

Accreditation

Exploring A Voluntary National
Program for U.S. State and Local
Public Health Departments



Background

- 2003: NACCHO, using the 10 Essential Public Health Services framework, developed a consensus of what basic public health protections all citizens can reasonably expect from their Local Public Health Agency
- The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) identified accreditation as a key strategy for strengthening the public health infrastructure



Operational Definition

- Published in November, 2005
- Incorporates
 - [Core Public Health Functions](#)
 - 10 Essential Public Health Services
 - National Public Health Performance Standards



Operational Definition

- Shared an understanding about what people in every U.S. community have the right to expect of their local public health agency.
- Operational Definition



National Steering Committee

- September 2005, formed to pursue a voluntary national accreditation program for state and local public health departments
- August 2006, presented an accreditation model
- November 2006, American Public Health Association (APHA) endorses accreditation



APHA

- The American Public Health Association made supporting accreditation part of its strategic plan stating that public health agency focus on performance improvement has the potential to improve its capacity to serve the public.



National Voluntary Accreditation Model

- Designed to:
 - Promote high performance and continuous quality improvement.
 - Recognize high performers that meet nationally accepted standards of quality.
 - Clarify public expectations of state and local health departments.



National Voluntary Accreditation Model

- Increase visibility & public awareness of governmental public health that will:
 - Increase public trust
 - Increase health department credibility/accountability
 - Increase potential for public health infrastructure funding



Goals of Accreditation

1. Create tools for P.H. practitioners to use in continuous quality improvement
2. Strengthen state & local P.H. systems by providing mechanisms for demonstrating accountability to constituencies
3. Enhance decision-making by strengthening the science base for effective Public Health practice



Accreditation Planning in Illinois

- 2005: The Illinois Public Health Institute began working with the Multi-state Learning Collaborative funded by Robert Wood Johnson and the National Networks of Public Health Institutes
- A 10 member Illinois Accreditation Task Force was appointed and developed the Illinois Accreditation Model.



Accreditation in Illinois

- Voluntary
- Fall 2007: Pilot testing completed in 7 Illinois health departments
- Received grant extension to continue exploring accreditation for an additional 3 years



End of Part 8

Accreditation



Part 9

Overview of Madison County Programs and Services

