Accreditation 101

Why It's Here, Why You Care, and How You Get Started

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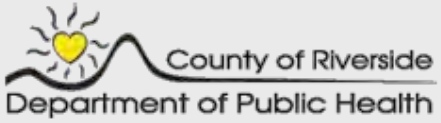


What is accreditation?

- Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB):
  - "the ***measurement*** of [LHD] ***performance*** against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and ***evidence-based standards***"
  - "the issuance of recognition of achievement of accreditation within a specified time frame by a nationally recognized entity"
  - "the ***continual development, revision and distribution*** of public health standards"

Why become accredited?

- Goal (PHAB):
  - "… improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of [LHDs]"
- Incentives and advantages
  - Demonstration of ***ROI: "the value of public health"***
    - **To governing bodies**: demonstrating budgetary worth
    - **To grantors**: demonstrating competency and capacity
    - **To the public**: demonstrating what PH does for them
  - ***Evaluation and validation*** of programs and services
  - Crystallizing the LHD's ***goals and missions***
  - Fostering a culture of ***PM/QI***

Why become accredited *now*?

- **Leadership opportunity** to help fellow LHDs
  - … like this conference!
- **Improve** your LHD's state and national **profile** via ***recognition*** in a "hot" and current field
  - Posters and presentations on your process
  - Becoming a site visitor
- **It's only getting *harder***: budgets are getting smaller and standards are evolving
  - Get in while assistance is available and the interest level is high

History of LHD accreditation[1]

- 1914: APHA LHD service study
  - Ineffective programs; LHDs not employing current or proven practice
- 1921: *Committee on Municipal Health Department Practice* (APHA)
  - Review of 80 city-based LHDs
- 1925: *Committee on Administrative Practice* (APHA) "Appraisal Form"
  - Self-assessment tool reviewing practices in vital records, immunizations, health problems, TB and PHL
  - Updated and revised into the 1940s
- 1943: CAP "Evaluation Schedule"
  - Centrally scored

References. [1]From Turnock, "Public Health: What It Is and How It Works" (Jones & Bartlett, 5th ed.)

History of LHD accreditation[1]

- 1945: *The Emerson Report* (APHA CAP Subcommittee on Local Health Units)
  - **"Basic Six Services":** Vital statistics, sanitation, disease control, MCH, health ed., laboratory services
    - Cornerstone of PH practice into the 1960s
- 1963: "Basic Eight"
  - Adding operation of health facilities and area-wide planning and coordination
- 1970 APHA policy statement
  - Adding coordination, monitoring and assessing health service adequacy

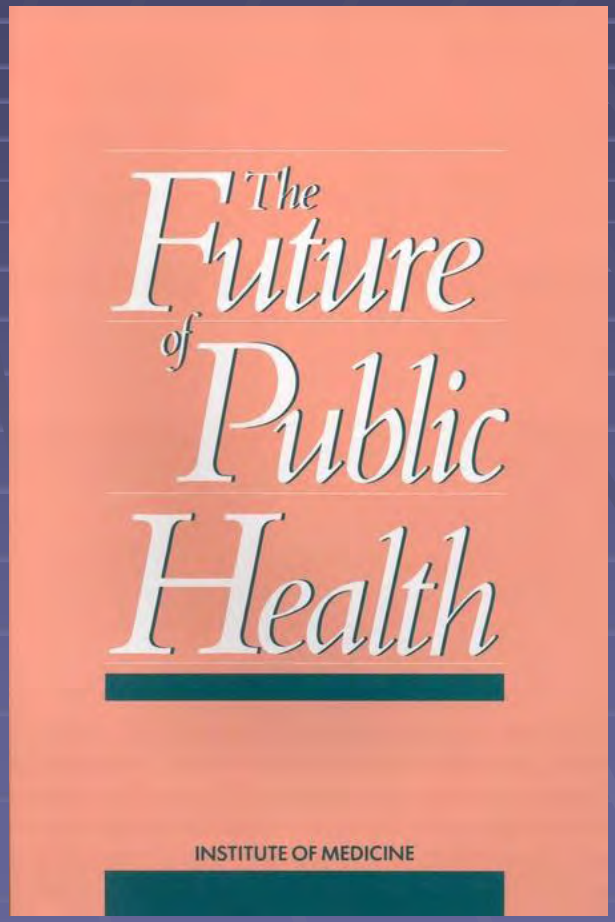
References. [1]From Turnock, "Public Health: What It Is and How It Works" (Jones & Bartlett, 5th ed.)

