Project Newsletter

Iowa Public Health Tracking

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Project milestones:

- November 2012 - Data Warehouse System Replacement Project contract signed with Microsoft and Infusion

- November 2012 - Project kick-off at IDPH

- January 2013 - SharePoint 2013 installation

- February 2013 – Dashboard construction began

- July 2013 – Testing of dashboards for functionality began

Project Update and Planning

- The team has continued to test the functionality of preliminary dashboards for the new portal. We have been identifying any problems to be fixed before beginning the next test phase, and brought in local data users to receive their opinions on the portal. The testing ensures the portal is efficient and easy to use upon public release.

- Members of the Tracking Team met with the Web Advisory Committee to present a draft of the new website redesign. The new site will accommodate the new portal system and be a central location for visitors to find many of the department publications.

- A training schedule has been created to teach local public health agencies about how to use the new portal system. Members of the Public Health Tracking team will travel around the state to agencies in six regions for in-person sessions starting in October.

- Materials and instructional tools are being developed for an in-house data training series, as well as for the local public health training sessions.

- To learn more about the Data Warehouse System Replacement Project and view project updates, visit our website at: http://www.idph.state.ia.us/dwh/Updates.aspx

Project Staff:

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In-House Data Training Series

Mark your calendars! Members of the Public Health Tracking team have been collaborating with individuals from other departments to develop a series of in-house data trainings. The following classes are geared towards anyone wanting to learn more about data, and will provide insightful information that will allow attendees to feel more comfortable using data properly:

Program Planning and Evaluation
Lead Personnel: Shelly Horak and Sarah Mauch
Date: September 12
Class Description:
Attendees will learn and practice program planning and evaluation skills. The first half of the class will focus on program planning. Attendees will participate in activities to identify and engage stakeholders, use visioning techniques, become familiar with various planning tools, practice writing goals and objectives, and developing a logic model. The second half of the class will focus on evaluation by identifying different phases of the evaluation process and writing effective and meaningful indicators. Identifying data sources, monitoring and reporting, data management, and sharing the information with stakeholders will also be covered. Quality improvement and performance management will also be addressed throughout the training. In addition, there will be a brief overview of new IDPH data policies.

Basic Data Use
Lead Personnel: Meg Harris
Date: October 30
Class Description:
The purpose of this class is to provide a broad overview of basic data use in public health. The course is designed for anyone working in public health, regardless of whether interaction with data plays a major or minor role in your day-to-day functions. Several major changes in how data is provided, managed and accessed have been implemented, including new policies aimed at improving the way the department handles data. All staff are strongly encouraged to attend this overview of basic data use.

Advanced Data Use
Lead Personnel: Meg Harris
Date: November 14
Class Description:
This course is intended for any department staff who have daily interactions with data. The class is formatted to facilitate a community of practice learning environment, where information is provided, but the focus is on sharing and identifying best practices for data use. The facilitator will review recent changes to department data management, including policies, data storage structure, accessibility, and use. Expert "testimony" from internal and external data users will be used to generate discussion on health data practice