The Prevention Institute maintains a current list of public health and built environment job openings.  
http://www.preventioninstitute.org/about-us/jobs-a-internships.html

Opinions Around the World
How Parks Support More Active and Equitable Communities, by Center for Active Design (Center for Active Design, no date)

http://centerforactivedesign.org/parksandequity

“Given the health benefits of green spaces, it is critical for communities to strive for more equitable access for all residents.”

How Not to Evaluate Public Transit Risks, by Todd Litman (Planetizen, March 5, 2015)


“My research indicates that public transit investments can provide large community-wide safety benefits. Public transit travel has about a tenth the per passenger-mile traffic fatality rate as automobile travel, and total (pedestrian, cyclist, transit passenger, and automobile occupant) per capita traffic fatality rates tend to decline as transit ridership increases in a community.”


“For those that simply care about improving the quality-of-life in their neighborhoods, irrespective of their attachment to the school district, there is no question that a beautified schoolyard, designed as a multi-generational gathering place, can play an important role.”

Book Review

Zoned in the USA: The Origins and Implications of American Land-Use Regulation, by Sonja Hirt (reviewed by Josh Stevens; Planetizen, March 4, 2015)


“German planners apply the ‘daily needs test,’ in which even residential zones are punctuated by small-scale retail establishments and offices that meet the essential everyday needs of a local neighborhood (bakeries, cafes, doctors’ offices).’ In the United States, you have to get in your car to get your streusel because ‘no similar discretion is embedded in contemporary American zoning.’”

News

Subtle (and Not-so-Subtle) Ways your City Affects your Health (Urbanful, September 2, 2014)

https://urbanful.org/2014/09/02/subtle-subtle-ways-city-affects-health/?utm_source=Urbanful+Primary+List&utm_campaign=6f43fe9b86-
Built environment factors such as intersections, water fountains, and display advertising can affect your health and the health of your neighbors.

**Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments** (The White House, February 19, 2015)


The “Every Kid in a Park” initiative will provide all fourth grade students and their families with free admission to National Parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year.

**This Aspiring Urban Planner Is Making Waves in Florida** (City Lab, March 2, 2015)

http://www.citylab.com/politics/2015/03/this-aspiring-urban-planner-is-making-waves-in-florida/386210/?utm_source=SFFB

“Most 15-year-olds don’t spend their spare time studying walkability and public housing. Dylan Gentile is not most 15-year-olds.”

**USDA Announces $97 Million Available to Expand Access to Healthy Food, Support Rural Economies** (U.S. Department of Agriculture, March 16, 2015)


“$96.8 million in grants [are available] to fund innovative projects designed to support specialty crop producers, local food entrepreneurs, and farm to school efforts, which in turn will increase access to healthy, nutritious food for American families and children. The announcement is part of USDA efforts during National Nutrition Month to focus on improving access to fresh, healthy, and nutritious products for millions of Americans.”

**Journal Articles**


A health impact assessment (HIA) is a tool that can be used to inform transportation planners of the potential health consequences of their decisions. Although dozens of transportation-related HIAs have been completed in the United States, the characteristics of these HIAs and the interactions between public health professionals and transportation decision makers in these HIAs have not been documented. A master list of complete HIAs was used to identify transportation-related HIAs. Seventy-three transportation related HIAs conducted in 22 states between 2004 and 2013 were identified. The HIAs were conducted for projects such as road redevelopments, bridge replacements, and development of trails and public transit. Policies
such as road pricing, transit service levels, speed limits, complete streets, and safe routes to schools were also assessed. Five HIAs in which substantial interactions between public health and transportation professionals took place during and after the HIA were examined in detail and included HIAs of the road pricing policy in San Francisco, California; a bridge replacement in Seattle, Washington; new transit lines in Baltimore, Maryland, and Portland, Oregon; and the BeltLine transit, trails, and parks project in Atlanta, Georgia. Recommendations from the HIAs led to changes in decisions in some cases and helped to raise awareness of health issues by transportation decision makers in all cases. HIAs are now used for many topics in transportation. The range of involvement of transportation decision makers in the conduct of HIAs varies. These case studies may serve as models for the conduct of future transportation-related HIAs, because the involvement of transportation agencies may increase the likelihood that an HIA will influence subsequent decisions.


