



NNPHI News: Accreditation & Quality Improvement in Public Health Edition

Greetings from the National Network of Public Health Institutes! This month, the nonprofit Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) will launch its national voluntary accreditation program for state, local, and tribal public health departments. The accreditation program seeks to improve the health of communities by advancing the quality and performance of health departments. This edition of NNPHI News celebrates the PHAB launch and highlights key roles public health institutes (PHIs) play in mobilizing and preparing health departments for accreditation.

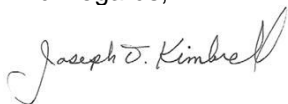
According to Dr. Kaye Bender, the President and CEO of PHAB, "NNPHI and public health institutes have been and will continue to be vital to accreditation's success. Public health institutes have managed state-based accreditation programs, provided strategic guidance to health departments around community health assessment and improvement planning, and served as neutral conveners to bring multi-sector partners together to address critical public health issues."

CDC Director Thomas Frieden, MD, MPH noted that "accreditation is a major accomplishment for a health department. It means that it is addressing key community health problems. Just as the public expects hospitals, law enforcement agencies and schools to be accredited so should they come to expect public health departments."

NNPHI is pleased to showcase its member institutes' significant contributions to the field, such as developing a Quality Improvement Handbook for practitioners and facilitating a peer collaborative of health departments that are helping each other prepare for accreditation. NNPHI will continue to leverage our network's capacity to prepare health departments for accreditation and engage in QI.

For more additional information about NNPHI and PHI work in accreditation and QI, please contact NNPHI Program Manager Jennifer McKeever at jmckeever@nnphi.org.

Kind Regards,



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NNPHI Member Spotlight: Health Resources in Action (HRiA)

[Health Resources in Action \(HRiA\)](#) is a non-profit organization located in Boston, MA serving non-profit, governmental, and other health care organizations across the country. For over 50 years, HRiA has worked to help people live healthier lives and create healthy communities through prevention, health promotion, policy development, and research. HRiA's services include assessment and evaluation; strategic planning; training and capacity building; health communications; advocacy and policy development; program planning; environmental health; and information and referral services.



Health Resources in Action
Advancing Public Health and Medical Research

HRiA joined NNPHI to learn about and share resources, best practices, and innovative approaches with like-minded organizations as part of an interactive learning community to improve population health.

Public Health Institute Accreditation Headlines

Health Resources in Action: Bringing the San Antonio Metropolitan Health Department One Step Closer to Accreditation



Health Resources in Action
Advancing Public Health and Medical Research

New NNPHI Member [Health Resources in Action \(HRiA\)](#), a national non-profit public health and medical research organization located in Boston, MA, has been facilitating

an assessment and planning

process with a range of community and governmental partners in San Antonio, Texas to help bring the San Antonio Metropolitan Health Department one step closer to accreditation. Having assisted with the completion of a comprehensive assessment, HRiA is now assisting with the facilitation of a core group of stakeholders in a strategic planning process to develop San Antonio's community health improvement plan. The planning process will determine the health priorities for the county; formulate shared goals, objectives, and strategies for each priority; identify community partners and resources; and lead to the development of an actionable plan. This process, expected to be completed in early 2012, will inform the development of an agency strategic plan and enable the San Antonio Health Department to fulfill the pre-requisites for applying for accreditation.

[Read full article...](#)

Institute for Public Health Innovation: Establishing a Public Health Accreditation Technical Assistance Team

Identifying experts in government and community public health practice, policy development, adult education, and quality improvement (QI), the [Institute for Public Health Innovation](#) (IPHi) recently established a technical assistance team to offer technical support to health departments that wish to apply for accreditation. IPHi will offer technical support in areas such as designing and implementing approaches to fulfilling the three accreditation prerequisites, accreditation process management, stakeholder engagement, policymaker education, and ongoing QI planning.



