



New Jersey
Local Boards of Health Association

Newsletter

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President's Message

As I start my term as president I extend many thanks from myself and New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association to Dianna "De" Lachman for many years of hard work and commitment to Public Health in New Jersey. We wish our past president many years of health and happiness in her new home state. As a past president she will join us from time to time, and we look forward to having her back at the table.



For 24 years the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association has helped the State's Local Boards of Health in meeting their responsibilities by offering training, conferences, and newsletters to assist board of health members in understanding their roles and responsibilities. We continue as always, to serve as a strong advocate for the best policies regarding public health throughout the state and with our legislators.

We invite Local Board of Health members to share ideas, learn from each other in our forums, and mostly, make this very important public health appointment a positive and successful experience with long lasting impact on the communities that we serve.

New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association- your association- is a proud member of the Public Health Associations' Collaborative Effort (PHACE). The collaborative includes the New Jersey Association of City and County Health Officials, New Jersey Association of Public Health Administrators, New Jersey Environmental Health Association, New Jersey Public Health Association, New Jersey Society for Public Health Education and the New Jersey Department of Health. Together we aim to improve public health in New Jersey by working on shared goals.

Allow us to support your goals, and provide your board with education and information to make informed decisions and to become involved with public health policy.

If you have questions or would like to participate on our Executive Board, or serve on a committee, please contact me at [646-251-6444](tel:646-251-6444) / loreilly@njlbha.org.

Have a happy and healthy 2016.

Laura O'Reilly, R.N., President

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Editor: Valerie A. Williams

If you would like to contribute articles to this newsletter please submit them through news@njlbha.org.

Meet the new 2016 NJLBHA Officers

LAURA O'REILLY, R.N., B.A., President

Laura is a member of the Mount Arlington Board of Health, and previously led the Mayor's Wellness Committee in her town. She has been a member of NJLBHA since 2013. As a health advocate she encourages preventive care, healthy lifestyles, and the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in community health promotion. Laura is the AVP of Health and Wellness for Easter Seals New Jersey. She leads the Be Well! & Thrive Health and Wellness Programs for individuals with disabilities and special needs and their caregivers, and helps Easter Seals New Jersey employees achieve optimal health through wellness programming.

Christine Harris, B.A., M.P.A, Executive Vice President

Christine is currently the President of the Board of Health, City of East Orange, serving in this capacity since 2010. She began her civic endeavors as a board member in 2008. Christine became a member of NJLBH in 2013, to better understand the diverse public health issues and to advocate, working in conjunction with other professional health organizations, for all citizens throughout New Jersey. Prior to retirement, her professional career has been in the delivery of health care, health information management and administration.

Nancy A. Wilson, B.A., R.E.H.S., CMC, Vice President of Membership

Nancy is currently a member of the Winslow Township Board of Health and has been a member for 10 years. She has been a member of NJLBHA since 2009. Nancy is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist for Camden County Health Department and has been for over 25 years. She was named R.E.H.S. of the year in 2013 by the New Jersey Environmental Health Association. She is currently a member of the Camden County Hazardous Materials Unit and has been for over 25 years. She specializes in indoor air quality, hazardous materials, and right to know.

Valerie A. Williams, CBHM. Vice President of Communications

Ms. Valerie A. Williams began working with the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association (NJLBHA) in August 2008. Throughout the past seven years she was elected to the ranks of Executive Board, Secretary, and presently Vice President of Communications.

Valerie has a heart for people that inspired her to labor in various roles within the realm of Local, County, State, and Federal Government. By faith she has effectively demonstrated 35 years of dedication to her ministry of helping others in need. As a Community Activist, Facilitator, Educator, and former Councilwoman, Valerie has the working knowledge to perform the mandated core five functions of municipal management. She has designed and implemented several programs and projects for her community as well as served on the Local Board of Health, Planning/Adjustments Boards, Medical Reserve Corp, Community Emergency Response Team, Municipal Alliance, and as a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

Steve Papenberg, M.A., Treasurer

Stephen J. Papenburg has been involved in public health in New Jersey since 1973. As an Environmental Health Specialist since 1978 and a licensed health Officer, Steve has been past president of the New Jersey Health Officers Association and the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association. He is currently chairperson of the Pennington Board of Health and recently retired after 26 years as the Health Officer of South Brunswick.

