

Gaining Ground

Domain 12: Governance Video Transcript

Webinar Series Overview:

PHAB accreditation uses an established framework of standards based on twelve domains. The first ten address the Ten Essential Services of Public Health. The last two focus on your health department's infrastructure and governance. This 12-part video series provides information, tips, and resources on how you can use the specific performance measures in each domain to advance the quality and performance of your department. Applying the standards now will help your department reach its strategic goals, even as you consider taking the next steps toward accreditation.

Domain 12 Introduction:

The goal of this presentation is to provide an overview of PHAB Domain 12. Domain 12 provides the PHAB accreditation requirements regarding the health department's support and engagement of its governing entity in maintaining and strengthening the public health infrastructure. My name is Ron Eckoff. I am a member of the Dallas County Board of Health. Prior to that, I worked in the Iowa Department of Public Health for 37 years. There are 12 domains as shown here. This presentation is just going to focus on Domain 12, regarding the governing entity. For local health departments in Iowa, the governing entity is the local Board of Health. Even if services are contracted to other agencies or institutions, the local Board of Health is the responsible governing entity. There are many connections between Domain 12 and the other domains. If work is being done on other domains and the Board of Health is involved, you can flag that for possible use as documentation in Domain 12. The same material can be used as documentation in multiple domains. We will mention some possible connections throughout this presentation. Domain 12 Standards. Domain 12 is broken down into three areas, called standards. The standards are broken down further into separate measures. Within the three standards of Domain 12, there are six measures.

Standard 12.1:

Standard 12.1 is to maintain current operational definitions and statements of public health roles, responsibilities, and authorities. It focuses on your health department's understanding of its authority, roles, and responsibilities and that of the Board of Health, and how such authority is put into practice, and how the Board of Health is informed and engaged.

Measure 12.1.1:

This first measure of this standard is to identify the authority to conduct public health activities. There are specific state laws that define the authority of the Board of Health. In Iowa, Chapter 137 of the Code of Iowa is the key state law, but there are many

additional sections of state law and rules that place requirements on, or give authority to local Boards of Health. These are supplemented by local rules or ordinances. The department must be able to identify these. In addition, you must document how you implement the authority, as shown by service descriptions, annual reports, or other reports.

Measure 12.1.2:

The second measure, 12.1.2, focuses specifically on the governing entity, the local Board of Health. The Board of Health is the point of accountability for the local health department. The body of law that sets forth its authority must be identified. A written description of the Board of Health's composition and structure must also be provided.

Standard 12.2:

Standard 12.2 is: "Provide information to the governing entity regarding public health and the official responsibilities of the health department and of the governing entity." This focuses on how your department educates and communicates with the Board of Health. Examples from other domains could include: 1.4.2 (Provide and use the results of health data analysis to develop recommendations regarding public health policies, processes, programs, or interventions) and 4.2.2 (Engagement with the governing entity and others regarding policies and strategies).

Measure 12.2.1:

Measure 12.2.1 requires documentation of how the department communicates with the Board of Health about responsibilities of the department and the board. This might be in the form of meeting minutes, briefing papers, presentations, memos, or other materials. It also requires an orientation plan for new members of the Board of Health.

Standard 12.3:

Standard 12.3 is: "Encourage the governing entity's engagement in the public health department's overall obligations and responsibilities." This focuses on the involvement of the Board of Health in important issues facing the community.

Measure 12.3.1:

Measure 12.3.1 requires documentation of communication with the Board of Health regarding public health issues. This could be through community health assessment findings, outbreak and response efforts, annual reports, or other materials. When some communities considered stopping fluoridation the Dallas County Board of Health strongly encouraged all communities to continue to fluoridate their public water supply.

Measure 12.3.2:

Measure 12.3.2 requires the department to review and track issues discussed and actions taken by the Board of Health. This may be documented in meeting minutes, resolutions adopted by the Board of Health, reports, or other materials.

Documentation of the Board of Health's involvement in measure 1.3.1 (Analyze public health data to identify trends in health problems, environmental public health hazards, and social and economic factors that affect the public's health) could be used for this.

Measure 12.3.3:

Measure 12.3.3 requires documentation of communication with the Board of Health regarding the assessment of the department's performance. This could be documented in program reviews, quality improvement projects, reports, presentations, or other materials. Finally, it requires documentation of communication with the Board of Health regarding performance improvement efforts as a result of performance improvement processes. The Board of Health's involvement in other domains could be used as documentation for this measure. For example: 9.1 (Use a performance management system to monitor achievement of organizational objectives) and 9.2 (Develop and implement quality improvement processes integrated into organizational practice, programs, processes and interventions).

Conclusion:

This concludes our presentation of Domain 12: "Maintain Capacity to Engage the Public Health Governing Entity." I hope this overview is helpful. As a final tip, be certain Board of Health minutes are capturing required items like decisions, presentations, guests, policy review. On behalf of the Gaining Ground Coalition, thank you for joining us today.