

ON THE ROAD WITH THE MLC

Leading the Way in Quality Improvement and Accreditation



Greetings from the **Multi-State Learning Collaborative: Lead States in Public Health Quality Improvement**. In our second publication of “*On the Road with the MLC*,” we highlight the fantastic work that Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and New Jersey are doing in preparing for national accreditation and establishing quality improvement as a cultural norm in public health. Just like their peer MLC states, these four states were incredibly hospitable and impressive when hosting staff from the National Network of Public Health Institutes, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, visitors from MLC states and representatives from several partnering organizations (including ASTHO, CDC, Muskie School of Public Service, NACCHO, PHF, PHII and PHAB) during their MLC site visits.

I encourage those who might have missed the first publication of “*On the Road with the MLC*,” and those interested in learning more about the Multi-State Learning Collaborative: Lead States in Public Health Quality Improvement, to contact the [National Network of Public Health Institutes](#).

Warm regards,
Lee Thielen, MPA
Chair,
Multi-State Learning Collaborative: Lead States in Public Health Quality Improvement

Illinois Builds Foundation for Quality Improvement



Illinois representatives invited MLC site visitors to attend the *Illinois Quality Improvement Learning Session* that launched Illinois’ mini-collaborative efforts on March 2nd and 3rd, 2009. The two-day meeting provided an opportunity for participants to learn from and interact with Marni Mason, Managing Consultant on Performance Measurement and Improvement for MCPP Healthcare Consulting. Mason’s sessions focused on: quality improvement principles, methods and tools, rapid cycle improvement, building quality improvement into organizational culture, and using data to target improvements. Illinois participants made tremendous progress during the quality improvement training as the teams applied the lessons they learned during the training to actual quality improvement projects on which they are working. Additionally, attendees of the meeting included members of the Illinois Accreditation Development Task Force which provided an excellent opportunity to spread the MLC resources to public health practitioners that are serving as leaders throughout the state that are helping to advance Illinois’ accreditation efforts.

Wisconsin Conducts Self-Assessment Implements Continuous Quality Improvement Cycles

Wisconsin representatives hosted their MLC site visit in Madison on March 4th, 2009. Wisconsin had planned to utilize the IHI Breakthrough Series Model in implementing and managing its quality improvement collaboratives, developing unique tools for evaluation and assessment, quality improvement, accreditation, and web-based sharing, such as “QI 101,” regional office tools, and local evaluation tools). The project management team in Wisconsin has since focused its efforts on building a community of practice among local health departments to prepare for national accreditation and implement quality improvement. In the first year of the project, 15 local health departments conducted a self-assessment using the NACCHO Operational Definition. A second group of health departments will conduct self-assessments using the draft standards developed by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) in the second year of the project. Through encouragement and a close working relationship with its collaboratives in targeting areas identified for improvement, Wisconsin has established an atmosphere of positive forward movement. By using assessment tools to gather baselines at the state and local level and developing strategies based on these scores, Wisconsin also worked on performance measures, including implementing Continuous Quality Improvement cycles and making a clear link between public health measures and public health outcomes.



Michigan State Health Department Preparing for National Accreditation



The MLC visit to Michigan was held in Lansing on March 6th, 2009. The Michigan project representatives presented on a variety of the quality improvement and accreditation efforts underway in their state. The [“Embracing Quality in Local Public Health: Michigan’s Quality Improvement Guidebook”](#) is providing tremendous direction for quality improvement efforts in Michigan and beyond. Michigan has demonstrated great progress in connecting quality improvement to accreditation by incorporating a quality improvement supplement into its state accreditation process. In preparing for national accreditation, the Michigan State Health Department has established an Accreditation Workgroup and has used the National Public Health Performance Standards to conduct a self-assessment. Additionally, the Michigan State Health Department has established a mentor program by pairing health departments experienced in quality improvement efforts with health departments that are new to the process.

New Jersey Forges Key Partnerships Implements Public Health Practice Standards

The MLC visited New Jersey on March 30th, 2009 in Piscataway. New Jersey representatives shared the great work they have achieved in developing a project charter which is guiding the work of their quality improvement collaboratives. New Jersey has established a key partnership with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey's School of Public Health and is strengthening its MLC work by participating in the Public Health Association's Collaborative Effort which brings together a variety of public health stakeholders from across the state.



New Jersey has also implemented public health practice standards and has analyzed the synergy between these standards and the Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) draft standards. Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services is conducting site visits with local health departments throughout the state in an effort to prepare for accreditation through a comparative review of the state practice standards and PHAB's draft standards.

The Multi-State Learning Collaborative: Lead States in Public Health Quality Improvement is managed by the [National Network of Public Health Institutes](#) with support from the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#).

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