



American Public Health Association

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Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP
Executive Director

February 22, 2007

Dennis Lenaway, PhD
Director, Office of Standards and Emerging Issues in Practice
Office of Chief of Public Health Practice
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, MS D-30
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Lenaway:

The American Public Health Association (APHA) remains committed to the continuation of the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) and is strongly supportive of the proposed 3-year revision request of the State, Local and Governance performance assessment instruments.

APHA under the leadership of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been actively involved in the development and implementation of the NPHPSP since its inception, in collaboration with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the National Association of Local Boards of Health, the National Network of Public Health Institutes and the Public Health Foundation to build and enhance the Nation's public health systems.

The NPHPSP offers a comprehensive science based application for assessing and improving the performance of state and local public health systems and governance bodies. Measurable standards and specific indicators of performance related to those standards have been developed. The data generated from the assessments undeniably address the landscape of public health capacity and infrastructure. To their credit many stakeholders in the public health systems have implemented the standards, and have now moved beyond that stage to developing performance improvement plans that are critical to enhancing the nation's public health systems and overall health status. There is evidence of widespread use of the assessment instruments as they are increasingly used by several states and local jurisdictions. The numerous positive experiences and benefits to various health systems communicated through the NPHPSP partners monthly "users" tele-conferences serve as an opportunity to solicit interest as other state and local health systems prepare to participate in the performance standards program.

As the NPHPSP moves toward the refinement of the standards, utilizing the most current practice of public health, this will provide an opportunity for the State Public Health agencies, the Local Public Health agencies and Governance bodies that have maintained a strong interest



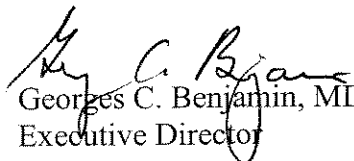
Dennis Lenaway, PhD
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in completing the standards to do so utilizing lessons learned from the first version in the current public health climate that is moving towards accreditation of public health organizations.

APHA commends the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for its vision and leadership of the NPHPSP and remains strongly supportive of the continuation of the NPHPSP. APHA will continue to work in collaboration with partners in support of this program, which continues to help public health systems across the nation to improve their ability to deliver valuable public health services to their communities.

Sincerely,


Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP
Executive Director



February 26, 2007

Dennis Lenaway, PhD
Director, Office of Standards and Emerging Issues in Practice
Office of Chief of Public Health Practice
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, MS D-30333
Atlanta, GA

Dear Dr. Lenaway:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is pleased to submit this letter of support in favor of the revision to the National Public Health Performance Standards under consideration by the Office of Management and Budget. This instrument update process enables states interested in using the State Public Health System, Local Public Health System and Local Governance Assessment instruments time to measure and ultimately improve the performance and capacity of their public health systems.

ASTHO is the national non-profit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief state health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

Recently, ASTHO participated in the state instrument update and expects that updates applied to all three instrument versions will further reflect current public health practice and provide additional value to the performance standards. Furthermore, the standards are a valuable self-assessment tool states may use in preparation for accreditation and other quality improvement activities.

ASTHO has worked with the National Public Health Performance Standards Program partner organizations to coordinate standards development, training and technical assistance to states' implementation of the performance standards since the beginning of the Program. ASTHO commends CDC for its leadership and vision in support of performance standards implementation and looks forward to continuing and strengthening our collaborative partnership in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul E. Jarris, MD, MBA".
Paul E. Jarris, MD, MBA

Executive Director



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NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY & CITY
HEALTH OFFICIALS

February 23, 2007

Dennis Lenaway, PhD
Director, Office of Standards and Emerging Issues in Practice
Office of Chief of Public Health Practice
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, MS D-30
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Lenaway:

I would like to express NACCHO's continued commitment to the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) and strong support for the use of the updated NPHPSP instruments as means to assess and improve public health system performance.

