



Building Systems Thinking Capabilities in Public Health: Aligning Stakeholders for High Impact Action

Details

- **Date/time:** 10 am – 4:00 p.m., Monday April 22, 2018
- **Location:** Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport
- **Price:** \$35 for IPHA members // \$50 for non-members
- Pre-registration is required here: <https://www.iowapha.org/event-3262725>
- **Facilitators:** [Engaging Inquiry, LLC](#)

Description:

Public health professionals need concrete, actionable tools for aligning and engaging stakeholders to achieve high-impact action with the whole system in mind. Systems Practice provides a method to “gain clarity” on the system; pushing beyond the immediate problems to understand, and map, the patterns and relationships that enable, or inhibit, our vision for a healthy system. With this deep and comprehensive understanding of context, we are then able to identify key areas of leverage within the system, and the opportunities to monitor, learn, and adapt along the way.

This course is designed to facilitate learning through relevant, hands-on application of the tools, processes and mindsets essential for adopting systems thinking in public health. This technical and multi-modal training follows the system analysis and mapping approach pioneered by The Omidyar Group, with additional tools and expert guidance based on the deep experience of the facilitation team, Engaging Inquiry, LLC.

During the workshop, participants will work alongside fellow practitioners grappling with similar issues to execute a systems “sprint” which allows a brief, but end-to-end experience of the participatory Systems Practice that offers a strong foundation for collaboration, innovation, and impact.

Objectives:

- Empower public health leaders with the knowledge and language to communicate the value of implementing systems thinking strategies to achieve Public Health 3.0.
- Build skills through a practical application of the tools, processes and mindsets essential for public health practitioners grappling with the complex challenges of our time.
- Explore how a Dynamic System Map can be used to engage stakeholders across sectors and build transformative systemic strategy.

Key Activities:

- **Introduction to Systems Practice:** the why, what, and how.

Then, considering the question: “What accounts for the current ability of public health professionals to foster cross-sectorial partnerships capable of achieve whole-system impact?”

- **Explore Forces:** identify the *enablers* and *inhibitors* of a healthy system and group by theme.
- **Analyze Cause and Effect:** describe the diverse *upstream* causes and *downstream* effects of each theme.
- **Create Closed Loops:** look for areas where cause and effect feed into each other and capture these dynamics in *causal loops*.
- **Hypothesize High-Impact Action in the System:** explore a sample map to uncover the *patterns underneath the problems* and test how systemic strategy is built.
- **Throughout:** co-learning and collaboration with fellow practitioners.

Our Team

Karen Grattan is the **Founder and CEO** of Engaging Inquiry, LLC based in Fairfax, VA. Engaging Inquiry is a “purpose-built” company that focuses on facilitating organizational learning and adaptive leadership capacity in organizations working on some of the world’s most intractable problems. As a senior consultant with over 25 years of experience, Karen is best known for her practice of accompanying impact-focused organizations as they endeavor to stimulate sustainable social and organizational change at scale. She is a weaver of methods and approaches, and especially loves designing novel analytics embedded within participatory organizational processes.

Karen has supported various Non-Governmental and US Government clients in policy and strategy-making, including The Omidyar Group where she has been supporting the development of the systems practice being used by its initiative teams and board. She is co-author of the TOG Systems Practice workbook, which is also the centerpiece of a +Acumen course. She is Senior Fellow of Practice at the Institute for Human Security housed within the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Medford MA where she is helping to raise up the next generation of scholar practitioners who will champion human rights, social justice, and universal development for all people.

Bailey Goldman has spent her career at the intersection of public health research and practice, engaging community systems to support the best health outcomes for all, with particular consideration to the most vulnerable members of a population.

Bailey is passionate about health as a human rights issue and has worked across disciplines to improve community cohesion and reduce barriers to care. She has lead research and development initiatives in India, Peru, and Honduras, as well as within the United States. Most recently, Bailey worked as the Health Education Team Lead for a local Public Health Department serving two rural and economically disadvantaged counties in North Carolina. In this role, Bailey was responsible for grant acquisition and management, community health assessment, and providing strategic vision for the health department’s community-based initiatives. She facilitated a high-impact coalition of community leaders to achieve collective impact on systems influencing childhood obesity. She continues to support the agency’s Centering Pregnancy Program, which she initiated, engaging groups of pregnant moms to build health efficacy, confidence, and positive social supports.

Bailey earned a Master’s of Public Health from UNC-Chapel Hill’s Gillings School of Global Public Health in Maternal and Child Health. As the **Principal for Community Health Systems**, she accompanies teams as they grapple with complex social and environmental factors that result in differing health outcomes within a population.