Success Stories

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Buchanan County

The Buchanan County Public Health Department has made education a focus of its Modernization efforts. For example:

- The Board of Health is supporting education for the director to bring her education to the recommended level to maintain the position.
- The Buchanan County Board of Health is actively engaged in education regarding the standards, so there is support for needed improvements and modifications.

Educating the Buchanan County Board of Health has sharpened the department’s focus to better perform its role as a local public health agency.
Success Stories

Calhoun County

Jane Condon of Calhoun County Public Health says using the standards is helping with the analysis and improvement of the county public health structure and the delivery of services. For example:

- To bring staff in alignment with the standards, the county is reimbursing BSN staff for MPH courses. These courses will be completed in January of 09.
- Using recommended processes, the structure of Calhoun County Public Health is being analyzed as part of its strategic plan towards compliance with the standards.

By focusing on the Modernization standards, Calhoun County is able to plan for benchmarks and improvements in services. Bringing staff to the recommended education levels helps in this process.
Cass County Memorial Hospital Home Care/Hospice is actively engaging the local Board of Health to build support for Modernization.

- The agenda of the Cass County Board of Health has been changed to reflect the core functions and essential services of public health.

By educating the local Board of Health about the functions and services of public health, board members are gaining understand of the Modernization initiative.
Dallas County

Dallas County hired new staff for the purposes of working towards alignment with Modernization standards.

- Dallas County Public Health hired a new full-time public health coordinator. The position includes responsibility for working toward implementation of Modernization standards. 100 percent of this position has been funded by grants for 2008-2009.

Dallas County has made alignment with Modernization Standards a key component of its public health department, and has hired staff to work towards that goal.
Success Stories

Davis County

Davis County Hospital Home and Community Health is paving the way for Modernization with an effort to educate local leaders about the initiative.

- The Davis County Board of Health has been educated about Modernization by county health officials. Support has been expressed to meet the financial demands of initiative improvements.

By increasing knowledge about Modernization, Davis County is building support for the initiative.
Success Stories

Decatur County

The Decatur County Public Health Department has implemented new programs, emphasized collaboration and enhanced its Board of Health meetings as part of its Modernization efforts. For example:

- A six county region, including Decatur County, is collaborating to implement a tobacco use prevention grant. County officials report the efforts are going well.
- A new Injury Prevention program, focusing on preschool through 1st graders was launched, with funding through a private grant and utilizing an intern from the University of Iowa.
- Collaboration with the local community health center has enabled an expansion of their mental health and substance abuse services.
- Board of Health meetings have been increased to every two months, and a focus has been put on board education. Each meeting features a speaker from an area such as WIC, or other public health program.

Through education of the Decatur County Board of Health, and an emphasis on local and regional collaboration, Decatur County Public Health is actively improving the health of its residents.
Success Stories

Fayette County

Ruth Schemmel, a registered nurse with Fayette County Public Health, says continuity in job descriptions and requirements has improved health services. For example:

- Job descriptions for the County Health Director and Executive Director have been updated and modified to be in alignment with the standards.
- The Executive Director is working towards a Masters degree in Public Administration, to come into alignment with the standards. In addition, the County Health Director is working toward a BSN.
- The Fayette County Board of Health is updated quarterly on Modernization efforts.

Focusing on helping current employees meet job description requirements in the modernization standards has benefited the individuals and the department as a whole.
Success Stories

Hancock County

Hancock County is using Modernization to improve services.

- Hancock County Public Health has incorporated Modernization standards into a yearly agency performance review. Gaps have been identified, and are being addressed.

Hancock County is improving client services by identifying areas of improvement through the use of Modernization standards.
Success Stories

Henry County

Henry County is actively addressing Modernization by enhancing staff education and engaging the local Board of Health.

- The Henry County Environmental Health Specialist is currently pursuing a Masters degree in public health.
- The Henry County Board of Health receives regular presentations about Modernization.

Through enhancing staff education and regularly updating the Board of Health, support for Modernization is building in Henry County.
Success Stories

Iowa Department of Public Health
Bureau of Family Health

The Iowa Department of Public Health has made meeting state standards for Modernization a priority. For example, in the Bureau of Family Health:

- The Modernization Coordinator regularly briefs staff on the progress of Modernization and its implications for the bureau.
- The bureau has been actively involved in analyzing the way it addresses state standards.
- The Maternal and Child Health Administrative Manual has been developed as a guide and reference for implementation of the Maternal and Child Health services contract with the Iowa Department of Public Health. By including information about Modernization in the manual, all providers and the public are made aware of the initiative.

The Modernization effort has helped the Bureau of Family Health critically look at the services it provides and acknowledge needed areas of improvement.
Success Stories

Iowa Department of Public Health
Bureau of Communication and Planning

The Iowa Department of Public Health has made meeting state standards for Modernization a priority. For example, in the Communication and Planning Bureau:

- A new Communications Guide has been developed that addresses both internal and external communications in an effort to improve cooperation between state bureaus, and between state and local agencies.

