

*Public Health
Accreditation: The
Beta Test, Next
Steps, and QI
Connection*



*Advancing
public health
performance*

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Learning Congress

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Session Objectives

- Discuss the Beta Test process and lessons learned so far
- Describe what's next for PHAB in the development of the national public health accreditation program
- Discuss what advice PHAB is giving to health departments as they prepare for accreditation
- Describe the Accreditation/QI connection

But First...



A special thank you to the state of Washington.....

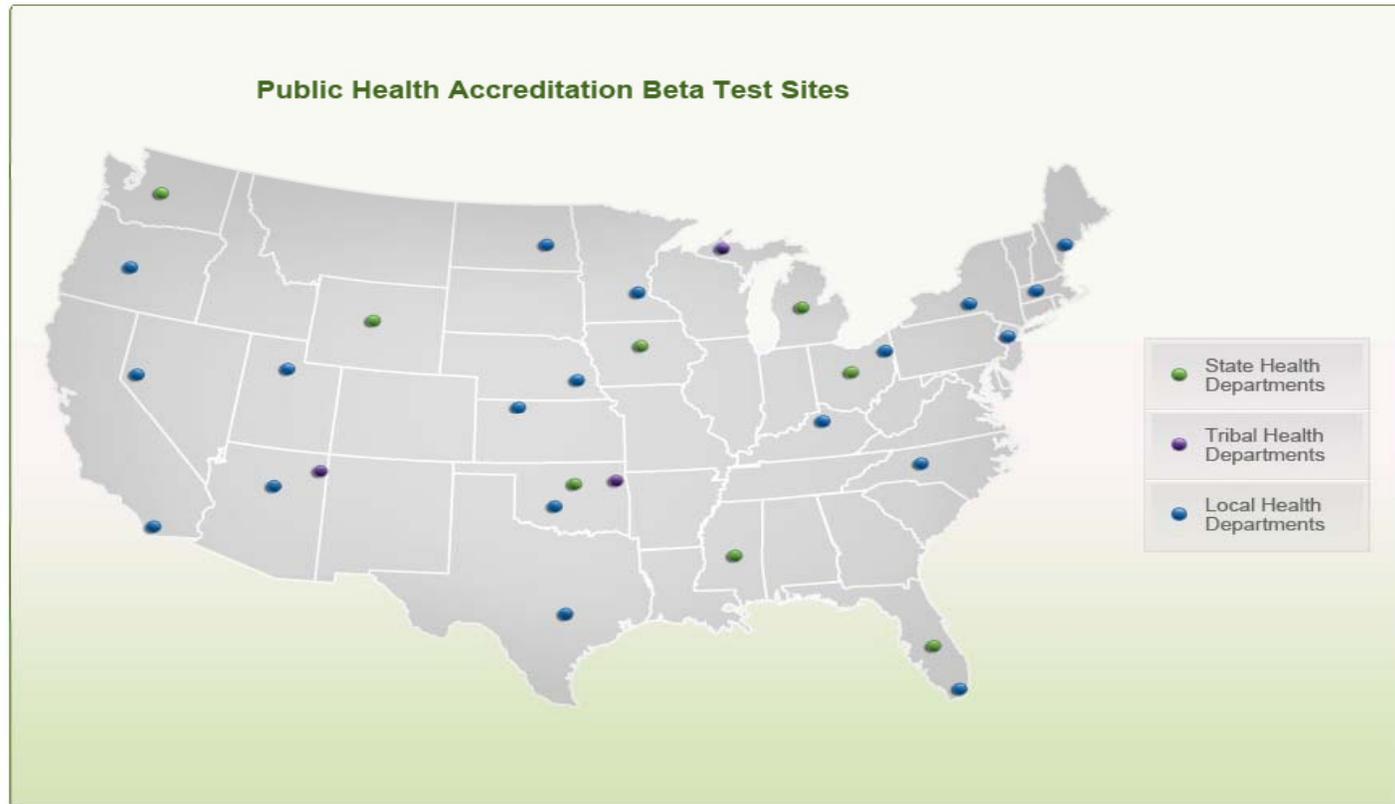




The Beta Test



Beta Test Sites 2009-2010





Beta Test Purpose

PHAB's Beta Test conducted from November 2009-September 2010 field tested as much of the planned accreditation tools and process as possible.

