**Accreditation Learning Community**

September 27, 2018

Meeting Summary

**PHAB Standards and Measures 2.0**

In August, PHAB posted information regarding preparations that are underway to update initial accreditation measures to Version 2.0. In alignment with continuous quality improvement and the PDSA model, PHAB is refreshing the standards and measures to reflect lessons learned and emerging issues across the public health landscape. There is little information available at this point, put PHAB anticipates Version 2.0 to be released in 2020.

**Brainstorming: Proposals for Expanding the Peer-to-Peer Network**

In the spirit of PDSA, continuous improvement, and building off successes, participants discussed ideas for expanding the activities of the peer-to-peer network. A Planning Workgroup would advise on the agenda and topics for this call, similar to a Steering Committee. The goal is to change it up, further engage participants and ensure content is still relevant, accreditation skills are being developed, and departments are sharing with each other their preparation activities. The workgroup could help identify state or national organizations and subject-matter experts that they’d like to hear from on the call or even engage in with potential trainings.

A Document Review Workgroup would peer review documentation other health departments against the Version 1.5 Standards and provide external feedback on the strength of the documentation. Participants would practice their PHAB interpretation skills and knowledge, and learn what others are doing for certain measures. The workgroup could then share outcomes or examples from reviews with the rest of the ALC either on the call or via email and grow our peer-to-peer sharing.

The ALC will continue to explore interest in these options.

**Topic of the Call: Domain 12 – Maintain Capacity to Engage the Public Health Governing Entity**

**Health Equity Module**

As an improvement effort for the ALC, a Health Equity “module” will focus on suggestions and ideas for advancing health equity as it relates to the topic areas of the month.

How can a health department advance health equity through Domain 12? Policy and decision makers are in an important position to address key drivers of health outcomes and health inequities.

Suggestions:

-Engage members of the governing entity in department- and jurisdiction-wide trainings on health and racial equity, the historical role of government in perpetuating inequities and how to champion transformative change across the jurisdiction.

-Be vocal with decision makers and other government agencies when policy proposals might exacerbate inequities, even when doing so is not the easy thing to do.

-Proactively develop relationships across sectors, with sister agencies, and with elected officials and their offices, to assist in understanding the political landscape and establishing rapport and credibility.

**Standards 12.1, 12.2, 12.3**

The ALC walked through the 3 Standards of Domain 12 and discussed examples and potential pieces of documentation. DPH shared the documentation the agency provided PHAB for Measure 12.1.1 and Measure 12.2.1. East Shore District Health (ESDH) verbally shared the documentation they plan to submit for accreditation currently includes CGS Section 19a-206 and 207 to demonstrate the powers to conduct public health activities and a fact sheet about district health departments to describe the governing entity structure of the health department. For Measure 12.2.1, ESDH described its Orientation process for new members of its Board of Health. Each member receives a binder with relevant health department information and a powerpoint presentation within a few weeks of getting on board.

DPH shared a tracking tool the agency uses to review the actions taken by the governing entity for Measure 12.3.2. The intent of this measure is for the health department to look at all actions taken/issues discussed by the governing entity over a period of time to determine patterns, trends, issues, successes, and areas where increased communication is needed. The Government Relations staff at DPH essentially established a systematic process to ensure this “look back” and discussion of the previous year’s activities occurs every year. The tracker identifies major governing entity and legislative actions that affect public health programs, activities, and funding, including actions that may affect the SHIP Policy Agenda. The template is a fillable excel file and includes potential health equity impact of actions taken on the important health issues. Second, the completed template was presented and discussed with senior staff and Public Health Strategic Team members for awareness and discussion of trends, successes, and where increased communication is needed.

**Engaging the Governing Entity in Accreditation**

In order to apply for accreditation, each health department will need a letter of support from its governing entity. NACCHO has some good resources to assist local health departments with engaging their local governing entity. <https://www.naccho.org/programs/public-health-infrastructure/performance-improvement/accreditation-preparation/local-government>

**Closing Questions**

ESHD is looking for resources or best practices from other health departments for 11.1.2 Required Documentation 1, Strategies for decision making relative to ethical issues. This measure has been a tricky one for many departments and will be revisited on the next couple of calls. Stratford Health Department shared some resources via email.

Glastonbury Health Department is completing its Community Health Assessment and searching for best practices regarding reaching out to the community to review and contribute to the assessment (Measure 1.1.2).

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday October 24, 1-2pm

