



# **PUBLIC HEALTH**

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND  
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

*Environmental Health Directors  
October 23, 2008*

*Accreditation of Public Health Agencies*



*Helping raise the standard  
for public health.*

# Public Health Accreditation Board: Overview and Status Report

July 2008

# Voluntary Accreditation Goal

*The goal of a voluntary national accreditation program is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of state and local public health departments.*

Exploring Accreditation Final Report, p. 4



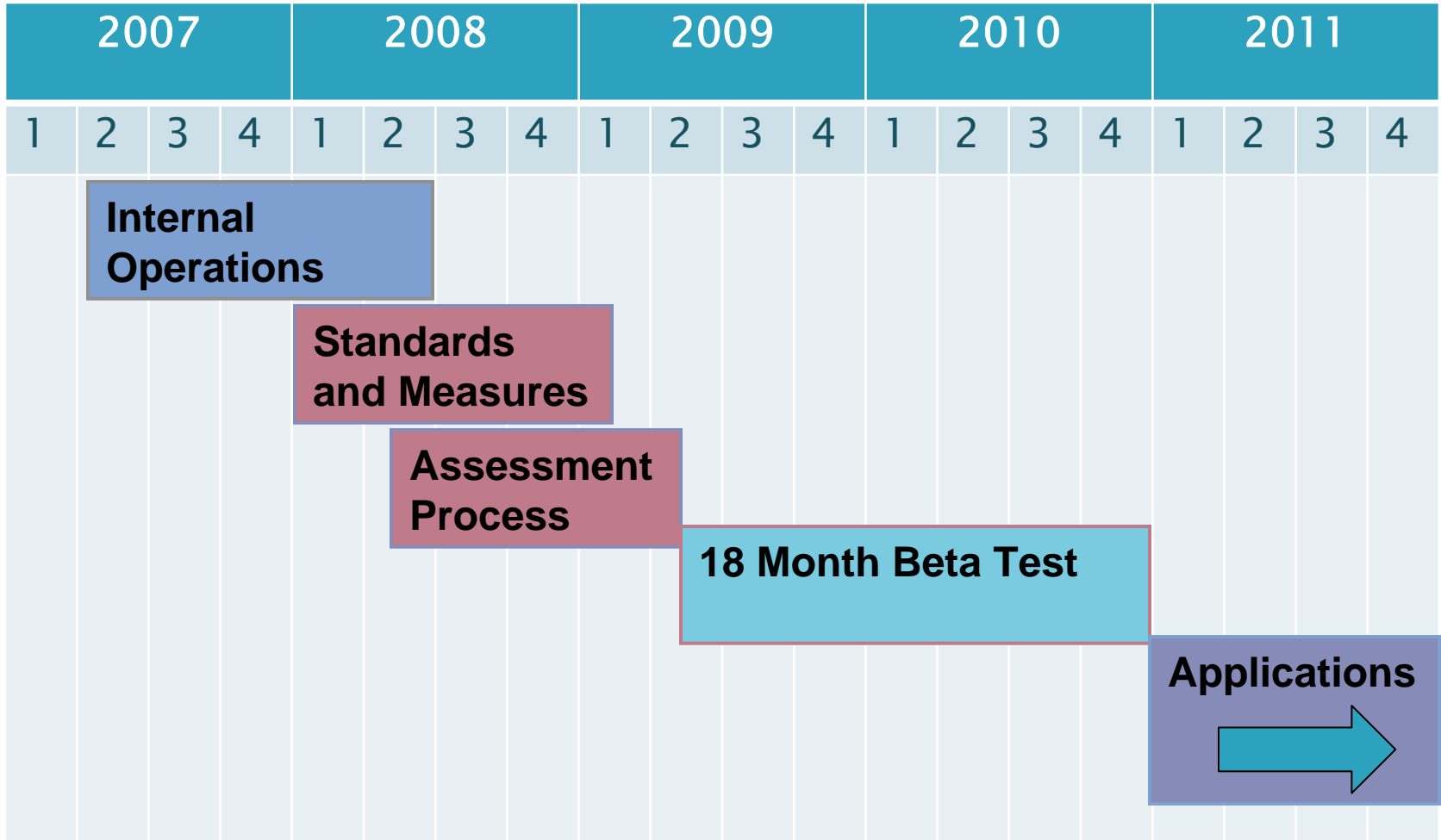
# The Value of Accreditation: Agency Benefits & Public Benefits

- ▶ Improved Public Health Outcomes
- ▶ A Tool for Quality and Performance Improvement
- ▶ Accountability
- ▶ Credibility
- ▶ Recognition of Excellence
- ▶ Clarification of Expectations
- ▶ Increased Visibility

