
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Accreditation Ranks KCHD Among Tops in Nation

GRAND RAPIDS – The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is excited to announce that it has received accreditation by the national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The Health Department is just the second health department in the state to achieve this high honor. The Health Department began preparations for completing national public health accreditation in January 2012.

PHAB is the independent organization that administers the national public health accreditation program, which aims to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of the nation's Tribal, state, local, and territorial health departments. "The application process for PHAB is difficult, requiring hours of reviewing documentation and identifying areas for improvement," said Adam London, Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department. "Our staff has been extremely dedicated to the process. Without their support and efforts, we could not have achieved this higher standard." In July, site visitors from PHAB credited the KCHD in several areas:

Collaborative Intent: Our community partners shared with the site visitors that they felt we were a 'neutral convener' – that KCHD is able to bring together entities with varying interests to sit at the same table to find solutions to complex issues. The review team found that our staff is consistently looking for opportunities to collaborate with groups, agencies and other partners.

Commitment to Performance Management Systems: Staff shows a strong foundation to building Quality Improvement. This is a strong component of PHAB.

Staff are Committed to Assessment and Continued Improvement: KCHD staff look at indicators of health, review data, and look internally at how to best serve our community.

"Each time PHAB's Accreditation Committee meets, we are excited to see a growing number of health departments for their review," said PHAB President and CEO Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN. "The peer-review process provides valuable information to inform health departments of their strengths and areas for improvement, so they can better protect and promote the health of the people they serve in their community."

Of the more than 3000 health departments across the country, approximately 50 have received accreditation through PHAB. More information on PHAB can be found at www.phaboard.org.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.