Public Health Law 201

Public Health Decision-making: Can I? Must I? Should I?

**Speaker Biographies**

**Denise Chrysler, J.D., Director, Network for Public Health Law – Mid-States Region**

Denise Chrysler has practiced public health law for over thirty years. Currently, she directs the Network for Public Health Law's Mid-States Region, located at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. The Network assists public health practitioners to use law to improve the health of communities. Denise also serves as a member of the Ingham County Board of Health and on the Governor’s Public Health Advisory Council. For 27 years, Denise provided legal services to Michigan's state health department regarding communicable disease, immunization, environmental public health, public health research, privacy, health information exchange, and emergency legal preparedness and response. She served as the state health department’s public health legal director, privacy officer, freedom of information coordinator, regulatory affairs officer, and member of the IRB. She also represented the health department as an assistant attorney general.

**Jennifer Bernstein, J.D., M.P.H., Deputy Director, Network for Public Health Law – Mid-States Region**

Jennifer Bernstein is deputy director of the Network for Public Health Law’s Mid-States Region. She has expertise and works extensively on legal issues related to health information and data sharing. This includes legal matters such as HIPAA, FOIA, disease surveillance and eHealth. She has worked with state and local health departments to address legal barriers and enable the sharing of public health information. Her additional areas of interest include maternal and child health, at-risk adults and statutory and regulatory public health authority. Jennifer received her Bachelor of Science degree in Women’s Studies and a Certificate in LGBT Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She then received her Juris Doctor and Master of Public Health degrees from the University of Iowa. Prior to her work at the Network, Jennifer was a Hogg Foundation Mental Health Policy Fellow in Austin, Texas. She worked during the 82nd Texas Legislative Session advocating for the expansion of trauma informed care throughout the state.

**Colleen Healy Boufides, J.D., Senior Attorney, Network for Public Health Law – Mid-States Region**

Colleen Healy Boufides is a senior attorney with the Network for Public Health Law's Mid-States Region, located at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She assists public health attorneys, practitioners, and advocates to use law to protect the public’s health by providing direct technical assistance, training materials, and practical tools. Her areas of interest include public health statutory and regulatory authority, community health workers, and environmental health and climate change. Colleen received her law degree from the Duke University School of Law and her Bachelor of Science degree from Arizona State University – the Barrett Honors College, where she studied psychology and global health. Prior to joining the Network, Colleen worked at the Michigan Primary Care Association, where she was involved in state and federal legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of Michigan’s federally qualified health centers, and as a commercial litigation associate for a large Michigan-based law firm.