

National Indian  
Health Board



# Exploring Tribal Public Health Accreditation

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# Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) - Background

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- National non-profit, non-governmental organization, established May 2007
- Purpose: Implement Voluntary, National Accreditation Program for State, Territorial, Tribal and Local Public Health Departments
- Goal: Improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of state and local public health departments
- Funding: CDC, RWJF



# Public Health is Critical

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- As sovereign nations, tribes are responsible for the overall health and well-being of their members
- Improving and maintaining the health and well-being of all tribal communities as a whole (population-based vs. direct medical care)
- Public health functions are often invisible to the community, but no less important



# Public Health Accreditation

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- Completely voluntary
- Tool for quality improvement, excellence, accountability
- Focus is public health – a much broader set of services and programs that serve communities
- Based on recommendations generated by the field



# Standards and Measures: 11 Public Health Domains

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1. Monitor health status and understand health issues
2. Protect people from health problems and health hazards
3. Give people information they need to make healthy choices
4. Engage the community to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop public health policies and plans
6. Enforce public health laws and regulations
7. Help people receive health services
8. Maintain a competent public health workforce
9. Evaluate and improve the quality of programs and interventions
10. Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health
  - Govern and manage health department resources (including financial and human resources, facilities, and information systems)



# Accreditation: Progress to Date

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- Feb 08 – Feb 09 Draft standards and measures were developed by workgroups
- Feb 09 – April 09 Public review and evaluation of the standards (tribal review completed in May 09)
- May and June 09 Standards were reviewed
- July 09 PHAB Board Approved Standards and Measures
- November 2009 Beta Testing Begins



# Exploring Tribal Public Health Accreditation

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- National Indian Health Board involvement
- Grant: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2008
- Purpose: to assess the **feasibility** of the promotion of voluntary public health accreditation and public health standards in Indian Country

# Exploring Tribal Public Health Accreditation

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- Objectives of NIHB Project:
  - Establish an Advisory Panel
  - Review past accreditation efforts in Indian country
  - Explore/Discuss the potential for voluntary public health accreditation in Indian country
    - Benefits, challenges, barriers, ideas...
  - Gather recommendations from Indian country
    - Process, resources needed, potential partnerships



# Exploring Tribal Public Health Accreditation - Progress To Date

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- Advisory Board
  - Tribal representatives from 12 IHS Service Areas
  - Non-tribal representatives from accreditation organizations
  - 6 Advisory Board Meetings since 9/08
- National Tribal Call For Input –closed 5/31/09
  - 4 Tribal Input Sessions held at national meetings
  - Regional efforts by NIHB, Advisory Board Members
- Strategic Plan finalized August 31, 2009



# Call for Input Results

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- Positive response to concept of public health accreditation – broader than just health services
- Interest in tribes having a leadership role
- Opportunity to recognize the good work that is being done in Indian Country
- Challenges include the diversity of public health delivery in Indian country, time, capacity and cost to seek accreditation, multiple entities involved



# Outreach and Education

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- IHS Summit – 7/7-9, Denver Colorado
- NACCHO Annual Conference, 7/29-31, Orlando, FL
- CRIHB/NWPAlHB Joint Meeting, 7/20-23, Tulalip, WA
- NIHB, Direct Service Tribes Conference, Oklahoma City 8/18-20
- Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee Meeting, Anchorage, Alaska – 8/10-14
- NIHB, Annual Consumer Conference, Washington, DC – September 14-18



# Strategic Plan - Recommendations

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- Provide ongoing education/awareness to Tribes
  - Ensure NIHB maintains a central, expanded role
  - Provide culturally relevant training, Technical Assistance, preparation, and readiness assessments
- Consider Tribal version of Standards and Measures
- Secure resources to support ongoing tribal participation
  - MOU with PHAB and accreditation partners
  - Identify funding sources for continued involvement



# Strategic Plan - Recommendations (cont.)

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- Ensure individuals with experience working in Indian Country participate in accreditation process
- Explore PHAB's role in strengthening relationships among state, local and tribal health departments
  - Convene regional roundtables with state, local and tribes
  - Facilitate "Think Tank" to address relations
- Evaluate accreditation implementation in Tribal settings



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# Exploring Tribal Public Health Accreditation

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Implementation of the  
Strategic Plan and  
NEXT STEPS

# Implementation of the Strategic Plan

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- MOU with PHAB signed in July
- Ongoing participation with Accreditation Partners – PHAB Governing Board, Coalition, planning meetings
- Provide education and information on Indian Health and tribal health department infrastructural complexities
- Participated in Beta Test process development and selection criteria
- Adaptation of documents and forms for tribal sites



# PHAB Activities and Next Steps

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- RFA was released for Beta testing July 09
- 30 Health Departments were selected
  - 8 State Health Agencies
  - 19 Local Health Departments
  - 3 Tribal Health Departments
- Beta testing begins in November 2009
  - Purpose is test draft standards and measures and accreditation process and applicability to tribes
- Accreditation to begin 2011



# Tribal Participation in Public Health Accreditation

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NIHB will continue to do the following:

- Provide PHAB with technical assistance to strengthen ability to serve Tribes
- Provide technical assistance and develop Tribal quality improvement practice models
- Promote Tribal, Local, State relations in accreditation
- Provide ongoing outreach and education to Tribes



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- NIHB Leadership

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