Walter Stein, Ph.D, Secretary

Walter Stein has a long history in public health starting as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army Medical Corp, including the role of Public Health Specialist, Congo-Kinshasa 1971-1976, and the Englishtown-Manalapan First Aid Squad where he serves as Chief Delegate. His Local Board of Health service started in 1986 as a member of Manalapan Township Board of Health where he is presently the Vice Chair in addition to four terms as Chairman. As a representative of New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association Walter served as the Regional Director of the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBHO) from 2003-2009; and was appointed by former New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman to the New Jersey Public Health Task Force. As an active 24 year member of NJLBHA Walter has served in many roles including Newsletter Editor, Vice President, and Secretary.

From the Commissioner...

CDC Confirms Second Travel-Related Zika Virus Case in New Jersey

By Cathleen D. Bennett, Acting Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Health

Acting Commissioner, Physicians to Meet With Pregnant Women, College Students in #ZapZika Public Education Campaign

A State Health Department public education campaign is underway to explain the risk of the Zika virus to pregnant women, college students and others considering travel to Latin America and the Caribbean as federal authorities confirm a second travel-related case in New Jersey.

As part of the #ZapZika campaign, Acting Commissioner Cathleen D. Bennett and the Department of Health's top doctors — including Deputy Commissioner Dr. Arturo Brito, a bilingual pediatrician — will meet with pregnant women in health centers and hospitals, physician groups, college students, professional medical societies and public health officials. Radio public service announcements have been developed in English and Spanish, along with NJ Transit bus advertising encouraging pregnant women to avoid travel to Zika-



affected countries and travelers to prevent mosquito bites by using insect repellent and wearing long sleeves and pants. "The severity of the Zika outbreaks highlights the importance of education and awareness to keep travelers and visitors informed and healthy," Acting Commissioner Bennett said.

The Department's campaign will build on previous outreach efforts. More than 1,000 public health and health care professionals and maternal and child health advocates have participated in five conference calls hosted by the Department to share information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and more than 350 local health officials joined a training webinar and received tool kits to use in their communities.

Note: Zika Virus Videos are now available in English, Spanish, and Creole. Zap Zika know before your go!



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"We wish our past president many years of health and happiness in her new home state".



NJLBHA farewell celebration for President Lachman in January, 2016.

Local Boards of Health Re-organization Tips

By Michael S. Richmond, Legal Council for NJLBHA

This month just a few random mental wanderings! Each Board of Health is reminded that it must reorganize at the beginning of each year. This means that an Advisory Board should hold a meeting with the governing body meeting as the Board of Health. At this meeting officers should be selected and regular meeting dates should be established and published. The governing body should also establish regular meeting dates, which should be published. Governing body boards of health should remember that while Board of Health meetings can take place on the same date as governing body meetings, the governing body must adjourn from the governing body meeting to commence the board of health meeting. Separate minutes should be kept for each board meeting.

Autonomous boards should reorganize by selecting officers, and publishing regular meeting dates.

Did you know that any facility inspected by your health department can appeal an unsatisfactory rating? Did you know this appeal is heard by the Board of Health? Do you have a procedure in place to handle such appeals? It would be best to give this some thought before someone appeals, rather than after they have filed an appeal. If you need help give me a call.

