Evaluating Abstracts Exercise

NYSPHC Summit 2023 Theme: Building Partnerships that Strengthen Public Health: Systems, Infrastructure, Capacity and Equity

NYSPHC Summit 2023 Tracks: Administration; Communications Support; Emergency Preparedness; Epidemiology and Data Support; Laboratory Reporting; Partnership Development; Program Planning and Implementation; and Vaccination and Testing Site Support

Instructions: Please pretend that you are a reviewer for the NYSPHC Annual Summit with the theme and selection criteria described in the Call for Abstracts. How would you assess the following submissions? For each one, discuss how you might improve the abstract.

Abstract Example A

Title: Just-in-Time Training
Track: Program Planning and Implementation

We focus on community engaged research, education, and service by uniting people with diverse experience to anticipate, understand, and improve health issues locally, regionally, nationally, and beyond. One area of identified need is workforce capacity.

To address this, we launched capacity building programs to support community public health workers and expand the available workforce.

Public Health Essentials (PHE) is completed over a 20-week period. The program helps learners develop useful skills. PHE is currently being implemented with national and state practice partners, and their cohorts of current and future public health workers.

Applied just-in-time on-line training can increase capacity of non-formally-trained public health workers to be an active and instrumental part communities seeking to achieve health equity.

Abstract Review Form for Example A

1. **Purpose Score ____**
   - Explicitly stated, important topic, fits conference topics (3)
   - Purpose stated and related to conference theme (2)
   - Not explicitly stated but discernible, narrowly related to conference theme (1)
   - Unclear (0)

2. **Significance Score ____**
   - The abstract is clearly defined and relevant for the conference and submitted track (3)
   - Key issue of concern may be a pilot study or work in progress (2)
   - Not a key or innovative topic, weak results (1)
   - Unimportant issue (0)

3. **Originality Score ____**
   - Original work (new problem, solution or perspective) that does not duplicate previous work (3)
   - Replicates important work done by others (2)
   - Duplicates work done by others, without significant findings (1)
   - Old idea (0)

4. **Results/Discussion Score ____**
   - Topic/research will stimulate conversation at the conference. Likely to provide new knowledge (3)
   - Not well described but discernible (2)
   - Outcomes not clear (1)
   - Proposed study (0)

5. **Diversity Score ____**
   *** Please use the responses for question #1- 4 to assist with your final scoring determination for this item.*
   - The abstract aims to include (share) perspectives, information, or topics that speaks to the concepts of diversity (racial, gender, etc.), non-traditional populations (non-English speaking, disabled, etc.), or creates an opportunity for diversity questions and conversations to occur (3)
   - Abstract mentions concepts of diversity, however, does not explicitly mention how the overall presentation or topic will address or speak to diversity. (2)
   - Not Sure or the abstract does not address diversity. (1)

Total Score ____

Ideas for Improvement: _____
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Abstract Example B

Title: The New York State Public Health Corps Fellowship Program: From Planning to Practice
Track: Program Planning and Implementation

Government public health has been under-resourced, as experienced amidst COVID-19. In response, health departments innovated; New York State envisioned a Public Health Corps (NYSPHC). The innovative workforce development model, launched in 2021, recruits New Yorkers (Fellows) from their communities, and provides just-in-time training and capacity building to support success. Program goals include (1) equipping Fellows to work with/for local health departments (LHDs) to address COVID-19 and public health needs, and (2) developing a pipeline of skilled New Yorkers to enter the public health workforce. Through 2021, the NYSPHC engaged LHDs to develop shared understanding and buy-in, establish funding agreements, and identify mentors.

The NYSPHC Program funds and supports 1,000 Fellow positions in 57 counties for a 1-2 year period. Fellows with diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply, particularly those with passion to serve their communities and learn. All Fellows are enrolled in mandatory hands-on capacity building trainings related to public health's core functions and essential services, cultural responsiveness, community collaboration, and resilience-building (80 hours over 14-weeks via Cornell's Public Health Essentials (PHE)), and receive year-long mentorship from Program and LHD staff to build foundational public health skills and strong connections.

To launch the program, the NYSPHC invested in inclusive marketing and recruitment strategies with schools and communities, ensuring a diverse pool of applicant Fellows, as measured by education, experience, skills, interests, and demographics. Fellow applications have been robust, and the NYSPHC actively works with LHDs to match applicants, by geography (serving one's community), and by skills (to meet county needs). Fellows are active in PHE, and report statistically significant gains in abilities.

Since late 2021, new Fellows have been hired by counties each week, and the Program is active in all state regions filling needs related to addressing COVID-19, including vaccination, epidemiology, contact tracing, and community health education, as well as other areas impacted during the pandemic. Progressive evaluation will elucidate program impacts, both for community health and workforce replenishment and diversification.

Innovation and collaboration of state, academic, and local public health partners are building a pipeline of public health professionals to advance health equity in NYS.

Abstract Review Form for Example B

1. **Purpose Score _____**
   - Explicitly stated, important topic, fits conference topics (3)
   - Purpose stated and related to conference theme (2)
   - Not explicitly stated but discernible, narrowly related to conference theme (1)
   - Unclear (0)

2. **Significance Score _____**
   - The abstract is clearly defined and relevant for the conference and submitted track (3)
   - Key issue of concern may be a pilot study or work in progress (2)
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4. **Results/Discussion Score _____**
   - Topic/research will stimulate conversation at the conference. Likely to provide new knowledge (3)
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5. **Diversity Score _____**
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   - Abstract mentions concepts of diversity, however, does not explicitly mention how the overall presentation or topic will address or speak to diversity. (2)
   - Not Sure or the abstract does not address diversity. (1)

Total Score _____

Ideas for Improvement: _____
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