

**HIA of the Americas Workshop**  
**March 25 – 26, 2010**  
**AGENDA**

**Workshop objectives:** 1) Bring together HIA practitioners in the Americas to assess progress in the field of HIA and 2) Continue to develop an action plan of strategies to improve and elevate the practice of HIA in the Americas

**Location:** The California Endowment – 1111 Broadway, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Oakland, CA 94607

**Day 1: Thursday, March 25, 2010**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>
8:30 - 9:00	<b>Registration and Breakfast</b>
9:00 - 9:30	<b>Welcome, Introductions and Ground Rules</b> - Including a brief introduction from Tony Iton, Senior Vice President, Healthy Communities, The California Endowment
9:30 - 11:00	<p><b>Current State of HIA in the Americas</b> - Opportunities and challenges posed by the groundswell of interest in HIA over the last 18 months</p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rajiv Bhatia</b>, San Francisco Department of Public Health: <i>The influence of practice standards and challenges for quality practice in the U.S.</i></li> <li>• <b>Marla Ornstein</b>, Habitat Health Impact Assessment: <i>State of HIA in Canada</i></li> <li>• <b>Tania Barron</b>, Environmental Resources Management: Updates about recent HIA work in the Americas and beyond</li> </ul>
11:00 - 11:15	<b>BREAK</b>
11:15 - 11:45	<b>Breakout Session: Current State of HIA in the Americas</b> - Identify common themes about what has changed in the field, and directions for the field to grow in the next year
11:45 - 12:15	<b>HIA Poster Session</b> - Through posters, participants will showcase HIA projects - workshop participants will have an opportunity to view and discuss the posters
12:15 - 1:15	<b>Lunch</b>
1:15 - 2:00	<p><b>Presentation of a HIA Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aaron Wernham, Director of the Health Impact Project, Pew Charitable Trusts: <i>Overview and update about Pew's HIA Initiative</i></li> <li>• California Department of Public Health: <i>Cap &amp; Trade HIA Project</i></li> </ul>
2:00 - 3:15	<p><b>Breakout Session: Small Group Discussions</b> - Participants will join one of the discussion groups listed below. Facilitators of each small discussion group drafted briefing papers for each topic. These papers are intended to help participants understand the topics that will be discussed in each small group. See below for a summary of each of the small group discussion topics.</p> <p><i>Objectives:</i> 1) Identify the current state of the field of HIA with respect to this topic; 2) Identify challenges/issues of concerns to be addressed in this area; 3) Identify potential solutions to the issues and challenges; 4) Identify specific steps and goals to be achieved by this group over the coming year (action plans)</p> <p><i>Optional Outcome:</i> Start to write/outline brief issue papers for each of small group discussion topics</p>
3:00 - 3:15	<b>BREAK</b>
3:15 - 4:15	<b>Breakout Session: Small Group Topics Continue</b>
4:15 - 4:30	<b>Wrap-up Day One and Review Agenda for Day Two</b>
4:30	<b>Social Event</b>

<b>Day 2: Friday, March 26, 2010</b>	
<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>
8:30 - 9:00	<b>Breakfast</b>
9:00 - 9:15	<b>Overview of Agenda and Recap of Day One</b>
9:15 - 10:00	<b>Breakout Session: Small Group Topics Continue</b>
10:00 - 11:00	<b>Small Groups Report Back</b>
11:00 - 11:15	<b>Break</b>
11:15 - 2:15	<b>Full Group Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Are there issues that were not addressed by this group's discussion?</i></li> <li>• <i>What do you think about the solutions that have been proposed?</i></li> <li>• <i>Are there other solutions that should be considered?</i></li> <li>• <i>How should our efforts be focused as we move forward?</i></li> </ul>
12:15 - 1:15	<b>Lunch</b>
1:15 - 2:30	<b>Identify Collective Priorities and Develop an Action Plan for Next Year</b>
2:30 - 3:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b>
3:00 - 5:00	<b><i>TCE rooms will be available for networking, small group discussions, etc.</i></b>

