

## Health Department Accreditation and the NPHPSP: A Perfect Match



Kaye Bender, RN, PhD, FAAN  
President and CEO, PHAB  
NPHPS User Call  
February 16, 2010

## Session Objectives

- Describe the accreditation process with respect to the required key elements for health department applicants.
- Describe the information PHAB is using to inform the final program launch.
- Discuss the relationship between the NPHPS and PHAB's accreditation process.

## The Year of the Beta Test - 2010

- 30 health departments (8 state, 19 local and 3 tribal)
- Conduct the beta test as much like final accreditation as possible
- Evaluator – National Opinion Research Center (NORC)
- All elements subject to change for final accreditation program launch in 2011

## Purpose of Beta Test

1. Testing how it really works
  - Formative evaluation
  - Quality improvement
2. Estimate costs of accreditation
  - Labor hours and time commitment
  - Other expenses
3. Develop Program elements
  - Scoring and weighting
  - Accreditation status criteria
  - Role of the Accreditation Review Committee

## Accreditation Process Overview

1. Pre-application  
Applicant prepares and assesses readiness, informs PHAB of its intent to apply, and receives training
2. Application  
Applicant submits application form
3. Self-assessment  
Applicant gathers documentation
4. Site Visit  
Site visit is conducted and report developed
5. Accreditation Decisions  
PHAB Board will award accreditation status
6. Appeals  
Procedure for appeals and complaints
7. Reports and Re-accreditation  
Department reports progress and reapplies

## What Are Health Departments Doing that Are Not Test Sites ?

- Review Standards
- Review Assessment Process
- Develop a Strategic Plan
- Conduct a Community Health Assessment
- Develop a Community Health Improvement Plan
- Organize the health department (governance to staff)

## Relationship to the NPHPHP

- A natural match
- Have a common historical base
- Standards and terminology similar
- The NPHPSP process is complementary
- Could satisfy several measures
- Great readiness instrument

PHAB

Three required components

- Community health assessment
- Community health improvement plan
- Agency strategic plan

PHAB

## Community Health Assessment

A systematic process, or group of processes, aimed at identifying the population health determinants in such a way that they can be addressed by the community and its partners. This process includes community health in its broadest definition and, while it may be coordinated by the health department, is the result of the work of various partners. It can include assets and well as problem issues.

PHAB 9

## Community Health Improvement Plan

- A long-term systematic effort to address issues identified by the assessment and community health improvement process
- Is broader than the health department agency
- Should include partners
- Should be timely
- Can be used by partners to prioritize activities and set priorities

PHAB

## Strategic Plan

- Internal to the health department (although may have been developed with input from partners)
- Describes goals, objectives, strategies and new initiatives
- Should guide the health department in forming its role in the community it serves and in setting its own priorities

PHAB

Developmental Work in 2010

- Standards development  
Beta Testing and revise
- Assessment process  
Beta Testing and revise
- Site Visit development  
Beta Testing and revise
- PHAB Evaluation Plan  
and Research Agenda
- Incentives  
Recommendations
- Future operations: fees,  
Information system, etc.

PHAB

**Inputs for Program Planning**

Beta Test Formal Evaluation

Feedback on the Beta Test Tools

Think Tank Monographs  
Centralized States  
Governance  
Environmental public health  
Public health laboratory  
Large City/Metro  
Emergency Preparedness

Specific Work on Tribal Accreditation

The PHAB Board will consider these major categories of input as they plan to launch the full accreditation program in 2011.

PHAB 13

**Let Us Know if You Have Questions**

Kaye Bender [Kbender@phaboard.org](mailto:Kbender@phaboard.org)  
Robin Wilcox [Rwilcox@phaboard.org](mailto:Rwilcox@phaboard.org)  
Donna Davis [Ddavis@phaboard.org](mailto:Ddavis@phaboard.org)  
Travis Parker Lee [Tlee@phaboard.org](mailto:Tlee@phaboard.org)  
Mark Paepcke [Mpaepcke@phaboard.org](mailto:Mpaepcke@phaboard.org)

Phone 703-778-4549

PHAB 14