

Inaugural National Health Impact Assessment Meeting

APRIL 3-4, 2012 | WASHINGTON D.C.

Inaugural National Health Impact Assessment Meeting Abstract Form

The Inaugural National Health Impact Assessment Meeting planning committee is seeking abstracts for **Poster Sessions, Oral Presentations, Breakfast Round Table Topics, Working Group Topics** or **Full Session Topics**. Abstracts should address the conference objectives outlined below.

Meeting Objectives

- Introduce public health professionals and others new to HIA to the appropriate applications, methods and challenges involved in HIA.
- Provide a forum for HIA practitioners to showcase their work through in-depth presentations, as well as learn from each other and experts in related disciplines through discussions on topics of current interest.
- Introduce decision makers outside the health sector to HIA, its appropriate applications, and resources for applying HIA in their fields of interest.

You are invited to submit abstracts for any of the above presentation opportunities. **Abstracts are due by no later than 8:00pm ET on Wednesday, January 18, 2012.** Submitters/presenters will be notified of the selected abstracts by early February, 2012. The registration fee will be waived for all speakers/presenters, but you are otherwise expected to cover your own travel expenses. Limited travel scholarships are available, however, and you are welcome to submit a scholarship application if financial support is needed.

Please complete this form with as much detail as possible. A concise description of your presentation idea will help the conference planning committee to understand the purpose and value of the discussions you propose. Enter your responses in the gray boxes that are provided in each section.

The Inaugural National HIA Meeting offers five different formats for presentations. You may submit an abstract for more than one of these formats:

- **Poster Sessions** – dedicated time during the meeting for presenters to network and showcase completed HIAs, work in progress, or research relevant to the field.
- **Oral Presentations** – both plenary (whole audience) and concurrent (breakout group) presentation formats are available. Particularly important or competitive proposals may be selected for plenary sessions. Presenters in the plenary or concurrent breakout sessions will serve on a panel of up to four speakers on related topics and deliver brief (10-15 minute) presentations. Moderated Q&A with the audience will follow oral presentations.
- **Breakfast Round Table Topics** – informal facilitated conversations of 10 to 20 people on topics of current interest to the field. Round Table topic discussions will be facilitated by the person who submits the abstract. If you do not wish to facilitate, please name up to two facilitators and provide contact information below.

- **Working Group Topics** – concurrent Working Group sessions will allow people interested in a specific topic to come together, share their questions/challenges, and through facilitated discussion, brainstorm solutions together. Your submission must include the names of the people who would serve as facilitators for the session.
- **Full Session Topics** – Proposals for full plenary or concurrent sessions are welcome. Full sessions consist of a group of speakers who will address different aspects of the session’s topic or theme. A variety of topics and formats are acceptable. We will look for cross-cutting topics and encourage innovative session formats that optimize interaction and a deep level of audience engagement.

1. Please indicate which option you are submitting an abstract for by clicking on the appropriate box below. (If you are submitting for more than one presentation opportunity, please submit separate abstract forms for each):

- Poster Presentation Oral Presentation Breakfast Round Table Topic
 Working Group Topic Full Session Topic

2. Poster/Presentation/Session Title (up to 15 words): Health Impact Assessment as a Tool for Community Engagement and Improved Decision Making

3. Description - Please write a short description of the proposed presentation or session (up to 500 words for full session proposals, up to 250 words for all other presentation formats). When proposing a full session, please describe the session theme and the proposed format for the session, and provide brief summaries of the topic and speaker for each individual talk.

We seek presentations that address themes and topics that are of particular importance to the field. For example, we would consider sessions that focus on:

- A particular sector (such as such as planning, transportation, housing, food and agriculture, energy, environment, and education policy);
- An important theme or challenge in the field (such as practice standards, laws and policies for institutionalization; stakeholder engagement; or vulnerable populations and health equity);
- Methodological approaches (such as quantitative analysis; communications strategies for effective dissemination, etc.; or
- Presentations that are of particular interest to new HIA practitioners or agency and legislative staff at all levels of government and may be used in the HIA 101 or Policymaker Tracks respectively.

******Please Note:** presentation description will be published in the conference program for participants.

Research over the past decade has revealed a robust relationship between the physical environment and public health. Various characteristics of built, food, and socio-economic environments are known to act as “drivers” of public health outcomes, such as physical activity, obesity, lung disease, and collisions and injuries .

In countless communities across the country, the burden of chronic disease is borne inequitably with low-income populations shouldering a majority of the obesity, asthma, and diabetes rates. Given the economic and equity issues related to chronic disease and its relationship with our physical environments, analyzing the health impacts of a proposed development is a key component of sustainable communities that provide equitable access to all including sensitive populations.

Major land use and transportation decisions frequently trigger an analysis of the environmental impacts of the potential decision, culminating in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Statement (EIS). However,

there are few, or in some instances no, opportunities to directly and explicitly analyze the health impacts of a specific proposal through existing environmental review processes.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is gaining ground as a way to make the health impacts of a specific decision explicit. Analyzing impacts on metrics such as walkability/bikability, access to affordable housing, air pollution, employment, and pedestrian/vehicle collisions, HIA is an effective tool for comparing community health priorities against a proposed development.

In addition to being an effective analysis tool, HIAs play an equally critical role in community engagement and capacity building. Conducted in partnership with community stakeholders, the HIA provides a mechanism for analyzing proposals based on stakeholder needs and priorities. By explicitly quantifying the health impacts of a proposed decision, the HIA also builds the capacity of advocates to engage and participate in otherwise highly technical planning processes.

