

Resolution 65-11

**Support for the Polk County Health Department Application for National Voluntary Accreditation**

**WHEREAS**, public health department accreditation is defined as the development of a set of standards, a process to measure health department performance against those standards, and reward or recognition for those health departments who meet the standards; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) has established a national public health department voluntary accreditation process that seeks to advance quality and performance within public health departments; **and**

**WHEREAS**, achieving accreditation through PHAB provides a means for a health department to identify performance improvement opportunities, to improve management, develop leadership, and improve relationships with the community; **and**

**WHEREAS**, accreditation documents the capacity of the public health department to deliver the three core functions of public health and the ten essential public health services as enumerated in the attachment to this resolution; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the process of accreditation will encourage and stimulate quality and performance improvement in the health department as well as promote greater accountability and transparency.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Polk County Board of Health does hereby recognize the importance of public health national voluntary accreditation for a local health department and strongly supports the pursuit of accreditation status for the Polk County Health Department.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Polk County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes the importance of public health national voluntary accreditation for a local health department and strongly supports the pursuit of accreditation status for the Polk County Health Department.

**Funding Amount:** \$12,720 (5 year cost)

**Funding Source:** Infrastructure grant (2012); Public Health Budget 2013-2015

**Date Finance Committee Advised:** N/A

**Effective Date:** Upon passage

Approved as to form: Jeff Fuge  
Jeff Fuge, Corporation Counsel

Date Submitted to County Board 12-20-11 County Board Action adopted

SUBMITTED BY:

Patricia M. Schmidt

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RECOMMENDED

Don J

## Attachment I

### *Three Core Functions of Public Health (Institute of Medicine, 1988)*

The *core functions* of public health agencies that must be carried out at all levels of government for the overall public health system to function effectively include:

- **Assessment:** regular, systematic collection, assembly, analysis and distribution of information on the health of the community, including statistics on health status, community health needs, and epidemiological and other studies of health problems;
- **Policy development:** using the scientific knowledge base in decision-making about public health and taking a strategic approach to leadership for public health policy with a positive appreciation for the democratic political process;
- **Assurance:** engaging policy-makers and the public in determining those services that will be guaranteed to every member of the community, and making services necessary to achieve agreed-upon goals available by encouraging action by public and private entities, implementing regulatory requirements, or directly providing services.

### *Ten Essential Public Health Services*

The **Essential Public Health Services** provide the fundamental framework for the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Standards and Measures, by describing the public health activities that should be undertaken in all communities.

The Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee developed the framework for the Essential Services in 1994. This steering committee included representatives from US Public Health Service agencies and other major public health organizations.

The Essential Services provide a working definition of public health and a guiding framework for the responsibilities of local public health systems.

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure competent public and personal health care workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

