

# Accreditation

## Bloomington Public Health/Public Health Alliance of Bloomington, Edina and Richfield

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# What is Accreditation?

- Measurement of a health department performance against a nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidenced-based standards.
- Recognition of achievement by a nationally recognized entity: Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)
- The goal of accreditation is to advance quality and performance within Public Health departments.

# Benefits of Accreditation

- Stimulated quality and performance improvement opportunities
- Allowed the health department to better identify strengths and weaknesses
- Improved management functions
- Stimulated greater accountability and transparency
- Increased our capacity to document the delivery of the core functions and essential public health services
- Increased accountability to external stakeholders
- Competitiveness for funding opportunities
- Increased communication with the governing entities

# Our three greatest strengths

- Bloomington Public Health has cultivated strong relationships with both governmental entities as well as community partners. Their relationship with the Environmental Health division in their city promotes the practice of public health functions across the jurisdiction. The governance structure in BPH is complex, yet staff negotiate these relationships with skill, assisting each jurisdiction to work collaboratively to improve health while maintaining their autonomy and community character. BPH engaged a vast array of community partners in implementing a variety of initiatives.
- Bloomington Public Health effectively engages with their community by listening closely to what the community members need. This allows them to continue to engage partners long after initiatives begin, assuring actions continue. BPH implements evidence-based, culturally-specific approaches to communicating information and engaging families and minority communities.
- Bloomington Public Health demonstrated an extensive commitment to quality improvement and performance management efforts across the department. They have implemented new improvements to their previous PM/QI efforts which better met their needs. Management staff have a commitment to developing internal staff leadership skills. Bloomington Public Health has truly adopted the spirit of a culture of quality in the agency.

# Opportunities for improvement

- Bloomington Public Health can make improvements through more thorough and consistent documentation of health department activities. Documentation was not always available to support the actions that were taken.
- Bloomington Public Health's community health assessment processes could be improved through more public engagement with the project. While BPH provided partners extensive opportunities for engagement, this was not documented as well for the public. Public opportunities for involvement may include more media engagement or other strategies to assure that the public has a chance to be involved in the effort.
- Bloomington Public Health has an opportunity to share specific research study findings with community partners and the public as well as the public health implications of the research. While BPH demonstrated that they use evidence-based and research-based practices, they should improve efforts to communicate about specific research with the public and partners.

# Overall impression:

- Bloomington Public Health (BPH) appears to have a passionate, well trained staff with extensive depth of experience.
- Bloomington Public Health has a unique jurisdiction and public health service arrangements among the three cities it serves.
- Bloomington Public Health holds a respected and expert position in the community, and are sought out for advice, insights, and direct connections to community members. It is evident from the community partners that BPH listens and responds to community needs.



# Local Governance

- Bloomington, Edina and Richfield are Community Health Boards organized under the Minnesota Statute 145A
- The Public Health Alliance of Bloomington, Edina and Richfield have been working together since 1977
  - Mission: Working together to assure the health of our citizens
  - Vision: improving the health and wellbeing of our communities
  - Values:
    - Collaborative Autonomy
    - Accountability
    - Excellence
    - Community Engagement

# Questions