This session will examine the role of HIA as a tool for community engagement, capacity building, and ultimately improved decision making in two different projects in the U.S.

Pilar Lorenzana-Campo will share outcomes from a HIA conducted around the proposed transit oriented development plan for an existing BART transit station in the Chinatown neighborhood of Oakland, California. Developed in close partnership with local CBOs, the HIA served as a tool that quantified the health impacts of the proposed development against community priorities while helping to shape the evolution of the final plan.

Ruth Lindberg, Madeleine Shea, and Cliff Mitchell will discuss an HIA that is currently underway in Maryland to examine the potential health impacts of a proposed Baltimore-Washington Rail Intermodal Facility aimed at increasing the amount of long distance freight cargo moved on rail. Ms. Lindberg will discuss efforts to use the HIA as a tool to ensure that the concerns of each of the four potentially impacted communities are considered in the formal environmental review of the project. Dr. Shea and Dr. Mitchell will discuss ways in which the HIA is strengthening collaborations among state-level health and transportation agencies and community organizations, with the ultimate aim of embedding health as a core value in future transportation decision making in the state.

4. Presenter/Facilitator Qualifications (limit 100 words per presenter/facilitator):

- a. If your proposed presentation opportunity is a Breakfast Round Table Topic, please list up to two proposed facilitators: their names and the specific perspective or expertise each brings to the table.
- b. If your proposed presentation opportunity is a Working Group Topic, please list your proposed facilitators: their names, expertise, and the specific role each will play in the session.
- c. If your proposed presentation opportunity is a Full Session Topic, please list your proposed ensemble of speakers/facilitators: their names, expertise, and the specific role each will play in the session.

1. Pilar Lorenzana-Campo, MEP is a senior associate in planning and development for PHLP's Planning for Healthy Places program. Ms. Lorenzana-Campo oversees a coalition working on the Lake Merritt Station Area Plan Health Impact Assessment. The coalition developed an HIA framework that analyzing the transportation; housing; business and employment; parks and open spaces; and public safety impacts of the proposed transit oriented development in Oakland Chinatown. The project, anticipated to be completed in February 2012, has enabled public advocates to engage in the highly technical land use/transportation planning decision making process. The final proposed station area plan, to be adopted in April 2012, is expected to reflect policy recommendations that reflect HIA findings.

2. Ruth Lindberg, MPH, MUP is a Program Manager with the National Center for Healthy Housing. Ms. Lindberg serves as the project manager for NCHH's HIA of the proposed Baltimore-Washington Rail Intermodal Facility. Her presentation will focus on the community engagement aspects of the HIA, with particular emphasis on efforts to ensure that the concerns of each of the four potentially impacted communities are heard and responded to through the formal environmental review process of the project.

3. Dr. Cliff Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH is the Assistant Director for Environmental Health and Food Protection at

the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and has expertise in environmental health and risk assessment. Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Shea (see below) will discuss their perspective on the role HIA can play in strengthening collaborations with state-level transportation agencies and community organizations.

4. Dr. Madeleine Shea, Ph.D. is the Director of the Office of Population Health Improvement at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In addition to her current partnership on the Baltimore-Washington Rail Intermodal Facility HIA, Dr. Shea previously conducted an HIA of the Baltimore zoning code rewrite to maximize the potential for the recode to prevent obesity and other adverse health outcomes and reduce inequities in these outcomes among children and adolescents in Baltimore. Dr. Shea and Dr. Mitchell (see above) will discuss their perspective on the role HIA can play in strengthening collaborations with state-level transportation agencies and community organizations.

5. Please list at least three specific learning objectives for your proposed presentation option. If submitting for a Working Group Topic or Full Session Topic/Format, please be sure to note any specific planned activities that may enhance your learning objectives. ******Please Note:** learning objectives will be published in the conference program for participants:

1. In addition to improving land use and transportation decisions in their communities through an HIA, participants will also learn how to maximize the tool to achieve other goals such as a cohesive community vision and as a participatory planning tool.
2. Participants will understand how other communities have leveraged transit oriented developments in their communities to achieve co-benefits in health, sustainability, and affordable housing, to name a few.
3. Participants will learn how HIAs can be used as a tool to foster collaboration among health, transportation, and community agencies and ensure health is considered more explicitly during formal environmental review processes.

6. Why is this presentation/breakout session topic particularly relevant and timely? (up to 150 words)

HIA is a critical, but relatively new, tool for improved transportation planning. This session is timely in providing insights and models for incorporating community priorities and health concerns into traditional transportation planning processes. This session will also highlight the ways in which HIA can strengthen collaborations among state and local transportation, planning, and health agencies in order to integrate health as a core consideration in future transportation decisions.

7. Presenter Contact Information (Please complete for all presenters/co-facilitators):

Name: Pilar Lorenzana-Campo

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Co-Presenter Contact Information (if applicable)

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Co-Presenter Contact Information (if applicable)

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Co-Presenter Contact Information (if applicable)

Name: Dr. Madeleine Shea

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9. Submitter Contact Information:

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Deadline: Abstracts are due by no later than 8:00pm ET on Wednesday, January 18, 2012.

Please send proposals with the subject line: Inaugural National HIA Meeting Sessions Abstracts

Attention: Tiffanie Sherrer, National Network of Public Health Institutes

E-mail: tsherrer@nnphi.org

Submitters/presenters will be notified of the selected abstracts by early February, 2012.

***The meeting sponsors make every effort to comply with federal, state and local government ethics rules when hosting events. Please make sure that your participation is consistent with applicable ethics rules.*