

Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2009 3:10 PM
Subject: September 2009 Inaugural Issue
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.gif



Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation
Newsletter

Inaugural Issue, September 2009

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October 26, 2009
Courtyard Marriott Downtown
Toronto

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This Just In...

OCCHA's Quarterly Newsletter

The OCCHA Board of Directors is pleased to introduce our electronic newsletter. This quarterly 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 OCCHA Marketing Committee, the Sudbury & District Health Unit and the Durham Region Health Department.

Board of Directors Update

The OCCHA Board of Directors is pleased to welcome the Ontario Public Health Libraries Association as a new member association.

Advancing Quality in Public Health – OCCHA's New Accreditation Program

OCCHA is pleased to announce the implementation of our new accreditation program - Advancing Quality in Public Health. This new program links with our [Quality Framework for Public Health Units](#). The OCCHA Board of Directors has formally approved a standardized accreditation process and the accreditation principles, standards and components have also been updated to incorporate the Ontario Public Health Standards. This new accreditation process, based on a three year cycle, will include an annual review component. The 2009 Accreditation Principles, Standards and Components were formally implemented in January 2009. The OCCHA Board of Directors is currently completing the review and revision of all accreditation documents, including the agency questionnaire, surveyor worksheets, quality questionnaires, and an accreditation planning tool. We encourage you to visit us at www.occha.org for all the updates to the process and accreditation documents.

**OCCHA Board of Directors
2009-2010**

The OCCHA Board of Directors held its Annual General Meeting on July 9, 2009. The following are the elected board members for 2009-2010.

Catherine Bloskie, Chair
AOPHBA

Penny Lavalley, Vice-Chair
ANDSOOHA – Public Health Nursing Management

Rob Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer

Surveyor Training Workshop

OCCHA is hosting a one-day surveyor training workshop on Monday, October 26th, 2009 from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Courtyard Marriott, Downtown Toronto, 475 Yonge Street. Registration will be open to all

ASPPIO

Bonnie Jeffrey
OAPHD

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

Patricia Coderre
aIPHa – Board of Health Section

Elaine Murkin
OSNPPH

Wayne Tucker
APHEO

Heather Kemp
OPHLA

Kathy Braet
HPO(ph)

Tina Pilon
OPHA

existing and interested surveyors and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. This workshop will instruct all new and current surveyors on the new accreditation process, Advancing Quality in Public Health. The workshop is open to all persons in a management or consultative position within a health unit who are committed to the accreditation process. For further information, please contact Bev Russ at bevruss@occha.org

Accredited Health Unit Update

SUDBURY & DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT



As submitted by the Sudbury & District Health Unit

Following its January 21-23, 2009 on site review, the Sudbury & District Health Unit (SDHU) was awarded unconditional accreditation for the period January 23, 2009, to January 23, 2012. We are tremendously proud of this achievement, signifying a high level of compliance with the OCCHA standards.

Accredited since 1990, the SDHU has now participated in six surveys. The recent survey demonstrated the Health Unit's ability to foster a culture of continuous learning and quality improvement, and that the Health Unit is a trusted and highly regarded community partner.

The success of the survey was a product of staff and organizational commitment to the accreditation process. This was demonstrated by the tremendous leadership and rallying ability of our accreditation lead manager and team and the support at the staff and board level. There is a high level recognition of the staff and organizational benefits of the accreditation process, including:

- Demonstrated accountability to provincial and local funding agencies and to the public.
- Demonstrated commitment to excellence.
- Strengthened consumer confidence.
- Continuous quality improvement
- An opportunity to reflect and recognize achievements and benchmarks.
- A foundation to assist the agency in addressing changes in public health.
- Information sharing within the agency and with other public health agencies.

The materials collected in preparation for the 2009 survey supported the Health Unit with review of our current planning practices in preparation for planning for the new Ontario

Accredited Health Units

Algoma Public Health

Brant County Health Unit

Durham Region Health Department

City of Hamilton Public Health Services

Huron County Health Unit

KFL&A Public Health

Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District
Health Unit

Middlesex-London Health Unit

Niagara Region Public Health Department

Ottawa Public Health

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Sudbury & District Health Unit

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health

Public Health Standards. As a result we have been able to integrate elements of the accreditation process into the new planning tools.

DURHAM REGION HEALTH DEPARTMENT



As submitted by the Durham Region Health Department

CQI Update or Quality Corner

The OCCHA quality framework for public health units has been updated and is linked to the revised accreditation process.

The CQI Advisory Group provides ongoing feedback to OCCHA on CQI initiatives and assists in priority-setting of CQI activities.

Membership on the Advisory Group is open to all public health units.

The CQI Advisory Group will be reviewing its mandate for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and beyond.

Should you wish to participate on this Advisory Group or should you wish further information, please contact Bev Russ at bevruss@occha.org

Durham Region Health Department has been awarded an unconditional accreditation for three years, based on the results of the recent Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation (OCCHA) review. This past April, a survey team conducted a comprehensive review of the Health Department including interviews with various staff.

According to the survey team, the Health Department demonstrated a very strong overall compliance with the accreditation standards and have maintained a high level of achievement with the standards related to program planning, implementation monitoring and evaluation. Several areas of commendation and innovation were also identified.

This award reflects the Health Department's ability to provide quality health programs and services to the community. In particular, the Health Department was commended for its commitment to continuous quality improvement, as well as for ensuring that priority-setting and coordination of resource management is conducted towards the efficient utilization of all resources.

During the accreditation survey, it was noted that tremendous efforts have been made to ensure that staff members have an understanding of the role of research, evaluation and knowledge exchange. In addition, evidence and interviews indicate that the Health Department has developed comprehensive, well organized policies and procedures, and plans related to health hazard management, emergency preparedness and infection control. The Health Department was also recognized for its commitment to ensuring that all staff members have the knowledge, skills and understanding to achieve agency goals and objectives, particularly in the areas of research, knowledge exchange and emergency preparedness.

The Health Department Accreditation Committee would like to acknowledge

the tremendous efforts of our staff in preparing for this survey.

Accreditation Tips

OCCHA strongly encourages health units interested in participating in the accreditation process to visit the OCCHA website at www.occha.org, download the accreditation documents and review them to assess your state of readiness for an accreditation survey. The *Agency Questionnaire and Surveyor Worksheets* provide information and guidelines as to the types of information and on-site evidence is required to demonstrate compliance with the accreditation principles, standards and components. 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 meighanfinlay@occha.org

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throughout Ontario
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