

**NPHPSP USER CALL SERIES**  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION AND THE NPHPSP: A PERFECT MATCH**  
**February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 2:00 PM ET**

---

**Introduction: Jennifer McKeever (National Network of Public Health Institutes)**

Jennifer McKeever welcomed the participants to the NPHPSP User Call Series and provided users with a brief overview of Microsoft Live Meeting features as well as multiple ways they can access the presentation slides and ask questions.

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

Kaye Bender, President and CEO of the Public Health Accreditation Board shared the latest news and events related to the developing accreditation program for state, local, and tribal health departments, including details regarding the pre-requisites to apply for accreditation. She also shared about the relationship between the NPHPSP and accreditation.

**Links to Presentation:**

Click [here](#) to access the presentation slides

Click [here](#) to access the presentation audio, including live meeting slides

**Questions:**

**Q:** Understanding that a particular model isn't prescribed to the community health assessment, are the specific components that you outlined part of the standards and measures?

**A:** What I described in the slide about community health assessment is in our glossary and they are embedded in the standards that speak to assessment and surveillance and building partnerships. We are asking through our beta tests and site visitors how the package needs to look. We have some examples already; some of the state and local health departments across the country have done these and many of them are on their website. We have not had the opportunity to pass any "judgment" on whether those would meet the PHAB standards.

**Q:** Are there examples on the PHAB website of high quality community health assessments, strategic plans, or health improvement processes?

**A:** This has not been available from PHAB. Its not that we don't want to be helpful but there is an interesting legal side to accreditation. PHAB will help you understand what the requirements are for accreditation, but where we can't help you is actually saying, "this is a good community health assessment, etc" because if we were to go down that road we would be helping you get ready for accreditation and we would lose some of our legal objectivity there. Still, we have wonderful partners that are helping with the technical assistance around developing these three components. ASTHO, NACCHO, and NIHB are particular partners and they can refer you to other entities with expertise in these areas. Once we start accrediting health departments and we know that somebody's three prerequisites have passed muster, we hope that they will make those available and they'll be able to walk interested parties through their process. Right now, while we are in development, we are excited to have our constituent partners helping us with those best practices.

**Q:** How do you define community when you are talking about the state health department?

**A:** This is a question that we are still working on. When we defined community for the work it seemed so easy to talk about the community or jurisdiction that a health department was legally organized to serve. When we talk about a state health department, these departments are organized to serve the state and so their community is the state. Well that quite naturally overlaps with the jurisdictions of local and tribal health departments. With the state measures and standards, the state community health assessment and health improvement plan, we are looking for all those to have a statewide focus. There is some overlap in those communities but one of the required documents in the application is to ask the health department applicant to show us that you are the official local health department with all those duties and responsibilities. Part of that documentation is evidence of a statute, ordinance, or administrative rule that describes what the health department does. It's from that document that we look at a health department's jurisdiction. Local health departments focus on the local community or jurisdiction that it is organized to serve and the state health department focuses on the statewide aspect of public health

**Q:** Why do you think that the performance standards were not determined to be a prerequisite to accreditation, as they are a natural fit?

**A:** The National Public Health Performance Standards were about the public health system and there will be some conceptual work to do to take the work of assessing the system and move it to the evidence for agency accreditation. So we recommend it highly as readiness work, but its scope and responsibility is so much broader than accreditation that it's not listed as a prerequisite. The output of that process is actually where these components come from.

**Q:** How many site visitors do you expect to need?

**A:** For the beta tests, we expect to need 90-100 site visitors because we have 30 sites and they will be reviewed in a fairly compressed time frame, over about 2.5-3 months. In that particular case, we don't expect site visitors to review more than 1 site for the beta tests. We have at least a 3 person team depending on the needs of the site. We are also going to have to invite some extra folks to train as alternates. Our board agreed that on a three person team you can't always get every kind of expertise that you would like to have, so we decided in January that if a site team felt that they needed a technical expert to review particular components of the self-assessment documentation, then they can call in that 4<sup>th</sup> person. An example of that would be if there is an environmental health representative on the site visit team formally and there's a need to have some extra environmental health review of that documentation, we'll be prepared to do that. So we'll have 90-100 site visitors for the beta tests and we hope that those people will want to come back and continue to be site reviewers for us.