Since 2001, NACCHO has worked to promote the NPHPSP and provide technical assistance to NPHPSP users under the leadership of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in partnership with the American Public Health Association, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, National Association of Local Boards of Health, National Network of Public Health Institutes, and Public Health Foundation.

NACCHO represents the nearly 3,000 local health departments in the country, and since the national release of these standards in 2002, the NPHPSP Local Public Health System Assessment has been used in hundreds of localities with great success and valuable lessons learned. NPHPSP data have helped local communities inform strategic planning, quality improvement, and performance management efforts.

In addition to the benefits experienced by NPHPSP users to date, NACCHO contends that those elements of the NPHPSP specific to governmental public health roles and responsibilities can serve as a valuable building block for future local and state agency accreditation and could be a component of, or a complement to, agency accreditation efforts.

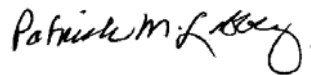
Over the past year and half, NACCHO has helped coordinate the update of the Local Public Health System Assessment to ensure that the instrument continues to reflect optimal standards in public health practice. Experienced local public health practitioners, through participation in an advisory workgroup, informed the update process, and field testing confirmed the applicability of the new version. NACCHO is confident that the updated NPHPSP instrument will continue to effectively measure system performance and inform system improvement efforts.

Dennis Lenaway, PhD
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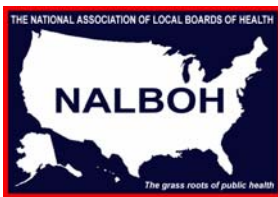
While NACCHO has been mostly involved with the Local Public Health System Assessment, it supports the implementation of all three NPHPSP instruments. The state, local, and governance instruments complement each other and strengthen the science base for public health practice improvement. In addition, the use of all three NPHPSP instruments have promoted collaboration among system partners and has provided our members with key information for policy development, program evaluation, and leveraging new resources.

NACCHO is a strong proponent of the NPHPSP as an effective resource for strengthening public health systems. We remain dedicated to the NPHPSP and look forward to continued collaboration with national, state, and local partners in promoting the use of performance standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick M. Libbey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "y" at the end.

Patrick M. Libbey
NACCHO Executive Director



National Association of Local Boards of Health

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Marie M. Fallon
Executive Director

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February 26, 2007

Dennis Lenaway, PhD
Director, Office of Standards and Emerging Issues in Practice
Office of Chief of Public Health Practice
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, MS D-30
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Lenaway,

The National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) supports and requests the approval for the National Public Health Performance Standards Program's (NPHPSP) 3-year revision request of the State, Local and Governance performance assessment instruments. The NPHPSP serves as a valuable tool for states, locals, and governing bodies to assess and improve their performance.

NALBOH's work with the Governance Instrument has reinforced the need for a concerted effort to bring state, local and governing practices into sync. Boards of health that have completed the Governance Instrument acknowledge that it offers an opportunity to review specific roles and responsibilities and to make changes within the framework of the ten essential public health services.

NALBOH has been involved in the revisions of the Governance Instrument and looks forward to the improved Instrument's use by board of health members. We also look forward to teaching board of health members how to advocate for the use of the revised State and Local Instruments as part of their oversight responsibilities.

The National Association of Local Boards of Health wholeheartedly supports the 3-year revision request for the State, Local and Governance performance assessment instrument of the National Public Health Performance Standards Program.

Sincerely,

Marie M. Fallon
Executive Director



NATIONAL NETWORK OF
PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTES
Fostering Innovations that Improve Health

February 26, 2008

Dennis Lenaway, PhD
Director, Office of Standards and Emerging Issues in Practice
Office of Chief of Public Health Practice
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, MS D-30
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Lenaway:

The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) strongly supports the 3-year revision request of the State, Local and Governance performance assessment instruments of the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP). Since 2002, under the leadership of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NNPHI has worked collaboratively with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the National Association of Local Boards of Health, the Public Health Foundation, and the American Association of Public Health in the implementation of the NPHPSP.

