

September 21, 2009

Franklin County Health Department Chosen to Test National Public Health Accreditation Program

Frankfort, KY- Franklin County Health Department (FCHD) is pleased to announce that we have been chosen by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) as one of the 30 public health departments across the country that will participate in testing the national voluntary public health accreditation program.

We are proud to have been selected from a pool of over 145 candidates. During the test, we will go through the accreditation process, review guidance documents, test forms, review the accreditation standards, and provide valuable feedback that will inform the program's national launch in 2011. We are honored to be recognized for our leadership, commitment to quality improvement, and dedication to advancing our community's health. This test of the national program is a crucial step toward establishing a national public health accreditation program that will advance the quality of public health nationwide.

A total of 19 local, eight state and three tribal health departments will participate, and will receive technical assistance on accreditation and quality improvement, funding to support quality improvement projects and funding to cover the costs of providing detailed feedback to PHAB on the accreditation process. From the fall of 2009 through the end of 2010, FCHD will work with PHAB, the other 29 agencies and national public health leaders such as the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), National Association of Local Board of Health (NALBOH) and the National Indian Health Board (NIHB).

We look forward to this unique opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of our services and showcase our high quality programs and services. We are proud to have a hand in shaping the national public health accreditation program and advancing the quality of public health nationally. We intend to further our collegial work with other Kentucky local health departments through the Kentucky Health Department Association and the state Department for Public Health, to help assure Kentucky's entire public health system is better prepared for accreditation.

FCHD's accreditation planner is Fred Goins, a former public health director here. He will oversee this beta test. The current director, Paula Alexander, is chair of KHDA's Accreditation subcommittee and current KDHA secretary. She recently was graduated as a fellow from the NACCHO "Survive and Thrive" pilot program funded by Robert Wood Johnson, to better prepare local public health leaders. She was the only Kentucky participant selected from over 130 national applicants for the inaugural round of this program, and by personal selection accreditation was her main project during the year-long program.

For more details on our participation and what it means for the Frankfort/Franklin County community, please contact us at 502-564-4269. For more information on the beta test and the importance of public health accreditation, please visit PHAB's Web site at <http://www.phaboard.org>.