**Q:** Can you please tell us more about the incentives report, funding ideas, etc?

**A:** PHAB is quite committed to working with our constituent organizations and partners to try to advocate for some policy changes that would be incentives for health departments to apply to be accredited. We have two major bodies of work that informed us about what you (health departments) think that those incentives might be. One of those come from a survey that was done by one of our consultants back when we were exploring the accreditation project and were transitioning to PHAB. The other was work that Dr. Mary Davis did that was published back in the fall in the American Journal of Public Health. Both of those really had a lot of congruency in what would incentivize health departments to be accredited. We would like to be able to work with our federal partners and our foundations who fund health departments for public health services. One example of an incentive is that we are trying to get these funding organizations to allow accredited health departments, as they are filling out their grant

applications, to skip over the component where you are supposed to describe the infrastructure of your department and just submit their certificate of accreditation. Another example of a possible incentive is when you're doing a program review, there is a lot of duplication of questions around the basic backbone of the department. So we're asking those entities that fund health departments to consider that if a health department is accredited, they can take that certificate of accreditation and skip over those components. This is not done yet but just the beginnings of some of the incentives; these are only two of the thirteen recommended incentives that we will be working on.



February 16, 2010  
USER CALL  
2:00 PM EST  
PARTICIPANT LIST

## Alabama

Claude Ouimet  
Jefferson County Dept. of Health  
[Claude.Ouimet@jcdh.org](mailto:Claude.Ouimet@jcdh.org)

## Arizona

Carolyn Haro  
Gila County Division of Health  
[charo@co.gila.az.us](mailto:charo@co.gila.az.us)

Patty Mead  
Mojave County Dept of Public Health  
[patty.mead@co.mohave.az.us](mailto:patty.mead@co.mohave.az.us)

## Colorado

Alyson Shupe  
Colorado Department of Public Health  
[alyson.shupe@state.co.us](mailto:alyson.shupe@state.co.us)

## Florida

Sarah Baker  
Lee County Health Dept

Annelia Gander  
Lake County Health Department  
[Annelia\\_Gander@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Annelia_Gander@doh.state.fl.us)

Emily Karsholt  
Florida Dept of Health

Noreen Nickola-Williams  
St Johns County Health Dept  
[noreen\\_nickola-williams@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:noreen_nickola-williams@doh.state.fl.us)

Celeste Philip  
Florida Dept of Health

Laura Reeves  
Florida Dept of Health  
[laura\\_reeves@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:laura_reeves@doh.state.fl.us)

Lillian Rivera  
Miami-Dade County Health Dept  
[lillian\\_rivera@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:lillian_rivera@doh.state.fl.us)

Kathy Sauskojus  
Hernando County Health Dept

Phil Spence  
Seminole County Health Dept

Christina Vongsyprasom  
Florida Dept of Health

Cecilia Wagner  
Okaloosa County Health Dept  
[Cecilia\\_Wagner@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Cecilia_Wagner@doh.state.fl.us)

## Illinois

Curt Fenton  
Peoria City/Co. Health Dept  
[cfenton@peoriacounty.org](mailto:cfenton@peoriacounty.org)

Sarah Fenton  
Tazewell County Health Dept  
[Sfenton@tchd.net](mailto:Sfenton@tchd.net)

Michele Fishburn  
Knox County Health Dept  
[mfishburn@knoxcountyhealth.org](mailto:mfishburn@knoxcountyhealth.org)

## Kentucky

Allison Beshear  
Pennyrile District Health Dept, Caldwell  
County Health Dept  
[allisonl.beshear@ky.gov](mailto:allisonl.beshear@ky.gov)

