



Goodhue County ***Health and Human Services***

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For immediate release

Goodhue County Health & Human Services Awarded National Accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board

PHAB-Accredited Health Departments Demonstrate the Capacity to Serve their Communities Well

Red Wing, MN (June 20, 2019) – Goodhue County Health and Human Services announced today that it has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The national accreditation program works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of the nation's state, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments. Goodhue County Health & Human Services is one of fewer than 300 health departments that have thus far achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011. However, hundreds of health departments across the country are preparing to seek accreditation through PHAB, the non-profit organization that administers the national public health accreditation program.

"We are proud of this monumental achievement. We are proud of our professionals wanting to take this on for our County and the people we serve," said Brad Anderson, Goodhue County Health and Human Services Board Chair. "The accreditation process helps to ensure that our work is guided by proven, effective national standards and this is now embedded in our health and human services operations."

The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's nearly 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

"What this means to us is that with the support and leadership from Goodhue County Health & Human Services Board, and with our community, regional, and state partners, our agency has gone through a demanding multi-year process," said Nina Arneson, Director of Goodhue County Health & Human Services. "During this process, we identified strengths and weaknesses, which enabled us to make changes to meet or exceed national standards with our organizational structure, operations, programs and services. This has helped us to improve accountability, performance, and ultimately execute our programs and services even more effectively as we carry out our mission to Promote, Strengthen, and Protect the Health of Individuals, Families, and Communities!"

Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health of people and communities. In cities, towns, and states across the nation, health departments provide a range of services aimed at promoting healthy behaviors; preventing diseases and injuries; ensuring access to safe food, water, clean air, and life-saving immunizations; and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.

“Goodhue County Health & Human Services joins the growing ranks of accredited health departments in a strong commitment to their public health mission,” said PHAB President and CEO Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN. “The peer-review process provides valuable feedback to inform health departments of their strengths and areas for improvement, so that they can better protect and promote the health of the people they serve in their communities. Residents of a community served by a nationally accredited health department can be assured that their health department has demonstrated the capacity to protect and promote the health of that community.”

The national accreditation program was created collaboratively over a 10-year period by hundreds of public health practitioners working at the national, Tribal, state, and local levels. Since the program’s launch in September 2011, hundreds of public health departments have applied to PHAB for accreditation, and hundreds of public health practitioners from across the nation have been trained to serve as volunteer peer site visitors for the program. As of June 11, 2019, there are now 268 PHAB-accredited health departments, plus statewide integrated local public health department system (Florida). PHAB-accredited health departments now serve 79% of the U.S. population.

Eleven health departments received initial accreditation on June 11, 2019.

1. Champaign Health District, Ohio
2. Chester County Health Department, Pennsylvania
3. Coos Health & Wellness, Oregon
4. Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Ohio
5. Goodhue County Health and Human Services, Minnesota
6. Lane County Public Health, Oregon
7. Merced County Department of Public Health, California
8. Montgomery County Health Department, Indiana
9. Portage County Combined General Health District, Ohio
10. Portage County Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin
11. Wedco District Health Department, Kentucky

Six health departments received reaccreditation:

1. Chicago Department of Public Health, Illinois
2. Polk County Health Department, Wisconsin
3. The Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County, Inc. d/b/a Cabarrus Health Alliance, North Carolina
4. Spokane Regional Health District, Washington
5. Summit County Combined General Health District, Ohio
6. Three Rivers District Health Department, Kentucky

“Goodhue County Health and Human Services has made an agency-wide commitment to continuous quality improvement,” said Ruth Greenslade, who serves as the accreditation coordinator for Goodhue County Health and Human Services. “With an ever-increasing number of health departments now applying for and becoming accredited, you will be able to expect to receive the same quality of public health services wherever you go in the United States.”

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About Goodhue County Health and Human Services:

The mission of Goodhue County Health and Human Services is to “Promote, Protect and Strengthen the Health of Individuals, Families, and Communities.” The department has four service divisions: Economic Assistance, Public Health, Social Services, and HHS Finance/IT. For

more information on Goodhue County Health & Human Services, please visit www.co.goodhue.mn.us.

About the Public Health Accreditation Board

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), established in 2007, was created to serve as the national public health accrediting body, and is jointly funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The development of national public health accreditation has involved, and is supported by, public health leaders and practitioners from the national, Tribal, state, and local levels. Learn more about PHAB or sign up for the PHAB e-newsletter by visiting www.phaboard.org.

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