Three key differences between the beta test and the final accreditation process were 1.) the beta test process was conducted using an extremely compressed time frame, 2.) the beta test stopped short of actually awarding accreditation, and, 3.) the beta test sample was deliberately selected using a mix of health departments with varying degrees of readiness.

What Have We Learned So Far?

The Beta Test achieved the goals originally stated in the beta test concept paper adopted by the Board of Directors in January 2009; it has provided robust and comprehensive formative evaluation information, specific quality improvement direction, and excellent marketing of this promising effort to improve the quality and performance of all health departments.

What Have We Learned So Far?

The Board of Directors received the initial beta test evaluation report at its December 2010 meeting. Preliminary results continue to provide valuable information in the revision of the standards and measures, as well as the accreditation process. Those results will provide the basis for PHAB's work over the next 2-3 months as the staff and respective work groups develop the revised set of standards and process for Board approval in May 2011. Over 500 comments on the standards and measures were received and are being analyzed.

What Have We Learned So Far?

Anecdotal reports and presentations from the beta test sites indicate that there are many benefits to them for having conducted the steps in the accreditation process, such as reviewing the application, conducting the self-assessment, conducting the site visit, and receiving the report. The site visit report provided health departments with a review of their work by peers, using the PHAB standards and measures as a guide. Although accreditation was not awarded, many sites have said that this type of review has been especially important in light of the existing economic and fiscal environment in which health departments operate.

What Have We Learned So Far?

The Board will hear the remaining components of the beta test evaluation at its March 2011 meeting.

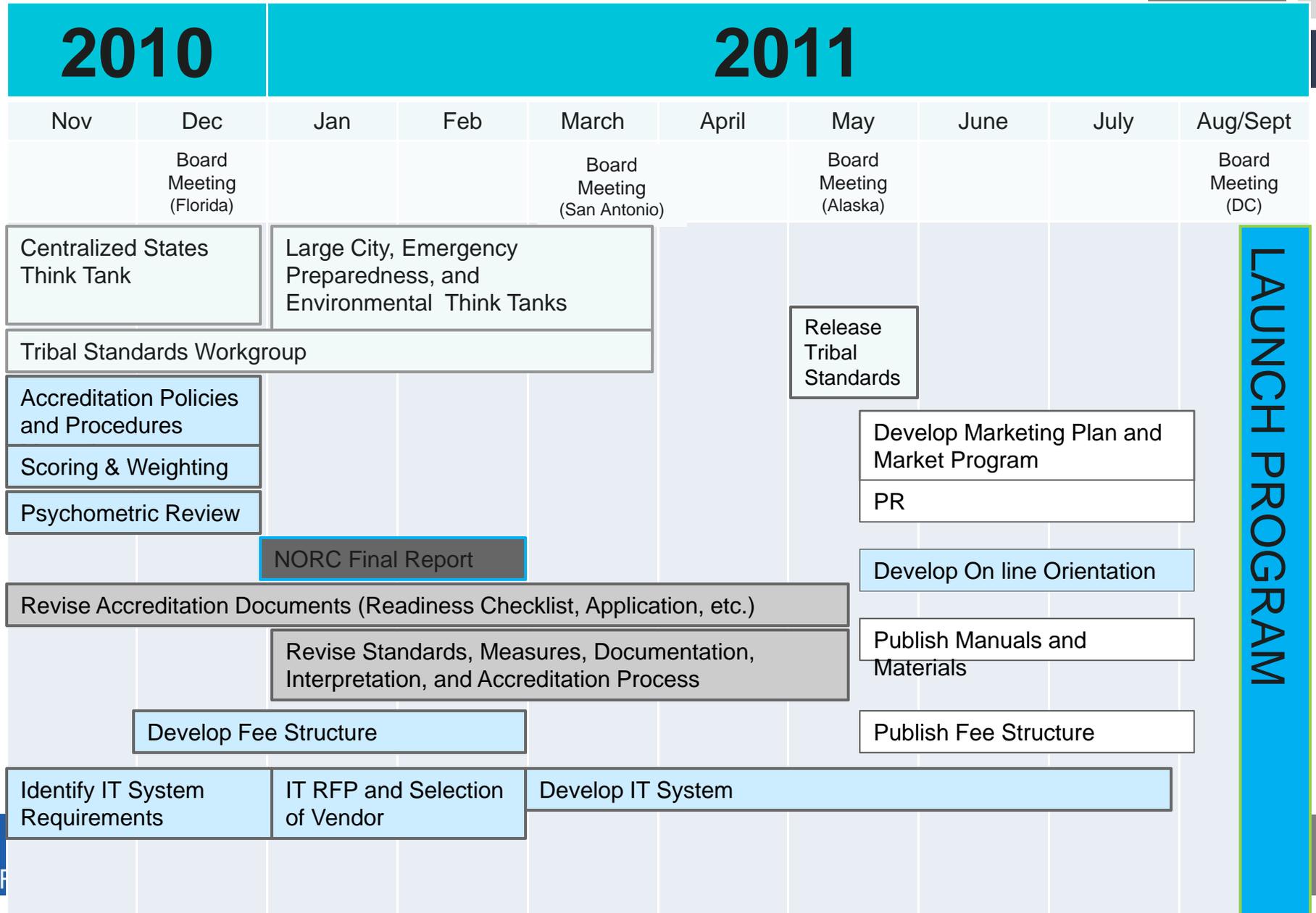
The Board recognizes the national interest in the beta test evaluation results. Results of the beta test sample can not be used for describing or predicting health department performance in any of the domain areas.



