



Issue 29 - October 2015

Welcome to qualitymatters!

In this issue, you'll find information on

- updates from our partners,
- a recently posted quality improvement (QI) initiative,
- and featured resources from our partners Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and 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 at the Open Forum

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth at the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) Open Forum! The match game was a huge success, and your participation is invaluable in building relationships in the QI community. Stay tuned for more updates on other conferences we'll be attending!



HSIP Host Site Application Now Open



Host site applications are now being accepted from state and local public health agencies to host a fellow in the Health Systems Integration Program (HSIP). HSIP is an opportunity for health systems capacity building, specifically between public health and clinical care partners. HSIP is one of three fellowship programs of Project SHINE (Strengthening Health Systems through Interprofessional Education). Project SHINE is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). HSIP host site applications will be accepted through December 11, 2015. Please visit <http://shinefellows.org> for complete information and the link to the electronic application. If you have any questions about HSIP or the host site application, please contact NACCHO staff at SHINE@naccho.org.

NNPHI Launches New Website!

The launch of NNPHI's latest website kicks off new strategies for promoting the public health institute and regional public health training center network. The website features a network engagement directory, resource directory, blog, funding announcements and events, and revamped social media campaigns. [Click here](#) to check it out!



Errata within PHAB Standards and Measures, Version 1.5

An updated version of the [PHAB Standards and Measures, Version 1.5](#), has been uploaded to the PHAB website at www.phaboard.org, effective Thursday, October 1, 2015. Since the release of the PHAB Standards and Measures, Version 1.5, in January 2014, PHAB has identified and fixed spelling, grammatical, and naming errors within the standards and measures document.

More importantly, PHAB has found content errors in required documentation descriptions and guidance for required documentation that may affect a health department's understanding and interpretation of the standards and measures. [PHAB has detailed these errors in an errata document](#). Please note that these minor content errors do not change the current document version number.



If you have any questions or concerns about the errata, specific questions about the standards and measures, or additional errors of which PHAB should be made aware, please contact Robin Wilcox, PHAB Chief Program Officer, at rwilcox@phaboard.org or via phone at (703) 778-4549, ext. 106.

Upcoming Events

PHQIX Will Be at APHA Annual!

PHQIX is excited to attend the [2015 American Public Health Association \(APHA\) Annual Meeting](#) in Chicago, Illinois! During the conference, stop by the PHQIX exhibit booth (#2022) to further network with the QI community and maybe walk away with some PHQIX prizes! We will also be presenting in the exhibitor theatre on November 2 from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. This session will provide an overview of PHQIX and how it can be used for public health QI efforts, so be sure to stop by and bring colleagues who are new to PHQIX! [Click here](#) to read more about the exhibitor theatre.



Local News

Introduction to Lean Six Sigma: Championing, Training, "Workshopping," and Facilitating Quality Methods, One Organization at a Time!

In August, September, and October 2015, the [Washington State Public Health Centers for Excellence](#) (PHCFE) conducted Lean Six Sigma training sessions for PHAB-accredited [Kitsap Public Health District](#) and the [Washington State Environmental Health Association](#) (WSEHA). The sessions focused on "advocating for a mindful, thoughtful, streamlined, standardized approach in the use of limited resources of time, funds, and people." Four 4-hour workshops were conducted at Kitsap Public Health District, with 30 attendees (about one-third of the organization) from



Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Community Health, Administration, and Finance, including the division directors, program managers, technical and administrative personnel, and all members of the quality council.

PHCFE was also invited to participate in the 2015 WSEHA Westside Educational Seminar, a 4-hour training and workshop. A total of 63 individuals attended from across western Washington State, representing the Department of Health and Department of Ecology, as well as Chelan, Douglas, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom Counties. Attendees included food inspectors, directors, program managers, supervisors, health advisors, a resident physician, and health educators.

Modinat Ogun, ASQ CSSBB, CMQ/OE, LSSBB, was the trainer, presenter, and facilitator for the sessions. For more information, please contact Cindan Gizzi, MPH, at cgizzi@tpchd.org.

New QI Initiatives

Check out this QI Initiative recently published on PHQIX!

Improving the Timeliness of Salmonella Investigation

Rapid response to new Salmonella cases is critical to decreasing the spread of disease and reducing the likelihood of an outbreak. The Santa Clara County Public Health Department in California used the Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control/Six Sigma approach to identify the root causes of "slow down" in the response time for Salmonella cases, cutting the time to investigation in half. [Read more here!](#)

Featured Resources

Iowa Public Health Gaining Ground Coalition Releases "12 Domains to PHABulous" Video Series

Would you like to learn more about public health department accreditation or how to improve the quality and services your health department provides? The Iowa Public Health Gaining Ground Coalition has created 12 Domains to PHABulous. This 12-part series of short videos provides information, tips, and resources on how you can achieve your organizational and community health goals. The first three videos of the series have been released and can be found at <http://training-source.org/url/di>.



PHAB Launches New Online Store

In September, PHAB announced the grand opening of its new online store, where you can find Version 1.5 of the PHAB Standards and Measures and several accreditation resources. The store will also eventually feature a special portal that will be available only to accredited health departments wishing to purchase additional copies of PHAB's official recognition plaque, customizable banners, apparel, and other products branded with PHAB's logo and seal of accreditation. PHAB's new online store is open around the clock at <https://phab.orderit247.com/login>. It can also be accessed via a link at the top of PHAB's homepage at www.phaboard.org.

NICHQ Blog: Holding Your QI Gains without the Pain

"You are nearing the end of an 18-month long learning collaborative in which your team made a lot of changes at your facility. You have new processes and renewed energy-and it shows in the data you are collecting. Now, in just a few weeks, the learning collaborative will officially end, along with the dedicated resources it included. How does your team keep from backsliding on the progress it's made?" [Click here](#) to continue reading the blog post.



NICHQ Blog: Why Applying Quality Improvement Techniques to Non-Clinical Data Makes Sense



"The growing trend of increasing capacity and timeliness of collecting surveillance data (such as birth and death records used by epidemiologists) is opening up opportunities for these rich data sources to be used for quality improvement (QI) efforts." [Click here](#) to continue reading the blog post.

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