

NPHPSP USER CALL SERIES

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER: THE NPHPSP, ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (EnvPHPS), AND THE LABORATORY SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (L-SIP)

July 20th, 2010 at 2:00 PM ET

Introduction: Jennifer McKeever (National Network of Public Health Institutes)

Jennifer McKeever welcomed the participants to the NPHPSP User Call Series and provided users with a brief overview of Microsoft Live Meeting features as well as multiple ways they can access the presentation slides and ask questions.

Putting it All Together: The NPHPSP, Environmental Public Health Performance Standards (EnvPHPS), and the Laboratory Systems Improvement Program (L-SIP):

Bertina Su, Association of Public Health Laboratories; John Sarisky, National Center for Environmental Health (CDC); and Trina Pyron, Office of State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support (CDC) shared about the following complementary assessment and performance improvement tools:

- The National Public Health Performance Standards Program
- The Environmental Public Health Performance Standards
- The Laboratory Systems Improvement Program

Attendees of this call learned about each of these tools and how they may complement each other in their overall performance improvement efforts.

Links to Presentation:

Click [here](#) to access the presentation slides

Click [here](#) to access the presentation audio, including live meeting slides

Questions:

Q: In your presentation you mentioned the other initiative MAPP. Why did you not mention PACE-EH (Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health)?

A: We are connected to PACE-EH as well. We worked closely with NACCHO on PACE-EH and we learned a lot from the MAPP process. People use the PACE process to focus on environmental health, while MAPP gives a much bigger view. They both are very useful tools and should be used whenever it's appropriate

Q: Do you know how the ranking of "significant", "moderate", and "limited use" were determined for NPHPSP?

A: On slide 16 of the NPHPSP presentation given today, it provides a breakdown of the local instrument where significant use of the local instrument across the state would be 67% or greater. So those brackets show the usage across a particular state and that's where the significant, moderate, and limited use terms comes from

Q: Given that each of these three tools is based on the Ten Essential Services of Public Health, can you explain why the Performance Standards don't cover all of these three tools in one?

A: From the CDC perspective, the overall Performance Standards Program does look at some of the work done within environmental health and the labs. However, there may be some issues where you want to drill down deeper and I think our partners over at the Environmental

Health Program and L-SIP can really get into this. From the Environmental Standards perspective, the environmental health folks want and need to be part of the National Public Health Performance Standards process and the accreditation process. The feedback we received from users was that there were only a handful of questions in the National Performance Standards that deal with environmental health and that for those programs that want to understand better how to strengthen and identify gaps in their environmental service delivery system or program/agency, the 66 questions in the Environmental Health Performance Standards allows one to do that. From the L-SIP perspective and if you look at the L-SIP tool, the questions and discussions that are in the tool specifically mention the laboratory system. So like Trina said, with our tool we are trying to dig down deeper within a specific area

Q: Is it possible to do all three assessments at one time in the same event?

A: From the CDC perspective, we would not suggest that mainly because of time. The Performance Standards Assessment does take quite a bit of time and I think if we add an L-SIP assessment or an Environmental Health assessment to that, it really may burn out your participants. We do think that all three can be done in a coordinated fashion. From the L-SIP perspective, we think it would be way too overwhelming to do in one day. The L-SIP assessment is a one day thing so to add on anything else would be difficult. From the Environmental Standards perspective, what we have learned from our users is that they use the Environmental Standards process as a standalone one. In many cases, our users would start off with doing the broader National Public Health Performance Standards assessment and then follow that up with the Environmental Standards process to better understand the ways to develop performance improvement plans to address identified gaps.

Q: Are there any resources available for people who want to implement the Environmental Health Standards process of the Laboratory Systems Improvement Program, like there is for the NPHPSP one?

A: From the Environmental Standards side, currently there are no plans to fund development of performance improvement plans and don't see that on the horizon right now. However, the recent release of the CDC Public Health Infrastructure Capacity-Building grant, I'm hoping some public health folks get creative and are involved in that and that may be a way to use these resources to implement this process. From the Laboratory side, there may be some opportunities in the future but right now we don't have funding coming out of our office



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PARTICIPANT LIST

Florida

Christine Abarca
Florida Dept of Health; Office of Health
Statistics & Assessment
christine_abarca@doh.state.fl.us

Indiana

Deb Koester
Purdue University - Health Technical
Assistance Program
dkoester@purdue.edu

Kentucky

Allison Beshear
Pennyrile District Health Dept, Caldwell
County Health Dept
allisonl.beshear@ky.gov

Rona Stapleton
Kentucky Dept of Public Health
ronal.stapleton@ky.gov

Missouri

Colleen Beckwith
St. Louis County Health Department
cbeckwith@stlouisco.com

New Mexico

Linda Beltran
University of New Mexico - Prevention
Research Center
lbeltran@salud.unm.edu

North Dakota

Kelly Nagel
North Dakota Dept of Health
kjnagel@nd.gov

Oregon

Casey Milne
Milne & Associates, LLC
casey.milne@comcast.net

Oklahoma

Pamela Rollins
Oklahoma State Dept of Health
pamr@health.ok.gov

Texas

Mike Messinger
Texas Dept of State Health Services
mike.messinger@dshs.state.tx.us

Josie Michael
Texas Dept of State Health Services
jmidalou@yahoo.com

Wisconsin

Rosie Kapp
Waukesha County Public Health Dept
rkapp@waukeshacounty.gov

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Teresa Daub
CDC
tdaub@cdc.gov

Trina Pyron
CDC
tpyron@cdc.gov

John Sarisky
CDC
zse1@cdc.gov

National Association of County & City Health Officials

Mary Kate Allee
NACCHO
mallee@naccho.org

Tom Milne
NACCHO
tmilne@naccho.org



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PARTICIPANT LIST

**National Association of Local
Boards of Health**

Jeff Neistadt
NALBOH
jeff@nalboh.org

Yolanda Savage
NALBOH
yolanda@nalboh.org

**National Network of Public Health
Institutes**

Jennifer McKeever
NNPHI
jmckeever@nnphi.org

Anooj Pattnaik
NNPHI
apattnaik@nnphi.org

Public Health Foundation

Julia Gray
PHF
jgray@phf.org

Other Participants

Barbara Coy

Cheryl Dunn

Lydia Marquez

Rachel Patterson

Lisa Ribaud

Tina Su