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Some Thoughts on Health Department Accreditation

F. Douglas Scutchfield, MD, University of Kentucky
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F. Douglas Scutchfield, MD
Bosomworth Professor of Health Services Research and Policy
University of Kentucky College of Public Health
KHDA Committee 30 June 08
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
Not a Particularly New Idea

1914: AMA Survey of State Health Departments

1925: APHA Committee on Administrative Practice “National Honor Roll”

1945: Emerson Report to the Administrative Practices Committee of the APHA

1956: APHA Committee on Administrative Practice’s demise
Post IOM Report Activities

• Definition of Governmental Public Health Functions: assessment, policy development and assurance

• Refinement as the 10 essential public health services

• Healthy People 2000 calls for the US population to have access to a health department's services
Post IOM Report Activities

- Miller/Turnock 20
- National Public Health Performance Standards Program Develops
- Operational Definition of a Local Health Department
- Professional organizational surveys:
Antecedents to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)

IOM
In 2003, The Future of the Public’s Health called for a National Steering Committee for PHD Accreditation

CDC
Future’s Initiative Identified Accreditation as a Key Strategy

RWJF
2004 Gathering of RWJF of PH Stakeholders launch Exploring Accreditation Program
Exploring Accreditation

Milestones

• 2005  Est. by Major PH Practice Organizations
  ○ 25 Member Steering Committee, Four Workgroups

• 2006  Develop National Accreditation Model

• 2007  PHAB Incorporated
Exploring Accreditation

Steering Committee
(Four Workgroups)

Public Outreach

Standards & Accreditation

Research & Evaluation

Fees & Incentives
PHAB Board of Directors

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- William Riley, PhD
- F. Douglas Scutchfield, MD
- H. Sally Smith
### Timeline

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- **Draft Standards**
  - Vet standards & measures
  - Revise and finalize draft standards
  - Board Adopt

- **Draft Equivalency Recognition policies**
  - Vet
  - Revise
  - Board Adopt

- **Assessment Process designed**
  - Vet

- **Develop accreditation IT applications**
  - Identify site visitors
  - Identify & train site visitors
  - Form Incentives Workgroup
  - Consider Incentives and Fees

- **Coordinate with providers of technical assistance**

- **R&E Committee**: Research agenda, evaluation plan, data principles
  - Hire evaluation
  - Data management consultant

- **Communications and Marketing Consultant**

- **RWJ Communications Training**

- **Hire Project Manager**
Standards and Accreditation February ‘08

Conclusions

• The Public Health Accreditation Board is establishing a voluntary national accreditation program.

• The process for developing standards and the equivalency recognition policies and processes are in accordance the recommendations of the Exploring Accreditation Report.

Source: www.phaboard.org
Standards and Accreditation February ‘08
Conclusions

Standards Development Workgroup

Equivalency Recognition Workgroup

State & Local Government PH Practitioners

Source: www.phaboard.org
Standards and Accreditation February ‘08
Conclusions

- Monitor Health
- Diagnose & Investigate
- Inform, Educate, Empower
- Mobilize Community Partnerships
- Develop Policies
- Enforce Laws
- Link to/Provide Care
- Assure Competent Workforce
- Evaluate
- Management
- Governance

Source: www.phaboard.org
Standards and Accreditation February ‘08

Conclusions

- NACCHO’s Operational Definition is serving as the foundation for the development of standards (and associated measures) for local health departments.

- ASTHO’s review of state public health services is informing the process to ensure applicability for state health departments.

- Existing state-based performance standards for state & local health departments and the NPHPSP state & local model standards and measures are also being considered in the development of national standards.

Source: www.phaboard.org
Standards and Accreditation February ‘08
Conclusions (Continued)

**Intent**
Develop Standards That Will:

- Promote Credibility & Value
- Facilitate a Simple, Streamlined Process
- Increase Visibility of & Support for Accredited PHDs

Source: www.phaboard.org
Equivalency

- There currently exist three state-based public health accreditation programs: Michigan, Missouri, and North Carolina

- It is PHAB’s intent not to specifically respond to whether a state should or should not undertake a state accreditation program, that prerogative remains with the state
Equivalency

Prepare for National Accreditation

Use of Current Standards

Employment of QI Efforts

Develop State Specific QI Programs
Equivalency

Review & Comment

Domains of Public Health

Standards & Measures

Proposed Accreditation Process
Incentives

- Recognition of high performance and quality improvement
- Accountability to the public and governing bodies
- Enhanced access to resources for performance improvement
- Participation in a learning community dedicated to excellent health outcomes
- Improvement of public health in the US
Next Steps

- Review Exploring Accreditation Final Recommendations
- Follow PHAB progress on [www.phaboard.org](http://www.phaboard.org)
- Convene key “thought leaders” to discuss accreditation next steps in your agency
- Work with your association: ASTHO, NACCHO, NALBOH
- Employ the National Public Health Performance Standards
- Review the Operational Definition for Local Health Departments
Questions?

University of Kentucky College of Public Health

Scutch@uky.edu

www.publichealthsystems.org