

Public Health System Improvement Task Force

2019-2023 Montana Public Health System Improvement Plan

Goal 1-- Strengthen partnerships between the health care, behavioral health, and public health.

Objective 1.1: Increase the number of local and tribal health departments that collaborate with local hospital/federally qualified Health Clinics (FQHC) and behavioral health partners to develop community health assessments (CHA) and community health improvement plans (CHIP).

Activities:

- Health Departments—Educate local providers on public health services and collaborate with hospital, FQHC, and local behavioral health partners to coordinate services and complete CHA and CHIP.
- University of Montana—Advertise and promote Certificate of Public Health (CPH) and Master of Public Health (MPH) opportunities.
- Public Health System Improvement office (PHSIO)—Sponsor grants requiring collaborative work to develop CHAs and CHIPs, coordinate State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) Coalition and Public Health System Improvement Task Force (PHSITF), provide technical assistance to low-capacity health departments to support collaborative work to develop a CHA and CHIP.
- Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Bureau —Promote coordination through policies and contracts. Preparedness efforts to develop healthcare coalitions.

Goal 2-- Improve coordination between public health partners to promote effective public health systems and adequate public health funding

Objective 2.1: Determine baseline and increase the opportunities and awareness for epidemiological assistance.

Objective 2.2: Research and analyze the possible roles of the joint-advocacy committee and partners currently involved.

Activities:

- Public Health and Safety Division (PHSD)—Regional coordination work conducted by Chronic Disease.
- Health Departments—meet with local and state legislators to educate on public health topics.
- University of Montana—Participate in and support statewide coordination through technical support, trainings, and workshops on program evaluation and epidemiology.
- AMPHO, MPHA, and MEHA—Collaborate through joint advocacy committee, workforce development committee, and leadership group with Montana Healthcare Foundation.
- PHSIO—Coordinate the PHSITF, and CHA and CHIP grants.

Goal 3—Improve the quality of public health services

Objective 3.1: Increase the number of health departments that have developed CHAs, CHIPs, and Strategic Plans from 44, 35, and 26 to 52, 50, and 54 respectively.

Objective 3.2: Increase the number of health departments that have quality improvement (QI) plans or have adopted QI methods into their agency guidelines/standards.

Activities:

- Conduct key informant interviews with Tribal, frontier, small, medium, and large county health departments to determine most utilized and attainable Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards to promote.
- Look at ways to promote re-accreditation for those health departments that have already completed initial accreditation.
- Health Departments—Establish a QI team and accreditation committee working to continually meet PHAB standards.
- University of Montana—Training on Program Evaluation
- AMPHO—Programs to improve LLPHO’s competency, advocate for funding for health programs at the legislature
- PHSIO—Provide technical assistance for PHAB, and online resources, offer reoccurring state-wide training on planning, evaluation, performance management, and QI.
- Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Bureau —Provide quantitative feedback and support to LHDs and THDs to carry out improvements

Goal 4—Develop Montana’s public health workforce

Objective 4.1: Determine baseline and increase the percent of public health managers that agree or strongly agree that they can effectively lead community health improvement planning processes and are viewed as the community health strategist for their community to 80%

Objective 4.2: Increase the percent of health departments that have workforce development plans

Activities:

- MPHA—Annual conference, coordinate development of a Public Health 101 e-learn class
- Health Departments—Encourage employees to attend learning opportunities such as conferences and webinars, host nursing students and interns
- University of Montana—Serve as a leader by training the next generation of professionals through CPH and MPH programs, offer new undergraduate degree in population/public health in the next 2 years
- AMPHO—Offer programs to develop public health leaders (mentorship program, community health strategist program), participate in development and implementation of workforce development plan and workforce development group

- PHSIO—Support AMPHO leadership programs and MPHA annual conference, sponsor professional development opportunities related to public health science and management, coordinate and support the Montana public health workforce development group and plan
- Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Bureau —Conduct training needs assessments, and opportunities for training public health workforce

Goal 5—Strengthen local boards of health

Objective 5.1: Increase the number of boards of health (BOH) that meet all MCA statutory requirements

Activities:

- Health Departments—Participate in BOH training, consult board for decisions regarding regulatory requirements, local ordinances, outbreaks/flooding
- AMPHO—Support improvement of LLPHO’s ability to engage their BOH through trainings offered, support legislation to strengthen BOH
- PHSIO—Provide BOH trainings, maintain a MT BOH handbook for use at the local level. (planned) Provide a follow-up to the basic BOH based on NALBOH’s six functions of a local board of health
- Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Bureau—Support and manage PHEP’s contracts with jurisdictions that require public health staff to share information and obtain sign-off of the BOH on key protocols

Goal 6—Improve targeting of public health interventions to address social determinants of health

Objective 6.1: Increase training to public health workforce to improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities on how to target interventions to address social determinants of health and what are the interventions available to health departments to address social determinants of health

Activities:

- Health Departments—Develop strategic plans, CHAs and CHIPs to identify disparate populations for improvement or health issues that need improvement
- University of Montana—Serve as a technical resource for entities developing PH interventions, add a research component if/when needed
- AMPHO—Support and manage community health strategist program, work with RWJ to disseminate County Health Ranking results
- Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Bureau —Target resources to tribal and urban areas impacted by higher prevalence of conditions