History of LHD accreditation

- "a governmental presence at the local level" - i.e., that public health is broader than services rendered
  - "This concept is based on a multifaceted, multitiered **governmental responsibility for ensuring that standards are met** -- a responsibility that often involves agencies in addition to the public health agency at any particular level. Regardless … every community must be served by a governmental entity charged with that responsibility, and general-purpose government must assign and coordinate responsibility for providing and assuring public health and safety services." *(Preamble to Original Model Standards, US Conference of City Health Officials, ASHTO, APHA, USPHS; 1978)*

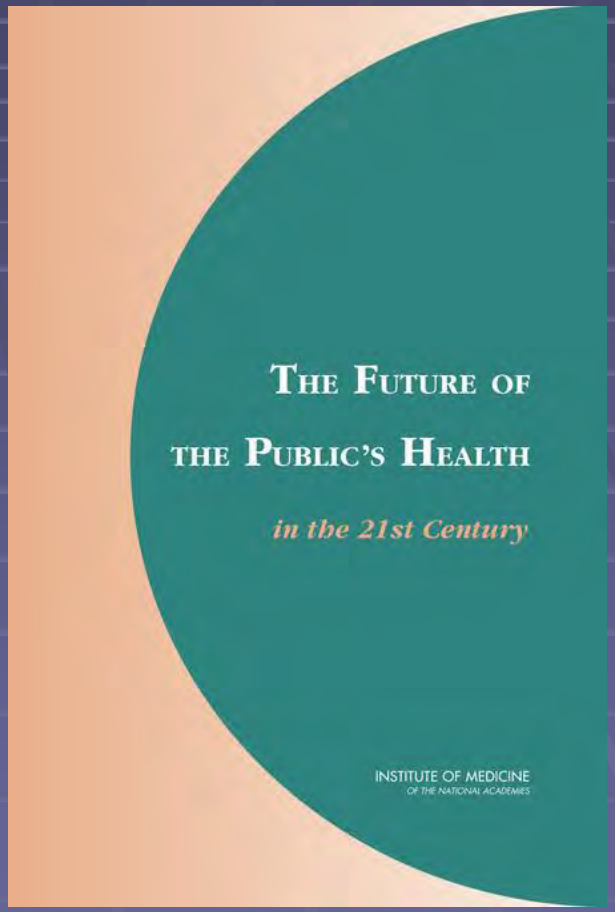
History of LHD accreditation

- 1988: *The Future of Public Health* (IOM) and its impact
  - "… every [LHD should] regularly and systemically collect, assemble, analyze and make available **information on the health of the community** …" (p.141)
  - "… [LHDs should] assure their constituents that **services necessary to achieve agreed upon goals are provided** …" (p. 142)
  - "The committee recommends that **mechanisms be instituted to promote local accountability** and assure the maintenance of adequate and equitable levels of service and qualified personnel." (p. 149)



History of LHD accreditation

- 1994: **The Ten Essential Services**
- 1998: National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP)
  - Model standards for the 10 essential services
- 2003: *The Future of the Public's Health* (IOM)
  - "… appoint a **national commission to consider if an accreditation system** would be useful for improving and building state and local public health agency capacities" (p.9)
  - "… a useful tool for improving the quality of services provided to the public" (p.157)



