Planning & HIA

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Introduction to APA

- Serving 43,000 members
- Publications
- Conferences, Webinars, Local trainings

- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
  - Functional areas that relate to health:
    - Environmental planning
    - Food system planning
National Centers for Planning

- 3 Centers
  - Hazards Planning Research Center
  - Green Communities Research Center
  - Planning & Community Health Research Center

- Research, Education, and Policy
  - Conduct research on best practices
  - Provide training and technical assistance
  - Inform planning and public policy at local, state, and national levels

- Multi-disciplinary and Collaborative Approach
  - Work with partner organizations and federal agencies to develop and disseminate material
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Priority Issues

Planning for:

- Active living and physical activity
- Access to healthy food and good nutrition
- Aging population and people with disabilities
- Education for future planners and health professionals
- Environmental health
- Environmental justice and social equity
- Healthy community design
- Schools
- Social cohesion and mental health
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**Current Projects**

- Evaluation of comprehensive and sustainability plans for inclusion of:
  - General public health goals, policies and implementation mechanisms
  - Food systems, security and access
What HIA does for Planning

- Increases awareness among planners about the built environment-health connection
- Demonstrates impact of land use decision making
- Builds capacity for planners to include health promoting elements in plans that may otherwise be sidelined
- Diversifies stakeholder involvement: Citizens maintain the most power to influence government

- HIA should be required for policies or projects? Not really.
Challenges

- Unevenly applied
- HIA is reactive
- Struggle with how to move beyond HIA toward including health in process from the beginning

New tool

- Health in Planning Checklist – in development with CDC
- For use with community engagement
APA Contributions to HIA

- October 2011 issue of Zoning Practice: “The Effective Use of Health Impact Assessment in Land-Use Decision Making”
  - Emphasis on local decision making for specific populations
  - HIA as improving participatory and evidence-based approach to planning
  - Roles of planners and HIA: Educate public officials; Guide or influence development and land use decisions; Strengthen plans through maximizing health benefits

- Free 6 hour on-line training course structured for planners
APA’s free online HIA training course

- Modules cover Screening, Scoping, Assessment, Recommendations, Reporting, Evaluation
- Includes planning related case examples and potential scenarios for applying HIA in planning work

- Why people are taking the course:
  - Integrate HIA into the comprehensive planning process
  - Integrate into the project development process
  - Use HIA to form a relationship with the public health department;
    Use HIA to form a relationship with the planning department
  - Integrate HIA into the rezoning process
  - Lead an HIA on projects in the planning department / in the public health department
APA’s free online HIA training course

- Course evaluations: Very positive

- Most agree HIA is relevant to their work and community

- Most agree: “This program introduced me to new ideas or provoked me to think more critically about planning.”

- Many agree: “The benefits of Health Impact Assessment outweigh any monetary and or time cost.”
Baltimore Red Line – 2008

- 14-mile transit line – [light rail]
- East-west line will create a system with two existing rail lines
- Route will connect directly to major employment centers and downtown
- “Reunite east and west”
Baltimore Red Line HIA

- **Red Line Community Compact**: Defining the Success of the Baltimore’s Red Line Transit Project

- Collaborative agreement among City & State agencies, non-profit/private entities and community groups

- Sets specific goals & strategies
  - Making the Red Line Green: water, energy, green space, health & safety

- Impetus for undertaking HIA
Baltimore Red Line HIA

- Submitted as comment to DEIS
- Premise: Red Line will improve health
- How can we maximize positive health impacts?
- Analysis and Recommendations for:
  - Improve air quality
  - Improve accessibility and connectivity to services and opportunities for physical activity
  - Mitigate construction issues
Baltimore Red Line HIA - Implementation

- City-driven through the Compact process—Health & Environment Sub-committee

- Partners from Health Dept, Planning Dept, Baltimore Medical Systems, Parks & People Foundation

- Developed set of *Green Design Guidelines*

- Refining and producing recommendations for specific locations/areas
Baltimore Red Line HIA - Challenges

- Scoping the project
- Initial unfamiliarity with engineering/planning documents
- Getting the right information; Quantitative v. Qualitative

Implementation:
- Keeping health at forefront
- Coordination - Sub-committee no longer meets
- Funding for “extras” – e.g. bike facilities, trees/landscaping, corridor enhancements
Thanks!

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www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health