Ten Health Departments Receive Accreditation Status

Congratulations to the following health departments who were granted Accreditation Status on July 22, 2011! There are now 61 Accredited health departments in NC.

- Bladen County Health Department
- Columbus County Health Department
- *Gaston County Health Department
- Graham County Department of Public Health
- *Hertford County Public Health Authority
- *Mecklenburg County Health Department
- Montgomery County Health Department
- *Pitt County Health Department
- Sampson County Health Department
- *Wilkes County Health Department

*Re-Accred

Welcome Two New Accreditation Board Members

Thank you to Rosemary Summers and Dennis Harrington for their service to the Accreditation Board!

Welcome two new Board Members:

Carmine Rocco, Health Director, Haywood County
Danny Staley, Deputy Director, NC Division of Public Health

NC Local Health Department Accreditation

September 2011

ASSURING THE HEALTH OF NORTH CAROLINA THROUGH LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

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NC Local Health Department Accreditation

www.sph.unc.edu/nciph/accred
Message from Anna Schenck, NCIPH Director:
As shared a few months ago, David Stone, former Accreditation Administrator, accepted a position with the Public Health Accreditation Board. While David's leadership is greatly missed we are very pleased to have Brittan Wood, former State Accreditation Coordinator, step into the role of Accreditation Administrator. Brittan’s instrumental role with the Accreditation program since 2007 well positions her to lead the North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation program.

On a similar note, we are pleased to welcome Rich Rosselli, formerly with the UNC Center for Public Health Preparedness, to the Accreditation program staff. Beginning in October 2011, Rich will serve as the State Accreditation Coordinator.

Brittan and Rich will divide the duties of conducting site visits and will largely serve as a cohesive team to implement this statewide, legislatively mandated program for our local health departments. The Institute is very lucky to have Brittan and Rich working together on this program.

Annual Local Health Department Accreditation Process Training (presented July 20, 2011) Webinar Recording Available

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. Some of you may have participated in previous accreditation trainings, however, we still encourage you to participate since some of the information has changed since the last training and it’s very important that we are all on the same page. For more information go to http://nciph.sph.unc.edu/accred/health_depts/TrainingWebinar7-20-11arch.htm.

Article Highlights Lessons From North Carolina’s Accredited Local Health Departments

Recently, an article in the American Journal of Public Health highlighted lessons learned from our NC program that could be applicable nationwide. The study identifies common facilitators and barriers encountered by departments in seeking accreditation, and the benefits that accredited departments have experienced to date. The article is posted at: http://nciph.sph.unc.edu/accred/news/AJPMLessonsfromNC07-21-11.pdf.
Flexibility Around Community Health Assessment Cycles

In light of new Affordable Care Act requirements for not-for-profit hospitals which requires hospitals to conduct a community needs assessment every 3 years accreditation is allowing health departments the flexibility to conduct their community health assessment every 3 years in collaboration with their hospital if they choose to do so. Health departments will still be allowed to continue on the 4 year cycle if that is their desire. For more information about the Affordable Care Act requirements in relation to Community Health Assessment go to http://oce.sph.unc.edu/acawebinar/. This link provides access to a previously recorded webinar and additional resources.

Health Department Self-Assessment Instrument (HDSAI) Updated

The table that accompanies Activity 22.2 within the HDSAI has been updated to reflect current NC Division of Public Health funded programs for FY 2012. The current HDSAI is posted at http://nciph.sph.unc.edu/accred/health_depts/materials/index.htm.

Standards Review & Revision Workgroup Continues to Review HDSAI with a fine tooth comb!

The workgroup appointed by the Accreditation Board is well underway in their meticulous review of the benchmarks and activities within the HDSAI. This process will be quite lengthy and will culminate in a thorough vetting process of the new proposed standards. The workgroup plans to also closely review the national PHAB standards to ensure NC's standards are aligned.

Valuable Tip for Re-Accreditation Preparation

If your health department initially participated in the accreditation process prior to the development of the HDSAI Interpretation Document it is imperative that as you prepare for re-accreditation that review this document closely to determine if you are indeed interpreting the standards and requirements correctly. There will likely be areas where evidence was accepted during your initial accreditation visit that now based on current interpretation will not meet the standard. The Interpretation Document was develop to ensure we are all interpreting the standards consistently.
FY 2011-2012 Accreditation Schedule

Upcoming Site Visits scheduled through December 2011:
- Swain County Site Visit – August 30-September 1*
- Surry County Site Visit – September 13-15*
- Richmond County Site Visit – September 27-29*
- Alamance County Site Visit – October 3-5*
- Halifax County Site Visit – October 11-13*
- Edgecombe County Site Visit – October 25-27
- Warren County Site Visit – November 8-10
- Wake County Site Visit – November 15-17

Official Notification (90 Day Notice) - October 1, 2011
HDSAI and other materials due by December 29, 2011:
- Franklin*
- Lincoln*
- Person*
- Rowan*
- Scotland*

Official Notification (90 Day Notice) - January 1, 2012
HDSAI and other materials due by April 1, 2012:
- Clay
- Duplin
- Haywood
- Wilson
- Stokes
- Lee

Official Notification (90 Day Notice) - March 1, 2012
HDSAI and other materials due by June 18, 2012:
- Carteret*
- Davidson*
- Henderson*
- Pender*

*Re-accreditation

If you need to know when your health department will be notified and your materials due to the accreditation program please contact Brittan Wood at brittan_wood@unc.edu.