



## L-SIP at the 2014 APHL Annual Meeting

The Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP) will be showcased at the APHL Experience booth on **Sunday, June 1 at 3:00 pm**. Come visit to see the [new Local L-SIP tool!](#) There will also be an opportunity to chat with APHL staff and a representative from a state that has previously conducted an L-SIP assessment. You can come to get your questions answered on how to prepare for an assessment, conduct the assessment or embark on post-assessment quality improvement activities.

### Orange County Convenes a Local L-SIP Assessment

On March 18, 2014, the Orange County Public Health Laboratory became the second local laboratory to complete an assessment through APHL's Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP). This was the first time that the [new local L-SIP tool](#) was used. There were a total of 57 individuals who were able to attend the assessment, representing various parts of the local laboratory system. After a full day of assessing each of the 10 Essential Services, the assessment resulted in a list of 34 suggested next steps, to which Dr. Richard Alexander, the laboratory director and his team will be prioritizing over the next few months and developing related improvement activities. To read more about the experience, please refer to the Spring 2014 issue of APHL's [Lab Matters](#).

### Updated L-SIP Map

The colored city and states in the map represent the 30 states and two local public health laboratory systems that have convened an L-SIP assessment, as well as one state that completed an L-SIP reassessment. If your laboratory has not completed an assessment, and you are interested in learning more about L-SIP and how to get your laboratory system partners connected through convening an L-SIP assessment, join your colleagues for the Fall 2014 technical assistance calls. States that conducted an assessment in 2007 and 2008 are strongly encouraged to join New Hampshire to conduct a reassessment and evaluate the impact of previous changes and to assess where gaps still might be in the laboratory system since the first assessment.

### For More Information

Please visit the [L-SIP site on APHL.org](#).

### Contact

Tina Su, MPH  
Senior Specialist,  
Laboratory Systems  
and Standards  
240.485.2729  
[bertina.su@aphl.org](mailto:bertina.su@aphl.org)





[Efforts. City of Milwaukee Public Health Laboratory.](#)”

In March 2014, Gary Oty, director of the Office of Quality, Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness, presented on how job-specific annual trainings are given to staff members as suggested by regulations, certifying/accrediting agencies or internal policies. He also touched upon how training needs are identified. His presentation was entitled “[New Mexico Department of Health Scientific Laboratory Division Training Program.](#)”

Other Quality Improvement Forum materials can be found on the [APHL Member Resource Center](#) by using search words “Quality Improvement Forum.” If you would like to share with others a presentation on a quality improvement activity occurring in your laboratory or would like to join the group either as a participant on the calls and/or to be part of one of the workgroups, contact Tina Su at [bertina.su@aphl.org](mailto:bertina.su@aphl.org) to be added to the distribution list. Announcements are also listed in the APHL *eUpdate*.

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### **L-SIP Recruitment**

Recruitment for states/locals interested in conducting an L-SIP assessment in Fall 2014 has begun. States that conducted an assessment in 2007 and 2008 are strongly encouraged to conduct a reassessment to assess the impact of previous changes and to document where gaps still might be in the laboratory system since the first assessment. The three-call technical assistance series will be held sometime in September/October 2014 and will cover topics, such as identifying stakeholders to invite to the assessment and what to expect on the assessment day. Once your state/local public health laboratory system has committed to conducting an assessment, APHL will provide a mentor, a representative from a state/local laboratory that has previously conducted an L-SIP assessment. The mentor will serve as a resource and can answer questions related to preparing for an assessment. To receive information about the process, financial support and technical assistance, please contact Tina Su at [bertina.su@aphl.org](mailto:bertina.su@aphl.org).

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### **Quality Assurance Listserv**

Laboratory staff from all United States member laboratories is invited to sign up to participate on the Quality Assurance Listserv. This member benefit is a forum for your quality-related questions to your peers and the sharing of possible solutions and lessons learned. Recent topics include discussions about a CAP sample exchange program for proficiency testing and the CMS rule change for direct patient access to results. To join in on the conversation or view an archive of previous listserv postings, please contact Tina Su at [bertina.su@aphl.org](mailto:bertina.su@aphl.org).

## Upcoming Meetings

The 2014 APHL Annual Meeting and Eighth State Environmental Laboratory Conference will be held in Little Rock, AR on June 1–4. Visit the [meeting website](#) for more information. The events at the meeting that focus on quality improvement are:

- *Overview of APHL Assessment Tools* breakout session, Tuesday June 3 at 3:00–5:30 pm
- *Quality Improvement Activities Addressing Laboratory System Gaps* Poster

The 2014 National Association of City & County Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA on July 9–11. Connect with good-natured colleagues from near and far to share local health department challenges and opportunities, best practices and success stories. Engage with federal and local partners and gain insights from public health experts. Learn more at [nacchoannual.org](#).

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### Association of Public Health Laboratories

8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 700, Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(240) 485-2745 | [www.aphl.org](#)

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