Now that the housing market is beginning to move back up, communities which have had problems with abandoned housing may begin to take advantage of a law passed back in 2004 known as **"Abandoned Properties Rehabilitation Act" NJS 55:19-78 et seq.** This law allows a municipality to declare a property abandoned if it meets certain criteria. The property is placed on a list of abandoned properties. The owner has an opportunity to contest the designation as an abandoned property. If the property remains on the abandoned property list it is subject to sale at a special tax sale where the property is subject to an accelerated foreclosure process. The property can also be bundled to be sold to a developer to redevelop the property. This is an expedited method of accomplishing neighborhood redevelopment.

This year co-operation and co-ordination with the Mosquito Control Commissions will be more important than ever with the Zika flu. Public information is going to be the responsibility of the Local Health Departments. Reporting of cases of the flu will have to be coordinated with the Mosquito Control Commissions.

Just a reminder, the power to impose quarantine and isolation is held by the Department of Health and the Local Board of Health, not the Health Department but the Board of Health. Be prepared know what to do and how to do it! If you need help give me a call.

Stay in touch with the New Jersey Department of Health website, particularly the Public Health then Local Health sites.



ABOUT PHACE !!!

By Paul David Roman

Past President, NJLBHA and President, Monmouth County Regional Health Commission

One of my assignments during my 25 years as an Officer in the U.S. Army Reserve was to oversee the training of Army drill sergeants, who would go on to train basic trainees. One of their marching commands directed the troops to 'face about', in other words to look in a different direction thereby affording the ability to move in a new way for some purpose.

During my tenure as your Association President, a meeting was convened by Kevin Sumner representing the NJ Health Officers Association to discuss the possibility of creating a forum for the key providers of public health services in NJ to work together on common issues. This first meeting, held in 2006, was followed by periodic sessions during the next three years.

The initial work included delineating the recognized public health associations. The following six professional groups each signed a Memorandum of Agreement creating The Public Health Associations' Collaborative Effort (PHACE): the NJ Association of County and City Health Officials, the NJ Environmental Health Association, the NJ Society for Public Health Education, the NJ Public Health Association, the NJ Local Boards of Health Association and the NJ Association of Public Health Nurse Administrators. It was further agreed that the NJ Department of Health through its Office of Local Health should have a liaison relationship.

Although collaboration is a delicate achievement, one early effort included the idea of developing a NJ Public Health Institute. For years, the institute model has seen success in several states for various purposes including developing collaboration for a broad range of benefits and special purposes aimed at closer working relationships in the delivery of quality services, serving as "neutral conveners", establishing new partnerships with community-based academic and governmental organizations, assisting in bringing in new dollars from federal, foundation and private sources through skilled grant writing and professional contacts and providing data and information to policy makers and public health advocates.

The Institute model, in my opinion, should be the future of PHACE. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is a key supporter of many Institutes as well as the National Network of Public Health Institutes and the CDCP. Such a project would foster a more formal mechanism to strengthen public health delivery in NJ. During PHACE's formative years, there was one failed attempt to form an Institute but it never gained acceptance. Any future effort in this direction must have buy-in from all six associations in order to be successful. The lack of trust created by this failed attempt permeated some of the groups and caused a temporary halt in much of PHACE's activities.

Around 2012, it was agreed to re-energize PHACE, but it was not until last year that productive sessions began to gain momentum. The mission, goal and objectives were reviewed and affirmed. One of these was the idea of collaboration on a Seminar focused on the Purpose and Strategies Involved in Advocating for Public Health. Using some carefully guarded funds from past activities, PHACE will host an **Interactive Learning Session with lunch and a great educational program on the Benefits and 'How-to-do-its'** of Advocacy at the Local, State, and Federal Levels.

This event will be held at Mercer County College on Thursday, May 19, 2016 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. **Registration information will be available through the member associations' websites. Speakers will include experts on lobbying and advocacy including NJ Legislative representatives.** Please contact loreilly@njlbha.org for registration information on the calendar about the PHACE meeting.

