

## **Program Element #27: Outbreak Investigation Curriculum Development Services (OHSU only)**

1. **Description.** Funds provided under this Agreement for this Program Element must only be used, in accordance with and subject to the requirements and limitations set forth below, to increase the number of physicians and other public health professionals with experience and/or skills in epidemiologic disease investigations and data analysis.

A disease outbreak investigation course shall be offered by Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) to train students in the methods and procedures used in disease outbreak investigations. OHSU shall offer the training course for three terms during the period of July 1, 2007 through June 2008 and shall hold the class at least two (2) times during this period. OHSU must:

- a. provide training and real life disease outbreak investigation experience for students enrolled in the Outbreak Investigation course,
- b. develop a database that will provide tracking of students who have completed the Outbreak Investigation course, OHSU faculty, and matriculated students, to serve as an ancillary pool of trained disease investigators in the event that additional workers are needed for surge capacity to respond to a public health or bioterrorist emergency, and
- c. write procedures for reaching the ancillary pool of disease investigators and contact other schools in Oregon that offer training in public health for the purpose of recruiting additional students and faculty. OHSU shall also work with DHS to develop job action sheets for the disease investigators.

## 2. **Procedural and Operational Requirements.**

- a. **Staffing Requirements and Staff Qualifications.** OHSU shall provide a .5 FTE to coordinate OHSU staff with marketing and activities for the developed course and faculty time as necessary to complete the requirements of Section 2.b.i. of this Program Element. This staff shall assist with marketing, identifying, coordinating and tracking students, including coordination and scheduling sessions of Communicable Diseases (CD) in Oregon to complete the requirements of Section 2.b.ii. of this Program Element. Additionally, this staff shall write a procedure for contacting students and faculty, work with DHS to write job action sheets, and shall contact other Oregon schools offering public health training for the purpose of recruiting additional disease investigators as outlined in Section 2.b.iii. of this Program Element.
- b. **General Requirements.**
  - i. **Curriculum Support Services.**
    - (A.) OHSU must offer an Outbreak Investigation course 3 times between July 1, 2007 through June 2008 for Masters of Public Health (MPH) and Medical Doctor – Masters of Public Health (MD-MPH) students with credits toward the MPH degree, which will train students in public health investigation methods

and in particular, in the conduct of infectious disease outbreaks. Training must include:

- (1.) update of the curriculum as required,
- (2.) update of study plans as required, and
- (3.) modification of materials for the Outbreak Investigation course as required.

(B.) OHSU's .5 FTE must provide marketing and activities to include:

- (1.) maintenance of procedures and formats for maintaining rosters and registries of students,
- (2.) maintenance of a database to be populated with data on faculty and matriculated students,
- (3.) provide database fields and data dictionary to DHS for review and comments by August 29, 2008, and
- (4.) support the ongoing course with scheduling special training sessions, including DHS and OHSU sessions, and with special reading material as required by the course instructors.

**ii. Training Services.**

(A.) OHSU must provide a course for MPH and MD-MPH students with credits toward the MPH degree, which will train students in:

- (1.) public health investigation methods,
- (2.) the conduct of infectious disease outbreaks (referred to as the Outbreak Investigations course), and
- (3.) common infectious disease concerns following natural and environmental disasters.

(B.) OHSU's .5 FTE Coordinator must:

- (1.) assist OHSU faculty by marketing, identifying, coordinating and tracking students, including coordination and scheduling sessions of CD in Oregon for OHSU students with the state's training program,
- (2.) ensure that students register, complete course prerequisites and attend the course offered by DHS through the Preparedness Training and Education Program prior to participating in actual outbreak investigations at DHS. This course is CD in Oregon, Communicable Disease Investigation and Control in Oregon. Coordinator must also ensure that students have worked through the three CD ROMs provided by DHS entitled Botulism in Argentina, E.coli O157 in Michigan and Gastroenteritis in Texas. The coordinator must supply quarterly an electronic excel spreadsheet with the first and last names of course participants (in separate fields), agency, address, telephone number, pager number, fax number, and current email address, and

- (3.) ensure that students will actively participate by monitoring student performance in outbreak investigations with supervision provided by DHS epidemiology staff. Activities students are expected to participate or assist in include:
  - (a.) receipt of disease reports,
  - (b.) consultation with local health departments, laboratories and other partners,
  - (c.) design of questionnaires, case finding, data entry and analysis,
  - (d.) assist in the development of appropriate public health interventions,
  - (e.) complete outbreak forms, write outbreak reports,
  - (f.) attend wrap up sessions to report the day's activities,
  - (g.) maintain for five years, an up-to-date registry of students who are currently enrolled in or have completed the outbreak investigations course, so as to enable rapid notification and deployment of trained investigators in the event of an emergent need,
  - (h.) maintain a registry for five years of untrained faculty and students, both past and current, interested in assisting with epidemiological investigations in the event of public health emergency and communicate opportunities for interested students to participate in the Outbreak Investigation course, and
  - (i.) ensure that enrolled students are available by pager in the event that a public health need arises.

(C.) OHSU faculty must:

- (1.) provide academic supervision and oversight of the progress of students enrolled in the Outbreak Investigations course,
- (2.) hold weekly reading and review seminars with students during their enrollment in the course related to epidemiologic theory and methods used in outbreak investigations, and
- (3.) organize students into operative teams, so that at least one team member can be contacted via a pager or cell phone to participate in the investigation of emergent public health problems 24 hours, seven days per week.

**iii. Planning Services.**

- (A.) OHSU must write standard operating procedures for contacting OHSU surge capacity investigators in the event of a public health emergency and in conjunction with DHS, develop job action sheets for the workers. OHSU must contact other schools that offer instruction in public health for the purpose of recruiting more possible disease investigators. Procedures must include:
  - (1.) standard operating procedures for contacting students and faculty,
  - (2.) job action sheets for the disease investigators, and

(3.) recruitment of prospective disease investigators from other colleges or universities that offer public health instruction for the purpose of expanding the availability of surge capacity.

(B.) OHSU's .5 FTE Coordinator must:

(1.) write standard operating procedures for contacting students and faculty,

(2.) in conjunction with DHS, write job action sheets for the disease investigators, and

(3.) write a brief report outlining activities related to recruitment of disease investigators from other Oregon colleges and universities

3. **Reporting Requirements.** OHSU will provide DHS with a printout of the database in compliance with all applicable confidentiality regulations on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March of every year.