IPHi is already assisting Montgomery County of Maryland's Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) to prepare for its potential pursuit of accreditation by playing an integral role in the implementation of a county-wide community health assessment and the development of a community health improvement plan. MCDHHS was looking for a competent, neutral organization that could design and conduct qualitative research to complement existing county capacity for quantitative research. It also needed outside help to facilitate a process of issue prioritization and action agenda development with a steering committee of diverse county leaders. MCDHHS turned to IPHi as the natural partner. The experiences and lessons learned from work in Montgomery County will inform how IPHi supports other jurisdictions throughout the DC-MD-VA region interested in fulfilling the accreditation prerequisites.

[Read full article...](#)

Michigan Public Health Institute: Enhancing Key Resources in Quality Improvement - The Quality Improvement Guidebook



[The Michigan Public Health Institute \(MPHI\), Office of Accreditation and Quality Improvement](#) has a long-standing role in preparing health departments for accreditation and engaging in quality improvement (QI) activity. MPHI is the administrator of Michigan's state-based Accreditation Program

and served as the lead agency during the state's participation in all six years of the [Multi-State Learning Collaborative \(MLC\)](#). During the second phase of the MLC, MPHI partnered with the Michigan Department of Community Health to develop ***Embracing Quality in Local Public Health: Michigan's Quality Improvement Guidebook***. The guidebook, which utilizes real public health examples to illustrate the use of QI tools and techniques, has been extremely well-received among practitioners. MPHI recently received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to conduct an evaluation and utilize the findings to update the guidebook, making it more comprehensive and including examples and lessons learned from a broader array of health departments across the country that are implementing QI and preparing for national accreditation. The second edition of the guidebook is expected to be available in early 2012.

Access the [current edition of the guidebook](#).

For more about the myriad other ways MPHI is assisting with accreditation preparation efforts in Michigan, [read full article...](#)

Institute for Wisconsin's Health, Inc: Supporting Accreditation Preparation in Tribal Health Departments

The [Institute for Wisconsin's Health, Inc.](#) (IWHI) is working with Wisconsin's 11 federally recognized tribes to increase activity around public health quality improvement (QI) and accreditation. IWHI organized an in-person tribal accreditation open forum in late 2010 and hosted a webinar and two-day accreditation training in August 2011 featuring Aleena Hernandez of Tucson, Arizona-based [Red Star Innovations, LLC](#). Ms. Hernandez serves as the institute's Tribal Health Consultant. The 19 participants at the August training included teams from the Forest County Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, and Oneida Nation. This group has charted a course for continued work together that includes quarterly face-to-face accreditation meetings hosted by each tribal community. This series will begin with a forum in late 2011 that invites all tribes to explore public health accreditation with the four tribes that participated in the training.



INSTITUTE FOR
WISCONSIN'S HEALTH INC.

For more about the many other ways IWHI is assisting with accreditation preparation efforts in Wisconsin, [read full article...](#)

North Carolina Institute for Public Health: Sharing Expertise to Inform the National Dialogue around Accreditation

THE NORTH CAROLINA
Institute for Public Health

Since 2004, the [North Carolina Institute for Public Health](#) (NCIPH) at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health has served as the administrator of the NC Local Health Department Accreditation program.

As an early pioneer for local public health accreditation, NC now has 61 of its 85 health departments accredited, with the remaining ones set to participate in the process by 2014, as required by legislative mandate.

Accreditation and quality improvement (QI) should go hand-in-hand. NCIPH Evaluation Services conducted a study of the first 48 NC accredited health departments on the impact of accreditation and benefits and barriers related to the process. Study results will benefit other states now considering national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Half of the agencies reported acting on suggestions for QI it uncovered in the accreditation process, and 67 percent conducted QI activities.

More details on this study can be found in the July 21 issue of the [American Journal of Public Health, "Informing the National Public Health Accreditation Movement: Lessons from North Carolina's Accredited Local Health Departments"](#), co-authored by Mary Davis, DrPH, Brittan Wood, MPH, and Edward Baker, MD, MPH.

