Public Health Quality Improvement (QI) Network Launched – December 22, 2010

Forty-two state and local public health partners (also known as QI champions) recently formed a quality improvement network. These champions represent agencies in each of the six public health regions in Iowa, as well as the six divisions within the Iowa Department of Public Health. QI champions received training on QI concepts and tools in October 2010 and will participate in a QI Train-the-Trainer course in January 2011. The network was featured in the November/December 2010 issue of the Iowa Health Focus newsletter. To read more about the QI network, go to http://www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=Focus .

Free Online Quality Improvement Course! – April 23, 2010

In the spring of 2009, an online quality improvement course was developed through collaboration between the Iowa Counties Public Health Association, University of Iowa – College of Public Health, and the Iowa Department of Public Health. This one-hour course titled “Implementing and Sustaining Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in an Organization” covers CQI myths, a brief overview of CQI, a how-to section on incorporating CQI into an organizational culture, and a case study demonstrating how CQI works in public health. The course is free and is available on the Prepare Iowa learning management system. To access the Prepare Iowa website, go to the Resources section below.

QI Learning Opportunities – April 7, 2010

The Iowa Governor’s Conference on Public Health is just around the corner. Four quality improvement breakout sessions will be offered at this year’s conference (in addition to a variety of other exciting learning opportunities). If you haven’t registered for this year’s conference, do so soon!

If you are attending the conference on April 13th and 14th and haven’t quite decided which sessions to go to, consider checking out one of these sessions related to public health quality improvement!

Cultivating a LEAN Culture (Tuesday, April 13th from 1:15 -2:15 pm)

- During this one hour session speakers will briefly explain Lean, a quality management philosophy aligning people at all levels to improve efficiency, eliminate non-value added streams, and create more effective work process, and concepts related to the philosophy. Speakers will share why an agency should adopt Lean principles and share examples from the field of public health.
Using the Tools of Continuous Improvement in Public Health (Tuesday, April 13th from 3:45 – 5:15 pm)

- This workshop will introduce attendees to quality tools that are instrumental in the recognition of continuous improvement projects as well as the prioritization process.

By George, We've Done It: making Quality Improvement Work in Iowa! (Wednesday, April 14th from 9:15 -10:15 am)

- This session will highlight the work of quality improvement collaboratives in Iowa. During the session, three local health departments will share their experiences in participating in a quality improvement mini-collaborative, forming quality improvement teams, and using quality improvement methods to help develop a standardized county health snapshot. Strategies and resources for making quality improvement in public health work will also be shared.

Preparation for Accreditation – What Should I be Doing? (Wednesday, April 14th from 1:00 – 2:00 pm)

- Information on Iowa’s voluntary accreditation system and the national voluntary accreditation system will be shared during this session. Participants will also learn about activities to assess readiness for accreditation and implement quality improvement practices with gaps that have been previously identified.

If you are unable to attend the conference, but would like more information regarding these breakout sessions, go to http://www.iowapha.org/Default.aspx?pageId=605868.

Have you heard about the Multi-State Learning Collaborative (MLC) Project? - March 25, 2010

Iowa is one of 16 states funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to participate in the Lead States in Public Health Quality Improvement Program. Using a learning collaborative model, peer networked innovator states form a multi-state learning collaborative to gain experience in designing and implementing a process for systematic assessment of local and state public health agency capacity and performance. Each state’s charge is two-fold: 1) provide guidance and assistance to the state health department and local health departments in preparing for accreditation; and 2) implement quality improvement activities in public health. To learn more about the national MLC project, go to http://nnphi.org/home/section/1-15/view/view/39.

Through the MLC, IDPH has formed two mini-collaboratives (learning collaboratives made up of at least three public health agencies) to implement quality improvement activities focused on one of two target areas – community health profiles and chronic disease prevention. The community health profile mini-collaborative concluded their work early this year. To see results from this mini-collaborative, see the
MLC information below. The chronic disease mini-collaborative will begin their work later this spring; stay tuned for updates on the collaboratives progress.

Welcome to QuIPS! - March 10, 2010

QuIPS (Quality Improvement Pointers and Strategies) will be posted on a bi-monthly basis to share quality improvement resources and highlight the work being done to improve public health.

One example of such work is the collaboration between local and state partners to improve the service contracting process at the Iowa Department of Public Health. In November, a team of local and state public health professionals (known as the Contract Transformers) spent a week examining the current service contracting process, identifying areas for improvement, and developing a new process. To find out more about this team’s quality improvement journey, please see the Service Contracting section under State-level Quality Improvement Activities below.