Boards of Health and Public Health Accreditation

Roles of a Health Department Board of Health

- Provide the point of accountability for the health department.
- Directly and indirectly influence the direction of the health department.
- Advise, advocate, or consult in policy making, priority setting, resource allocation, collaboration, quality improvement, and/or governing.
- Maintain a working knowledge of roles and responsibilities of the health department.
- Maintain a working knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of the governing entity and its working relationship with the health department.
- Play a key role in the health department’s accreditation efforts.

Resources for Boards of Health to Learn About Public Health Accreditation:

- Review the overview of accreditation on the PHAB or NALBOH websites.
- Complete the PHAB Online Orientation (http://www.phaboard.org/education-center/phab-online-orientation/).
- Watch other support videos on PHAB’s website and download PHAB materials.
- Review the PHAB Standards and Measures, Version 1.5, especially Domain 12, that addresses the engagement of the governing entity/board of health in the work of the health department.
- Meet with your health department’s Director and Accreditation Coordinator to learn about the health department’s accreditation efforts.

Roles of the Board of Health in Seeking Accreditation:

- Make accreditation a standing agenda item at your regular meetings.
- Provide the letter of support that is required for the PHAB accreditation application.
- Participate in your health department’s accreditation site visit. Meet with the PHAB site visitors.
- Celebrate the success of achieving accreditation.

Roles of the Board of Health in Maintaining Accreditation:

- Read the Site Visit Report that outlines areas of excellence and opportunities for improvement.
- Assist the health department director and staff engage in continuous quality improvement.
- Make continuous quality improvement a standing agenda item at your regular meetings.