What's Next in the Accreditation Development Process?



PHAB's Timeline to Launch



LAUNCH PROGRAM

Tribal Standards

- A work group was appointed and has developed the set of tribal documents
- A vetting period will be conducted in partnership with the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) into early 2011.
- The final version will be released in May 2011.



State and Local Standards and Measures

- Comments received from the beta test, think tanks to date, and through other means are being analyzed.
- The Standards Development Work Group will be asked to reconvene to review proposed changes.

Accreditation Process

Comments regarding the Accreditation Process (formerly called the Assessment Process) are being analyzed as well.

The Assessment Process Work Group will be asked to review proposed changes.

Accreditation Review Committee

The Board of Directors approved the initial policies and procedures which will guide the Accreditation Committee's work in receiving and reviewing the accreditation site visit reports and making a final accreditation decision. The Accreditation Committee has not yet been appointed.



Scoring and Weighting

A scoring methodology has been developed, but the related weighting scale for the standards and measures has been deferred until further analyses can be completed.



Development of Fees

The Fee Development Committee continues to review various models for determining the final fee structure in an attempt to balance the costs of operating a national public health accreditation program with a fee structure that the market will bear. Research will be conducted over the next few weeks so that a more accurate forecasting of annual volume can occur.



Accreditation Incentives

- Keep accreditation practice-focused
- Ensure clarity in partner support
- Request support for accreditation
- Develop grant specific incentives to avoid duplication in reporting
- Develop new funding for accreditation
- Share data from the PHAB information system

PHAB Board of Directors January 2009

Input from the Think Tanks



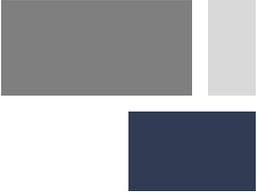
While the beta test has been an important process, it is only one part of PHAB's continuous quality improvement process which also includes input from the various Think Tanks. In December 2010, the Board of Directors affirmed the status of the planned Think Tanks related to environmental public health, emergency preparedness, centralized states, and large city/metro. It also identified needs in the areas of chronic disease, multi-jurisdictional/small health department accreditation, MCH, and workforce over the next several months.

