

National Indian Health Board



Stacy A. Bohlen, NIHB Executive Director, Joe Finkbonner, PHAB Board member and Executive Director of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, Karrie Joseph, Deputy Director of Public Health Policy and Programs Dept., NIHB

NIHB Recognized by the Public Health Accreditation Board

December 14, 2017-

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) was recognized during a reception celebrating the Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) 10th Anniversary at the National Press Club in Washington DC on December 6, 2017.

PHAB was established in 2007 and began the task of creating a set of national standards and accreditation system based on quality improvement. In 2011, the conception became reality and Tribal, local and state health departments had the opportunity to apply for and receive public health accreditation. Since that time, over 200 health departments have been accredited serving close to 70 percent of the US population, including all of the people served by the Cherokee Nation Health Services in Oklahoma, which became an accredited health department in August, 2016.

Through PHAB's relationship with NIHB, the Tribal voice was elevated in the creation of the PHAB Standards and Measures, V.1.0 and continues to be an integral part of PHAB's work. Currently, PHAB is in the process of [vetting a Tribal-specific document](#) to supplement the current guidance in the Standards and Measures, V1.5. The supplement is based on the recommendations of the Tribal Public Health Accreditation Advisory Board, a body that NIHB has been facilitating since 2008.

"The public health work of the Tribes is often not visible or misunderstood," states Stacy A. Bohlen, Executive Director of the National Indian Health Board. "The Public Health Accreditation Board has been consistent and reliable in their efforts to understand and serve Tribal health departments. This is essential to supporting sovereign Tribal nations in their efforts to improve the quality of services and ultimately, the health of Native people."

For more information, contact: Karrie Joseph at kjoseph@nihb.org or 202-507-4079