Four North Carolina local health departments were awarded the status of Accreditation at the Board meeting held in Raleigh on December 19th, 2008. The four local health departments—Catawba County Public Health, Lenoir County Health Department, Macon County Public Health Center, and Stanly County Health Department—were accredited by the Board after hearing the reports from their site visits held October through November. The process of accreditation is designed to ensure that local health departments are capable of providing all of the essential public health services for its citizens. NC now has a total of 44 accredited health departments. Congratulations to Catawba, Lenoir, Macon, and Stanly!

The Accreditation Administrator would like to acknowledge the service of several Accreditation Board members whose terms ended in 2008.

- Marsha Stickford, Board of Health Member, Buncombe County
- Linda Sewall, Health Director, Greene County
- David Plyler, Commissioner, Forsyth County

The Accreditation Board welcomes the following new members:

- Winnie Ziegler, Board of Health Chair, Buncombe County
- Michael Page, Commissioner, Durham County

For more information on the Accreditation Board go to: http://nciph.sph.unc.edu/accred/accred_board/index.htm
Accreditation Plaques Presented to Two Accredited Health Departments

Dare County Department of Public Health

Appalachian District Health Department
SAVE-THE-DATE:
Upcoming Accreditation Trainings for Local Health Departments

Health Departments Participating in FY 2010 and 2011 for the FIRST time: March 24th, 2009 from 1:00 – 3:00pm via web conference

Health Departments Participating in FY 2010 and 2011 for Re-Accreditation: April 30th, 2009 from 1:00 – 3:00pm via web conference

Stay tuned! More information concerning these two trainings will be sent directly to the Health Directors and Agency Accreditation Coordinators (AACs) to which these dates apply!

The NCIPH Evaluation Services conducted an evaluation of the FY 2007 - 2008 NCLHDA process to provide information to the following parties: 1) the Accreditation Administrator (to determine how well the program is being administered); 2) the Accreditation Board (to determine how well the program is functioning overall); 3) DPH and DEH (to determine how well DPH and DEH staff are performing and how well the program is achieving its overall intent); and 4) the local health directors (to determine outcomes for local health agencies). To view the full report, go to http://nciph.sph.unc.edu/accred/about_nclhda/FY0708StakeholderReportFinal.pdf


Update on Re-Accreditation HDSAI

The Re-Accreditation Health Department Self-Assessment Instrument (HDSAI) release date has been extended by the Accreditation Board. Initially, the Accreditation Administrator planned to release the new tool January, 2009, however, in an effort to ‘fine tune’ the tool to ensure it meets the needs of all involved, the tool will now be released following the April, 2009 Accreditation Board meeting. The Re-Accreditation HDSAI will not be a completely new document. Health Departments participating in the Re-Accreditation process will follow the same Benchmarks and Activities as being used for initial accreditation, however, some Activities within the document will ask for additional requirements for those participating in the Re-Accreditation process.

The NCLHDA Board has released a new Interpretation document for use by local health departments and site visitors. The document will remain under review and accepting of comments until further notice. While receiving comments, the document will remain in draft form.

The Interpretation document will serve as a supplement to the Health Department Self-Assessment Instrument (HDSAI), and will provide health departments and site visitors with a more thorough understanding of each activity within the HDSAI. This document will take the place of the ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ that are posted on the Accreditation website. The mechanism for submitting questions via the website will remain, however, answers will be incorporated into the Interpretation document as deemed necessary. Previous FAQ have already been incorporated into this document. To access the Interpretation document go to http://nciph.sph.unc.edu/accred/health_depts/materials/index.htm.
Since the pilot process, involving six local health departments began in 2004; forty-four health departments have been accredited! Taking a look at the map below, you will see that **ALL** health departments are now either accredited or have been scheduled to participate in the process.

**Accreditation Progress**

- Accredited Health Departments
- Health Departments Participating in FY 2009
- Health Departments Participating in FY 2010
- Health Departments Participating in FY 2011
- Health Departments Participating in FY 2012
- Health Departments Participating in FY 2013

**Re-Accreditation Map**

A Local Health Department’s Accreditation status expires 4 years from their previous Accreditation Board meeting where Accreditation was granted. The following map identifies the year that each accredited health department will be up for Re-Accreditation.

- Re-Accreditation in FY 2010
- Re-Accreditation in FY 2011
- Re-Accreditation in FY 2012