



Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department

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SHAWANO-MENOMINEE COUNTIES HEALTH DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION THROUGH THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION BOARD - *Maintaining Accreditation through PHAB Ensures the SMCHD's Capacity to Continue to Evolve, Improve and Advance*

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Shawano, Wisconsin — September 3, 2024 — The Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department (SMCHD) today announced it has successfully completed a review process to maintain national accreditation status through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). In maintaining its accreditation status for another five years, SMCHD has demonstrated that it meets PHAB's quality standards and measures and has the capacity to continue to evolve, improve and advance to continue improving the health of the residents of Shawano and Menominee Counties.

The non-profit PHAB works to advance and transform public health practice by championing performance improvement, strong infrastructure, and innovation. PHAB's accreditation program, which receives support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sets standards against which the nation's governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance.

"We are so pleased to again be recognized by PHAB for achieving national standards that foster effectiveness and promote continuous quality improvement," said Nick Mau, SMCHD Health Officer. "We hope this announcement will reassure our community, partner organizations, funders and elected officials that the services we provide are as responsive as possible to the needs of our community."

SMCHD achieved national initial accreditation status through PHAB on March 14, 2017, after undergoing a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it met a set of quality standards and measures. Today's announcement goes a step further by demonstrating that SMCHD has the capacity to become increasingly effective at improving the health of the community.

SMCHD implements a wide range of programs and services including childhood immunizations, communicable disease surveillance, environmental health, Shawano County WIC, and maternal and child health. SMCHD also participates and leads a number of community coalitions that work to address AODA issues, emergency preparedness, nutrition, early childhood development, chronic disease prevention, and mental health. The vision of the department is "The Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department will be an engaged leader in inclusive communities which support optimal health for all". SMCHD's mission is to "Promote and Protect the Health of Shawano-Menominee Counties residents by providing quality services, fostering partnerships, and advocating for systems change."

"We are extremely pleased to be at the point in the accreditation program where SMCHD, along with many others, are successfully maintaining their five-year accreditation status through PHAB," said PHAB President and CEO Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, FAAN. "In so doing, these health departments are assuring their communities that the value of accreditation is long-term -- not a one-time recognition -- and that continual improvement is the hallmark of a 21st century organization."

Often called the “backbone” of the public health system, public health departments are on the front lines of communities’ efforts to protect and promote health and prevent disease and injury. PHAB-accredited health departments demonstrate great leadership by placing their work for peer review, with the goal of using the feedback obtained during the process to improve the services they provide to their communities.

About the Public Health Accreditation Board

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) 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. Vital Records/Health Statistics accreditation is funded, in part, by the National Center for Health Statistics. The development of national public health department accreditation has involved, and is supported by, public health leaders and practitioners from the national, state, local, Tribal, and territorial levels. For more information, contact PHAB Communications Specialist Janalle Goosby at jgoosby@phaboard.org . Learn more about PHAB and accreditation at www.phaboard.org.

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