



Quick Reads

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April 14, 2008

New funding to aid IDPH self-assessment

I'm happy to announce that the IDPH [Bureau of Communication and Planning](#) has secured \$25,000 in funding to help the Department move one step closer toward Redesigning Public Health In Iowa! Their successful grant application to the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) will enable IDPH to conduct an assessment of how well the Department currently meets the state criteria of the [Iowa Public Health Standards](#).

As you know, public health partners are at their best when they share innovative solutions with one another. I'm happy to report that the Department will be working with the State of North Carolina to develop this very important self-assessment. North Carolina has completed a similar assessment and has great insight to share. This assessment, paired with the information available from the self-assessments at the local level, will be critical in the implementation of the Iowa Public Health Standards.

I look forward to providing you with more information about the state self-assessment and how it will be performed in June of this year. In the meantime, I encourage local public health agencies to pursue opportunities that will aid them in assessing their capacity to meet the Iowa Public Health Standards. Please tell me about your efforts so that we may share them in upcoming issues of [Quick Reads](#).

Lee County selected for NACCHO project

Congratulations to the [Lee County Health Department \(LCHD\)](#) for being selected to participate in the [NACCHO Accreditation Preparation and Quality Improvement Demonstration Sites Project](#)! LCHD is one of more than 60 applicants across the country who will receive \$15,000 to be a demonstration site for completing a self-assessment of its health department. After analyzing the results of the assessment, Lee County will select a priority area to implement a quality improvement plan.

LCHD administrator Julie Schilling reports, "This is a wonderful opportunity to determine our capacity in meeting the proposed standards in the national program and to implement a process for improvement." The LCHD will have access to NACCHO technical assistance and to a consultant who will assist with the project. NACCHO is receiving funds from the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) to support local health departments in preparing for accreditation and to enable them to provide feedback on the application and development of the standards.

Healthy Iowans 2010 resources available online

What is the top priority health issue for sixty counties in Iowa? How many more Iowans are now engaged in physical activity outside of their regular job? What chronic disease is now being managed so effectively that Iowa has seen a dramatic reduction in hospitalizations for all age groups? The answers to these questions and more are included in a recently released two-page Healthy Iowans (HI) 2010 summary, "[Significant Achievements Made in 2007-2008](#)." To view the report, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/healthy_iowans_2010.asp. For individual chapter reports, contact Dr. Louise Lex at llex@idph.state.ia.us.

Another recently released HI2010 resource is the collection of interactive [2007 County Health Priority Maps](#). Just as a picture can be worth a thousand words, maps also have this capacity. Like their 2005 predecessors (also available online) these new maps can help communities share information about critical issues and see patterns beyond their immediate county borders. Visit www.idph.state.ia.us/chnahip/priority_maps.asp#2007 to see what your neighbors are doing. Also, look for future development of these maps to include information about strategies.

Free emergency coordination workshops to be held in June

IDPH is proud to partner with the [Safeguard Iowa Partnership](#) to offer three public-private emergency coordination workshops this summer. The workshops are free and will demonstrate successful public-private initiatives

and provide an emergency coordination model for communities. Presentations will include lessons learned from recent incidents, public-sector assessment tools for business preparedness and other varied topics.

The free workshops will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Denison (June 2), Cedar Rapids (June 4), and Altoona (June 5). I encourage everyone invested in emergency preparedness and response to attend. This includes: professionals in business continuity, emergency management, emergency medical, fire fighting, hospitals, intelligence, law enforcement, public health, public works, utilities, volunteer organizations and private businesses. To register, visit www.PrepareIowa.com. Lunch will be provided and attendees will receive educational materials to share with their organization.

FLEX Program Conference, May 13-14

On-line registration is now open at www.trainingresources.org for the 4th Annual [Iowa Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility \(FLEX\) Program](#) conference. Themed "Changing Horizons," the conference will feature perspectives on the future of the Critical Access Hospital program, innovative models to improve the quality of care provided, and applications for national approaches to quality in rural healthcare. The May 13 & 14 gathering in West Des Moines is designed to be of interest to hospital administrators, chief financial officers, directors of nursing, quality coordinators, privacy officers, nursing staff, board members, public health professionals, health care providers and community members.

We want your best practices

IDPH is committed to telling the citizens of Iowa about the good things public health is doing to make a difference. To do this, we want to highlight your best practices/success stories. Please send your ideas to Don McCormick at dmccormi@idph.state.ia.us.

*To everyone in public health and all our partners—keep up the great work!
Tom*