Assessing the Impact

PHAB is committed to the vision that public health practice and ultimately health outcomes will be improved as a result of accreditation. As PHAB moves from development of the initial accreditation tools, it will begin to work closely with other national partners to identify a solid process for measuring these impacts. Until that has been done, it is PHAB's intent to focus on the outcome of strengthening the public health infrastructure for the purpose of providing a strong foundation upon which public health interventions targeted toward improving the health of the population rest.



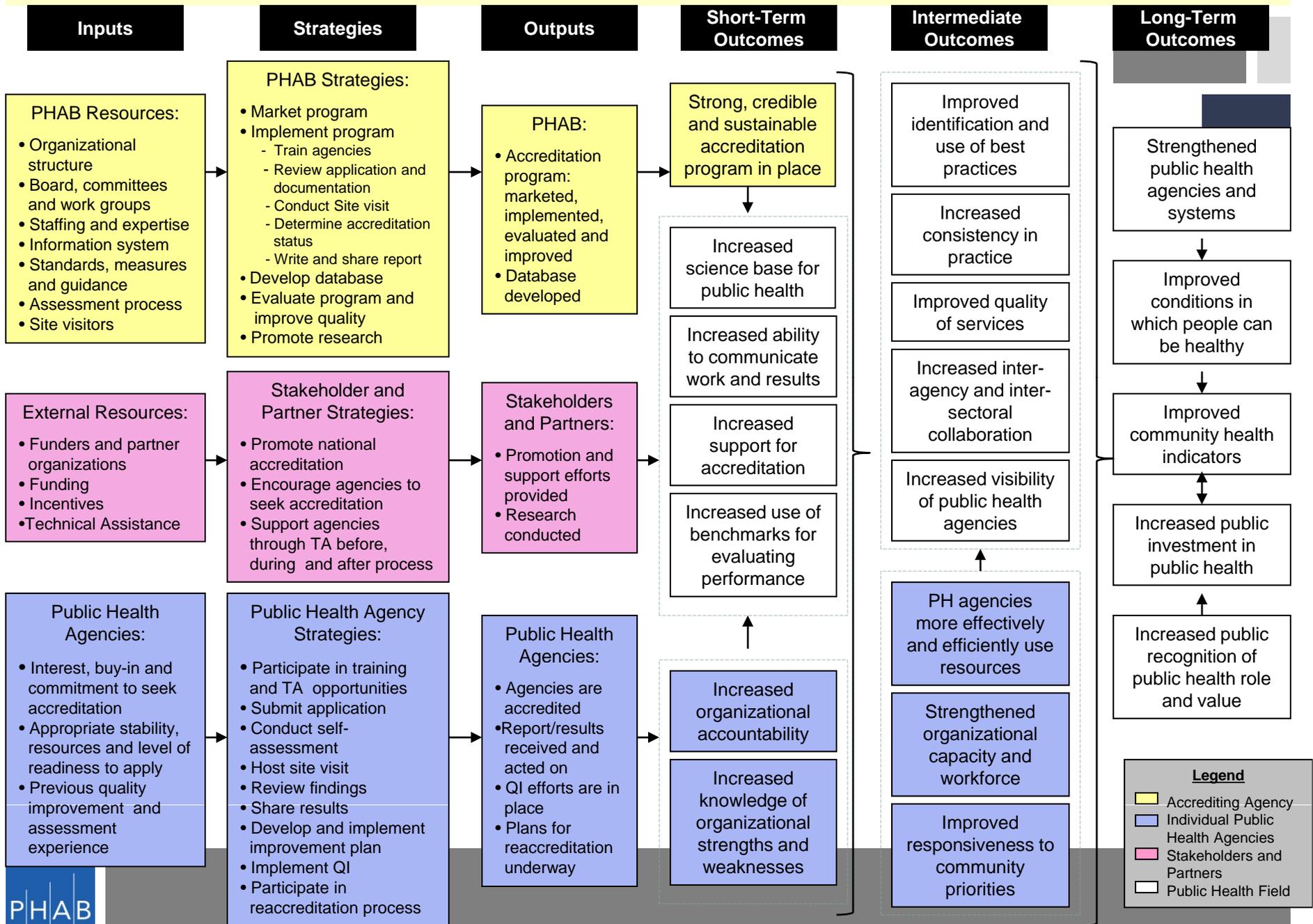
Public Health Systems Research and Accreditation