As you know, the NPHPSP was designed to build and enhance the Nation's public health systems. While various strategies have been used in the past to improve the performance of public health agencies, the NPHPSP offers a comprehensive science-based approach for assessing and improving the performance of state and local public health systems and governance bodies. The data generated from the assessments address the landscape of the public health infrastructure and capacity, and guides the creation of performance improvements critical to enhance our public health systems.

The State, Local, and Local Governance instruments serve as valuable tools in assessing performance capacity and ensuring that a strong system is in place to respond effectively to both day-to-day public health issues as well as public health emergencies. The NPHPSP instruments have an increased importance in today's environment as national efforts - such as the Turning Point Performance Management National Excellence Collaborative and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)'s development of an operational definition of a local public health agency - have focused attention on the importance of public health performance standards and quality improvement. In addition, as national accreditation continues to move forward, the NPHPSP instruments can serve as a tool to raise performance and

prepare state and local health departments for accreditation. The improved instruments will have even more value for the field as they have been updated to reflect current public health practice.

NNPHI looks forward to continuing to work in collaboration with Program partners in support of the NPHPSP, which helps health systems across the nation improve their ability to deliver public health services to their communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph D. Kimbrell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Joseph Kimbrell, MA, LCSW
President and CEO



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February 26, 2007

Dennis Lenaway, PhD
Director, Office of Standards and Emerging Issues in Practice
Office of Chief of Public Health Practice
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, MS D-30
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Lenaway:

The Public Health Foundation strongly supports the proposed three-year revision request for the state, local, and governance performance assessment instruments in the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP).

The NPHPSP represents an important step toward achieving more consistently effective, high-performing public health systems in the United States. By providing national performance standards, a means for jurisdictions to assess their performance, and a spark for improvement strategies, the Program supports performance improvement with regard to Essential Public Health Services at the state, local, and governance levels.

The Program evaluation data and PHF's first-hand interactions with NPHPSP users attest to the value of the three instruments. For many jurisdictions, these instruments and the resulting data have:

- informed public health leaders, front-line staff, and diverse partners of their roles and model standards for protecting and promoting the health of populations;
- diagnosed strong and weak areas of performance in participating systems;
- helped jurisdictions set priorities for improvement; and
- captured valuable data useful for reporting state and local performance.

The revised and streamlined instruments are highly relevant to today's public health practice, as demonstrated by the field test responses and its insightful updates. By preserving a focus on the 10 Essential Public Health Services, the instruments remain aligned with the public health framework that is already in use by thousands of jurisdictions and that is expected to be the basis of future voluntary agency accreditation. The proposed instrument updates in areas such as public health preparedness, performance management, and quality improvement will improve the instruments' relevance to contemporary public health system performance for the years to come.

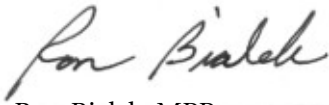
The continued availability of quality, nationwide data on performance is critical to our nation's ability to research and track factors related to system performance, public health investments, and better health outcomes. Because the revised instruments will increase and extend voluntary assessment participation throughout the U.S., we anticipate the instruments to yield excellent opportunities for longitudinal research and improved practice among participating jurisdictions. In addition, continued data from the NPHPSP

are required to track the nation's progress on Healthy People 2010 infrastructure targets. Without continued system performance data collection on the NPHPSP instruments, there will be no other measures for some Healthy People 2010 targets.

As a national partner in the NPHPSP, PHF is fully committed to the success of the initiative and will continue to provide users of the revised instruments with high quality reports and performance improvement resources. PHF looks forward working with CDC and other Program partners to make this important program a continued success in the upcoming years.

In summary, PHF believes that the three-year revision request for the state, local, and governance performance assessment instruments is essential to achieve the Program's national performance improvement, participation, and research goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Bialek".