[Read full article...](#)

Illinois Public Health Institute: Capacity Building through Collaborative Accreditation Readiness Activities

The [Illinois Public Health Institute's \(IPHI\) Center for Community Capacity Development](#) (CCCD) has provided training and technical assistance to local health departments for over five years, with a central focus on supporting community health assessment and planning through a capacity-building approach. As accreditation and quality improvement (QI) efforts gained steam nationally, the CCCD leveraged this competency to facilitate two Multi-State Learning Collaborative (MLC)-funded QI collaboratives and provide intensive one-on-one technical assistance initiatives to local health departments. As an outgrowth of the MLC, Illinois locals have asked IPHI to convene and support an ongoing learning network of health departments pursuing accreditation. This learning network will have quarterly conference calls to share experiences and explore issues, a listserv to facilitate problem-solving and share best practices, and occasional special presentations and webinars. In addition, three very diverse county health departments (Kendall, Cook, and Clay) are banding together with IPHI to conduct mock accreditation reviews for each other as preparation for their Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) reviews.



[Read full article...](#)

Kansas Health Institute: Partnership Makes Data More Accessible for Local Health Departments



KANSAS HEALTH INSTITUTE

For four years, the [Kansas Health Institute](#) (KHI) served as the lead agency for the state's participation in the [Multi-State Learning Collaborative \(MLC\)](#). In the MLC's final phase, KHI partnered with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD), and the University of Kansas Area Health Education Centers to manage a collaborative of 68 local health departments (LHDs) as they begin preparing for and implementing community health assessments, one of the three prerequisites to apply for accreditation.

For some LHDs in Kansas, obtaining and sharing data needed for the community health assessment process has proven challenging. In response to this challenge, KHI, KDHE, and KALHD, and the Kansas Hospital Association recently agreed to purchase the Healthy Communities Network (HCN) information system. The HCN system provides a standardized, local view of core indicators regarding health and quality of life from online sources, including the National Cancer Institute, U.S. Census Bureau, Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal, state, and regional organizations.

In Kansas, the system will provide indicators at the county level or, when the counts for less populated counties are too small to be useful, at the regional level. KHI and its partners will promote use of the system at the local level to support community health assessment efforts at public health agencies and hospitals.

[Read full article...](#)

Louisiana Public Health Institute: Partnering with the New Orleans Health Department to Use the PHAB Standards as Roadmap for Transformation

As a long-time partner of the local New Orleans Health Department (NOHD), the [Louisiana Public Health Institute](#) (LPHI) is actively engaged in the department's accreditation preparation process. With the arrival of Karen DeSalvo, MD, MPH, MSc as the city's new Health Commissioner in January 2011, NOHD began a comprehensive transformation initiative to rebuild itself as a 21st century health department capable of improving population health through data-driven decision-making and policy development. NOHD is using Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards as a roadmap for the transformation and intends to apply for accreditation in the future.



To support NOHD's goal of becoming an accredited local health department, LPHI has provided several forms of support and technical assistance. Through a grant from a local philanthropic organization, LPHI partnered with NOHD to hire a key staff member to add capacity in leading and managing NOHD's transformation. Recently, LPHI facilitated a meeting with NOHD leadership to review the accreditation standards in detail to assess the department's readiness for accreditation. LPHI is also partnering with NOHD to conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA) and develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for New Orleans through a grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). Earlier this year, LPHI began facilitating neighborhood-level community health needs assessments using the [Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships \(MAPP\)](#) process, which will complement the NOHD assessment process.

[Read the full article...](#)

Rhode Island Public Health Institute: Assessing Workforce Capacity and Preparing for Accreditation



The [Rhode Island Public Health Institute](#) (RIPHI) actively supports the accreditation efforts of the Rhode Island Department of Health. RIPHI contracted with the department to secure a performance management consultant-placed at the department to support planning and development of its systems to qualify for accreditation. In addition, the institute and consultant "cross-walked" the competency assessment items with accreditation guidelines to identify high-priority areas for training development.