# Eligible Applicants for Public Health Accreditation

- ▶ State health departments
- ▶ Territorial health departments
- ▶ Local (city and county) health departments
- ▶ Tribal health departments

# Five Year Timeline



# Workgroups

- ▶ Standards Workgroup (Torney Smith)
- ▶ Equivalency Workgroup (Joan Brewster)
- ▶ Assessment Process (Rita Schmidt)
- ▶ Research and Evaluation

# Standards Workgroup Products

- ▶ Developing standards for all health departments
- ▶ Developing measures specific to local and state health departments
- ▶ Developing guidance for documentation and demonstration of department performance on meeting standards and measures
- ▶ Developing scoring and weighting methodology

# Equivalency Recognition Workgroup

- ▶ Develop guidelines and principles to govern the evaluation of state-based accreditation programs for local health departments so that equivalency of the state program to the national accreditation program can be determined
  - Acknowledge states with existing programs
  - Not a grandfathering process
  - Recognize programs that conform to the national program

# Assessment Process Workgroup

- ▶ Determine how to evaluate whether a health department has achieved accreditation status
- ▶ Determine how health departments can appeal decisions

# Research and Evaluation Committee

- ▶ Develop a plan for evaluating the assessment processes and identifying research that would improve the standards–setting and accreditation program.
- ▶ Review standards and measures for validity and reliability.
- ▶ Provide consultation on data collection and interface with accreditation tracking and application online system.

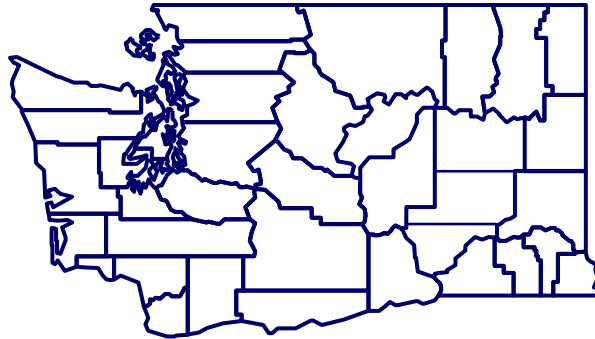
# Washington System



# Our Goal

- A predictable level of public health protection throughout the state

*“What every person has a right to expect.”*



# What We Have in Washington

- 12 Public Health Standards and Measures
- Regular assessment process (every 3 years)
- Local Public Health Indicators
- Individual site reports and overall report
- Participation of every LHJ, DOH and SBOH
- Recommendations for Quality Improvement
- Measurement of progress in PH System

# Alignment to Accreditation:

## What would we need - Washington's Processes

- Accreditation processes (eligibility, scoring, integration of local indicators)
- Revised site review processes
- Accreditation board or entity
- Appeals process
- Revised standards (align to national)
- Experience with accreditation and reaccreditation

# Next Steps for Washington

- Discussion with WSALPHO forums and DOH
- Review and vet national standards (winter 09)
- Identify options
- PHIP Performance Management Committee develop recommendations
- PHIP Board of Directors makes final decision about current standards and next steps

# Background



# Context in Washington - PHIP

## Public Health Improvement Partnership (PHIP)

### Partners:

- American Indian Health Commission (AIHC)
- State Board of Health (SBOH)
- University of Washington School of Public Health & Community Medicine (UW-SPHCM) - Northwest Center (NWC)
- Washington Health Foundation (WHF)
- Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO)
- Washington State Department of Health (DOH)
- Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA)



# Context in Washington - PHIP

## PHIP Active Committees:

- Activities & Services (AS) - Barry Kling & Gregg Grunenfelder
- Key Health Indicators (KHI) - Lyndia Tye & Jude Van Buren
- Performance Management (PM) - Torney Smith & Susan Ramsey
- Public Health Information Technology (PHIT) - Ed Dzedzy & Frank Westrum
- Workforce Development (WFD) - Leslie Koenig & Jack Thompson



# Context in Washington - PHIP

## PHIP Governance and Roles

- **Board of Directors** – provides overall guidance and direction. Co-Chaired by Secretary of Health and Chair of WSALPHO. Members include: DOH SMT; WSALPHO BOD; Leadership representative from each of the other partners. Generally meets 2x/yr in person.
- **Steering Committee** – provides more day-to-day oversight and integration of committee work. Facilitated by Deborah Allwes. Members includes: Committee co-chairs and staff. Generally meets 4-6x/yr, usually by phone.
- **Leadership, Support & Staffing** - DOH Office of Public Health Systems Planning and Development (OPHSPD) provides leadership, coordination, and staffing to PHIP. Deborah Allwes is the PHIP Coordinator.
- **Co-Chairs** - Statewide committee leadership; represent DOH on the committee; DOH role – Division/Office