California Local Public Health Laboratory Network

• Population 39.56 million
• Area 163,696 square miles
• 61 Local Health Jurisdictions
• 29 Local Public Health Labs + 1 State Lab
• Public Health Laboratory activities have been regulated since 1940s; requirements predate CLIA
CA and CLIA Laboratory Director Requirements

CA PHLD must possess all of the following:

• Doctoral degree
• National board certification
  – 2 years supervisory experience in high-complexity testing
  – Administrative and technical board exam
• Post-baccalaureate level PHM certificate
• Four years of PHL work experience
History of LabAspire

• Collaboration between UCLA, UC Davis, UC Berkeley, CAPHLD, and CCLHO
• Funded by CDPH DCDC from 2006-2012
  – 15 alumni, including:
    • 7 PHL directors
    • 1 assistant PHL director
    • 2 hospital directors
    • 1 UCLA faculty member
    • numerous microbiologists working in public health
• 18 trainees in the pipeline to become PHL directors when funding for this program vanished in 2012 due to state budget shortfalls.
California's Public Health Laboratory Director Crisis
LabAspire II - Proposed Mechanism

Competitive annual awards through CDPH-OSPHLD

• Candidates & sponsoring LPHLs re-apply each year
• Quarterly progress reports required to continue funding
• Flexible to accommodate candidates who can complete requirements sooner
• PHEP funding through counties to save overhead
Candidates meeting training and/or experience requirements

- Must already have PHM certification
- PhDs with PHL employment who need supervisory experience ➤ Fellowship for Supervisor- or Assistant Director-level salary
- Experienced PHL managers/supervisors with MS who are accepted into new APHL-USF DrPH program ➤ Fellowship for DrPH tuition
Rebuilding LabAspire II

- Received 1st year grant of $522,588 and annual commitment of $322,000
- 10 Fellows @ $18,000-$93,000 each/year
- 1 Program Coordinator @ $22,190/year
- Equipment, supplies and technology to update state training facility first year only
Obstacles

• Jurisdictions can’t create or get BOS approval for PHLAD or other supervisory positions, even with 100% funding

• Board organizations will only accept specific majors and areas of PhD study

• ABMM requirement: years of laboratory training and experience only counted after PhD

• CDPH not able to host Program Coordinator; must be hired through local jurisdiction
LabAspire II
2017-2019

- Fellowship in progress
- Fellowship completed
- Other succession plan
LabAspire Fellows

Lydia Mikhail
OCPHL

Shantelle Lucas
SMCPHL

Brandon Bonin
SCCPHL

Harmeet Kaur
SCPHL

Stephanie Trammell
SFDPHL

Kristina Hsieh
CDPH

Jeremy Corrigan
HCPHL

Pepper Stockton
SCPHL

Denise Lopez
TCPHL

Beatrix Kapusinszky
NSYMPHL
Successes

• Years 1 & 2 - 10 fellowship positions funded
• First 2 alumni already working as PHLDs
• 2 additional alumni passed ABB PHLD exams
• Monthly state-wide web broadcast of Leadership Lectures on PHLD topics
• Fellows support network and study groups for board exams
Future directions

• Expand fellowship criteria to include candidates earlier on career path
• Seek funding to add pre-doctoral training
• Continue to partner with APHL and USF on PHL-specific DrPH program
• Encourage alumni to become mentors
Questions?