RIPHI has also partnered with the New England Alliance for Public Health Workforce Development (through a subcontract with Yale University School of Public Health) to implement a workforce training needs assessment for the state. The assessment instrument uses the public health competencies developed by the Council on Linkages between Academia and Public Health Practice and adapted by the North Carolina Institute for Public Health to assess three "tiers" of public health workers (entry, managers, and leaders).

[Read the full article...](#)

NNPHI Program Updates



Multi-State Learning Collaborative (MLC): Public Health Performance Improvement Toolkit Now Available Online

NNPHI is pleased to announce the release of the beta version of the [Public Health Performance Improvement \(PHPI\) Toolkit](#)! The PHPI Toolkit is an online collection of tools, including archived trainings, sample quality improvement (QI) products, templates, and related resources for public health practitioners interested in implementing QI and preparing for accreditation.

What makes the PHPI toolkit unique is that all of the products have been developed by public health practitioners through their own efforts to implement performance improvement activities and prepare for national voluntary accreditation.

The tools currently available were developed by practitioners during their work on the MLC. The toolkit will continue to be updated as new resources are developed.

Please send feedback, questions, and suggestions for additional resources to Anooj Pattnaik at apattnaik@nnphi.org.

National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) Launches Agency and Systems Improvement Webinar Series



On behalf of the NPHPSP partnership, NNPHI launched the bi-monthly Agency and Systems Improvement Webinar Series on August 23rd. The first webinar of the series - [Performance Standards, Accreditation, and MAPP! Oh My! How do they all Fit Together?](#) - got off to an interesting start when, five minutes prior to the start of the webinar, Jennifer McKeever

with NNPHI (lead facilitator) and Julia Joh Elligers with NACCHO (presenter) had to evacuate their buildings in Washington, D.C. due to the recent East Coast earthquake. Fortunately, the second presenter, Dr. Les Beitsch, stepped in to expertly lead the webinar for its nearly 100 participants.

The next webinar of the series is scheduled for October 18, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. ET. To receive notifications for upcoming Agency and Systems Improvement Webinars, please sign up [here](#).

National Headlines



The Public Health Accreditation Board Announces September 14th National Accreditation Launch Event!

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is the accrediting body for the first national voluntary accreditation program. Accreditation is based on standards that health departments can put into practice to ensure that they are providing the best services possible for their communities.

PHAB's [National Public Health Department Accreditation Launch Event](#) is set to occur on September 14th in Washington, DC. To learn more about PHAB and accreditation, visit <http://www.phaboard.org/>.

Public Health Law Network: Legal Support for Public Health Agencies Facing Change

In the face of declining resources, state and local public health agencies are striving to improve efficiencies by collaborating with other public health agencies, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and hospitals to share expertise, resources and/or service delivery. National voluntary accreditation is providing further impetus for local public health agencies to collaborate with these same groups to meet accreditation standards.

As local public health agencies consider various models of collaboration, numerous legal questions arise, from organizational models allowed under state law to compliance by non-profit hospitals with federal community health needs assessment requirements. The Public Health Law Network has developed several resources to provide assistance on these topics:

- [Fact sheet: Evolving Legal Issues Faced by Public Health Agencies](#)
- [Fact sheet: How New Requirements for Non-profit Hospitals Provide Opportunities for Health Department Collaboration](#)
- [Accreditation Fact Sheet](#) (includes summary of legal issues, key state-specific laws and policies, resources and links)
- [Legal and Political Aspects of Agency Accreditation](#) (webinar providing information on state legal structures that support public health agency accreditation, as well as Kansas' experience in establishing agreements among local health agencies for shared service delivery in a home-rule state)

In addition, through the North Carolina Institute for Public Health, the Network's Southeastern Region leaders developed the report [Legal Frameworks Supporting Public Health Department Accreditation: Key Findings and Lessons Learned from Ten States](#) and its [Executive Summary](#).

