

CSTE LEAD Newsletter - October 2021

[View this email in your browser](#)

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

CSTE LEAD: Leading Epidemiologists, Advancing Data

October 2021 Newsletter

Welcome to the CSTE LEAD newsletter! CSTE LEAD: Leading Epidemiologists, Advancing Data provides a 12-month leadership program for mid-career epidemiologists. Program goals for LEAD are to: 1) Enhance the applied epidemiology workforce and 2) Develop leaders for CSTE activities. We hope you'll enjoy this first issue of the LEAD newsletter!

LEADers in Action

Dan Drociuk (SC) is an infectious disease epidemiologist with the Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology who has been serving as that Intelligence Branch Chief in the Agency COVID Coordination Center to support South Carolina's ongoing response to COVID-19. As part of the command and general staff (CGS), Dan works with several data/intel-related public health functions to include the analysis and visualization of COVID data and provides updates to Agency Incident Command System (ICS) staff and leadership at CGS meetings and in various workgroups outside of the ICS structure.

Dan works with colleagues to identify what data can be collected and how to appropriately interpret the data to understand how the disease is affecting communities across the state. His work has allowed him to represent the epidemiology perspective in policy discussions, interagency planning and response and sharing of information for public use. Dan has contributed to an after-action review and voiced the importance of the need for data modernization activities to allow for public health surveillance data to be better understood within the context of an emerging infectious disease outbreak.

While data modernization activities will affect how epidemiologists receive, analyze

and visualize data, it will also require education of colleagues and partners to clearly define and describe the limitations of the data to protect patient confidentiality, while also being as transparent as possible. Based on his experience, Dan suggests to others leading cross-disciplinary teams to be as proactive as possible in providing education about what can (and cannot) be inferred from public health surveillance data when opportunities arise, compromise when possible, and to be good stewards of the data entrusted to public health.

Call for nominations – If you would like to share the work of a LEAD participant and/or LEAD project team in future newsletters, email Jessica Arrazola at JArrazola@cste.org.

Highlights

In July, the LEAD curriculum focused on strategic communications. In addition to learning about the [elements of a Strategic Communications Plan](#) and the [Seven C's of Communication](#), participants also learned how to [communicate effectively and consistently](#). The monthly call was led by Joli Weiss (AZ) who facilitated a case study discussion on the BioSense redesign from the perspective of stakeholder engagement and strategic communications. There was robust discussion on applying the concepts presented in the article to their work and CSTE LEAD projects.

Financial Planning was the focus of August's curriculum. Participants learned about [preparing](#) and [managing a budget](#). Ying Zhang (Southern Nevada Health District) facilitated a discussion on aligning financial resources and grant activities based on an [example of ELC and PHEP collaboration at the New Hampshire Department of Health](#). We intentionally shortened the case study discussion to allow for more project sharing and open discussion among participants.

Boundary Spanning Leadership was at the center of September's curriculum. Participants learned about [discovering their own authentic leadership style](#) and [qualities of inspirational leaders](#). Participants completed a [values exercise](#) and completed a [site visit](#) with a project stakeholder. The monthly call was a group coaching session, facilitated by our professionals coaches at Wolf & Heron on the topic of [curiosity](#). October's training materials focus on building change management skills. Dan Drocuik (SC) will lead a [case study](#) discussion and facilitate discussion to address [critical success factors](#) for change management approaches.

Announcements

- Save the date! The 2022 CSTE Annual Conference will be in Louisville, Kentucky, June 19-23, 2022. The call for abstracts opens Tuesday, November 2, 2021. For the latest information on the CSTE Annual Conference, visit <https://www.csteconference.org/>.

If you have feedback on our newsletters, we would like to hear from you. Let us know how we can best support your participation in the program. Email feedback to Jessica Arrazola at JArrazola@cste.org.



Facebook



Twitter



CSTE site



CSTE Conference

Copyright © 2021 The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, All rights reserved.