North Jersey Health Collaborative



your health matters

North Jersey Health Collaborative Breaks New Ground Announcing the Results of its First Shared Community Health Assessment

The North Jersey Health Collaborative (NJHC) is an independent 501(c)(3) organization whose partners believe that in aligning our resources and expertise there is greater opportunity to maximize our impact and tackle some of the most challenging health issues facing our communities. Working across sectors, the Collaborative integrates a diversity of partners in public health, hospitals, health care, social services and community non-profit and for profit organizations. The multi-sector approach helps our partners view the issues with a wider lens and address the full range of health needs of the community, including the social, economic, and environmental conditions which often go unaddressed.

With unprecedented input from more than 100 partner organizations the NJHC has completed its first shared community health assessment in Morris, Sussex, Union and Passaic counties. After a comprehensive review of 140 data indicators, key informant interviews, a community art contest titled **Show Us Health**, and a series of data gathering and prioritization sessions in each county, the top priority issues were identified. As one might expect, some of the most pressing concerns across the counties include early detection and prevention of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease; access to health care; and access to mental health services and substance abuse treatment. To view the specific priorities for each county and follow the progress of our workgroups as they develop shared action plans, visit our website at www.njhealthmatters.org.

Collaborating on a shared county specific needs assessment and community health improvement plan is only one benefit for our partners. NJHC partners also have access to shared data, a system for tracking and reporting progress, and numerous other resources such as funding opportunities, promising practices and evidence-based intervention strategies. Our data portal, NJHealthMatters, provides more than 150 data indicators, national and state HP2020 targets and other key data sources, and tools to create your own reports. Finally, our community assessment and health improvement processes are closely aligned to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) domains and standards for those seeking accreditation. If you are not part of this exciting collaboration of leaders and achievers and would like to learn more about how to get involved in developing a more effective and sustainable infrastructure for creating healthier communities in northern New Jersey, contact our Manager, Catherine Connelly at Catherine.Connelly@njhealthmatters.org or visit our website at www.njhealthmatters.org.

Essential News about Health & Wellness for People with Disabilities

Department of Human Services Division of Disability Services

By Traci Burton



The New Jersey Disability Health & Wellness (DH&W) Program, within the New Jersey Department of **Human Services' Division of Disability Services (DDS)**, **coordinates and collaborates on projects that** seek to promote healthy living and prevention of secondary conditions for people with disabilities. Overall, the Division works to identify gaps in the State healthcare system; improve state health surveillance activities; and facilitate partnerships among state agencies, community organizations, service providers and individuals with disabilities. The Division receives and solicits funding for initiatives that support this objective.

The DH&W program staff work with policy makers, health educators, public and private agencies, and experts in the field of health and wellness to brainstorm and implement ways to integrate health and wellness options for people with disabilities into the general health promotion activities already promoted by the state. DDS currently is developing a Disability Health and Wellness Advisory Council to advance this task.

The DH&W program has been the successful recipient of several grants through which it has researched, developed and administered education/training programs on various topics related to the health and wellness of people with disabilities living and working in New Jersey. Programs for people with disabilities often are focused solely on the disability and not the basic health needs and behaviors that are common and necessary for everyone, including nutrition and other aspects of healthy living. In **collaboration with the Department's Division of Developmental Disabilities' Office of Prevention, DH&W** produced *Eat Well. Live Well. Be Well: A Guide to Healthy Living for People with Disabilities*. The wellness guide offers health, fitness, and nutritional information and familiarizes people with disabilities with the **basic elements of a healthy lifestyle. As an extension to the guide, each week the Department's Facebook page** features a Wellness Wednesday blog offering healthy living tips for people with disabilities: www.Facebook.com/NJDHS.

In an effort to bring *Eat Well. Live Well. Be Well.* to the public, a workshop series is being offered, based on the recommendations of the guidebook. The workshops will be approximately 1 hour in length, and feature a cooking demonstration of one of the recipes included in the book. Workshop sessions will be free of charge and each attendee will be given free a copy of the guidebook. This approach offers for a fun and entertaining atmosphere that will draw people in, educate and entertain them, while encouraging lifestyle changes.