The Modernization effort has helped the Communication and Planning Bureau critically look at the services it provides and acknowledge needed areas of improvement.
Success Stories

Iowa Dept. of Public Health
Environmental Health

Formulated Quote:

“Modernization means improved environmental health services from qualified staff while enhancing portability and promotion opportunities among EH professionals in Iowa. That's why we've invested in creating study groups to help local EH partners obtain credentialing as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian or a Certified Environmental Health Technician.”
**Success Stories**

**Lee County**

The Lee County Public Health Department has used Modernization as a springboard for internal improvement.

- The Lee County Public Health Department applied for and was granted a National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Quality Improvement (QI) grant for Accreditation Preparation.
- The health department completed a self-assessment and compared results with the state and national matrices. Similar areas for improvement were identified and the department has been able to implement the QI process for enhancements.

Through guided self-assessment, Lee County was able to identify needed areas of improvement, and has implemented a process to address those challenges.
Success Stories

Louisa County

The Louisa County Board of Health has actively embraced modernization, making it an integral part of the county health organizational structure and using the standards as the county plans for its public health future. For example:

- The Board of Health meeting schedule has been increased from quarterly to monthly to enhance communication and continuity of modernization efforts.
- There is support for increased education and training for all public health nursing and administrative support staff.
- The Environmental Health services are being reviewed and revised, including the development of job descriptions to better meet the EH needs of Louisa County.
- Members of the Board of Health meet quarterly with the IDPH Regional Community Consultant to stay informed of current state and federal policies and procedures.

The Louisa County Board of Health actively seeks information and consultation to support local modernization efforts.
Success Stories

Mahaska County

The Mahaska Health Partnership is paving the way for Modernization with an effort to educate local leaders about the initiative.

➢ The Mahaska Health Partnership met with the Mahaska County Board of Health in December of 2007 and December of 2008 to educate members about Modernization.

By increasing knowledge about Modernization, Mahaska County will be better prepared to enact needed improvements and modifications.
Success Stories

Marion County

Marion County Public Health Department Director Kim Dorn says ‘getting on board’ with modernization early enabled her to have a better understanding of the issues. This makes it easier to make changes as the opportunities present themselves. For example:

- Staff position requirements and pay schedules have been reconfigured to reflect the workforce development standards.
- Job descriptions have been rewritten to reflect workforce standards and enhance consistency.
- When Environmental Health became part of the department, it was designed in a way to reflect the standards.

Dorn says everything Marion County Public Health does is now reviewed before action is taken to determine how it will mesh with public health standards.
Scott County

Scott County Environmental Health coordinator Larry Linnenbrink says modernization has made it easier to explain what public health does. By actively involving the county Board of Health, reviewing and improving services is an ongoing focus. For example:

- The Director’s Report, which is distributed to the Board of Health and the media, has been modified. By combining all service area reports under the ten essential services format, it’s easier to read and understand how each service area interacts with the ten essential services.
- The Board of Health highlights one component of Modernization at each monthly board meeting to understand how it may impact and improve services in Scott County.
- Program and procedure reviews are now done with the public health standards in mind, to see if improvements are needed.

Linnenbrink says by involving the Board of Health in Modernization, there is better understanding of public health services and more support for needed improvements.
Success Stories

Siouxland District Health Department

The Siouxland District Health Department is actively educating the local Board of Health to build support for Modernization.

- The Woodbury County Board of Health report now follows Modernization outlines.
- Siouxland District Health Department officials meet with Board of Health members to familiarize them with the language used in Modernization standards.
- Administration and Board of Health members believe these changes have been beneficial.

By educating the local Board of Health about Modernization, improvements have been adopted that benefit both the health department and board itself.
Success Stories

Warren County Health Services

Warren County Health Services has used Modernization to improve client services, enhance staff expertise, and increase local collaboration.

- The Warren County Public Health administrator obtained a BSN, and may pursue an additional degree.
- Client surveys have been amended to better evaluate whether client goals and expectations are being met.
- Collaboration with community partners has increased over the past two years.

Warren County Health Services has used the goals of Modernization to improve client services through enhancements in staff expertise, local collaboration and client feedback.
Success Stories

Webster County

Webster County Public Health has made continuing education a key component of its Modernization efforts.

- Webster County's public health administrator returned to college to receive a four-year degree. In addition, she is planning to enroll to receive a Master's degree in public health.
- All public health employees are being encouraged to continue their education.
- The local Board of Health meetings are being changed to incorporate Modernization agenda items.
- An annual report is in development.

Webster County has used Modernization to inspire public health workers to continue and further their education. In addition, Board of Health meetings will incorporate Modernization in future agendas, and an annual report will identify successes and gaps in local public health.