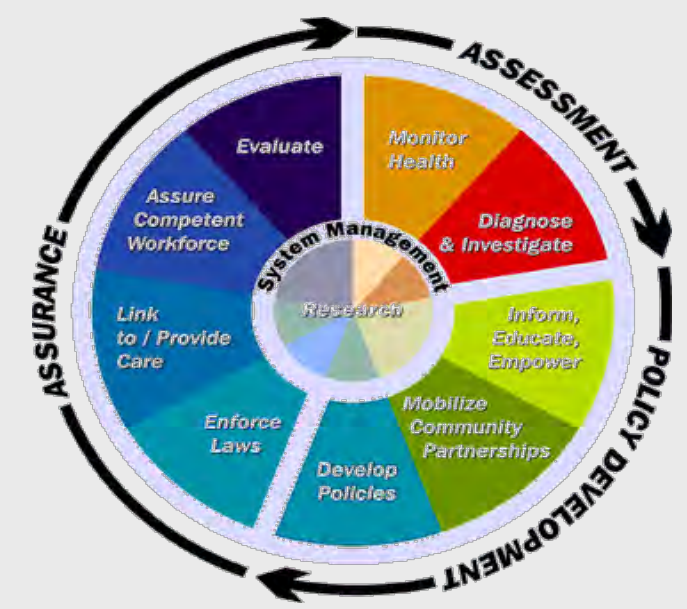
Genesis of PHAB[1]

- 2004: With IOM, CDC identifies "accreditation as a key strategy for strengthening public health infrastructure"
- 2004: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation convenes stakeholders; *Exploring Accreditation*
- 2006: Steering Committee greenlights voluntary national accreditation
- 2007: **Public Health Accreditation Board founded**
- 2009-10: Draft Standards and Beta Test
  - San Diego county took part (one of 19 LHDs)
- March 2013: first 11 health departments accredited
  - ***None yet in California!***
  - Currently accredited: fourteen (as of May 2013)

References. [1]PHAB, "Public Health Department Accreditation Background"

The prerequisites

- **<u>Standards and Measures</u>** ("Domains")
  - **All *ten* CDC essential public health services**, PLUS:
    - Maintain administrative and management capacity
    - Build a strong and effective relationship with the governing entity
  - Each domain has component ***standards***
  - Each standard has component ***measures***
  - Each measure has required *documentation*



The prerequisites *(cont'd)*

- **Community Health Assessment**
  - *(Standard 1.1)*
  - "[Participation in or conduct of] a tribal/local partnership for the development of a comprehensive community health assessment of the population served by the health department" (p.13)
    - Participation of representatives from community sectors
    - Regular meetings
    - A description of the community involvement process
    - Documenting how it was made accessible to the public
    - **"No new work?"**

The prerequisites *(cont'd)*

- **Community Health Improvement Plan**
  - *(Standard 5.2)*
  - "Conduct a process to develop [a] community health improvement plan … to assess the [LHD's] community health improvement process and the participation of stakeholders" (p.121)
    - Use of an ***accepted model or planning process*** (MAPP, NPHPSP, Community Indicators Project, …)
    - Participation by informed community partners to identify issues, themes, assets, resources and priorities
    - Evidence of the information provided to the community and the process involving them
    - ***Measurable*** objectives, timelines and strategies, with ***annual*** *progress reports*
    - **"More comprehensive than … the [LHD] alone"** (p.118)

The prerequisites *(cont'd)*

- **Department Strategic Plan**
  - *(Standard 5.3)*
  - "A strategic plan sets forth what an organization plans to achieve, how it will achieve it, and how it will know it has achieved it." (p.134)
    - Documentation of membership and strategic planning steps
    - Mission, vision, guiding principles and strategic priorities
    - Goals and objectives with measurable, time-framed targets
    - Strengths, weaknesses and trends (or formal SWOT)
    - ***Linkage to the CHA and CHIP***
    - *Annual* progress reports

The process

- Online orientation
  - Your accreditation coordinator and LHD director must complete prior to application
- Statement of Intent (non-binding)
  - Indicates plan to submit complete application *within the next 12 months;* invalid thereafter
  - Technical assistance becomes available
- Submission of documentation
- Site visit and review
  - "The documentation was facts; the site visit provided narrative" (PHAB beta test site visitor)
- **Accreditation decision**

Meet our Riverside team

Questions?