



LEGISLATIVE HEALTH POLICY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

GOALS AND IMPACTS

The Legislative Health Policy Certificate Program, a comprehensive training series held for Georgia legislators and staff since 2008, seeks impact on four levels: basic information, deep dives on crucial topics, comprehensive understanding, and benefit at the leadership level. The Georgia Health Policy Center recently conducted an evaluation to identify impacts and gain feedback that can inform the program going forward.

Program Goals:

- Increase opportunities to reinforce learnings and bring former participants together
- Broaden participation beyond health committees to ultimately affect health outcomes beyond the health care sector
- Ensure that program design meets the needs of legislators and can be directly applied to their work

The Georgia Health Policy Center conducts independent research to support effective, evidence-based health policy decisions at local, state, and national levels.

MAJOR IMPACTS

Highlights from In-Depth Interviews with Certificate Earners

Drafting and Passing of Legislation

"During the last session I championed a bill ... It became clear to me that we could use a systems approach to address it ... so I pulled together all of the relevant stakeholders ... to make sure you think through and have the relevant parties who are going to be affected involved in the process and the decision making ... and we came up with a plan [with] reasonable and achievable time frames ... and we were ultimately able to get it passed."

Committee Culture Shift

"We vote things out quicker, get to the heart of the issue quicker, not have the rhetoric ... all members are a little more open-minded."

"It has definitely facilitated being able to get things through the committee in a timely manner with the least amount of repetition."

Conversational Capacity

"I've opened my mind to look at things in a different way ... and it doesn't have to be confrontational all the time. You can ask questions, do it, and have the facts."

Understanding of How the Health System Works

"[Prior to the LHPCP] I did not take enough time to step back and look at the big picture ... This class made me give a big broad look at it. It's not just one service, one fee, and one payment. It helped my vision expand."

"It gave me the opportunity in committee meetings to ask the intelligent questions ... I've become the go-to person when they have a health care question now."

Data-Based Decision Making

"This health policy institute is a good example of being able to put some data and some real knowledge in front of policy makers so that rather than just making a decision based on what sounds good and what plays good before voters, you really look at the impact – the overall impact, that this policy is going to have on people."