Five Health Departments Receive Accreditation Status

Congratulations to the following health departments who were granted Accreditation Status on December 17th, 2010!

- Cherokee County Health Department
- Iredell County Health Department
- Johnston County Public Health Department
- Rutherford Polk McDowell District Health Department
- Union County Health Department

Welcome New Accreditation Board Members

Barbara Ann Hughes—Wake County Board of Health Member
Barbara Beatty—County Commissioner Member from Catawba County
Lorraine Salois-Deane—Durham County Board of Health Member
Upcoming Webinar Trainings for Local Health Departments

Electronic Documentation Training – via webinar
February 15, 2011, 1:00-3:00 pm

This training will be conducted by local health department staff who have participated in the accreditation process and provided their documentation electronically. You will learn the benefits of providing your documentation for accreditation electronically as well as steps for how to set up your documentation electronically.

Presenters:
- Fred Moore, Caswell County
- Jennifer Eastwood, Caswell County
- Debbie Edwards, Retired from Appalachian District
- Cindy Walker, Cabarrus County

Annual Health Department Accreditation Process Training – via webinar
March 15, 2011, 1:00-3:00 pm

This training will provide a broad overview of the accreditation process for both health departments preparing for initial accreditation and those preparing for re-accreditation. We encourage, at minimum, the health director and agency accreditation coordinator (AAC) to participate. However, feel free to invite your agency management team and/or other staff as you deem necessary. Some of you may have participated in previous accreditation trainings, however, we still encourage you to participate on March 15th since some of the information has changed since the last training and it’s very important that we are all on the same page.

Both trainings/webinars will be recorded and posted on our website for those who are unable to participate.

Save the dates:
More info coming soon on how to join each webinar.

One-time Switch Option Approved by Accreditation Board

Is your health department scheduled to participate in the Accreditation process during an upcoming fiscal year that just doesn’t work well for your department? For a limited time only (by February 28, 2011) the Accreditation Board will allow health departments who have not yet participated in the accreditation process for the first time to switch with another health department in order to swap fiscal years. It is up to the individual health departments to find another to switch with.

If you have found another health department who agrees to the switch please put the request in writing and submit to David Stone, Accreditation Administrator, at david_stone@unc.edu.
Standards Review & Revision Workgroup Formed

A workgroup has begun meeting in order to begin the process of reviewing and revising the Health Department Self-Assessment Instrument. This process will take quite some time—at minimum a year. The goal is to reduce repetitive activities and documentation requirements, to make the requirements as realistic as possible, and to consider the addition of any PHAB standards that NC’s process doesn’t already include. This workgroup contains health directors, AACs, BOH members, Site Visitors, Consultants, and Accreditation Board members.

Website Updates

The Accreditation Process Handbook has been updated and posted to the Accreditation website on the Health Department materials page. This document, formerly known as the Accreditation Guidance Document was re-titled to avoid confusion with the HDSAI Interpretation Document. The Accreditation Process Handbook gives a detailed overview of not only the history, purpose, and benefits of accreditation but outlines the process itself from start to finish.

Also added to the website are some additional policies adopted by the Accreditation Board on 12/17/10. A link to all accreditation program policies can be found on the Health Department materials page.

Call for Nominations: Craig Michalak Award for Excellence

In honor of the former Accreditation Administrator, Craig Michalak the NC Institute for Public Health is putting out a call for nominations for the Craig Michalak Award for Excellence. The award is given to individuals by the NC Institute for Public Health to recognized the efforts and support of the Local health Department Accreditation system throughout NC. Please consider nominating someone you feel is deserving of this award. A link to the nomination form is on the Accreditation website at www.sph.unc.edu/nciph/accred

Nominations are due no later than March 31st. Please send nominations to Melodi Thrift at melodi_thrift@unc.edu.