

BUILDING SYSTEMS THINKING CAPABILITIES IN PUBLIC HEALTH: PRACTICAL APPLICATION IN ACTIVE LIFESTYLE INITIATIVES

Intended Audience

State and local public health practitioners.

Workshop Sessions

This training will take a multi-modal approach to facilitate capacity development within the constraints of a demanding role in public health practice. This includes the following touch-points, over an approximately 6 week period:

Three-Part Program

- Part 1: Pre-workshop Interactive Webinar – May 22, (8:00 to 9:00 a.m.)
- Part 2: 1.5 day Workshop at the John and Mary Pappajohn Education Center – Des Moines, Iowa June 5 (10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), & 6 (8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)
- Part 3: Free Follow Up Coaching - Date TBD
 - Post-Workshop Interactive Webinar –Date TBD

Course Objectives

- Build skills through a practical application of the tools, processes and mindsets essential for public health practitioners grappling with the complexity of supporting active lifestyles in a population.
- Create your own Dynamic System Map of the underlying patterns and relationships which enable or inhibit active lifestyles in your community.
- Use your map to engage stakeholders around a systemic understanding of the issue.
- Understand how a system map can be used to develop high leverage strategies capable of improving rates of healthy activity in your community.

Description

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 offeror, Engaging Inquiry, LLC.

Participants will work alongside fellow practitioners grappling with the same issue to: identify key forces, analyze cause and effect, create causal loops, build a dynamic system map, and discuss next steps for developing a comprehensive systemic strategy. At the end of the training, participants will have built practical skills for employing the Systems Practice approach, powerful tools and strategies (including their own dynamic systems map) to tackle the complexities of improving rates of physical activity, and a clear path forward for identifying high-leverage opportunities to move the system towards greater health.

Facilitators: [Engaging Inquiry, LLC](#)

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 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.

What People Are Saying

“The decision to work with Engaging Inquiry to adopt a systemic approach to addressing the current level of Adverse Childhood Experiences in our community has transformed our organization. They taught us how to apply a systems process, built our ability to map systems, and worked side-by-side with us to engage our community throughout. Through working with Engaging Inquiry we’ve built a working systems map, identified leverage points, and built a systemic strategy that can be used by our community to reduce the impact of trauma. Karen and Bailey have been true partners, helping us problem solve, delivering work products on time, and coaching us every step of the way. Their expertise shined in our work together and we would recommend them to anyone looking to build a deeper

strategy around improving the outcomes through understanding the real (and sometimes invisible forces) that drive their work.”

Seth Saeugling,
Co-Founder of Rural Opportunity Institute
Tarboro, NC

“Systems thinking builds public health into effective thought leaders for the tough issues our communities face. Our systems work in Omaha on housing affordability has helped a wide range of stakeholders -- including elected officials -- see through the complexity to understand both the big picture and the solutions necessary for addressing root causes. As a huge bonus, Engaging Inquiry is not only great to work with -- they've figured out how to make systems thinking both participatory and actionable.”

Andy Wessel, MPH
Community Health Planner
Douglas County Health Department