For legal technical assistance and training on public health agency accreditation and shared service delivery, visit www.publichealthlawnetwork.org.

Public Health Foundation: Visit PHF's Online Quality Improvement Resource Center

The Public Health Foundation (PHF) has a range of online quality improvement (QI) resources and tools available. [Click here](#) to visit PHF's website.

Upcoming Meetings, Teleconferences, and Webinars



Crossing Sectors and Leading Change: Environmental Interventions Targeting Obesity

Monday, September 12, 2011

12:30 PM to 2:00 PM (PDT)

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

Join the Public Health Institute (PHI) for an informative discussion that will highlight local level policy change as a means of facilitating population-level behavior change.

Email Dialogue4Health@phi.org or call (510) 285-5690 for more information.

CDC to Feature Community Guide at Cyber-Seminar

September 20, 2011

Online

The Community Guide will be featured at the September 20th monthly [Research to Reality Cyber-Seminar held by the National Cancer Institute](#). The winner from Public Health Foundation's "I'm Your Community Guide" success story contest, Myra Pinckney, will share how she used the Community Guide to improve her organization's breast and cervical cancer screening programs. To register for the webinar please email ResearchtoReality@mail.nih.gov. Click to [learn more](#).

Public Health Law **WEBINAR SERIES**

State Public Reporting Laws of Healthcare-Associated Infections

Thursday, September 22

1:00 -2:00 PM (EST)

Registration for the September webinar in the Public Health Law Webinar Series is now open. This webinar will provide an overview of U.S. state and territorial healthcare-associated infections (HAI) laws, address the role of the federal and state governments, and discuss an Arkansas case example. Read [here](#) for more information and to register.

Illinois Public Health Institute Announces Online "Partners in Action" Conference

September 26-28, 2011

Online

The Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) is pleased to announce its [9th Partners in Action Conference](#), now being conducted as an online event September 26 - 28, 2011. This year's conference focuses on the advancement of strategies for collaborative, multi-sectoral best practices for addressing state and local health priorities in Illinois. Local and nationally recognized experts will present on topics including: (1) 9/26: Setting the Stage: Evidence-based Public Health & Social Determinants of Health; (2) 9/27: Reducing Chronic Disease: Improving Nutrition & Physical Activity; and (3) 9/28: Addressing Behavioral Health Issues: Mental Health, Substance Abuse & Violence.

Participants have the convenience of taking part in individual presentations or the entire conference through affordable, tiered registration. All registrants will receive a complimentary computer headset with microphone to easily interact with presenters and other participants. To view a full conference agenda or register, please visit iphionline.org. For more information, contact Sarah Rittner at sarah.rittner@iphionline.org or 312.850.IPHI (4744).



5th Annual Southern
Obesity Summit



October 2 - 5, 2011 New Orleans, Louisiana

Policy Leaders Convene at 5th Annual Southern Obesity Summit October 2-5, 2011 New Orleans, LA

The obesity epidemic is challenging every community across the United States, but the South is particularly affected. In response, the Texas Health Institute (THI) and Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) developed the Southern Obesity Summit (SOS) in 2007.

A new component at the 5th Annual Southern Obesity Summit, in New Orleans from October 2-5, is a one-day symposium for state health officers, state legislators, and big-city mayors. The Robert Wood Johnson Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity at ACHI is funding this gathering to help identify specific goals for obesity prevention initiatives in each state and common goals for the region.

For more information about attending the Summit, becoming a sponsor or exhibitor and/or making hotel reservations, please visit www.SouthernObesitySummit.org or contact Stephanie Ondrias, Event Coordinator at sondrias@texashealthinstitute.org.

