

Vision for Local Public Health in a Community Integrated Health Care System

Adopted by the Michigan Association for Local Public Health, July 2012

A community-integrated health care system will call upon local public health to be the connective thread among Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), and also to engage with the community at the individual, group institutional and policy levels. Local public health will provide critical inputs to ACO networks within its population through assessment of community health needs; it will also assure access to effective, high-quality health services, and develop comprehensive health policies to improve overall community health. Public health will mobilize established community partnerships, and link people to personal health services and community resources.

Local public health will adapt to unique needs within the population it serves, and will be a key partner in linking the Patient-Centered Medical Home with public health services and other community resources. In turn, the fully-integrated health care system, including health care and community service partners supported by an integrated health information exchange, will provide a foundation for continuous monitoring, enforcement, health policy development and quality improvement. Local public health will engage in timely health communications among professionals and the public, to educate and empower people with regard to health issues. In these ways, public health will provide an effective bridge between medical and community services.

The statutory authority of local public health lies in the following references.

Authority: Public Health Code, Act 368 of 1978

Section 333.2433 (1) A local health department shall continually and diligently endeavor to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the public health through organized programs, including prevention and control of environmental health hazards; prevention and control of diseases; prevention and control of health problems of particularly vulnerable population groups; development of health care facilities and health services delivery systems; and regulation of health care facilities and health services delivery systems to the extent provided by law.

Core Functions of Public Health: Assessment, Assurance and Policy Development as defined in the “Future of Public Health” Institute of Medicine, 1988.

Ten (10) Essential Public Health Services

National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) – Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 1994

1. **Monitor** health status to identify 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 to identify and solve health problems.
5. **Develop** policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. **Enforce** laws and regulation that protect health and ensure safety.
7. **Link** people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health when otherwise unavailable.
8. **Assure** a 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

What does the future Community Care System look like from the point of view of Public Health Stakeholders?

The value of public health is clearly recognized by the entire community.

- The community understands and values *population* health.
- The leadership role of Public Health in health policy making is acknowledged.
- The statutory authority of public health is fully appreciated.
- There is full and reliable funding for public health services.
- Public Health is fully integrated with other local community services (e.g. community organizations, mental health, private providers, group homes and prisons, etc.).

The community understands the unique role of Public Health.

- Public Health uniquely focuses on and serves the *entire population*.
- Public Health is the entity ultimately responsible for enforcement actions to protect the health of the public.
- Public Health provides epidemiologic and disease surveillance functions for the entire population, not just patient panels or client groups.
- Public Health provides quality assurance and quality improvement functions for the entire population, not just ACO networks or provider market areas.

Public Health assures plans are in place to service diverse community needs demonstrated to improve health. Such services include:

- Community Health Assessment and Improvement
- Community organizing and advocacy to address root causes of poor health
- Communicable disease prevention, outbreak suppression and epidemiologic investigation
- Mitigating the population health impacts of disasters and violence
- Comprehensive services to vulnerable families, mothers and infants and children
- Immunizations and other effective public prevention technologies
- Providing for basic needs including nutrition services and comprehensive care services to vulnerable individuals and families
- Family planning and sexual health
- Community based chronic disease prevention through education and policy reform

The relationship between Public Health and future comprehensive, integrated care delivery systems:

- Public Health is a full partner in ACO networks because of the unique role it plays in assuring the health of populations.
- Similarly, Public Health supports and informs the core services provided by patient centered medical homes.
- The full participation of Public Health in health information technology networks results in enhanced surveillance and community health assessments, leading to better strategic decision making.
- The Public Health role in ACO and other provider networks results in enhanced prevention, better health outcomes, greater efficiency and lower costs.

Local Public Health Jurisdiction

Assessment, Assurance, Policy Development
Monitoring
Coordination
Root Cause Analyses/Epidemiology
Public & Professional Health Communications

Structural/Policy
Institutional

Community

Interpersonal

Individual

ACO Network

Long-Term Care

Dental

Mental Health

Patient-Centered Medical Homes

Hospitals

Medical Specialists

ACO Network

Long-Term Care

Hospitals

Dental

Mental Health

Patient-Centered Medical Homes

Medical Specialists

Community Linkages

Child Welfare

Child Care

Substance Abuse

Specialized Education

Home Visitation

Mental Health

Public Health

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