If your organization is interested in partnering with DDS to host an event, please contact Traci Burton, Program Manager, Disability Health & Wellness at traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us or at [609-631-2478](tel:609-631-2478). We look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

New Jersey is Gaining Ground with Accreditation in Public Health

By Peter N. Tabbot, Health Officer Rockaway Township Division of Health

There is an old axiom in public health that states, “If you have seen one health department, you have seen one health department.” While this somewhat derisive saying was coined years ago to illustrate the variation one might find in services from one public health agency to the next, it is *now* used to describe the growing national momentum for standardization and accreditation readiness in public health – and New Jersey’s local health departments are helping lead the way through the national *Gaining Ground* effort.

Gaining Ground is a two-year initiative, managed by the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). It is intended to help develop sustainable systems for public health accreditation and performance improvement in local, tribal and state health departments. The New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO), in collaboration with the NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) and the Rutgers School of Public Health, is one of seven national recipients of the *Gaining Ground* grant. As a result of participating in *Gaining Ground*, a large cohort of the **State’s local public health departments** – 18 in total – are making significant strides toward accreditation readiness and the infusion of continuous quality improvement (QI) in the profession. **Through the grant, New Jersey’s health departments** have also become a vital contributor to the dialogue on public health accreditation and are helping inform the national learning community that has formed around these efforts.

“Having the opportunity to work with leaders from other states and national public health organizations has provided profound insight as to how **New Jersey’s local health departments can advance accreditation readiness and best serve the public,**” said Margaret Jahn, Health Officer with the Freehold Health Department and Project Director for New Jersey’s *Gaining Ground* effort. “Accreditation is not about a piece of paper. It is changing the way we do business, and it revolves around performance management and accountability.”

Building Momentum for Accreditation

New Jersey’s emerging role in the national effort toward local public health accreditation predates *Gaining Ground*. The movement toward voluntary accreditation in public health may be traced back to the Institute of Medicine’s 2004 *Future of the Public’s Health* document, in which an exploration of public health accreditation was recommended. While some early critics saw accreditation as a costly, unattainable exercise in futility (and bureaucracy), supporters embraced it as a means of standardization and performance improvement. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, located in Princeton, immediately facilitated discussion around accreditation, penning comprehensive reports, convening leaders and providing grant funding for the Multi-State Learning Collaborative (MLC). This initiative, administered by the NNPHI, enabled several states to share knowledge and help inform the design of a nationwide voluntary accreditation system. Participating states coalesced around the benefits of continuous quality improvement and public health accreditation, and New Jersey successfully applied for MLC funding in 2008, contributing to this national effort through 2011. As New Jersey formally joined the national dialogue, a Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), comprised of public health leaders from around the country, was incorporated. The Board developed accreditation standards consistent with consensus findings of grant-funded health agencies, researchers and the foremost national experts in the field.

The work of the MLC transitioned into the NNPHI/RWJF Community of Practice for Public Health Improvement (COPPHI), in which New Jersey’s public health leaders have remained active participants, and continues today with *Gaining Ground*. The new grant further shifts the focus of New Jersey’s local health departments from accreditation awareness and QI implementation to genuine readiness and application for accreditation status. “The New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials has been a leader in the accredi-

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tation movement through its active involvement in national communities of practice that build capacity **among health departments,”** said Jennifer McKeever, NNPHI Director of Public Health Practice and Training. **“New Jersey’s long-running effort to standardize public health practice across the state will ensure that all New Jersey residents will have equal opportunities to be healthy.”**

Leadership from Local and State Health Officials

Public health accreditation is a long, intensive process – especially for a local health department with limited resources – but one with rewards including more cost effective programs, standardization of practice and better strategic planning. To become accredited, a health department must demonstrate that their performance measures favorably against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidence-based standards. To achieve PHAB accreditation, a health department must embark on a rigorous seven-step process, including compliance with the PHAB **Standards and Measures Version 1.5** and very thorough documentation.

