

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Public Health is pursuing National Public Health Accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).
- National Public Health Accreditation provides a way to assess our performance and determine areas which may need improvement, helping us ensure accountability and improve services.
- Public Health will submit accreditation-related documents in October 2014, and an on-site evaluation by PHAB-trained representatives will take place in early Spring 2015.

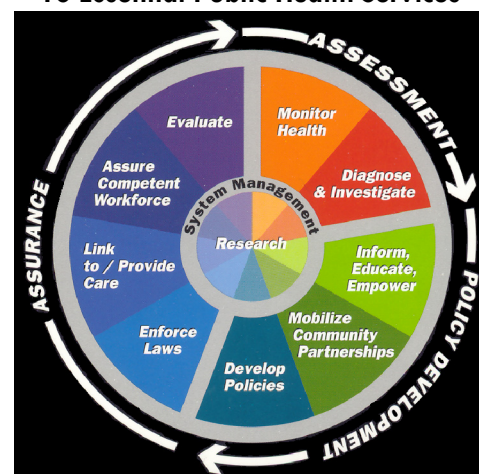
National Public Health Accreditation

The Public Health Accreditation Board defines National Public Health Accreditation as, “the development of a set of standards, a process to measure health department performance against those standards, and reward or recognition for those health departments who meet the standards.” This is a new, voluntary process, with only 31 accredited health departments, thus far, nationwide. The basis of National Public Health Accreditation is to promote high performance and continuous quality improvement. Accreditation helps illustrate health department accountability to the public and policymakers and increases the visibility of public health. National Public Health Accreditation may also better situate our department for obtaining federal grant funding and may streamline future state accreditation efforts.

National Public Health Accreditation aligns with the functions set forth in the *10 Essential Public Health Services*, developed by the Public Health Functions Steering Committee in 1994. The required standards and measures necessary to meet National Public Health Accreditation include a range of core public health programs and activities, such as environmental health, health education, chronic disease prevention, communicable disease, maternal and child health, emergency preparedness and access to clinical services. These standards and measures are categorized into 12 Domains:

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|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| [1] Assessment | [7] Access to Care |
| [2] Investigate | [8] Workforce |
| [3] Inform & Educate | [9] Quality Improvement |
| [4] Community Engagement | [10] Evidence-Based Practice |
| [5] Policies & Plans | [11] Administration & Management |
| [6] Public Health Laws | [12] Governance |

10 Essential Public Health Services



What is WCPH doing to address this issue?

Washtenaw County Public Health submitted an application to PHAB in October 2013 indicating our intent to proceed towards National Public Health Accreditation. At that time, we also released our *Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan -- Building a Healthier Washtenaw*. *Building a Healthier Washtenaw* is a roadmap that helps define the health of our community, identify strategic priorities for community health improvement and highlight assets and resources that are in place to help make those improvements. *Building a Healthier Washtenaw* was developed in collaboration with our Health Improvement Plan (HIP) partners. HIP Coordinating Team partners include Chelsea Community Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Health System, University of Michigan Health System, Washtenaw Intermediate School District and others.

We have a solid foundation on which to build in Washtenaw County. However, we recognize that much work can still be done to shift from a good health department to a *great* one. We are reviewing our processes, gathering documents and working to put new, improved systems in place. The National Public Health Accreditation process allows us to identify work that needs to be accomplished to help us become a high performing local health department, and to help us build an even healthier Washtenaw.

For more information:

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