



PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

While advancing quality and performance, Accreditation improves and protects the health of the public. The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (A/TCHHSD) Accreditation Team, involving over 50 key leaders across the department championed by Director Shannon Jones, the Executive Leadership Team, and Manager Veena Viswanathan have been preparing for Accreditation since 2013.

WHEN: A/TCHHSD will have a PHAB Site Visit on October 20-21, 2015.

- **Four Public Health Professional Site Visitors** will learn more about A/TCHHSD including visiting HHS Campus and RBJ sites and **interviewing key A/TCHHSD staff, partners, and representatives of elected officials to verify that we're meeting national standards and measures.**
- In **early 2016, PHAB** will review the Site Visitors' report and **decide whether to accredit A/TCHHSD.**

WHAT? Public Health Accreditation, overseen by the accrediting **Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)**, is granted to health departments who meet or exceed national standards for public health.

- The **PHAB Standards and Measures** capture 12 Domains that are modeled after the *Ten Essential Public Health Services* along with sections on administration and engaging elected officials.
- Focus Areas include Leadership, Community Health Improvement Planning, Strategic Planning, Community Engagement, Customer Satisfaction, Workforce Development, and Quality Improvement
- A/TCHHSD utilized its very own **WAG (Write it Down, Acknowledge, and Go Forward)** to advance practices and improve documentation to meet standards.



- **A/TCHHSD applied for Public Health Accreditation** and submitted all of its supporting documentation **in April 2015.**

WHY? Accreditation signifies an on-going **commitment to performance, quality, and improving to meet national standards** with the ultimate intent of **improving community health** as well as the following:

- Identifies successes and improvement opportunities * Platform for quality improvement
- Means for accountability * Access to network of public health experts and best practices
- Emphasizes partnerships and collaboration * Engages the public health workforce
- Improves communication with governance * Potential streamlining of grant reporting
- National recognition for public health practice * Potential access to new funding streams



GET MORE INVOLVED: Contact Veena Viswanathan, Accreditation Manager, for further information.

[A/TCHHSD Intranet](#)

www.phaboard.org