

KITSAP COMMUNITY HEALTH PRIORITIES (KCHP)

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

September 2011

The Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) evaluates the performance of our local public health system and identifies priority areas and existing system assets. While the local public health system requires collaboration between many community partners (graphic below), this assessment will focus on the performance of the Kitsap County Health District.



In December 2010, KCHD surveyed its staff (KCHD below) and community partner agencies (PTNRS below) on system performance in the Ten Essential Public Health Services (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/nphsp/essentialservices.html>). The language used on the survey differed slightly from the Ten Essential Public Health Services but the essence was retained (Table 1). Total survey respondents included: 68 KCHD staff (response rate=62%), 171 partners (response rate 42%), and 32 with unknown affiliation.

Table 1. Crosswalk of KCHD Survey Categories and CDC Ten Essential Public Health Services Categories

	KCHD SURVEY	CDC TEN ESSENTIAL SERVICES
1	Assess community health status and public health issues	Monitor health status to identify community health problems
2	Investigate health problems and environmental hazards	Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
3	Educate public about prevention, wellness and other public health issues	Inform, educate and empower people about health issues
4	Engage the community to identify and address health problems	Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
5	Develop policies that help improve the community's health	Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts

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	KCHD SURVEY	CDC TEN ESSENTIAL SERVICES
6	Enforce public health laws and regulations	Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7	Improve access to health care services	Link people to needed personal health services and ensure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
8	Maintain a competent public health workforce	Ensure a competent public and personal health care workforce
9	NOT ASKED	Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
10	Contribute to evidence base for public health practice	Research new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Respondents were asked to evaluate system PERFORMANCE over the past five to ten years in nine public health service areas that cut across public health programs and divisions using the following categories: excellent, good, average, fair, poor. The proportion of respondents giving “excellent or good” ratings is presented in Table 2 below. Respondents were also asked to rate by PRIORITY these same public health service areas according to the importance they hold for improving the health of the community over the next five years, the proportion of respondents giving “1st or 2nd” ratings are presented in Table 3 below.

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Table 2. KCHD “Excellent or Good” Performance on Essential Public Health Services

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES		PERFORMANCE excellent or good		DISCUSSION
		KCHD	PTNRS	
1	Assess community health status and public health issues	80%	84%	• Assessment a clear strength of local public health
2	Investigate health problems and environmental hazards	80%	74%	• Investigation a clear strength of local public health
3	Educate public about prevention, wellness and other public health issues	39%	54%	• Partners had higher rating of education performance than KCHD staff – just under half of partners rated average to poor. Area for improvement.
4	Engage the community to identify and address health problems	24%	66%	• Partners had much higher rating of community engagement than KCHD staff: 3/4 of staff rated average to poor. Area for improvement?
5	Develop policies that help improve the community’s health	45%	58%	• Policy development an area for improvement
6	Enforce public health laws and regulations	85%	76%	• Enforcement a clear strength of local public health
7	Improve access to health care services	35%	67%	• Partners had much higher rating of health care access than KCHD staff: 2/3 of staff rated average to poor. Area for improvement?
8	Maintain a competent public health workforce	60%	84%	• Partners had higher rating of public health workforce than KCHD staff.
10	Contribute to evidence base for public health practice	67%	71%	• Contribution to evidence base a strength of local public health.

Table 3. KCHD “1st or 2nd” Priority on Essential Public Health Services

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES		PRIORITY 1 st or 2 nd		DISCUSSION
		KCHD	PTNRS	
1	Assess community health status and public health issues	74%	75%	• High but not top priority for KCHD and PTNRS
2	Investigate health problems and environmental hazards	92%	86%	• Top priority for KCHD and PTNRS
3	Educate public about prevention, wellness and other public health issues	68%	69%	• Mid priority for KCHD and PTNRS
4	Engage the community to identify and address health problems	74%	59%	• Mid priority for KCHD, low priority for PTNRS
5	Develop policies that help improve the community’s health	77%	74%	• High but not top priority for KCHD and PTNRS
6	Enforce public health laws and regulations	85%	80%	• Top priority of KCHD and PTNRS
7	Improve access to health care services	51%	72%	• Lowest priority for KCHD staff; mid priority for PTNRS
8	Maintain a competent public health workforce	90%	86%	• Top priority of KCHD and PTNRS
10	Contribute to evidence base for public health practice	57%	57%	• Low priority for KCHD and PTNRS

