



Public Health Improvement Services Council

Meeting July 16, 2009

2:00 PM – 4:00PM

Rooms 312

Please RSVP to Cheryl at cstorey@dhhs.state.nh.us

Present were: Joan Ascheim, Janet Atkins, Lea Ayers LaFave, Bobbie Bagley, Kristina Diamond, Representative Rich Dipentima, Judith Fillion, Kevin Flanagan, Shari Goldberg, Senator Peggy Gilmour, Yvonne Goldsberry, Jamie Hoebeke, Lisa Morris, Representative Jim Pilliod, Beth Roberts, Jonathan Stewart, Mary Vaillier-Kaplan, Cheryl Storey

Welcome and Introductions - Mary Kaplan

Members introduced themselves around table and on the telephone.

Health Officer Credentialing Kevin Flanagan

Kevin presented the work preceding the health officer credentialing bill (slides attached). A lengthy discussion followed.

A question was asked about the affordability and accessibility of training. Jaime Hoebeke noted that the NH Institute for Local Public Health Practice at the Manchester Health Department provides regional training with very detailed information on the role of health officers.

Representative Dipentima noted that the current health officer system is antiquated and the whole public health system needs to be revamped rather than create an illusion that training health officers would improve the public health infrastructure. He noted that we need a vision for public health for the long term.

Representative Pilliod noted that legislation could be introduced through the ED& A committee as they handle licensing. The approach could be voluntary or mandatory.

Jonathan Stuart cautioned that the perfect not be the enemy of the good in this situation, recognizing that professional health officers throughout the state may be a long time coming and that this was moving us in the right direction.

Senator Gilmour asked why we needed legislation. Joan responded that it was thought it would be beneficial to give DPHS the authority to provide such credentials.

Lisa Morris asked what the incentives would be for attending training. For example if people knew regionalization might lead to regionalized professional health officers perhaps current health officers would be interested in the credentialing.

Judy Fillion noted that it would not be an unfunded mandate as individuals are responsible for their own licensing.

Beth Roberts stated that there seem to be many reasons to make credentialing mandatory. Beth went on to say that if we did go with a voluntary system it would seem to make sense that it lead to a mandatory one over

time.

Representative Pilliod suggested having John Seavey come talk about the MPH program.

Kristina noted that the legislature did not see the point in a voluntary system and thought if it was important it should be mandatory.

Jaime commented that we might need to reframe the issue in the context of regionalization in order to bring it to the legislature again.

Jonathan noted that there still might be a role for the local health officer. He also suggested we explore whether or not the health department could establish a similar mechanism for credentialing without legislative authority. Over time we could move to a mandatory program.

If we can't do it without legislation then we could look at next steps.

Rick Rhumba stated it might not serve us well to go forward with voluntary credentialing if the legislature voted it down.

Janet Atkins agreed it should be part of moving towards regionalized public health.

Representative Dipentima noted that we should be moving towards a system where we can have accredited agencies and equal access for all to public health services throughout the state. He further noted that we need to be honest with the legislature that what we have is not a good system for the 21st century.

Yvonne Goldsberry stated that we still need to address local health officers and how they fit into the current and future systems of public health.

Jonathan stated that we need to be clear on the goals and keep the current capacity being sure we are not doing away with current services.

Shari Goldberg summarized by saying it sounded as though we are talking about a plan that is incremental in nature.

Action steps suggested were:

- 1) Determine whether or not we could set up a voluntary system without legislation
- 2) To explore the political ramifications of doing so in light of the legislature's vote.

New PHIAP Website

Joan showed a view of the new PHIAP website. DPHS staff is currently reviewing information submitted through a survey inventorying health promotion disease prevention programs beginning with tobacco and substance abuse. This information will have its own page on the site. There will also be a page relative to community coalitions that exist and a link to public health data. The site should go live within a month.

Web Based Performance Measures Application

Jonathan conducted a demonstration of a web-based application to collect performance measure data from DPHS contractors. It would eliminate paper submissions and allow contractors to compare themselves to other providers on set measures. DPHS can easily monitor performance of contractors and produce reports and monitor trends. The application will be beta tested in the fall.

Update – Regionalization

The public health regionalization assessments are still being conducted with a new projected completion date of February 2010. Therefore we would not be ready to introduce any legislation relative to regionalization until the 2011 session.

