

Jim Donchess

Mayor • City of Nashua

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City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services Awarded National Accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board

PHAB-Accredited Health Departments Demonstrate the Capacity to Serve their Communities Well

Nashua, NH — March, 21st, 2017 — City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services announced today 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 City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services is one of fewer than 200 health departments that have thus far achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011. However, hundreds of health departments across the country are preparing to seek accreditation through PHAB, the non-profit organization that administers the national public health accreditation program.

“We are pleased and excited to be recognized for achieving national standards that foster effectiveness and promote continuous quality improvement,” said Bobbie D. Bagley, Nashua’s Director of Public Health. “The accreditation process helps to ensure that the programs and services we provide are as responsive as possible to the needs of our community. With accreditation, Nashua’s Division of Public Health and Community Services is demonstrating increased accountability and credibility to the public, funders, elected officials and partner organizations with which we work.”

“You all have worked hard not just for this recognition, but in the day to day efforts to improve the lives of Nashua citizens. Everyone should be proud of this great accomplishment,” said Dr. Anthony Storrace, Chair of the Board of Health.

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.

“Whenever members of the community see our seal of accreditation, they will know that Nashua’s Division of Public Health and Community Services has been thoroughly examined and was found to meet or exceed national

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standards that promote continuous quality improvement for public health in our community,” Jim Donchess, Mayor of Nashua, said. “It is our vision in public health to have an informed, safe, healthy, and resilient community where all people can thrive and prosper. With that vision in mind, we are continually striving to improve our services in the community so we can be sure we are effectively and efficiently meeting the public health needs of all we serve.”

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 City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services joins the growing ranks of accredited health departments in a strong commitment to their public health mission,” said PHAB President and CEO Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN. “The peer-review process provides valuable feedback to inform health departments of their strengths and areas for improvement, so that they can better protect and promote the health of the people they serve in their communities. Residents of a community served by a nationally accredited health department can be assured that their health department has demonstrated the capacity to protect and promote the health of that community.”

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.

“Achieving accreditation indicates that Nashua’s Division of Public health and Community Services is dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the community by striving to continuously improve the quality of the services it delivers,” said Ray (Bud) Nicola, MD, MHSA, chair of PHAB’s Board of Directors and affiliate professor at the University of Washington School of Public Health in Seattle. “Accreditation also promotes consistency in meeting standards. With an ever-increasing number of health departments now applying for and becoming accredited, you will be able to expect to receive the same quality of public health services wherever you go in the United States.”

The Division of Public Health and Community Services is the public health entity for the City of Nashua. It is one of only two full-service local health departments in the State of New Hampshire. All of the Departments within the Division offer services that directly impact the health, social, and economic well-being of the residents of the City of Nashua and surrounding communities. Division departments include City Welfare, Community Services, Community Health, and Environmental Health. For more information about the Division of Public Health and Community Services, please visit www.nashuanh.gov/DPHCS.

About the Public Health Accreditation Board

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), established in 2007, was created to serve as the national public health accrediting body, and is jointly funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The development of national public health accreditation has involved, and is supported by, public health leaders and practitioners from the national, Tribal, state, and local levels. Learn more about PHAB or sign up for the PHAB e-newsletter by visiting www.phaboard.org.

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