Rona Stapleton  
Kentucky Dept. of Public Health  
[ronal.stapleton@ky.gov](mailto:ronal.stapleton@ky.gov)

April Thomas  
Anderson Co Health Dept  
[april.thomas@ky.gov](mailto:april.thomas@ky.gov)

## Michigan

Mary Stobierski  
Michigan Dept of Community Health  
[stobierskim@michigan.gov](mailto:stobierskim@michigan.gov)



February 16, 2010  
USER CALL  
2:00 PM EST  
PARTICIPANT LIST

## Minnesota

Sanne Magnan  
Minnesota Dept of Health

## Missouri

Colleen Beckwith  
St. Louis County Health Department  
[cbeckwith@stlouisco.com](mailto:cbeckwith@stlouisco.com)

## Montana

Hillary Harris  
River Stone Health  
[hillary.har@riverstonehealth.org](mailto:hillary.har@riverstonehealth.org)

## Nebraska

Pat Lopez  
Public Health Association of Nebraska  
[jpic75@aol.com](mailto:jpic75@aol.com)

Ed Schneider  
Lincoln Lancaster County Board of Health  
[schneidered@msn.com](mailto:schneidered@msn.com)

## New Jersey

Richard Matzer  
NJ Dept of Health and Senior Services  
[richard.matzer@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:richard.matzer@doh.state.nj.us)

## Ohio

Kelly Friar  
Ohio Dept of Health  
[kelly.friar@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:kelly.friar@odh.ohio.gov)

Ken Pearce  
Lorain County General Health District  
[kpearce@loraincountyhealth.com](mailto:kpearce@loraincountyhealth.com)

Sam Kindred  
Ohio Dept of Health

Steve Wagner  
Ohio Dept of Health  
[steve.wagner@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:steve.wagner@odh.ohio.gov)

## Texas

Carolyn Bivens  
Texas Dept of State Health Services  
[Carolyn.Bivens@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:Carolyn.Bivens@dshs.state.tx.us)

## Association of State and Territorial Health Organizations

Lindsey Caldwell  
ASTHO  
[lcaldwell@astho.org](mailto:lcaldwell@astho.org)

Joya Coffman  
ASTHO  
[jcoffman@astho.org](mailto:jcoffman@astho.org)

Jennifer Jimenez  
ASTHO  
[jjimenez@astho.org](mailto:jjimenez@astho.org)

Tom Briggs  
ASTHO  
[tbriggs@astho.org](mailto:tbriggs@astho.org)

## Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Teresa Daub  
CDC  
[evr6@cdc.gov](mailto:evr6@cdc.gov)

## Milne & Associates, LLC

Casey Milne  
Milne & Associates, LLC  
[casey.milne@comcast.net](mailto:casey.milne@comcast.net)

## National Association of County & City Health Officials

Lisa Jacobs  
NACCHO  
[ljacobs@naccho.org](mailto:ljacobs@naccho.org)



February 16, 2010  
USER CALL  
2:00 PM EST  
PARTICIPANT LIST

**National Association of Local  
Boards of Health**

Marita Sommer  
NALBOH  
[marita@nalboh.org](mailto:marita@nalboh.org)

**National Network of Public Health  
Institutes**

Jennifer McKeever  
NNPHI  
[jmckeever@nnphi.org](mailto:jmckeever@nnphi.org)

Anooj Pattnaik  
NNPHI  
[apattnaik@nnphi.org](mailto:apattnaik@nnphi.org)

**Public Health Accreditation Board**

Kaye Bender  
PHAB  
[kbender@phaboard.org](mailto:kbender@phaboard.org)

**Public Health Foundation**

Lynne Stauff  
PHF  
[lstauff@phf.org](mailto:lstauff@phf.org)

**Other Participants**

Cindy Walker  
Dana Eaton  
Ed Parent  
Rene Y  
Rick Davis