



Issue 27 - August 2015

Welcome to qualitymatters!

In this issue, you'll find information on

- local news and updates,
- recently posted quality improvement (QI) initiatives,
- upcoming events hosted by the California Department of Public Health and our partner NNPHI, and
- a featured resource from our partner National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ)!

You can always visit www.phqix.org and connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for more news and updates!

Would you like to submit something for possible distribution in a future PHQIX newsletter? Let us know at contact@phqix.org.

-The PHQIX Team

News and Updates

PHQIX Feature Section: QI Spotlight

PHQIX is excited to announce the launch of the [QI Spotlight](#)! This page will feature articles that highlight exemplary applications of QI methodology, illustrated by QI initiatives published on PHQIX. [Click here](#) to read our first article: *What are goal and aim statements and why are they important?* Stay tuned for more feature articles on the [QI Spotlight](#) page. For more information on aim statements, scroll down to this month's featured resource from NICHQ!



PHQIX Website Drawing Is Under Way!

To enter our latest drawing, simply update your Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) accreditation status by August 28. [Click here](#) for information on how to update your PHAB accreditation status.



Present Your Work at the Open Forum for QI in Public Health!

NNPHI is now accepting abstract submissions for the Fall 2015 Open Forum for QI in Public Health! Participants are invited to submit an abstract for roundtable discussions and poster presentations. The deadline to submit an abstract for consideration is 5:00 p.m. PT on Friday, August 28. [Click here](#) to learn more about the abstract process, session formats, and priority

topics.



Upcoming Funding Opportunity for Local Health Department Accreditation Preparation

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is pleased to announce an upcoming funding opportunity for local health departments. With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support, NACCHO will be offering a fifth year of Accreditation Support Initiative (ASI) awards. **The Request for Proposals for the ASI 2015-2016 awards will be made available via *accreditNATION* during the week of August 17, 2015.** To subscribe to *accreditNATION*, [click here](#)



and enter your e-mail address in the "Subscribe to our mailing list" box. If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, NACCHO recommends that you assess your agency's accreditation preparation needs and goals over the coming weeks to prepare for the application. NACCHO also recommends that you review its [standard contract language](#) because the contract cannot be modified if an award is received. Questions about this upcoming opportunity can be directed to asi@naccho.org.

New QI Initiatives

Check out these QI Initiatives recently published on PHQIX!

Achieving a QI Culture Across a Public Health Agency

This initiative describes how quality leaders at the Salt Lake County Health Department (SLCHD) challenged the status quo to transform organizational quality culture. Members of the SLCHD Quality Council identified a need to increase the health department's emphasis on quality after a review and discussion about the Building Blocks of a Quality Culture (Moran and Riley) and reviewing examples of QI culture development at other local health departments. The SLCHD QI project team implemented an agency-wide applied learning initiative that combined didactic QI training, a variety of facilitated conversations, and implementation of "big QI and little qi" projects. Survey data captured before and after the initiative showed major improvement in self-reported perceptions of QI culture; greater in upper management than in middle management. [Read more here!](#)

Eliminating Delays in Identifying Children with Birth Defects

The Minnesota Department of Health Birth Defects Monitoring and Analysis Program used a Kaizen event to streamline the process for identifying children with birth defects, decrease the median time from 49 to 37 days, and decrease the maximum time by 53%. Families may now be linked faster to services and resources designed to meet their child's unique developmental needs. [Read more here!](#)

Food Safety: Licensing Faith-Based Organizations for Food Events

The Stratford Health Department's aim was to ensure that at least 75% of faith-based organizations (FBOs) were licensed, so they could provide food during public events throughout the year and minimize the risk of foodborne illness. While working through their QI planning project, staff fixed a decades-old problem with annually licensing FBOs, reduced administrative time spent on licensing, and targeted an effective way to license and educate FBOs about preventing foodborne illness. [Read more here!](#)

Upcoming Events

2015 Public Health Accreditation Readiness Conference: Update

The California Department of Public Health invites you to attend the 2015 Public Health Accreditation Readiness Conference, titled [Moving Forward Together: California's Journey to Public Health Accreditation](#). The Sacramento and Ontario conferences have been consolidated into one statewide conference, which will be held in Sacramento from August 26 to 27, 2015, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento. Online registration is now closed, but you can still register on-site. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact [Gladys Glaude](#).

Register for the 12th Open Forum This Fall!



Registration is now open for NNPHI's 12th Open Forum for QI in Public Health in Seattle, Washington, this fall! Pre-conference meetings, including a workshop offered by experienced practitioners Marni Mason (PHQIX Expert Panel member) and Susan Ramsey, will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. The 1.5-day Open Forum will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 15 and 16, 2015. All sessions will be held at the conference hotel, the Westin Seattle. To register, check out the [NNPHI event page](#). Registration closes on September 16, so register today!

Featured Resource

NICHQ Blog: QI Tips: A Formula for Developing a Great Aim Statement

An aim statement is a clear, explicit summary of what your team hopes to achieve over a specific amount of time, including the magnitude of change you will achieve. The aim statement guides your work by establishing what success looks like... [Click here](#) to continue reading the blog post.



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