National Public Health Performance Standards Program

A partnership effort to improve the quality of public health practice and performance of public health systems

NPHPSP

Assessment Instruments
- State public health system
- Local public health system
- Local governance

Partners
- CDC
- APHA
- ASTHO
- NACCHO
- NALBOH
- NNPHI
- PHF

History of the NPHPSP
- Began in 1998
- Practice-driven development by CDC and ASTHO, NACCHO and NALBOH Work Groups
- Comprehensive field testing
- Released in July 2002

Partners
- CDC – Overall lead for coordination
- ASTHO – Develop and support state instrument
- NACCHO – Develop and support local instrument; MAPP
- NALBOH – Develop and support governance instrument
- APHA – Marketing and communications
- PHF – Performance improvement; data collection and reporting system
- NNPHI – Support through institutes
Program Vision and Goals
To improve the quality of public health practice and performance of public health systems by:

1. Providing performance standards for public health systems and encouraging their widespread use;
2. Engaging and leveraging national, state, and local partnerships to build a stronger foundation for public health preparedness;
3. Promoting continuous quality improvement of public health systems; and
4. Strengthening the science base for public health practice improvement.

Four Concepts Applied in NPHPSP
1. Based on the ten Essential Public Health Services
2. Focus on the overall public health system
3. Describe an optimal level of performance
4. Support a process of quality improvement

1. The Essential Services as a Framework

- Provides a foundation for any public health activity
- Describes public health at both the state and local levels
- Instruments include sections addressing each ES

Essential Public Health Services

- Developed by the Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee (1994)
- Included reps from national organizations and federal agencies
- Charge: To provide a description and definition of public health
- Developed the “Public Health in America” statement

The Essential Public Health Services

1. Monitor health status
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems
3. Inform, educate and empower people
4. Mobilize communities to address health problems
5. Develop policies and plans
6. Enforce laws and regulations
7. Link people to needed health services
8. Assure a competent workforce - public health and personal care
9. Evaluate health services
10. Conduct research for new innovations
2. Focus on the “System”

- More than just the public health agency
- “Public health system”
  - All public, private, and voluntary entities that contribute to public health in a given area.
  - A network of entities with differing roles, relationships, and interactions.
  - All entities contribute to the health and well-being of the community.

A system of partnerships that includes, but is not limited to...

Our goal is an integrated system of partnerships

3. Optimal Level of Performance

- Each performance standard represents the “gold standard”
- Provide benchmarks to which state and local systems can strive to achieve
- Stimulate higher achievement

4. Stimulate Quality Improvement

- Standards should result in identification of areas for improvement
- Link results to an improvement process
- NPHPSP Local Instrument - used within the MAPP planning process
NPHPSP Use in the Field

- Coordinated statewide approach
  - Benefits in technical assistance and coordinated improvement planning

- Individual System / Board Use

- Common Catalysts for Use
  - Statewide interest in improvement planning
  - Interest in performance improvement
  - Bioterrorism and emergency response planning
  - Use within the MAPP process
  - Interest in accountability

Strategic Linkages

- Policy support
  - Healthy People 2010 Objective 23-11
  - Institute of Medicine reports
  - State legislation that provide for or mention use of NPHPSP (e.g., IL, OH, NJ)

- Related initiatives
  - Turning Point Performance Management Collaborative
  - MAPS
  - Operational Definition of a Local Health Department
  - Accreditation (?)

NPHPS State Instrument Use
(Thru 2005)

- Completed (n=14 states)
- Field Test (n=5 states)*

*N:Additional field test states: Rhode Island, Missouri

NPHPS Local Instrument Use
(Thru 2005)

- Significant Use (67% or greater)
- Moderate Use (33% - 66%)
- Limited Use (1% - 32%)
- Field Test*

*N:Additional field test states: Hawaii, Minnesota, and Texas

NPHPS Governance Instrument Use
(Thru 2005)

- Significant Use (67% or greater)
- Limited Use (1% - 32%)
- Field Test

User Benefits to NPHPSP

- Improves organizational and community communication
- Promotes cohesion and collaboration among system members
- Provides a systems view of public health activities
- Provides a benchmark for public health practice improvements
- Provides information for policy development, program evaluation and grant-writing