The regionalization task force met on June 25 to hear a summary of the work on the assessments to date. A meeting is scheduled with the municipal health departments to discuss how they fit in with a regional approach to public health.

PHIAP work group updates

Joan provided an update on the public health communication campaign. A tagline has been developed and is in its final testing stage with the public. Creative ads have been developed. The campaign will roll out this fall. Joan will bring the creative materials to the next meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month
From 2:00 – 4:00 PM in Room 312,
29 Hazen Drive in Concord (unless otherwise noted)

August 20, 2009
September 17, 2009
October 15, 2009
November 19, 2009
December 17, 2009



HB 491
Public Health Improvement Services Council
Meeting June 18, 2009
2:00 PM – 4:00PM
Rooms 312

Present were: Joan Ascheim, Janet Atkins, Lea Ayers LaFave, Kristina Diamond, Judith Fillion, Kevin Flanagan, Shari Goldberg, Shawn LaFrance, Representative Jim Pilliod, Beth Roberts, Richard Rumba, Representative Rich Dipentima, Mary Vaillier-Kaplan, Cheryl Storey

Welcome and Introductions

Mary opened the meeting and welcomed new member Shari Goldberg and all members around the table.

MLC-3 site visit April 20th and 21st

Joan led people through the letter from the MLC-3 site visitors and their observations and remarks, which were quite favorable. Joan mentioned that the site visitors noted items of interest and that were unique to NH.

Joan noted that during the site visit she posed the questions recommended by the council at the last meeting.

The questions were:

What should our next steps be in planning process?

Should we do an operational strategic plan for the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) to prepare the agency for accreditation?

When should we repeat the National Public Health Performance Standards Assessment NPHPS?

Site visitors recommended that the first step be to do a strategic plan for the DPHS and build into it repeating the NPHPS and subsequent public health improvement plan.

Shawn LaFrance asked how the strategic plan would align with Healthy People 2020. Joan noted that the strategic plan is more operational than a health plan. The strategic plan will look at all existing initiatives and how they link to one another to help set priorities such as seeking public health accreditation. Healthy People plans are focused primarily on health objectives. Joan noted that the previous Healthy People 2010 plan was not fully implemented which is one of the reasons there has been great effort made to be sure the PHIAP plan remains active.

Shawn noted that public health should have a few key objectives and not try to be everything to everyone and not create a plan that is not acted upon. Joan suggested that DPHS will look at how they would approach Healthy People 2020 through the strategic planning process. She noted that it is likely DPHS would use parts of the plan that fit with existing priorities such as those defined in the Citizens Health Initiative and PHIAP and not attempt to take on Healthy People 2020 in total. Representative Dipentima agreed with this approach.

Representative Pilliod Jim discussed the importance of linking the hospitals to the regionalization effort. Other members talked about how hospitals are linked to public health. Joan mentioned the theme of the NHPHA fall forum is linking public health and health care.

Mary asked when we might do the strategic plan. Joan suggested that fall might be appropriate in order to allow for getting funding for the process. The strategic planning process could then determine when the reassessment would take place.

Lea noted one observation coming out of the site visit is that NH truly has strong partnerships but we lack the infrastructure, where in many states there is infrastructure but not as strong partnerships.

Presentation to the Health and Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee

Joan noted that the presentation to the committee on the work to date of the council was well received and they were supportive of the council's work. Representative Dipentima agreed, noting that the committee is very engaged and interested.

Rick asked if there was discussion about the health officer credentialing bill and if we clarified what it is. Joan mentioned that she could do some education about this in future meetings with the committee. There was discussion that there was a lot of confusion about the bill. A lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of the bill took place with some members believing it could improve the quality of the health officers we have now and others stating that it is just a band-aid and that we need professional health officers.

Kristina Diamond noted the public health infrastructure is a priority for the NH Public Health Association and they could help with this bills related to health officers. .

Dr. Fillion mentioned that the Fire Marshall's office did some training and possibly certification of fire marshalls that we might want to explore. .

It was decided that health officer credentialing would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Update – Regionalization

Lea Lafave noted that she has completed 6 of 15 regional public health capacity assessments and shared copies of reports summarizing recent assessments. An internal team met to set up a new calendar to complete the assessments by February 2010, just about a year after originally planned.

