

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

WORKGROUP ACTIVITIES UPDATES

Public Health Activities and Services

The Public Health Activities and Services workgroup met on Monday, April 26, and finalized the list of items for the 2009 inventory. The information collected from the inventory will answer “What does public health do in Washington State?” The focus is on the governmental public health system consisting of 35 local health jurisdictions (LHJs) and the state Department of Health (DOH). The pilot count of activities and services was conducted last year and the results are used in many ways to describe the work of public health.

At this time the overall number of items has grown considerably. Last year, most of the DOH items reflected data submitted from the LHJs. This year there will be items from DOH including activities they have responsibility for such as hospital inspections. The number of LHJ-reported items has also increased, but many of those will be Yes/No questions. Some public health activities, such as restaurant inspections or visits to clinics, are easy to count. Others, such as community health promotion projects that involve coalitions of partner agencies, are more difficult to count because so much of the work is done through collaboration. Both kinds of work are reflected in the 2009 inventory, but it is important to note that numbers cannot tell the whole story.

The LHJ survey will be developed and administered in early June. The consulting firm Berk and Associates will develop and administer the survey. DOH staff will collect the DOH data which will then be merged with the LHJ data for an overall systems report of 2009 activities and services.

Public Health Indicators Workgroup

The Public Health Indicators workgroup will meet in the fall 2010. In preparation, DOH staff is working with the co-chairs, Lyndia Tye and Christie Spice, to develop and administer a survey about the use of the 32 indicator data, ways to improve it and suggestions for other indicators. A similar survey was conducted following the release of the background data in 2008. Staff is also researching other states' use of indicators and will present this information to the workgroup. The workgroup roster is being created, the charter is drafted and DOH is exploring options for improved support for web based presentation of the indicator data.



Public Health Standards Workgroup

2010-2011 Standards Review

The 2010-2011 standards review process is proceeding. The DOH has submitted all documents to PHAB for the beta test. A site review has been scheduled for early June with a site visit from MCPP immediately following to score the additional Washington measures that are not part of the national set.

A communication was sent from Mary Selecky and Joe Lillard as co-chairs of PHIP to all local health departments announcing the start of the local health review cycle. Each health department was asked to name a coordinator to prepare the agency and receive updates regarding the review cycle which will occur in the spring of 2011. Training about how to prepare for the site visit will be held this summer and into the fall.

New requirements for this cycle will be to submit documents electronically and much of the review will occur off site. The site visit will be used for questions and documents that could not be sent electronically. Health departments must submit documentation for 60% of the measures to get a site visit.

Update on PHAB Accreditation Processes

Several people in Washington were selected to be beta test site reviewers, including Torney Smith, Susan Ramsey and several members of the Public Health Standards Workgroup. All have attended training and have been assigned to review a site. PHAB plans to complete the beta test site reviews by the end of August and is on schedule to start accrediting health departments in 2011.

Update on the Multi-State Learning Collaborative

A training session was held with all the quality improvement teams in March. Each team is preparing for their activities during the final phase of the project. A Learning Congress is planned for early November of 2010. The final year of the Multi-State Learning Collaborative started on April 15 and will include quality improvement training for local health leadership and evaluation of the standards review processes by the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice.

April 2010