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FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF CDC TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES:

Essential Service #1: Monitor Health Status to Identify Community Health Problems

- Accurate, periodic assessment of the community's health status including:
 - Identification of health risks and determination of health service needs.
 - Attention to the vital statistics and health status indicators of groups that are at higher risk than the total population.
 - Identification of community assets that support the local public health system (LPHS) in promoting health and improving quality of life.
 - Utilization of appropriate methods and technology, such as geographic information systems, to interpret and communicate data to diverse audiences.
- Collaboration among all LPHS components, including private providers and health benefit plans, to establish and use population health information systems, such as disease or immunization registries.

Essential Service #2: Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards in the Community

- Epidemiological investigations of disease outbreaks and patterns of infectious and chronic diseases and injuries, environmental hazards, and other health threats.
- Active infectious disease epidemiology programs.
- Access to a public health laboratory capable of conducting rapid screening and high volume testing.

Essential Service #3: Inform, Educate and Empower People about Health Issues

- Health information, health education, and health promotion activities designed to reduce health risk and promote better health.
- Health education and health promotion program partnerships with schools, faith communities, work sites, personal care providers, and others to implement and reinforce health promotion programs and messages that are accessible to all populations.
- Health communication plans and activities such as media advocacy and social marketing.
- Accessible health information and educational resources.
- Risk communication processes designed to inform and mobilize the community in time of crisis.

Essential Service #4: Mobilize Community Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems

- Identifying potential stakeholders who contribute to or benefit from public health, and increase their awareness of the value of public health.
- Building coalitions to draw upon the full range of potential human and material resources to improve community health.
- Convening and facilitating partnerships and strategic alliances among groups and associations (including those not typically considered to be health-related) in undertaking defined health improvement projects, including preventive, screening, rehabilitation, and support programs and establishing the social and economic conditions for long-term health.

Essential Service #5: Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts

- An effective governmental presence at the local level.
- Development of policy to protect the health of the public and to guide the practice of public health.
- Systematic community-level and state-level planning for health improvement in all jurisdictions.
- Alignment of LPHS resources and strategies with the community health improvement plan.

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Essential Service #6: Enforce Laws and Regulations that Protect Health and Ensure Safety

- The review, evaluation, and revision of laws and regulations designed to protect health and safety to assure that they reflect current scientific knowledge and best practices for achieving compliance.
- Education of persons and entities obligated to obey or to enforce laws and regulations designed to protect health and safety in order to encourage compliance.
- Enforcement activities in areas of public health concern, including, but not limited to the protection of drinking water; enforcement of clean air standards; regulation of care provided in health care facilities and programs; re-inspection of workplaces following safety violations; review of new drug, biologic, and medical device applications; enforcement of laws governing the sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors; seat belt and child safety seat usage; and childhood immunizations.

Essential Service #7: Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Health Care when Otherwise Unavailable

- Identifying populations with barriers to personal health services.
- Identifying personal health service needs of populations with limited access to a coordinated system of clinical care.
- Assuring the linkage of people to appropriate personal health services through coordination of provider services and development of interventions that address barriers to care (e.g., culturally and linguistically appropriate staff and materials, transportation services).

Essential Service #8: Assure a Competent Public and Personal Health Care Workforce

- Assessment of workforce (including volunteers and other lay community health workers) to meet community needs for public and personal health services.
- Maintaining public health workforce standards, including efficient processes for licensure/credentialing of professional and incorporation of core public health competencies needed to provide the Essential Public Health Services into personnel systems.
- Adoption of continuous quality improvement and life-long learning programs for all members of the public health workforce, including opportunities for formal and informal public health leadership development.

Essential Service #9: Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Personal and Population-Based Health Services

- Evaluating the accessibility and quality of services delivered and the effectiveness of personal and population-based programs provided.
- Providing information necessary for allocating resources and reshaping programs.

Essential Service #10: Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems

- A continuum of innovative solutions to health problems ranging from practical field-based efforts to foster change in public health practice, to more academic efforts to encourage new directions in scientific research.
- Linkages with institutions of higher learning and research.
- Capacity to undertake timely epidemiological and health policy analyses and conduct health systems research.

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