One of PHAB's commitments is to the development of an accreditation research agenda. The Board affirmed plans to partner with the public health research community at two major upcoming public health systems research conferences to continue the development of a comprehensive public health accreditation research agenda. The practice community will also need to be included in this developmental work as the agenda is finalized and distributed.

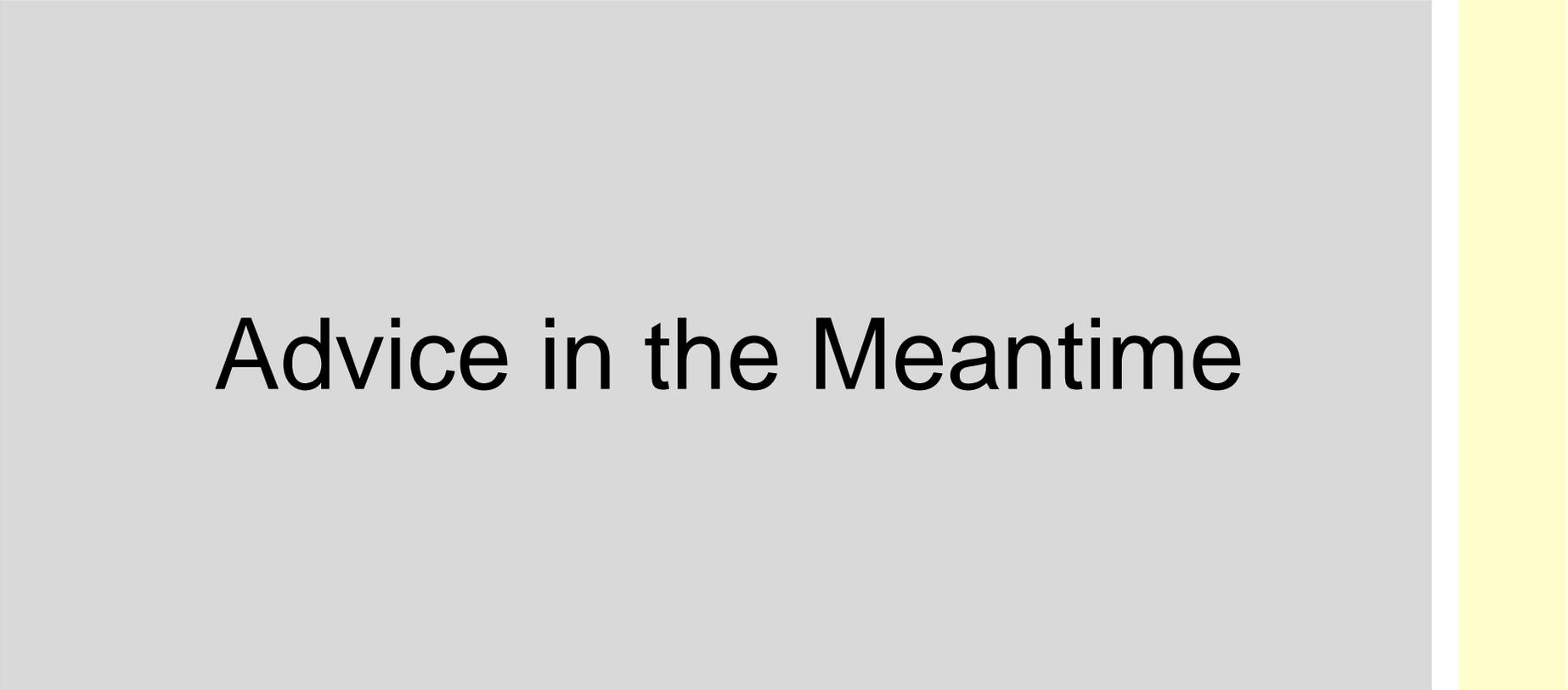
Public Health Agency Accreditation System Implementation

