

16 July 2016

Open Letter to Lisa VanRaemdonck, MPH, MSW – Executive Director
Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officers (CALPHO)

Glad I had an opportunity to listen to your presentation on Monday at [CCAHC](#). As a re-tired hospital administrator (MPH), I believe there is a great opportunity for improving data transparency in Denver, in Colorado and across the country. Because I've worked most of my career overseas (Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi), I'm still getting up to speed to appreciate the amazing number of organizations who aim to improve healthcare and our health system in one way or another.

Browsing around www.CALPHO.org, I found a host of initiatives and resources that resonate. I think I can add something unique to immediately benefit your colleagues and LPHOs in Colorado, contributing to success of your mission "to foster an effective and efficient public health system."

I have used pivot tables for years, to collect and analyze data within hospital organizations. In pursuit of benchmarking measures, I realized a couple of years ago, in 2014, that benchmarking methodologies and resources are painfully limited. In particular, no one in the whole wide world (that I can find so far) is using pivot tables to share data with the public and with stakeholders who are seeking better ways to access data for collaboration and effective action.

I have made a [proposal to CCAHC](#) that CDPHE undertake development of a "pivot table repository" beginning with the treasure trove collected in their CoHID warehouse. [An example of a pivot table repository](#) has been uploaded to CCAHC website, along with many examples of pivot tables that were created from public data sources, not just from CoHID, but also from CMS, CDC and the US Census Bureau (ACS), among others.

Your website, www.CALPHO.org, has an abundance of hyperlinks to so many resources, I think you might be interested in adding some of these pivot table links to some of your pages. For example, the [County Health Rankings](#), as a pivot table, is so much easier to access and understand, and allows any LPHO to select a county and see their "Health Equity Index", based on a comparison to national quintiles. See the attachment, for Denver County, to see what any LPHO could create to supplement their Community Health Assessments.

Another pivot table your LPHO colleagues might like is the Colorado [BRFSS data downloaded from CoHID](#), with the same advantages, and seeing the variations across all counties in Colorado. I also added a few additional fields so anyone can see the indicators from a Life Course perspective, or by Source, etc.

It would be a pleasure to meet with you and show you some tips and tricks that I have learned over the past year or two and how easy it would be for your organization to incorporate pivot tables amongst your resources. Data collection, reporting and analysis is mentioned so many times in your website, you will find pivot tables can facilitate your initiatives and quality improvement efforts, accreditation and health equity progress.

If you let me know a date/time that would be convenient, I will accommodate. I'm happy to work with you at no charge/gratis.

With best regards/ George

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