Joan noted some concern on the part of some agencies asked to complete the financial assessment as they worried that DHHS may try to reconfigure geographic service areas and that contracts may be consolidated. Joan stated that DPHS is looking to build the regional public health infrastructure to provide the 10 essential services not clinical services such as community health centers or WIC programs and that this would be communicated to these agencies. .

The next regionalization meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2009

PHIAP work group updates

Joan described a web-based application under development which would allow DPHS contractors to enter performance measure data via the web and subsequently report it out this way as well.

No other workgroup updates were given.

Other Business

Representative Dipentima gave a quick update on public health related bills. There will be a window replacement program to prevent lead poisoning when funds become available.

A bill decreased acceptable lead levels.

Some oral health bills were passed.

The seat belt legislation was laid on the table.

The cigar bar bill passed.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month
From 2:00 – 4:00 PM in Room 312,
29 Hazen Drive in Concord (unless otherwise noted)

July 16, 2009

August 20, 2009

September 17, 2009

October 15, 2009

November 19, 2009

December 17, 2009



HB 491
Public Health Improvement Services Council
Meeting March 26, 2009
2:00 PM – 4:00PM
Rooms 213 & 214

Please RSVP to Cheryl at cstorey@dhhs.state.nh.us

Welcome and Introductions

Mary Kaplan

Update on membership

Joan Ascheim

Senator Gilmour attended today to fill the Senate seat and was introduced to the group.

A letter was sent to the Clerk of the House from Commissioner Toumpas nominating Shari Goldberg who should be in place for the next meeting.

Kristina to talk with chair of ED&A committee prior to hearing of HB 245 in senate

Update – Regionalization

Joan Ascheim

completed assessments - agenda for April regionalization task force

Joan gave an overview of the regionalization process. Lea updated on the status of the capacity assessments. Seven of 15 have been done. A gap exists in enforcement and workforce development. Strengths in include;

Across the board capacity exists in individual agencies but not necessarily coordinated.

Yvonne noted that the report on their assessment was helpful and documented well what they are said. Now we can move forward to do the assessments in the other areas and use lessons learned in the first phase. Joan reported that one governance assessment has been done in Cheshire.

Presentation on PHAB

Joan Ascheim

(Public Health Accreditation Board) standards and vetting process, discussion of beta test possibility
Questions about the NPHPS vs PHAB standards.
Opportunities

Should we redo the NPHPS to help drive the state strategic plan? We do have to repeat the assessment to benchmark process. But maybe the two are not the same. It would probably be quicker as people know the 10 essential services and the process. We need to be planning it now if we want to use the results as it can take a while to do the assessment and review the results. It would be good to have the second assessment to have the two data points. What is the crosswalk between the NPHPS and the PHAB standards? We can ask the site visitors when they come in April.

MLC-3 site visit April 20th and 21st
review of agenda and role of council

Lea Ayers LaFave

Monday afternoon session will focus on the state of the public health infrastructure. So have invited the PHISC, EFH, HEAL, CHI, CHI, NHPHA, local health departments to share synergies in NH. Day two will involve the QuILTs reporting on their work. Margie Godfrey from Dartmouth will be doing a training on quality improvement tools and a working session with the QuILTS.

PHIAP work group updates
Communication group update

Committee members

Other Business

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month
From 2:00 – 4:00 PM in Room 312,
29 Hazen Drive in Concord (unless otherwise noted)

April 16, 2009
May 21, 2009
June 18, 2009
July 16, 2009
August 20, 2009

September 17, 2009
October 15, 2009
November 19, 2009
December 17, 2009





HB 491
Public Health Improvement Services Council
Meeting February 19, 2009
2:00 PM – 4:00PM
Room 312

Present were: Joan Ascheim, Janet Atkins, Lea Ayers LaFave, Bobbie Bagley, Kristina Diamond, Rep. Rich Dipentima, Kevin Flanagan, Yvonne Goldsberry, Shawn Lafrance, Jose Montero, Lisa Morris, Beth Roberts, Rick Rumba, Cheryl Storey

Welcome and Introductions

Representative Russell was unable to attend so Joan Ascheim welcomed members and ran the meeting. Representative Rich Dipentima was welcomed as a new member to the group and will be replacing Representative Russell.

Nomination of Chair

There were two nominations for chair, Mary Vaillier-Kaplan and Joan Ascheim. Joan declined the nomination stating that she believed someone outside the Department of Health and Human Services should chair the committee. Mary was elected to be chair unanimously.

