



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency Community Health Branch Awarded National Accreditation

(Woodland, CA) — On November 21, 2017, the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency Community Health Branch announced that it has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The national accreditation program works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of the nation's state, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments. The Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency Community Health Branch is one of approximately 211 health departments nationwide and 12 health departments in California that have achieved accreditation since PHAB launched in 2011.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment made possible only through amazing teamwork. National accreditation shows the county's commitment to continuous improvement and accountability to the most ambitious public health program standards in the nation. I am very proud of the work of our Yolo County public health staff and our community partners,” said Supervisor Don Saylor.

The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's nearly 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health of people and communities. In cities, towns, and states across the nation, health departments provide a range of services aimed at promoting healthy behaviors; preventing diseases and injuries; ensuring access to safe food, water, clean air, and life-saving immunizations; and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.

The national accreditation program was created collaboratively over a 10-year period by hundreds of public health practitioners working at the national, Tribal, state, and local levels. Since the program's launch in September 2011, hundreds of public health departments have applied to PHAB for accreditation, and hundreds of public health practitioners from across the nation have been trained to serve as volunteer peer site visitors for the program.

One of the most notable best practices implemented as a part of the 4-year journey towards achieving Public Health accreditation in Yolo County included a county-wide Community Health Assessment

completed in 2014 and subsequent Community Health Improvement Plan, which identified Chronic Disease, Mental Health and Healthy Aging as priority health concerns for the community. Workgroups then formed to begin addressing the areas identified and developed a dashboard to track progress. The assessment, plan and dashboard are available at www.healthyyolo.org. For those interested in getting involved please contact healthyyolo@yolocounty.org.

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