

Regional Workshop Summary — May 2023

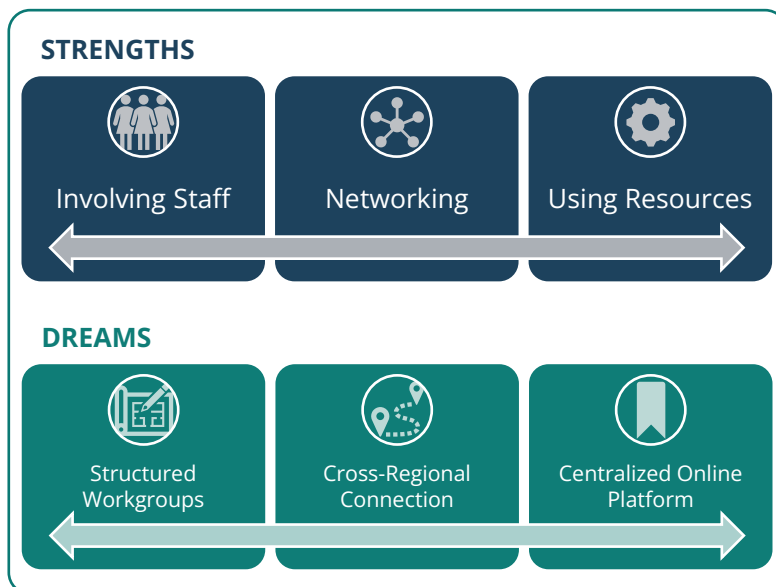
Between May 1–4, the North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation (NCLHDA) program held three regional workshops in Fayetteville, Morganton, and Greenville to build and support regional accreditation networks in North Carolina. 68 participants representing 45 counties and 41 health departments participated in the workshops. This work was supported by the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

Discovering Strengths

Participants spent time interviewing one another to understand what is going well across the state. Across each regional workshop, participants shared stories of engaging health department staff in creative ways, networking with other health departments, and using available resources.

Dreaming

In discussing what health departments hope to see out of regional connections, participants wanted more structure around regional workgroups, including regularly scheduled meetings. Participants shared many ideas to better orient and connect new AACs, including building cross-regional support, expanding training offerings, and creating a centralized online platform for people to use. A blog or a mock dashboard would be useful to share questions and strategies, post evidence examples, and review mock site visit content. This would also allow health departments to connect with each other based on characteristics beyond just geographic proximity. Participants dreamed about the potential to have paid regional coordinators to further support this work.



Building Connections

During the workshops, regional workgroups had a chance to meet as groups and think about what they could do to start making progress on some of our dreams. Groups appointed new leaders, welcomed in new participants, and brainstormed new ways of working together.

Participants were invited to complete a mapping activity to highlight connections, results shown on the next page.



Workshops also provided participants the opportunity to ask questions and hear perspectives from program staff and Site Visit Team members. During Q&A discussions, site visitors walked through their process, shared lessons learned from recent site visits, and tips to help health departments prepare. Each site visitor emphasized the importance of making sure an agency's policy matches their practices prior to their site visit.

Providing Feedback

The workshops closed with a chance for participants to complete the NCLHDA annual survey and learn about an upcoming opportunity for public comment. Before leaving, staff asked participants for a word to describe how they were feeling after the workshop, hearing many words of "cautiously optimistic" as the program evolves:

Enthusiastic
Optimistic
Excited
Hopeful

Ready to get started!
More confident
More educated
Informed

More supported
Collaboration
Connected
Resources

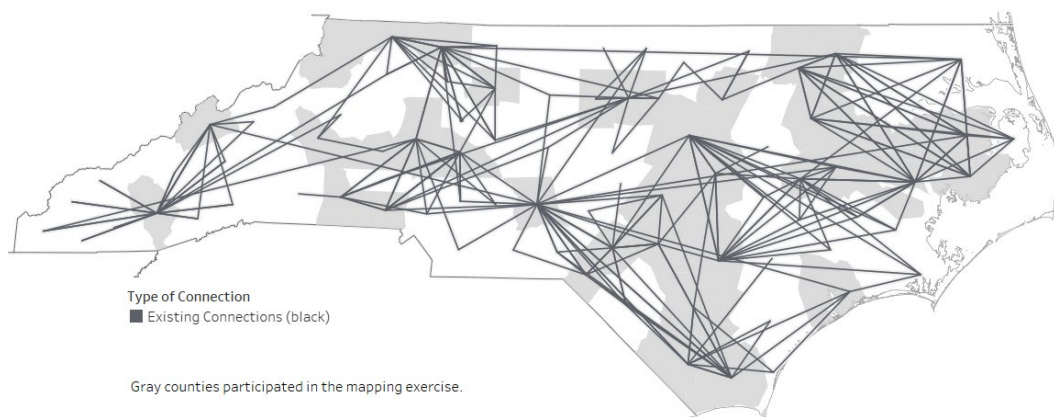
Overwhelmed
Anxious
Nervous
Unsure

Regional Workshop Summary - Mapping Activity

Mapping Connections

During the NCLHDA Regional Workshops in May 2023, 49 participants representing 37 health departments completed a mapping activity where participants were asked to draw their connections with other health departments. They were invited to think beyond just regional workgroup-specific connections and think about all connections that they could benefit from.

Prior to the workshop, health departments were already well connected to each other – with 273 connections.



Participants formed a total of 139 new connections across participating health departments during workshops.



Moving forward, participants have interest in building additional networks across the state — hoping to build a total of 158 future connections.