Discussion Of Additional Members For Council

Joan reviewed the open slots as per the legislation. These include a member of the senate, a public health nurse, and a physician. While Senator Gallus was appointed to the council he has never attended a meeting. Mary recommended either Senator Sgambati or Senator Gilmour who is a new senator from Hollis. Mary offered to follow-up. Joan mentioned that we have Jim Pilliod as a physician but that he was not formally appointed by the Governor as required in the legislation. Joan noted that the Governor's office had contacted her noting that they had tried to recruit additional physicians without success. Joan noted that she would check in with NHPHA to make sure Kristina had been formally appointed. Lea suggested Shari Goldberg as the nurse member. Ms. Goldberg is a faculty member at Colby-Sawyer with a focus on community health. All agreed she would be a good addition and Lea agreed to contact Ms. Goldberg.

Health Officer Certification/Credentialing Bill

Joan informed the Council that the bill to create a process for voluntary certification was determined to be inexpedient to legislate and effectively killed in committee. Representative Dipentima explained that the committee had concerns over the voluntary nature of the bill. Committee members questioned what the need was for the certification and if it was needed due to problems they wondered why it wasn't proposed as a mandatory process. Representatives French and Bridgham spoke in opposition of the bill. There was discussion in the committee around the need to address health officer credentials within a broader public health infrastructure rather than what they saw as a piecemeal approach.

Yvonne remarked that health officers in her region are asking for help to improve the quality of their work.

Lea noted that the need to strengthen the capacity of health officers has been a common theme during the public health capacity assessments that have been conducted thus far in the state.

Rich stated that during the hearing for the bill, Dr. Pilliod stated that he thought health officers should have an MPH degree.

Lisa asked if the legislative committee questioned the need for health officers to have enhanced skills and qualifications.

Rich stated no they didn't question this but they thought it needed to be part of a broader initiative related to public health.

It was asked if we needed legislation for this. Joan stated that we needed the legislation to give the Department the authority to confer credentials or certification. It was introduced as voluntary as to make it mandatory would be an unfunded mandate.

The council considered options relative to the certification process. The two options seem to be to reintroduce the legislation or to integrate it into regionalization.

Lisa suggested we review and update the timeline for regionalization and how we might develop a phased-in approach, which could integrate the improved capacity of health officers.

Rich suggested that we could potentially assist interested individuals to obtain national credentials by providing training.

These issues will be discussed at upcoming meetings.

Meeting with HHS Legislative Committee – discussion deferred

Update – Regionalization-Joan Ascheim/Lea Ayers LaFave

Lea noted that the NACCHO public health capacity assessment had been completed in 6 regions with Lea acting as facilitator and assisted by CHI and DPHS staff. Some common findings have emerged from the assessments. There is strong capacity for essential services that have funding such as emergency preparedness and community partnerships.

Services tend to exist in silos coinciding with the funding streams.

Regions tend to have varying levels of capacity to enforce laws and regulations.

Lea is working on reports to get back to the regions.

Joan noted that the governance assessment was piloted in the Cheshire Region. The purpose of the governance assessment is two-fold. The first component assesses the capacity of the region to provide a governance function, that is to provide oversight of public health services. The second component was developed to determine what type of entity in the region could best serve as the public health entity to deliver services. Interestingly in Cheshire there seemed to be a lot of support for the provision of public health services through a county structure. Yvonne noted that one of the reasons for this was that the county would have no vested interest in keeping funds or providing services just to keep its own resources.

The tool will be refined and used in other regions.

Work Group Updates

Inform and Educate the Public – Joan reported that this group had sent its survey out to programs who provide tobacco prevention services. The information submitted will be reviewed and posted to the website. This will continue with other programs.

Communication Plan Work Group – Tag lines and creative work are being reviewed by public health stakeholder groups. There is a need to run them by the public. Some council members noted that they convene community groups who could review the materials

Update – MLC-3

Lea Ayers LaFave

The MLC-3 project will have a site visit April 20 and 21st with funders and project consultants as well as federal partners and other MLC-3 states. Council members will be invited

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month
From 2:00 – 4:00 PM in Room 312,
29 Hazen Drive in Concord (unless otherwise noted)
The March meeting was moved to March 26, 2009

March 26, 2009
April 16, 2009
May 21, 2009
June 18, 2009
July 16, 2009

August 20, 2009
September 17, 2009
October 15, 2009
November 19, 2009
December 17, 2009