Communities Joined in Action Announces 6th Annual Conference October 5-7, 2011 Washington D.C.

Please join [Communities Joined in Action \(CJA\)](#) for its 6th Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. October 5-7, 2011. The conference will showcase how communities are "Improving Health, Eliminating Disparities in an Age of Healthcare Reform." It will provide information and tools to successfully implement healthcare reform, ensure positive health outcomes for all, and bend the cost curve. Visit [CJA's conference page](#) to learn more and register.

Association for Community Health Improvement™ March 14-16 Denver, Colorado www.communityhlthconf.org

Elevating Community Health Practice 2012 National Conference

The Association for Community Health Improvement Invites Session Proposals for its 2012 Denver Conference March 14-16, 2012 Denver, CO

Make plans to join the Association for Community Health Improvement March 14-16, 2012 in Denver, Colorado for ACHI's 2012 conference. The theme is Elevating Community Health Practice. [The call for session proposals is open until September 9, 2011!](#) Consider submitting and help make the 2012 meeting an excellent event!

Funding & Scholarship Opportunities

NNPHI Funding Opportunity: HIA Training for NNPHI Members

Applications due September 9th



NNPHI is pleased to announce, in coordination with the Health Impact Project (a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts) that two NNPHI members, the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) and Oregon Public Health Institute (OPHI), were recently selected to serve as the regional HIA training centers. As part of the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) project, GHPC and ORHI hosted an HIA 101 webinar on August 30th. The webinar featured an introduction to HIAs and discussed an opportunity for ten public health institutes to participate in the in-person HIA training, November 29th-November 30th, at The Pew Conference Center in Washington, DC. A recording of the HIA 101 webinar is now available for download on NNPHI's eCatalog; please [click here](#) to download a copy of the recording.

All NNPHI Members interested in applying for the training opportunity should download a copy of the [call for participants application](#). Limited scholarships for this training are available. For more information, please visit the NNPHI [website](#). A FAQ sheet will be available after September 6th.



NNPHI Call for Work: Developing an Accreditation Strategy and Business Plan

NNPHI is seeking interested candidates to assist with the development of an accreditation strategy and business plan for NNPHI and Public Health Institutes. [Click](#) to download the full Call. Interested applicants should apply by **September 26th**.

Request for Proposals: Developing an Education and Training Curriculum and Delivering Learning Opportunities to State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Health Officials



The [National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#) and [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials \(ASTHO\)](#) are pleased to announce the availability of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for performing a comprehensive environmental scan to inform the development of an education and training curriculum and learning opportunities for state, tribal, local, and territorial health officers.

[Click](#) to download the Request for Proposals. Final proposals must be submitted and received electronically or by regular mail by **5:00 p.m. ET on Friday, September 30, 2011**. No exceptions.

Please feel free to contact **Lori Tremmel Freeman**, NACCHO Associate Executive Director, at 202.507.4215 or lfreeman@naccho.org with questions.

Employment Opportunities

Open Positions:

Please visit the organizations' websites for the most up-to-date information on open positions.

[Director of Public Health Policy, Health Resources in Action, Inc.](#) (Boston, MA)

[Associate Director of the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)'s Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) (Baltimore, MD)

[Chief Operating Officer, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (Atlanta, GA)

[Associate Director, Div. for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention, CDC](#) (Baltimore, MD)

[Policy Analyst, The Center for Mississippi Health Policy](#) (MS)

[Associate Director of Arkansas Health Policy, ACHI](#) (AR)

[Director of Arkansas Health Data Initiative, ACHI](#) (AR)

Please visit the NNPHI Member Organizations' [websites](#) for available job positions:

[Public Health Institute](#) (CA)

[Louisiana Public Health Institute](#) (LA)

[Michigan Public Health Institute](#) (MI)

[Health Research, Inc.](#) (NY)

[Public Health Solutions](#) (NY)

[Public Health Management Corporation](#) (PA)
