

Tribes and PHAB: Collaborating for Good Accreditation Outcomes



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Session Objectives

- Explore the feedback that PHAB has received through various listening sessions that it has held with Tribal public health department representatives across the country
- Describe actions that PHAB has already taken to address the feedback.
- Outline future actions that PHAB will be considering to help Tribes have a successful accreditation experience.



Tribal Work to Date



Tribal Health Department Definition

A federally recognized Tribal government*, Tribal organization or inter-Tribal consortium as defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended, with jurisdictional authority to provide public health services, as evidenced by constitution, resolution, ordinance, executive order or other legal means, intended to promote and protect the Tribe's overall health, wellness and safety; prevent disease; and respond to issues and events are eligible to apply.

Federally recognized Tribal governments may carry out the above public health functions in a cooperative manner through formal agreement, formal partnership or formal collaboration.

*As evidenced by inclusion on the list of recognized Tribes mandated under 25 U.S.C. § 479a-1. Publication of List of Recognized Tribes.

PHAB/NIHB MOU and Related Work



“Use strengths and expertise of our organizations to ensure quality PH services & enhance health of American Indians and Alaska Natives”

- NIHB’s Exploring Tribal Public Health Accreditation Project
- MOU with NIHB
- Tribal Think Tank
- Tribal Health Department Beta Test Sites
- Tribal Standards Workgroup
- PHAB/NIHB National Call for Tribal Input
- Feedback from NIHB’s Tribal Public Health Accreditation Advisory Board

Initial Tribal Standards Workgroup



“[Using the PHAB standards and measures] provided a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the public health department.”

“PHAB has encouraged Tribal input, listened to Tribal discussions and incorporated indigenous knowledge and wisdom in the development of the standards. They should be commended for their commitment to improving the health of all Americans.”

Tribal Beta Test Sites



Cherokee Nation Health Service (OK)

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Department of Health & Human Services (MI)

The Navajo Nation Division of Health (AZ)

PHAB Tribal Board Member



Joe Finkbonner

Executive Director, *National
Portland Area Indian Health
Board*

*Vice Chair of the PHAB Board
of Directors*

Tribal Support

- One pager educational sheet on accreditation and Tribal health departments
- Webinars for Tribal health departments – especially the ASI sites
- Ongoing identification and development of accreditation support materials for Tribal health departments and accreditation
- NIHB has an ex-officio seat on the PHAB Board
- Meet with the NIHB Tribal Public Health Accreditation Advisory Council
- Participated in the NIHB Video on accreditation for Tribes
- Hold listening sessions whenever Tribes are together and are open to the idea
 - Wisconsin
 - COPPHI Open Forum
 - NIHB Public Health Summit
 - Individual Tribal interactions



Listening Sessions



What Have We Heard?

- Working on accreditation in Tribal public health takes time to “sell” to leaders
- There has been some confusion over the difference in various accreditations
- Domains 6 and 12 are often confusing
- Some of the documentation examples aren’t applicable to Tribes
- Some Tribes are very small
- Cost of the fees can be tough

What Is PHAB Doing?

- Partnering with the NIHB Tribal Accreditation Advisory Council to identify specific clarifications that need to be made
- Advocating for Tribes to be included in the ASI grants and other similar initiatives
- Including Tribes in PHAB's work on small health department accreditation product development
- "Accreditation Works" – stories for PHAB's website on the impact of accreditation. Need some Tribal stories.
- Continuing to hold listening sessions with Tribes

What Ideas Do You Have?

- PHAB is always interested in hearing from Tribes. You can call or email us anytime about anything!
- PHAB is interested in hearing from you at this meeting.
 - Roundtable
 - Individual listening sessions
 - Coffee pot discussions



Thank You!





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Public Health Accreditation Board

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