

Achieving and maintaining national Accreditation status through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is mandatory for all local health departments in Ohio. The Meigs County Health Department (MCHD) became accredited in 2022 and is working toward Reaccreditation in 2027, and then must continue with it every five years.

What is the value of Accreditation? While it is a time-consuming process, Accreditation makes us take an organized approach to being more productive, do our jobs better, and be accountable to the community we serve.

Accreditation brings assurance that local and state health departments have the foundational capabilities needed to support basic public health protections, programs, and activities key to ensuring community health, well-being and achieving equitable outcomes. There are a set of Accreditation Standards and Measures that contain formal processes which must be implemented:

1. Performance Management and Quality Improvement-Focuses on using data to improve performance, including the use of performance standards, measures, progress reports, and ongoing quality improvement efforts to ensure an agency achieves desired results. These processes can decrease time and/or cost and improve health outcomes.
2. Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Planning (CHA/CHIP)-The MCHD has strengthened and increased partnerships for better collaboration through Get Healthy Meigs!, which is a group of community stakeholders that have joined together to address various priority areas through regular CHA/CHIP cycles that impact Meigs County most significantly. Currently, the priority areas being addressed are Physical Activity, Mental and Behavioral Health, and Access to Care.
3. Strategic Planning- Strategic priorities or goals, outline what the health department plans to achieve at a high level in order to accomplish its vision for the future state of the health department. This includes increased communication with our stakeholders, expanded programming such as harm reduction, and succession planning to ensure continuous quality of services.
4. Workforce Development- Employee development and training can be associated with higher job satisfaction, which is subsequently associated with lower intent to leave the agency.
5. Branding-Ensures that communications containing the MCHD logo are identifiable as a trusted source of information.

Overall, Accreditation has led to growth within our staff, our programming, and our understanding of the way things could be versus the way things actually are when it comes to impact on our community.

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