



Quick Reads

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June 2, 2009

Governor signs modernization into law

Welcome back from a short week that began by remembering those who died while in military service. I hope the time off helped recharge your batteries, especially for those of you who had been so busy responding to H1N1.

Important action was taken last week for the future of public health in Iowa. Governor Culver signed the [Public Health Modernization Act](#) as part of [House File 811](#), the Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill. This paves the way for an enhanced statewide public health system, equitable public health service delivery in every corner of the state, and support for the technology and tools needed to meet the public health challenges of the 21st century. Please share this exciting news with your local board of health and other partners.

The following Modernization activities are planned for the coming weeks and months. On June 17, the current [implementation committees](#) will gather to report out so that the next phase may begin. These committees have done fantastic work over the last 15 months in the areas of accreditation, changing Iowa code and administrative code, increasing knowledge about modernization, funding, and metrics. I offer my heartfelt thanks to all committee members; without your work, we would not be as well-positioned as we are now.

Toward the end of June, IDPH will be sharing information for individuals who wish to serve on the two groups that will be responsible for moving forward with the next important stage of Modernization. The first of these, the Advisory Council, will set policies and procedures on the implementation and administration of the Iowa Public Health Standards to be applied to public health practice at both the state and local

level. The second group, the Evaluation Committee, will collect and report baseline information on the public health system and service delivery needs and effectiveness.

In July, recommendations from the implementation committees will be combined into a formal report. This document will be used by the Advisory Council and Evaluation Committee. I will let you know when this document becomes available on the IDPH Web site.

Again, I commend the hard work by everyone who has worked so hard to get us this far. From the early days of the Redesign project to the development of the Iowa Public Health Standards to the passage of the Public Health Modernization Act, it is clear that we have arrived here because of a collective effort. And together, we will move forward. For more information about Modernizing Public Health in Iowa, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/mphi.

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