PHAB’s national accreditation standards include 12 domains, each with a unique group of standards that

pertain to a broad group of public health services. In turn, each standard has multiple measures, providing a means for evaluating whether a health department is meeting each standard.

The accreditation process also requires moderate applicant fees, with a sliding scale based on the size of population served by the health department seeking accreditation. Because public health accreditation is an ongoing commitment requiring continuous quality improvement and reaccreditation, fees enable PHAB to support both applicants and previously accredited health departments in a variety of ways. This range of services includes dedicated guidance from specialists, in-person training, a site visit by peer review experts, access to an exclusive best practices community of learning, annual guidance, and written and electronic resources. Exciting accreditation news recently swept through New Jersey – the Bloomfield Health Department was advised in mid-November that it met PHAB’s standards and became the State’s first accredited health department. With other applications for accreditation in progress, New Jersey is walking the walk and further proving itself a national leader in this effort.

“Achieving accreditation was a monumental effort requiring the hard work and cooperation of the entire department,” said Michael Hodges, Accreditation Coordinator with the Bloomfield Health Department. **“We are very happy to have reached this milestone, and we know that the public health services we’re providing are of the highest quality.”**

Local Application of a National Paradigm

Through *Gaining Ground*, New Jersey’s local health departments are building capacities to successfully apply for national public health accreditation, and are simultaneously generating enthusiasm and improving employee morale. With this ongoing collaborative process, enhanced intra-agency congruence and camaraderie is on the increase – no surprise, as surveys have consistently shown this to be one of numerous benefits of public health accreditation. Other benefits include a benchmark of consistent standards for public health services, ongoing quality improvement, increased efficiencies, heightened accountability to the public and policy makers, and superior metrics demonstrating the value of public health. Some less visible but equally important benefits include improved alignment and compatibility between state and local health departments, the sharing of best practices and the interagency fusion of resources – all without compromising local autonomy and oversight.



Kaye Bender, CEO of the Public Health Accreditation Board, addresses elected officials, board of health members and health officers at the November 2015 League Conference.

"In New Jersey, a group of dedicated local health department leaders, together with the NJDOH and leaders in academia, have worked together to promote a different vision of public health in the State," said Pamela Russo, RWJF Senior Program Officer. "The total number of local health departments has dropped significantly, cross-jurisdictional sharing has flourished, and the application of quality improvement has increased."

Gaining Ground is providing New Jersey's local health officials the opportunity to enjoy these benefits through rewarding cooperative learning opportunities. Local health departments are meeting, rolling up their sleeves and developing valuable programs, policies and processes that are beginning to make a substantial difference in their communities. The NJACCHO is facilitating this process by training New Jersey's local health officials, providing technical support and furnishing stipends to accelerate accreditation readiness.

"New Jersey's *Gaining Ground* steering committee designed a very innovative approach by grouping health departments into cohorts based on where they were in their journey toward becoming accredited," said Russo. "New Jersey's local health departments have made great progress, and we are confident that in the next two years, New Jersey will have accredited agencies and will become champions for their colleagues."

These efforts come with overwhelming support from elected officials and boards of health in participating communities. In a November 2014 resolution endorsing public health accreditation readiness, the League of Municipalities urged local government officials to support this initiative in an effort to achieve **healthier communities. New Jersey's municipalities are not alone in their enthusiasm for accreditation readiness** – the NJDOH is working to achieve these very standards at the state level and recently received a site visit from PHAB experts in its accreditation process.

"The New Jersey Department of Health supports the efforts of local health departments as they prepare for voluntary national accreditation," said former New Jersey Health Commissioner Mary E. O' Dowd. "The Department of Health is pursuing national public health accreditation to advance our quality and performance to further strengthen our agency."

