

Accreditation Update

The Douglas County Health Department continues to make progress toward national public health accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). As a department established within the past four years, pursuing accreditation is a strategic priority that supports organizational development, continuous improvement, and long-term sustainability.

The primary purpose of seeking accreditation is to identify areas of opportunity and strengthen internal systems while the department is still in its formative stage. The PHAB framework provides a nationally recognized set of standards and measures that align with best practices in public health. Participation in this process ensures the department operates in accordance with established national guidelines and reinforces a culture of accountability, performance management, and quality improvement.

Achieving Accreditation would also position the Douglas County Health Department as the first agency from Tri-County to earn PHAB recognition. This distinction would demonstrate leadership in public health practice and reaffirm the department's commitment to excellence and service to Douglas County residents.

Currently, document collection and submission preparation are approximately 90% complete, with full compilation anticipated by mid-March. The next phase will include a structured internal staff review to identify any errors, inconsistencies, or areas where documentation may require clarification before submission. This collaborative review process will help ensure accuracy, completeness, and confidence in the final materials.

Overall, the department remains on track and well-positioned for a successful submission.

Performance Management and Quality Improvement Update

The Douglas County Health Department continues to strengthen its organizational systems through ongoing work in performance management and quality improvement. These efforts support accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement across all program areas as the department continues to grow and mature.

Performance Management

The department's performance management system is fully implemented for the current year. All annual goals have been established and are actively being tracked. These goals are based on priorities identified in the strategic plan as well as operational goals established by the leadership team. Progress toward these goals is monitored on a regular basis, with measures tracked either monthly or quarterly, depending on the nature of the objective. This structured approach ensures that progress is consistently reviewed and that leadership can identify successes, trends, and areas needing additional attention throughout the year.

Quality Improvement

Quality improvement efforts this year have focused primarily on strengthening emergency preparedness and response capabilities, particularly related to Incident Command System (ICS) knowledge and readiness. This was a key focus of both the Strategic Plan and the Workforce Development Plan. Foundational training, EPR 101, was developed to provide staff with an overview of incident command structure and emergency response roles within the department. To date, approximately 33 percent of staff have completed the training, to reach 100 percent staff completion by the end of the year. This initiative supports improved organizational readiness and helps ensure staff understand their roles and responsibilities during public health emergencies.

Overall, both performance management and quality improvement activities are progressing as planned and continue to support the department's commitment to continuous improvement and operational readiness.