Ron Bialek, MPP
President



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Fargo Cass Public Health

FARGO CASS PUBLIC HEALTH
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March 2, 2007

Dennis Lenaway, PhD
Director, Office of Standards and Emerging Issues in Practice
Office of Chief of Public Health Practice
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, MS D-30
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Lenaway:

I would like to express my strong support for the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) and the use of the updated NPHPSP instruments as means to assess and improve public health system performance.

North Dakota has used the NPHPSP instruments since 2003 and has found them to be very useful. We have used the local instrument in thirteen local health departments and on four American Indian reservations, the state tool, and the governance tool. I have assisted in facilitation of many of these assessments. The instruments have been an excellent way to engage our community partners to examine how we practice public health. It has assisted local planning and will continue to be used in our state.

Over the past year and a half, I was a member of the NACCHO workgroup that updated the NPHPSP local instrument. The workgroup ensured that the assessment reflects optimal standards in public health practice. Field testing further confirmed the applicability of the new version. I feel confident that the updated NPHPSP instrument will continue to effectively measure system performance and inform system improvement efforts.

I believe the NPHPSP is an effective resource for public health practitioners and their system partners. Local and state public health systems can greatly benefit from completing all three NPHPSP instruments and applying the results toward performance improvement. I look forward to seeing other states and localities use the updated NPHPSP instruments to strengthen public health in their communities.

Sincerely,

John R. Baird, M.D.
Health Officer

The mission of Fargo Cass Public Health is to assure a healthy community for all people through on-going assessment, education, advocacy, intervention, prevention and collaboration.



March 2, 2007

Dennis Lenaway, PhD
Director, Office of Standards and Emerging Issues in Practice
Office of Chief of Public Health Practice
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, MS D-30
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Lenaway:

I would like to express my strong support for the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) and the use of the updated NPHPSP instruments as means to assess and improve public health system performance.

I am a member of the NACCHO MAPP Workgroup committee that updated the NPHPSP local instrument. Northern Kentucky also reviewed the Governance Instrument. I believe that the expert knowledge, public health experience and dedication of the committee and staff working on the NPHPSP update will ensure the assessment reflects optimal standards in public health practice. Field testing further confirmed the applicability of the new version. I feel confident that the updated NPHPSP instrument will continue to effectively measure system performance and inform system improvement efforts.

The Kentucky Public Health Association just recently endorsed a policy paper promoting the use of the NPHPSP in Kentucky. Local and state public health systems can greatly benefit from completing all three NPHPSP instruments and applying the results toward performance improvement.

As a MAPP Demonstration Site, Northern Kentucky was one of the first public health systems to use the NPHPSP. This assessment and CDC Report was a key dataset for developing the strategic initiatives highlighted in the Master Health Plan for Northern Kentucky 2005. Northern Kentucky is in the early stages of planning a second MAPP process and will look forward to repeating the NPHPSP to measure changes since our first MAPP plan was published. Hopefully the revised version will soon be available.

Sincerely,

Alan V. Kalos, M.Ed.
Health Planning Administrator

February 26, 2007

Dennis Lenaway, PhD
Director, Office of Standards and Emerging Issues in Practice
Office of Chief of Public Health Practice
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, MS D-30
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Lenaway,

The Park Ridge Board of Health supports and requests the approval for the National Public Health Performance Standards Program's (NPHPSP) 3-year revision request of the State, Local and Governance performance assessment instruments. The NPHPSP serves is a valuable tool for states, locals, and governing bodies to assess and improve their performance.

Through the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH), the Park Ridge Board of Health has participated in the field tests of the original (full) and revised instruments (partial test). Both instruments have assisted board members to fully realize their role, especially in an era where agencies and governing bodies are responding not only to day-to-day activities but also public health emergencies and emerging issues.

We have found the Governance Instrument to be of great value to the Park Ridge Board of Health and promote the use of the Local and State Instruments as well. We appreciate the work to continue to improve the instruments and look forward to using and promoting the revised instruments.

Sincerely,

Joan Valas

Joan Valas, PhD, RN, APRN, BC
Member, Park Ridge Board of Health