

Contact: Lil Johnson, MPH
Program Manager
National Network of Public Health Institutes
ljohnson@nnphi.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Network of Public Health Institutes Supports Rapid Improvement Using Kaizen Technique at Ten Health Departments

February 6, 2014, Washington, DC: The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), in partnership with Continual Impact, has selected ten health departments to receive training, coaching, and materials to co-lead a quality improvement (QI) project using the Kaizen event technique. Kaizen – Japanese for “change for the better” – uses the principles of QI in a rapid, focused setting that leads to impactful improvements in public health systems and processes.

“Identifying and eliminating waste in a work process, increasing the value of the outputs of the process, active engagement of staff at multiple levels of the organization, and speedy and sustainable results are the hallmarks of ‘Kaizen.’ This method has proven effective in a number of health departments across the country, and we look forward to seeing results of Kaizen process improvements achieved by the grantees,” said Pamela Russo, Senior Program Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

QI leaders from each local health department came together and received 48+ hours of Kaizen training. “The skills and concepts I learned for the Kaizen can be applied to all QI methods. I realized why some QI projects that I have facilitated were not as successful as they could have been,” stated one QI leader.

Armed with the training, preparation, and an on-site QI Coach, the ten health departments are conducting a Kaizen event over a five-day period. Teams of staff at each health department will use their new skills to tackle issues such as increasing efficiency in purchasing processes, increasing completed child developmental screenings, and improving shared drive usage. The lessons learned from these leaders will inform future directions of QI in public health. Learn more about the efforts at the next Open Forum for Quality Improvement in Public Health, June 12-13, 2014 in Kansas City, MO.



QI Leaders work together on their preparation for their QI projects during the December Kaizen Training.

The Kaizen Event Program is part of the Community of Practice for Public Health Improvement (COPPHI), managed by NNPHI, implemented in partnership with Continual Impact, and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. For more information, contact Lil Johnson, NNPHI Program Manager, at ljohnson@nnphi.org.

###

About the National Network of Public Health Institutes

Created in 2001 as a forum for public health institutes (PHIs), today NNPHI convenes its members and partners at the local, state, and national levels in efforts to address critical health issues. NNPHI's mission is to support national public health system initiatives and strengthen PHIs to promote multi-sector activities resulting in measurable improvements of public health structures, systems, and outcomes. Learn more about NNPHI and its member institutes at www.nnphi.org.