“This research paper proposes a new planning paradigm for healthcare called Health District Planning. A Health District is a place where investments are targeted to improve population health outcomes and to inspire healthy behaviors. Best practices from various case studies, and related evidence from public health and healthy community design research is synthesized into a four-part framework—the 4 P’s of Health District Planning: (i) population health, (ii) place, (iii) partnerships, and (iv) performance. The goal is to offer a guideline for planning the Health Districts of the future.”

http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd12.140376  
http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2015/14_0376.htm

Introduction: The Center for Community Health and Evaluation conducted a 3-year evaluation to assess results of health impact assessments (HIAs) in the United States and to identify elements critical for their success.

Methods: The study used a retrospective, mixed-methods comparative case study design, including a literature review; site visits; interviews with investigators, stakeholders, and decision makers for 23 HIAs in 16 states that were completed from 2005 through 2013; and a Web-based survey of 144 HIA practitioners.

Results: Analysis of interviews with decision makers suggests HIAs can directly influence decisions in non-health-related sectors. HIAs may also influence changes beyond the decision target, build consensus and relationships among decision makers and their constituents, and give community members a stronger voice in decisions that affect them. Factors that may increase HIA success include care in choosing a project or policy to be examined’ selecting an appropriate team to conduct the HIA; engaging stakeholders and decision makers throughout the process; crafting clear, actionable recommendations; delivering timely, compelling messages to appropriate audiences; and using multiple dissemination methods. Challenges to successful HIAs include underestimating the level of effort required, political changes during the conduct of the HIA, accessing relevant local data, engaging vulnerable populations, and following up on recommendations.
**Conclusion:** Results of this study suggest HIAs are a useful tool to promote public health because they can influence decisions in non-health-related sectors, strengthen cross-sector collaborations, and raise awareness of health issues among decision makers.

**New and Notable Reports/Resources**

The Society of Practitioners of Public Health Impact Assessment (SOPHIA). Model HIA Reports
http://hiasociety.org/?page_id=57

SOPHIA’s Living Library is a repository of model Health Impact Assessment (HIA) reports for practitioners seeking above-average HIA reports as a reference and those who are unfamiliar with HIA and want to understand what a high-caliber HIA report product might look like. Periodically, the Living Library committee, comprised of HIA practitioners, invites submissions of well-done HIA reports from recent years. The committee uses a standard selection tool to review reports and selects ones that they feel to be of sufficient high quality and excellent examples of HIA practice. The Library now contains 18 model reports.

The Landscape Architecture Foundation

- The Landscape Performance Series Fast Fact Library is a searchable collection of landscape benefits derived from published research. Each includes a citation and links to the full article when available.
  http://landscapeperformance.org/fast-fact-library
- The Landscape Performance Series Case Study Briefs are a searchable database of more than 100 exemplary built projects with quantified environmental, economic, and social benefits. The Case Study Briefs are produced by the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF), working in conjunction with designers and/or academic research teams to assess performance and document each project.
  http://landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs


The toolkit outlines evidence-supported opportunities for enhancing health outcomes in real estate developments.

American Public Health Association. Transportation and Health Toolkit
http://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/transportation/transportation-and-health-toolkit

“This [American Public Health Association] toolkit is an attempt to build a bridge between the public health and transportation communities, to create a common language for use by public health advocates that ensures our voices are heard by those who need to hear them.”

http://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/PROMOTINGEQUITYHIA_FINAL.PDF
“This report serves as a primer to demonstrate: 1) how HIA practitioners and equity advocates can ensure that the practice of HIA maintains a strong focus on promoting equity; and 2) how HIA can be used as a tool to support equitable decision-making processes and outcomes.”

“And from the bitterness of disease man learns the sweetness of health.”

— Catalan Proverb

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