What Makes a PHAB-ulous Board Member

Georgia Heise DrPH
April Harris MPH
Three Rivers District Health Department
Owenton, KY

Session Objectives

- Identify the core characteristics of effective boards of health
- Understand the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Standards & Measures that are specific to boards of health
- Identify the board of health role in PHAB accreditation

What Makes a Board Member

- Statutory responsibility for the organization, services and its performance
- Varying levels of policy-making and decision making authority, some only advisory
Core Characteristics of Effective Boards

Director, Board Chair and Board understand responsibilities and share strong commitment:

- Health department director’s support and leadership is essential
- Build and maintain an excellent health department director & board chair relationship
- On-going communications, respect and trust

Core Characteristics of Effective Boards

Board and health department ensures the organization has a board-approved strategic plan that includes:

- Meaningful mission statement
- Vision for the future
- Core values that drive organizational decision-making
- Goals with annual objectives and metrics that assess progress
Core Characteristics of Effective Boards

Board composition:
- A diverse mix of health professionals and respected leaders in other sectors
- Prepared to devote necessary time
- Proactive efforts to assemble and maintain appointments and re-appointments

Core Characteristics of Effective Boards

Setting board priorities and allocating time & energy with careful deliberation:
- Harbor time for strategic thinking about the long-range importance to the organization and its communities
- Receive good, timely information (not just data) with well-constructed agendas that focus on key issues

Core Characteristics of Effective Boards

Clearly stated objectives in critical areas with evidence-based metrics to monitor actual performance for established standards:
- Insist on clear targets and excellent metrics
- Results-oriented
- Govern, not manage, the organization
- Demand first rate information, not just data, whether it is good news or not
Core Characteristics of Effective Boards

Commitment to a true board development program:
- On-going assessment of the board's needs
- Top-notch orientation and continuing education
- Action-oriented evaluation of the board's performance

A healthy board culture with a strong focus on governance priorities with constructive dialog:
- Robust engagement and shared commitment
- Willingness to take action

Accreditation 101
- Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)
- The goal of public health department accreditation is to promote high performance & continuous quality improvement
- 12 Domains
  - 10 Essential Public Health Services
  - Administration & Governing Entity
Accreditation 101

- Statement of Intent
- Application
- Document Selection & Submission
- Site Visit
- Accreditation Decision
- Reports
- Reaccreditation

Public Health Governing Entity

Domain 12: Maintain Capacity to Engage the Public Health Governing Entity

Domain 12: 12.1 Maintain current detailed records and statements of the public health roles, responsibilities, and authorities.

www.phaboard.org

Domain 12

Domain 12: 12.1 Maintain current detailed records and statements of the public health roles, responsibilities, and authorities.

- Domain 12: 12.2 Provide information to the governing entity regarding public health and overall responsibilities of the health department and of the governing entity.

- Domain 12: 12.3 Ensure the governing entity's engagement in the public health department's overall objectives and responsibilities.

www.phaboard.org
Examples of Documentation

- Board of Health meeting minutes
- Board of Health trainings
- Statutes and laws specific to local public health governing entities and their authority, roles, and responsibilities
- Approved internal policies and procedures
- Documented involvement in local, state or federal policy making

Other Domains

- Domain 5 – Strategic Plan
- Domain 6 – Review of Existing Laws or Proposed Laws
- Domain 9 – Communication of Quality Improvement Activities
- Domain 10 – Availability of Expertise & Communication of Research Findings
- Domain 11 – Approved HD Budget and Quarterly Financial Reports

Your Role in the Process

- Application – Board of Health Letter of Support
- Assist in documentation collection & review
- Participate in the Site Visit
- Celebrate progress and success
- Communicate importance of accreditation to others
- Get involved with the Community Health Assessment, Improvement Plan, and Strategic Plan
Lessons Learned from Three Rivers

- Additional training for Board of Health members
- Site Visit briefing
- Communication - standing agenda item
- Increase Board of Health involvement throughout the process
- Document everything

Resources

- National Association of Local Boards of Health: www.nalboh.com
- National Association for County and City Health Officials: www.naccho.org
- Public Health Accreditation Board: www.phaboard.org
- Accredited Health Departments

Questions?