

Greetings!

The implementation of the Public Health Act of 2008 is going strong, as each day brings new learning, challenges and clarifications on what it means to Colorado's public health system. The primary purpose of the Act is to assure that public health services are available to every person in Colorado with a consistent standard of quality. As we go forth, it is helpful to keep in mind that this will only work if we collaborate in the development of core services, standards, minimal qualifications of the public health director, and the statewide public health improvement plan. Partners will continue to have the opportunity to participate through many venues to guide the development of practical policies that will improve public health delivery.

The following is information on local public health agencies, minimum qualifications rulemaking decision, and the critical input meeting schedule.

Local Public Health Agencies

Possibly the most significant change is the movement to transition the 39 nursing services into something more akin to the organized health departments we have throughout the state in both urban and rural counties. While this transition will take years, the first step required by the Act has been for counties to formally establish a local public health agency by July 1, 2009. This key step was fast-tracked due to the contracting process at CDPHE. All the counties have notified us of name changes and over 50 counties have already submitted their signed resolutions. The Offices of Purchasing and Contracts and Planning and Partnerships would like to thank all of the local public health agencies for their cooperation during the resolution process. Please visit the office Web site to view the updated agency names.

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/opp/locallist.html>

Minimum Qualifications for Public Health Directors

Rulemaking Decision

The State Board of Health hearing was on May 20, 2009. The minimum qualifications are almost identical to the existing qualifications for directors of organized health departments. Substitutions for experience or education are included as well as a waiver process that counties can use. The minimum qualifications are posted at (<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/opp/pubhealthact.html>). The Public Health Act Advisory Group and the Office of Planning and Partnerships would like to thank those who submitted comments and those who traveled far and wide to participate in the State Board of Health hearing.

A Summer of Travel-SAVE THE DATES!

Critical Input Meetings ~ Public Health Improvement Plan

The Act authorizes the Office of Planning and Partnerships of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to create a Statewide Public Health Improvement Plan, including core services that will set priorities for the public health system in Colorado, and will provide the basis for local public health improvement plans. Critical input meetings will convene for one day, during which attendees will participate in a facilitated process to review and make recommendations for improvement to a draft work product. Meeting locations and times will be coming. **To RSVP please e-mail at CDPHEEDPlanningandPartnerships@cdphe.state.co.us or call 303-692-2350. Mark your calendars for the following dates:**

July 23, 2009 in Grand Junction
August 3, 2009 in Denver
August 4, 2009 in Ft. Collins
August 11, 2009 in Pueblo
August 13, 2009 in Broomfield

The Office also plans to attend many scheduled public health related meetings this summer to get the input needed to make this OUR plan in public health. **For those who can't make the meetings, stay tuned for an interactive website that will be set up for public comment.**

The Public Health Act Advisory Group and the Office of Planning and Partnerships would like to thank you for your continued support!

Office of Planning and Partnerships
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<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/opp/>