Public Health Advisory Council

November 3, 2011
Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) met at the Lucas building, Des Moines, Iowa. Meeting began at 10:00.

Council members present:
Amy Thoreson, Ron Eckoff, Laura Beeck, Donn Dierks, Chris Atchison, Kari Prescott, Frank Magsamen, Martha Gelhaus, Julie McMahon, Aimee Devereaux, Robert Welander, Ann Garvey, Mary Mincer Hansen, Chrystal Woller

Council members absent:
Senator Joni Ernst, Betty Mallen

Others Attending:
Joy Harris – Lead Staff PHAC
Erin Barkema – Lead Staff PHEC
Karla Dorman – Support

Approval of Minutes
Aimee Deveraux motioned to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2011 meeting. Chris Atchison seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports
Public Health Evaluation Committee
- Erin Barkema gave a report of the Evaluation Committee’s activities to the Council.
- The local survey was released on October 19. Completed surveys are due November 22, 2011.

Strengthening the Community of Practice for Public Health Improvement (COPPHI)
- The COPPHI is an extension of the MLC with a goal of developing a Community of Practice focused on accreditation preparation and quality improvement.
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is funding the project. The project is being managed by the National Network of Public Health Institutes. Three national meetings will be held.
- Not a lot of additional detail is available at this time.
- Erin Barkema and Gerd Clabaugh, Deputy Director of IDPH will be attending the first meeting being held in December.

Old Business
Develop timeline for future direction priorities
- Members discussed the council’s priorities and determined a timeline for each priority.

Update on pilot counties - Iowa Accreditation System
- The pilot has been underway for one month.
- Each county has done one evaluation of the process.
We have not received requests for a lot of TA from the counties, and they have reported minimal problems with understanding the standards.
IDPH has meetings scheduled with the pilot counties next week.
Their evidence is to be submitted by December 22, 2011.

New Business
Election of Vice-Chairperson
Martha Gelhaus nominated Amy Thoreson to be vice-chair of the Public Health Advisory Council. The nomination was seconded by Ron Eckoff. Motion carried unanimously.

PHAB equivalency
The question was raised; will we grant equivalency if a local public health entity meets the PHAB accreditation standards?
Much discussion ensued. The decision was made that the council would support county’s going through the PHAB accreditation process, but due to the number of Iowa specific standards, the advisory council agreed that a county should also go through the Iowa Accreditation Process. No equivalency would be granted at the Iowa level for completion of the national standards.

Electronic documentation concerns
Joy Harris shared with the council that there has been some concerns regarding electronic document storage as counties prepare for the accreditation process. Local entities have reported that they will not have enough computer space available to store their evidence.
After discussion, the Council agreed that each entity will be responsible for their document storage. This may be a topic that will need to be revisited as the accreditation process matures.

Fees for accreditation
Joy Harris shared with the Council that there are many questions about how much the Iowa Accreditation Process will cost. The Public Health Advisory Council decided that it is too premature to identify a cost, but that the intent is to keep the cost as inexpensive as possible.

Accrediting entity research presentation
Joy Harris shared a handout with the council detailing information about the structure, cost, site visitors, length of accreditation period and length of site visit for accreditation processes in other states and other areas of practice.
Discussion followed regarding how Iowa will identify an accrediting entity. The council will receive a white paper from Chris Atchison on the development of a Public Health Institute at the University of Iowa prior to the January meeting.

Adjournment
Ron Eckoff motioned to adjourn meeting, Amy Thoreson seconded, motion carried.

Next meeting: January 5, 2012, 10:00 – 3:00   Lucas Building  Rooms 517 & 518