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION TOPICS

<b>Group 1</b>	<p><b>Institutionalization of HIA</b></p> <p>HIA is becoming more common in the Americas, but to date there are few formal mandates specifically for HIA. In the U.S. it is rare for local or state governments to initiate HIA; most HIA funding has come from private foundations or industry, and the practice remains sporadic. In Canada some provinces require HIA within environmental impact assessment (EIA), but the practice varies in terms of the scope of health effects included.</p> <p>While existing environmental laws require health effects analysis, there are not any formal requirements for HIA elsewhere in the Americas. The purpose of this discussion group is to consider a range of alternatives for institutionalizing health impact assessment (HIA), to assess their current status in the Americas and strengths and weaknesses of each approach, and to identify steps that might be most feasible and effective for advancing the more routine practice of HIA.</p> <p><b>Moderators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aaron Wernham, Director of the Health Impact Project, Pew Charitable Trusts</li> <li>• Jacob Bell, Program Manager for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium</li> <li>• Louise St-Pierre, National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy</li> <li>• Sarah Kennedy, Healthy Community Design Initiative, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</li> <li>• Rajiv Bhatia, Director, Environmental and Occupational Health, San Francisco Department of Public Health</li> </ul>
<b>Group 2</b>	<p><b>Solutions to Maintaining Standards and Keeping HIA True to Values</b></p> <p>The recent growth of the field of HIA brings both opportunities and challenges. Among the challenges are issues relating to varying quality of HIAs that are conducted. On the one hand, HIA is meant to be an inclusive process, and should be undertaken by a wide variety of individuals and organizations including community groups, local government, etc. as well as HIA “practitioners”, and maintain flexibility for a variety of approaches suitable for the particular project, budget and timeline. On the other hand, the diversity in approaches to HIA and in those who undertake them lead to enormous variability in what is called an HIA, as well as the quality of HIAs, assessment approaches used, and their documentation. This varying quality may become a problem in the field of HIA at large if it leads to a reduction in the perceived value of HIA, additional confusion around what comprises an HIA, or a “watering down” of the standards and values that underpin HIA. This purpose of this discussion group is to examine ideas of accreditation, certification, development of guidance documents an attempt to move HIA practitioners in the Americas forward.</p> <p><b>Moderators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jonathan Heller, Executive Director, Human Impact Partners</li> <li>• Marla Orenstein, Habitat Health Impact Consulting</li> </ul>
<b>Group 3</b>	<p><b>HIA Communication and Working with Stakeholders</b></p> <p>An essential component of conducting a health impact assessment is convening a range of stakeholders that are concerned with the project, including community-based organizations (CBOs) and government agencies, and communicating progress during the HIA in a variety of ways. Involving stakeholders during an HIA, communicating with stakeholders, and defining roles for each stakeholder are some of the most challenging tasks for HIA conveners. The purpose of this discussion group will be to discuss challenges with communication and working with stakeholders while conducting an HIA. After discussing the issues, we will review what is missing, share successful strategies, identify additional potential solutions, and</p>

	<p>establish some concrete next steps to support HIA practitioners in practicing good communication and collaboration with stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Moderators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jennifer McLaughlin, San Francisco Department of Public Health</li> <li>• Megan Gaydos, San Francisco Department of Public Health</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group 4</b></p>	<p><b>Opportunities, Barriers, and Challenges for New HIA Practitioners</b></p> <p>The practice of HIA in the Americas has experienced incredible growth over the past few years. The current momentum around HIA offers a unique opportunity to bring new practitioners into the field. However, as an increasing number of agencies, organizations, university staff and other groups begin to engage in HIA practice, it is important that the needs, challenges and barriers they face are understood, and that support they need is provided, allowing new HIA practice to further grow and develop the field. The purpose of this discussion group is to discuss the characteristics of new HIA practitioners, understand the needs of new practitioners entering the field of HIA, consider opportunities and resources to support new practitioners and understand ways outreach to practitioners as they begin to engage in HIA.</p> <p><b>Moderators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jennifer Lucky, HIP</li> <li>• Elizabeth Hodges Snyder, Assistant Professor of Public Health, University of Alaska Anchorage</li> </ul>

The HIA in the Americas Workshop is being convened by Habitat Health Impact Consulting, Human Impact Partners, the San Francisco Department of Public Health, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Pew Charitable Trusts, and The California Endowment.

