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Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2009 3:10 PM
To: Bev Russ

**Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation
Newsletter**



2011 Edition

Inside This Issue

Accredited Health Unit
Update Contributing this
Month:

**Northwestern Health
Unit**

Advancing Quality in
Public Health -
Accreditation Update

Health Unit Feedback on
the Accreditation program

Update on the OCCHA
Quality Framework

OCCHA'S Electronic Newsletter

The OCCHA Board of Directors is pleased to send you this third edition of our electronic newsletter. This ongoing publication will allow OCCHA to provide updates on changes to the accreditation process and standards. It will also provide updates on our work related to the quality framework for public health units. We welcome your feedback and invite you to contact Bev Russ at bevruss@occha.org with any comments or suggestions.

Our sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the development and or content of this issue, including the Northwestern Health Unit.

THIS JUST IN.....



**We would like to thank the Ministry of Health
and Long Term Care, Public Health Division for their continued support of OCCHA and**

our efforts to support performance management and continuous quality improvement.

OCCHA is pleased to announce that we will be conducting a 90 minute workshop, “Implementing a Framework for Public Health Quality and Performance Management”, at TOPHC 2012. In this workshop, participants will be provided with an overview of OCCHA’s quality framework and accompanying tools to promote continuous quality improvement. This framework provides a systems perspective for understanding organizational performance and identifying areas of improvement. For more information, please contact us at info@occha.org

OCCHA has been working with a number of health units to facilitate the use of electronic evidence. We are pleased to announce that we piloted a remote annual review this year and will be using the results of this pilot to inform changes to the accreditation documents as they relate to the preparation and presentation of evidence.

Advancing Quality in Public Health – Accreditation Update

Since the implementation of Advancing Quality in Public Health, ten health units have been surveyed using the new program, and all have participated in at least one annual review. Based on feedback from both participating health units and surveyors, some enhancements to the process have already occurred through changes to the standards, agency and annual questionnaires. In addition, a spreadsheet of evidence has been created to facilitate preparation of evidence and an annual summary report has been developed to provide health units with ongoing feedback on progress towards meeting the accreditation standards. OCCHA has also begun development of evidence face sheet to more clearly identify the types of evidence required for each standard. Formal evaluation of the accreditation program will be undertaken upon completion of the first cycle of accreditation reviews (i.e., Fall 2012).

OCCHA continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Division, towards the implementation of the performance management framework and the development of survey tools related to the organizational, foundational and emergency management standards.

Should your health unit or Board of Health wish an overview of the accreditation program, please contact Meighan Finlay at meighanfinlay@occha.org.

Benefits of Accreditation - What Health Unit’s are saying

As part of OCCHA’s commitment to continuous quality improvement, evaluation forms for the new accreditation program, *Advancing Quality in Public Health*, were sent to participating health units. Response to the new program has been quite positive, with strong support for the annual review component of the program. Here are just a few of the many comments provided by health units in response to the question:

How do you feel accreditation benefited your agency?

“Accreditation increases awareness and supports quality improvement across the agency”

“Accreditation encourages more problem solving and collaboration to address any gaps in a creative and effective way”

“Accreditation raises the profile of

**OCCHA Board of Directors
2011-2012**

The OCCHA Board of Directors held its Annual General Meeting on July 6, 2011. The following are the elected board members for 2011-2012.

**Elaine Murkin, Chair
OSNPPH**

**Iqbal Kalsi, Vice Chair
ASPHIO**

**Penny Lavalley, Past Chair and Secretary
Treasurer
ANDSOOHA – Public Health Nursing Management**

**Ali Artaman
APHEO**

**Catherine Bloskie,
AOPHBA**

**Kathy Braet
HPO(ph)**

**Heather Kemp
OPHLA**

**Dr. Allan Northan
alPha – Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health Section**

**Dr. Joyce Sinton
(Effective October)
OAPHD**

Larry Paine

(Effective November)
alPHA – Board of Health
Section

Vacant
OPHA

**the health unit for
the public and for
staff recruitment”**

“Accreditation
increases
attention to the
process of
measurement of
success and
progress on a
continuum”

*“Accreditation
helps gain
efficiencies in
various processes
and identified
areas of
duplication”*

Accredited Health Units

Algoma Public Health

Brant County Health Unit

Durham Region Health
Department

City of Hamilton Public
Health Services

KFL&A Public Health

Leeds, Grenville and Lanark
District Health Unit

Middlesex-London Health
Unit

Niagara Region Public
Health Department

Northwestern Health Unit

Simcoe Muskoka District
Health Unit

Sudbury & District Health
Unit

**“Accreditation
provides purpose
and direction for
review of specifics
like policy review
and gives guidance
on areas of focus”**

**“Accreditation
provides leverage
to move various
challenges
forward within
the corporate
structure”**

*“Accredited status raises
confidence in the Board
of Health that the
governance role is
respected and followed”*

**“Accreditation is
great for staff
morale”**

We would like to thank those participating health units and surveyors for their constructive feedback on the new accreditation program.

Accredited Health Unit Update

NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT

As submitted by Alex Berry

Newsletter Submissions

If your Health Unit has a tip they would like to submit to OCCHA for inclusion in the next newsletter, please send your suggestions to Meighan Finlay at meighanfinlay@occha.org



The Accreditation Award from the Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation (OCCHA) was formally presented to the Northwestern Health Unit at the Board of Health meeting held November 26, 2010. Alex Berry, Health Promoter, Fort Frances office and Chair of the Health Unit's 2010 Staff Accreditation Task Force, made the presentation on behalf of OCCHA's Executive Director, Meighan Finlay. Ms. Finlay was unable to attend in person and participated via teleconference.

Receiving the Award on behalf of the Health Unit were John Albanese, Chair, Board of Health for Northwestern Health Unit; Dr. Jim Arthurs, Acting Medical Officer of Health; and Mark Perrault, CEO.

Update on the OCCHA Quality Framework

The OCCHA Quality Framework for Public Health Units forms the foundation for the new accreditation program. OCCHA has begun the work of identifying quality indicators and attributes for each of the quality components within the framework. Throughout the remainder of the 2011-2012, OCCHA will be consulting with representatives across the Province towards the enhancement of the framework and the development of tools and resources to support implementation of the framework. Public Health Units will be able to use both the framework and tools to facilitate performance management and support continuous quality improvement.

Welcome!

The OCCHA Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Mr. Ali Artaman, representing the Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario, Mr. Iqbal Kalsi, representing the Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario, Dr. Joyce Sinton, representing the Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry and Mr. Larry Paine, representing alPHA, Board of Health Section to the OCCHA Board.

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