



Quick Reads

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Completion of Redesign paves way for Modernization Act

Wednesday afternoon, the [Redesigning Public Health in Iowa](#) Work Group voted to declare the work of the Redesign project complete. Looking back, I know of nothing in the history of public health in our state that has required so much of so many over such a long period of time. Since 2004, nearly 200 local and state public health professionals from all corners of Iowa have come together to create the [Iowa Public Health Standards](#) and plan for how the Standards will become a part of our public health system. This commitment to strengthening public health in our state is evident in so many ways, but perhaps the most telling is the courage to think critically about our responsibilities in promoting and protecting the health of Iowans. To everyone I say thank you for asking the tough questions that have brought us this far.

This vote by the Work Group is a milestone for public health. It also ushers in our next challenge—support for and passage of the [Public Health Modernization Act](#) (PHMA) during the 2009 Legislative Session. Picking up where Redesign left off, the intent of the PHMA is to ensure that basic public health services are provided and that the capacity exists to provide those services. So that we are all well-prepared for this important discussion and questions about the current public health system, I urge you to view the draft PHMA bill and supporting documents at www.idph.state.ia.us/rphi. If you haven't already done so, I would encourage you to familiarize yourself with the Iowa Public Health Standards—our baseline for ensuring that every Iowan knows what they can reasonably expect from local and state public health.

It is also important for us as public health partners to continue—and indeed increase—opportunities for sharing among ourselves and policymakers the challenges and

successes that will help us move forward with the PHMA. In the coming months, I encourage you to use these *Quick Reads* to stay informed about this critical public health priority. To contribute stories, contact Polly Carver-Kimm at pcarver@idph.state.ia.us. I also urge you to sign up for regular updates from Redesign Coordinator Joy Harris by sending a blank e-mail to Join-REDESIGN@lists.ia.gov, and weekly *Legislative Updates* during the 2009 session from Lynh Patterson at join-IDPHLegUpdate@lists.ia.gov.

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