

## **In this Issue:**

### **The Intersection of Planning and Public Health**

Omar Khan, MD, MHS<sup>1</sup> and Timothy Gibbs, MPH<sup>2</sup>

1. President Elect, Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association
2. Executive Director, Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association

This issue of the Journal has been two years in the making, inspired by a grant to the Delaware Chapter of the American Planning Association and the Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association. That nationally competitive grant from the CDC made to APA and APHA state level affiliates led to ground breaking work for the City of Dover and Kent County, Delaware. It combined the disciplines of planning and public health to undertake city and county evaluations, and create a toolkit to inform the next round of master plans for those areas. A master plan is a living document with usual lifespan of 10 years which sets the stage for all manner of future activities within the geographic area it covers: new development, land use, infrastructure, parks and recreation, air and water quality considerations, and much more.

We were gratified to learn how much overlap exists between planning and public health goals and practices. The disciplines certainly share common antecedents including a person-centered approach and a commitment to safe, evidence-based practices for the benefit of the community.

Even though the original project has been completed, the relationship with Delaware APA and the Academy/DPHA remains strong and active, with a planner being part of the DPHA advisory council, and new members from both disciplines, joined with local and national entities. This fall, a joint educational activity will be held continuing the dialog, and an insert on page 3 provides additional detail on this event, and has a call for abstracts.

This edition has been co-edited by Bill Swiatek, AICP and David Edgell, AICP and they have executed a masterful and comprehensive view of this all important intersection of planning and public health - and how it benefits us all.

As always, we seek your input and suggests for future issues. Email Deputy Editor, Liz Healy at [ehaley@delamed.org](mailto:ehaley@delamed.org).

---

Copyright (c) 2018 Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>) which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.