Eight Health Departments Receive Accreditation Status

Congratulations to the following health departments who were granted Accreditation Status on December 16, 2011! There are now 64 Accredited health departments in North Carolina (75% of health departments in the State).

*Alamance County Health Department  
Edgecombe County Health Department  
*Halifax County Health Department  
*Richmond County Health Department  
*Surry County Health and Nutrition Center  
*Swain County Health Department  
Wake County Human Services  
Warren County Health Department

Welcome to a New Accreditation Board Member

Thank you to Judith Kuykendall & Terry Pierce for their service to the Accreditation Board! Welcome to new Board Member, Debbie Tripp!

Ms. Debbie Tripp, MSN, RN  
Association of NC Boards of Health
Re-Accreditation Between Cycle Checklist

Accreditation staff have developed a 'Between Cycle Checklist' to assist agency accreditation coordinators in monitoring their documentation requirements for re-accreditation. This Excel checklist outlines only those activities that must be met annually or within one or two years of the agency notification date. The tool allows the accredited local health department to monitor progress on time sensitive activities in between re-accreditation visits.

To access the tool visit http://nciph.sph.unc.edu/accred/health_depts/materials/BetweenCycleChecklist11-14-11.xlsx

Proposed Revisions to the Accreditation Scoring Requirements

In October 2011, the Standards Review and Revision Workgroup proposed changes to the accreditation scoring methodology to assure the fairness and integrity of the accreditation process. The new proposal calls for each department to meet a minimum number of activities in each standard (90% for each standard/function) so that each activity has equal weight. An analysis of accredited departments scored with this new proposed method shows that the method is comparable and no more or less stringent than the existing scoring method. In December both the Health Director’s Association and the Accreditation Board voted unanimously in support of the proposed changes. The proposed scoring requirements will now go to the Commission for Public Health, which requires an extensive review and a public hearing. If approved by the Commission the proposed scoring requirements could become effective as early as July 2012.

For more information on the proposed scoring requirements go to http://nciph.sph.unc.edu/accred/board_members/5meetings/dec16_2011/ProposedAccredScoringReq10-24-11.pdf

NC Accreditation Relationship with Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)

Accreditation staff are in the process of discussing the idea of a Dual Accreditation Pilot process with PHAB, the national accrediting body for public health agencies. The earliest the process would be ready to pilot is FY 2013 and several health departments in NC have expressed interest. The details of this pilot process have not yet been fleshed out but staff should know more in the coming weeks.
The NC Institute for Public Health is accepting nominations for the *Craig Michalak Award for Excellence*. The award is given to individuals by the NC Institute for Public Health to recognize the efforts and support of the Local Health Department Accreditation system throughout NC. The award was established to honor the memory of Craig Michalak, who passed away in 2007. Craig, who served as Accreditation Administrator, was instrumental in developing and implementing much of the groundwork of the Accreditation program. Please consider nominating someone you feel is deserving of this award. A link to the nomination form is on the NCIPH website at [http://www.sph.unc.edu/nciph/call_for_nominations_craig_michalak_award_for_excellence_17498_8965.html](http://www.sph.unc.edu/nciph/call_for_nominations_craig_michalak_award_for_excellence_17498_8965.html).

Nomination forms are due no later than **March 31st**. Please send nomination forms to Debbie Andrews at deandrew@email.unc.edu.

*Past award winners: Moses Carey Jr., Monecia Thomas, Rachel Stevens, Eunice Inman, and Bob Blackburn*

**Accreditation Board Vice Chair, Bob Blackburn Elected as President-Elect to NALBOH**

**FY 2011 Evaluation Stakeholder’s Report**

Accreditation Schedule Through 2012

Official Notification (90 Day Notice) - October 1, 2012
HDSAI and other materials due by January 18, 2013:
- Beaufort*
- Brunswick*
- Burke*
- Cleveland*
- Davie*
- Orange*

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 919-843-3294 or brittan_wood@unc.edu.

Upcoming Site Visits scheduled through May 2012:
- Franklin County Site Visit – January 31-February 2*
- Person County Site Visit – February 7-9*
- Lincoln County Site Visit – March 6-8*
- Rowan County Site Visit – March 13-15*
- Scotland County Site Visit – March 20-22*
- Wilson County Site Visit – April 17-19
- Stokes County Site Visit – April 24-26
- Haywood County Site Visit – May 1-3
- Lee County Site Visit - May 1-3
- Clay County Site Visit - May 8-10
- Duplin County Site Visit - May 8-10

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

Official Notification (90 Day Notice) - July 1, 2012
HDSAI and other materials due by October 1, 2012:
- Alexander
- Cumberland
- Martin-Tyrell-Washington
- Toe River
- Yadkin

Official Notification (90 Day Notice) - July 1, 2012
HDSAI and other materials due by October 11, 2012:
- Buncombe*
- Chatham*
- New Hanover*

Official Notification (90 Day Notice) - October 1, 2012
HDSAI and other materials due by January 18, 2013:
- Beaufort*
- Brunswick*
- Burke*
- Cleveland*
- Davie*
- Orange*
Melodi Thrift, NCIPH staff member, dies Jan. 9

It is with great sadness that NCIPH announces the passing of Melodi Thrift who lost her courageous battle to cancer on January 9, 2012. Melodi joined NCIPH in May 2007 as part of the Institute’s Accreditation and Evaluation Teams. During her time at NCIPH she provided high-quality support to the NC Local Health Department Accreditation program. Melodi was an inspiration to all who worked with her and she will be greatly missed.

More information is available at:
http://www.sph.unc.edu/nc_institute_for_public_health_news/melodi_thrift_nciph_staff_member_dies_jan._9_21413_8289.html