August 2010





Advice in the Meantime





The preparation of health departments for accreditation remains vital to the success of the national program. PHAB continue to encourage health departments to work on the pre-requisites (community/state health assessment, community/state health improvement plan, and agency strategic plan).

PHAB's national partners remain valuable resources to support health departments in that preparation as well as to provide input and feedback to PHAB in the final revision process.

Additional Information on Pre-Requisites

PHAB is working with its national partners to better assist future accreditation applicants with their pre-requisites. Here is what we have heard that applicant sites will need:

- Clarity on the definition of each of the three pre-requisites and what the key elements of each need to be
- Clarity on how they relate to each other
- Specific guidance on what PHAB is looking for in each of these
- Training and technical assistance on their development and use

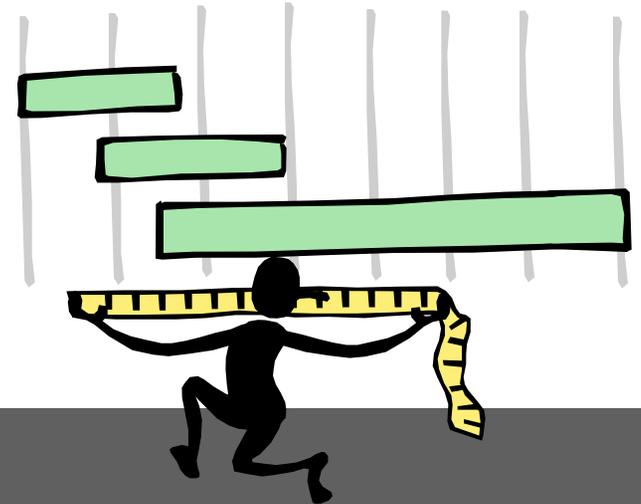


The Accreditation/QI Connection



Quality Improvement Defined for Public Health

The use of a deliberate and defined improvement process...which is focused on activities that are responsive to community needs and improving population health.



Quality Improvement Defined for Public Health

A continuous and ongoing effort to achieve measurable improvements in the efficiency, effectiveness, performance, accountability, outcomes and other indicators of quality of services or processes that achieve equity and improve the health of the community.

Riley, Moran, Corso, Beitsch, Bialek, Cofsky. "Defining Quality Improvement in Public Health". *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*, January/February 2010

Characteristics of QI

“Small QI”

Program or activity level

Great way to learn a specific model

“Large QI”

Organization-wide

System focused

Realizing Public Health Transformation Through QI

- Set focus on a vital few priorities
- Create a sense of urgency for measurable results and a culture of quality
- Engage every employee
- Build QI time into daily workload
- Adopt fact-based decision making
- Reward and celebrate progress

Results of Accreditation Leads to QI Focus

The process of preparing for and achieving accreditation yields information about the agency that can be used to identify areas of improvement. These are areas that exist at the “Large QI” level.

PHAB's Organizational Update for 2011



- Officers Elected for 2011
 - Dr. Bill Riley, Chair
 - Carole Moehrle, Vice-Chair
 - Ed Harrison, Secretary/Treasurer
- Re-appointment of board members Bud Nicola, Carole Moehrle, Hugh Tilson, Fernando Guerra, and Rex Archer to a three year term.
- Consideration of three new board members to replace outgoing members is underway



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public health accreditation. . .

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