Conclusion

Accreditation readiness is arguably the most significant change agent in New Jersey's public health system over the last few decades, shifting the culture of public health around the state and across the nation. The State's local public health system is truly moving the dial in its effort to establish consistent, heightened standards and to protect the public's health. To the average person, accreditation readiness may not be as sexy or headline-grabbing as an emergent event or communicable disease outbreak. But to New Jersey's public health professionals and the growing number of municipal and state partners who support it, accreditation readiness is...contagious.

For more information on public health accreditation readiness in New Jersey, email mjahn@twp.freehold.nj.us.

Peter N. Tabbot is Health Officer with the Rockaway Township Division of Health, was MLC-3 Project Director in New Jersey and is a member of the Gaining Ground Steering Committee.

Colleen McKay Wharton is Program Manager with the Rutgers School of Public Health's Office of Public Health Practice and is Coordinator of New Jersey's Gaining Ground initiative.

Public Health Accreditation Process

By Colleen McKay-Wharton , MA, MCHES

As the governing bodies of local health departments, it is important that Boards of Health members have an understanding of the public health accreditation process. Whether an Autonomous Board, Advisory Board, or a function of the Governing Body, members are encouraged to recognize the steps involved in accreditation, and most importantly, understand the roles they can play to support LHDs in the efforts.

With more than 80 health departments across the country now accredited, and more than 200 in the application process, it is clear that local public health recognizes the value of accreditation readiness, and the ways in which it improves health department functioning.

Even if your health department is not yet exploring the process, here are just a few resources to help you learn more about it. The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), www.phaboard.org offer a tremendous amount of resources. Here are a few specific items to get started:

- An **Orientation to Accreditation** series, comprised of four short online videos provide an overview on the accreditation process, and can be found at <http://www.phaboard.org/education-center/phab-online-orientation/>
- Read the most recent **PHAB Newsletter** at <http://www.phaboard.org/phab-e-newsletter-january-february-2016/> -- And be sure to sign up to be on the mailing list!
- The **Guide to Accreditation** provides a 'soup to nuts' overview of the activities of the accreditation process, and can be found here: http://www.phaboard.org/wp-content/uploads/Guide-to-Accreditation-final_LR2.pdf
- Here is an interview with a BOH member from the recently accredited Three Rivers District Health Department in Kentucky, about some of the benefits of accreditation: <http://www.phaboard.org/wp-content/uploads/Judge-Bertram-OA.pdf>
- Lastly, support policies that contribute to accreditation-related activities, such as the development of a health department's **Quality Improvement Team, supporting workforce development activities for staff, committing financial resources for Community Health Assessments** (a prerequisite for accreditation), etc.

Members are also encouraged to talk about accreditation-readiness activities with their local Health Officer. By recognizing that working towards accreditation readiness helps to create a more highly **functioning department, it's a win-win** for the department, its staff, and most importantly the communities it serves.

United Way Caregivers Coalition Meeting Needs, Improving Lives

By Carol DeGraw, United Way of Northern New Jersey Health Impact Area Director

Caregivers are indispensable, yet as a society we do not fully acknowledge the value of this role. United Way of Northern New Jersey is changing that throughout our region.



The *Coalition* is widely recognized as filling a critical need throughout the region especially for ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families. Already living paycheck to paycheck, ALICE families cannot afford to miss work to care for their loved ones.

In 2005, United Way *Caregivers Coalition* launched in Morris County to help improve the lives of caregivers. Today, five *Coalitions* with a combined total of 2,900 members serve Morris, Somerset, Suburban Essex, Sussex, and Warren counties.

Coalitions meet monthly, bringing together caregivers, medical professionals, social service agencies, businesses, and other community groups to support unpaid caregivers by sharing resources.

Caregivers are the family members and friends who help their loved ones with a range of tasks from paying bills or driving to doctors, to personal care such as bathing and dressing, to medical care such as administering medication.

In addition to monthly meetings, educational workshops are provided throughout the year, and various resources are available for free online at www.UnitedWayNNJ.org/CaregiversCoalition, including educational videos and a "Pathways for Caregivers" guide, a free publication that provides information, support and resources for caregivers.

