

County of San Diego Public Health Accreditation Accreditation Status Update for Community Partners

May 2016

Public Health Accreditation Background

The County of San Diego is engaged in an effort to advance excellence in public health services by seeking national accreditation through [PHAB](#). PHAB is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments. Public health accreditation will ensure that the Health and Human Services Agency is effectively meeting national standards to provide quality services for San Diego County communities.

In the County of San Diego, public health accreditation is viewed as a pathway to:

- Promoting community engagement;
- Helping collaborate between various County programs and services;
- Assessing services against nationally recognized standards; and
- Building continuous quality improvement practices in all programs and services.

County's Public Health Accreditation Process

Public Health Accreditation is a rigorous seven-step (7) process. In July 2014, the County of San Diego submitted three pre-requisites (Step 2), which included the [Community Health Assessment](#), [Community Health Improvement Plan](#), and [Public Health Services Strategic Plan](#). In July 2015, the County submitted over 1,100 documents (Step 3) to demonstrate conformance to [100 measures](#).

Following a thorough review of documentation, a two-day site visit (Step 4) was held on **February 22 and 23, 2016**. Teams of County staff, over 25 community partners, and representatives of the governing body, Chairman Ron Roberts of the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors, were interviewed about how the County puts policies into practice. This site visit included a tour of the Rosecrans Health Services Complex, including the public health laboratory and other parts of the facility.

The County of San Diego anticipates a response from the PHAB Accreditation Committee by May 17, 2016 regarding the accreditation designation (Step 5). Annual reports to PHAB will follow to demonstrate continuous conformance to the measures (Step 6). The County expects to reapply in 2021 (Step 7), as accreditation designation lasts for five years.

