In Service for the **Public's Health**

Colorado Minimum Quality Standards for Public Health Services

Revisiting the 2008 Public Health Statute

The Public Health Act of 2008
(C.R.S. 25-1-501 et seq.)

- Reorganizes public health in Colorado
- Requires State Board of Health to identify core public health services
- Requires the State Board of Health to identify "minimum quality standards" for providing services

Public Health Standards

Colorado Minimum Quality Standards for Public Health Services rule exists to:

- Comply with state law C.R.S. 25-1-501 et seq.
- Respect the spirit and intent of the law that core public health services should be provided or assured to all Colorado residents and visitors at a minimum standard regardless of where the service is provided in the state

Purpose of rule

- Stimulate continuous quality improvement
- Align with nationally defined quality standards indicative of a well-functioning public health agency
- Promote partnership between local and state public health agencies

How is this rule different from the Core Services Rule?

- The Core Services rule (6 CCR 1014-7) lays out a set of basic public health services and activities that every local public health agency should provide or assure is provided in their jurisdiction
- The standards describe ways local public health agencies should provide those services
- Core Services is the WHAT local public health agencies should be doing and the Standards is HOW those core services should be accomplished

The core public health services for agencies to provide for or assure:

- Assessment and Planning,
- Vital Records and Statistics,
- Investigate and Control Communicable Diseases,
- Prevention and Population Health Promotion,
- Emergency Preparedness and Response,
- Environmental Health, and
- Administration and Governance

Example of how Core Services connects to Standards

What we do		How we do it
CO Core Service	PHAB Domain	PHAB Standards (proposed CO Standards)
Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation, and Control	Domain 1 - Conduct and disseminate assessments focused on population health status and public health issues facing the community	Standard 1.1 - Participate in or conduct a collaborative process resulting in a comprehensive community health assessment
	Domain 2 - Investigate health problems and environmental public health hazards to protect the community	Standard 2.1 - Conduct timely investigations of health problems and environmental public health hazards
	Domain 3 - Inform and educate about public health issues and functions	Standard 3.1 - Provide health education and health promotion policies, programs, processes, and interventions to support prevention and wellness
	Domain 4 - Engage with the community to identify and address health problems	Standard 4.1 - Engage with the public health system and the community in identifying and addressing health problems through collaborative processes
	Domain 5 - Develop public health policies and plans	Standard 5.1 - Serve as a primary and expert resource for establishing & maintaining public health policies, practices, and capacity
	Domain 6 - Enforce public health laws	Standard 6.1 - Review existing laws and work with governing entities and elected/appointed officials to update as needed
	Domain 10 - Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health	Standard 10.1 - Identify and use the best available evidence for making informed public health practice decisions

Proposed Rule Summary

The proposed standards rule has three sections:

- Purpose and authority
- Definitions
- Thirty-two minimum quality standards for public health services
  - Refer to your board packet

What are the standards based on in this proposed rule?

- The standards adopted were created by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) for the purposes of voluntary, national accreditation of public health agencies
- Developed with state and local public health professionals (including individuals from Colorado), national and federal public health experts, public health researchers, and other technical experts

Why use PHAB standards for Colorado standards ?

- PHAB standards represent best practices for local public health agencies
- Other states with standards are moving toward using the national standards
- Time and resources required to create state-specific standards are saved by using PHAB standards
- Comparing the PHAB standards to Colorado Core Services, it was apparent that all of the national standards are relevant to Colorado
- Adoption of these standards will better prepare local public health agencies to apply for voluntary, national accreditation, if desired

Funding issues

- Compliance is expected to have a limited financial impact due to:
  - Standards reflect best practices which most agencies already use
  - Improvements can be customized to align with agency priorities and resources
  - Local agencies may leverage existing resources within the agency or with resources of other organizations, including the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
  - Quality improvement processes should improve delivery of services and identify efficiencies
  - There are no reporting requirements

Local Implementation

- Local public health agencies are encouraged to determine the order and pace with which they address the standards
- Compliance with standards is determined locally. The rule does not mandate one way to assess or report if an agency is meeting the Colorado Standards
- If a local agency decides to pursue national accreditation, work toward meeting Colorado standards will prepare them well

Who enforces the Standards?

- It is the responsibility of each local public health agency to determine if they are meeting the Colorado Standards
- There is no reporting to a state entity required in the rule
- Each agency can find ways to improve and work toward meeting and exceeding the standards
- Agencies can use the measures and systems created by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and the many tools created by others to evaluate their work either informally, or formally by applying for accreditation

Stakeholder Involvement

- Workgroup that developed rule was comprised of Department staff as well as staff and directors of local public health agencies serving large, medium and small population jurisdictions
- The Department has made significant efforts to inform and engage their stakeholders.
  - Input gathered from public health directors, stakeholder-member steering committee, and Colorado Counties Inc.
  - Public health directors were provided materials to present to local boards of health and county commissioners
  - Community dissemination through Executive Order 5 compliance
- The Department reports that the presentation of the proposed rule has not resulted in controversy
- The proposed rule has the support of local public health directors

Conclusion

- This rule sets a minimum standard that local public health agencies can work toward and that some public health agencies may choose to surpass based on community need and resources.

- This rule fosters a culture of continuous quality improvement to ensure that local public health agencies are using public dollars efficiently and effectively.

- This rule supports local public health agencies that choose to seek voluntary, national accreditation.