Made up of caregivers and professionals who support them, United Way *Caregivers Coalition* helps caregivers find the specific information, education, resources, and support they need. Caregivers who tap into the *Coalition* report reduced stress, enhanced skills, improved access to resources, a renewed commitment to self care, and meaningful connection with one another.

For more information, email Carol.DeGraw@UnitedWayNNJ.org or call [973.993.1160, x202](tel:973.993.1160).



Call, email or schedule a meeting with your representative and ask them to co-sponsor, support, and vote for the Social Security Caregiver Credit Act, H.R. 337 sponsored by Rep. Nita Lawey. The main number for Congress is (202)225-3131 and a directory of House members office numbers are available at <http://www.house.gov/representative/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PHACE Seminar

Focused on the purpose and strategies in advocating to improve Public Health

What: An interactive learning session to improve our ability to make positive changes for health in our communities.

When: Thursday, May 19, 2016 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Where: Mercer County College

Who: Public Health Professionals, Local Board members, Community Advocates

Fee: \$15 (includes breakfast and lunch)

For information on how to register email loreilly@njlbha.org .

THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER,
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
PRESENTS

THE SIXTH ANNUAL
New Jersey CHILDREN'S Ball

SPOTLIGHT
ON CHILDREN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016

SILENT AUCTION AND COCKTAILS: 6:15 PM • DINNER: 7:15 PM

The Palace at Somerset Park

333 Davidson Avenue
Somerset, NJ 08873





Health Impact Assessment: Incorporating Health into Planning and Decision-Making

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) can be used to evaluate a proposed plan or project's potential effects on the health of a population. HIA provides evidence-based recommendations aimed at enhancing positive health impacts and minimizing negative ones, providing an approach to the decision-making process by:

- Considering health outcomes such as social, economic and environmental influences;
- Convening diverse members of the public to elicit multiple perspectives and input;
- Identifying groups of people who might be particularly vulnerable to health impacts; and
- Reviewing potential strategies that may reduce negative health impacts and increase positive impacts.



Upcoming Health Impact Assessment Workshops

April 29, 2016 - New Brunswick, NJ

May 10, 2016 - Bordentown, NJ

This course is eligible for 10 points toward certification in the Sustainable Jersey program under the "Health in All Policies Professional Development Training" action. [Click here for more information on the Sustainable Jersey program.](#)

New Jersey Environmental Health Association Lead Inspector and Risk Assessor 8-hour Refresher Course

Friday April 22, 2016 (8:30 – 5:30pm)

Wayne Health Department – Health Annex 475 Valley Road Wayne, NJ 07470

Rutgers Energy Institute (REI) 11th Annual Energy
Symposium and Companion IPCC Outreach Event.

Date: May 4, 2016

Time: 8:30 – 4:00pm

Place: Rutgers University, Busch Campus Fiber Optic Auditorium

Yes, count me (us) in as a part of the Association!

Yes, count me (us) in as a part of the Association that gives New Jersey's Boards of Health and their members a voice in Trenton, a way to communicate among ourselves, a force for progress in public health and more knowledge for board members.

" Full Board, Regular Membership \$95

Board membership is open to municipal, county and regional Boards of Health. All board members are included for the calendar year.

" Individual, Regular Membership \$20

Individual membership is open to current members of municipal, county or regional boards of health whose full board is not a member.

" Individual, Associate Membership \$20

Associate membership is open to past Board of Health members, students, or other individuals interested in public health. This is a non-voting membership.

" Institutional Membership \$95

Institutional membership is open to organizations, including environmental groups, planning boards, or other municipal or county agencies, committees, commissions, or councils. This is a non-voting membership.

Board Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please send your check or purchase order to New Jersey Local Boards of Health,
PO Box 5069, Kendall Park, NJ 08824

Nancy Wilson , Vice President of Membership

Laura O'Reilly, R.N., President
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