

April 2010

Greetings Public Health Partners,

As we slide into Spring, the work continues on implementing the Public Health Act and Colorado's Public Health Improvement Plan. The Office of Planning and Partnerships will be using this plan to guide our activities and we hope you will too.

"Where there is unity there is always victory." ~ Publilius Syrus

Colorado's Public Health Improvement Plan (COPHIP) is posted on our website and print copies were mailed to public health agencies and local boards of health. Additions to our **office website** < <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/opp/>> have been made to better follow the Plan activities and resources. Those additions can be found on the COPHIP tab on the left side of the page. Our public comment website can be found on www.cophip.org.

The **Public Health Improvement Steering Committee** continues sharing responsibility to oversee the implementation of the Public Health Act and move Colorado's Public Health Improvement Plan forward. The Public Health Improvement Steering Committee defers to the State Board of Health as the overall, ongoing authority. You can view the members and monthly notes from the committee <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/opp/pubhealthact.html>

Here is a brief summary of the progress:

COPHIP: Core Services and Standards

- The draft core services presented in the COPHIP will be studied this year to find out more about the current delivery of these services, the capacity to deliver, and the funding associated with these services throughout the state. [Click here to view](#). This draft of Core Services was presented for comment at the November CCI meeting with 45 county commissioners. Five members of the State Board of Health also attended. (I. Recommendation 1)
- The Public Health Improvement Steering Committee is following the national accreditation effort as it relates to standards for Colorado. (I. Recommendation 2)

COPHIP: Assessment and Planning Progress

- This year, with the focus on assessment and planning, we asked and received information from every local public health agency on the resources, technical assistance needs and realistic timeframe for completion of the assessment and local public health improvement plans. A big thank you to the local public health agencies for taking the time to answer the survey! (II. Recommendation 2)
- The **Public Health Indicators Advisory Group** chaired by Alyson Shupe, CDPHE and **Assessment/Planning Taskforce** chaired by Stacy Weinberg, Tri-County Health Department are in the process of forming. The initial meeting will include both groups and is set for May 10. (II. Recommendations 1 and 2)

COPHIP: Financing and Funding

- Nominations have been coming in for the funding formula taskforce and data is being to be compiled on current funding methods. (III. Recommendation 1)
- A taskforce to begin streamlining the contracts/grants administration process has the support of CDPHE's Executive Office to work on recommendation 2 of the Financing and Funding Public Health chapter in COPHIP. Roz Bedell, Director of Human Resources, and Bob O'Doherty, Director of Center for Health and Environmental Information and Statistics will facilitate a quality improvement process. The timing couldn't be better as Colorado has been selected by the

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) to provide technical assistance on aligning business practices. (III. Recommendation 2)

- ASTHO will be visiting on **May 17th** for a special session for directors, administrators, managers, and fiscal officers in local and state public health to share other state models, hear a report from the Colorado Public Health Administrators (COPHAD) and brainstorm ideas for improvements on the grants administration process from beginning to end. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

COPHIP: Public Health System Roles, Relationships, and Communications Progress

- Colorado was one of three states to receive a grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to implement a state version of the national program, ***Survive and Thrive: A Roadmap for New Local Health Officials***. A team from CALPHO, the Office of Planning and Partnerships, The Public Health Alliance, the Regional Institute on Health and Environmental Leadership (RIHEL) and the Colorado School of Public Health's Office of Public Health Practice (OPHP) will be working to coordinate the program in Colorado. Applications have been sent to directors and the program is slated to begin in June. (IV. Recommendation 2)
- County Commissioner Jeannie Nicholson has led the effort to start a state affiliate of the National Association of Local Boards of Health. The CALBOH will help local boards of health and elected officials stay informed, engaged, and supportive of the public health system in their jurisdiction and statewide. (IV. Recommendation 4)
- Our office has begun developing a **local board of health orientation** to review the Public Health Act legislation. Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel gave us the opportunity in February to present to their boards. The orientation will be presented during this year's Colorado Counties, Inc. or CCI conference held in Vail, CO June 1-3, 2010. [Click here for conference information.](#) (IV. Recommendation 4)
- The Public Health Directors of Colorado have expanded their membership and will be meeting at CDPHE quarterly to provide more opportunity for state and local partners to problem solve together. The governmental **public health organizations** (CDEH, COPHAD, PHDoC, CPHND) presidents have started to discuss reorganizing with CALPHO. (IV. Recommendation 3)

COPHIP: Workforce Development Progress

- The Colorado School of Public Health has formed the workforce development taskforce to begin working on recommendations outlined in the Plan. (V. Recommendation 1)
- The planning for the 2010 Public Health in the Rockies has begun and will be centered on professional development and building a career in public health. (V. Recommendation 3 and 6)

APHA Annual Meeting

Colorado will be hosting the APHA conference in this November. We will be involved with the CPHA in assuring that the exhibit area will have a strong Colorado presence, themed "Sabin Street: Home of Colorado Public Health". If you or someone you know is interested in participating with us or purchasing their own booth in the exhibitor hall, please contact the office (303-692-2350) to learn where Colorado agencies will be located. [Visit the APHA website to learn more about registration.](#)