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L-SIP Update
Winter 2010

This email contains an abbreviated version of the L-SIP Update. *For the full version, click here*.

Welcome to the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP) Update. This newsletter is designed to assist states interested in improving performance of their state public health laboratory systems. You are encouraged to share this update with your system partners and to share with us any new resources, experiences or activities related to system improvement.

Update on L-SIP States

As a result of convening an L-SIP assessment, the Indiana and Wyoming state public health laboratories and partners identified strengths and areas for improvement within their respective state public health laboratory systems. Plans of action have been established to address system gaps that were brought to light during the assessment. Both states shared their L-SIP experiences during the November 2009 quality improvement technical assistance call.

Update on the Web Communicator

The web communicator was conceived to help with partner communication- before and after the L-SIP assessment. It will allow linkages to participating states' websites, to system partners as well as resource sites that can support improvement work. Web content will include the following: information about the assessment process, assessment handouts, the assessment tool, evaluation form, results of the assessment; general information for partners; information on quality improvement activities post-assessment; and a contact list of program participants.

Update on Training Resources

The following resources have been added to the Online Resource Center (ORC). Please visit http://www.aphl.org/orc and search for keyword "Indiana" at the bottom of the page.

Indiana's partnering with Purdue University: Purdue University Healthcare Technical Assistance Program website

- The Purdue University Healthcare Technical Assistance Program (HealthcareTAP) was established in 2005. The mission of HealthcareTAP is to improve healthcare efficiency, quality, and safety. HealthcareTAP utilizes staff and faculty with expertise in Public Health, Nursing, and Industrial, Biomedical and Systems Engineering and many other disciplines as needed. HealthcareTAP partnered with the Indiana state public health laboratory to help prepare for the L-SIP assessment and to provide facilitation during the assessment process.

Indiana's Activity Boxes

- Conceived by Purdue University (Indiana), these boxes contain items that participants can use during L-SIP assessments as well as CDC's National Public Health Performance Standards Program State and Local Public Health System Assessments. Contents in the boxes may include modeling clay, small puzzles, candy, or other simple items that allow participants to "use their hands" which contributes to more creative thinking as well as a comfortable environment.

Post-L-SIP Assessment Activity: Montana Laboratory Forum

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Montana conducted their L-SIP assessment in April 2008. In response to gaps identified during the assessment, laboratory system partners were invited to become part of the Montana Laboratory Forum. The Forum is an interdisciplinary workgroup developed to prioritize and focus on various areas of concern in the Montana Public Health Laboratory System. The Montana Laboratory Forum Website and the ListServ are expected to go live in January 2010. To continue to work toward a viable Montana Public Health Laboratory System, the Forum meets monthly via teleconference and has plans for yearly in-person meetings.

Development of Canada's Assessment Tool

The initial work to create Canada's version of an L-SIP assessment tool has been completed. The Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network plans to pilot the tool in two Provinces prior to roll out for national use. APHL involvement in the development of the Canadian tool has highlighted the strength of the L-SIP tool and has provided a head start in identifying areas for improvement in next year's first tool revision slated for 2011.

Online Resource Center

The ORC houses resources to assist with improving the quality of state public health laboratory systems. State partners can benefit from access to a single repository of resources related to the national Laboratory System Improvement Program. To access the ORC, please visit www.aphl.org/orc.

Mini Grant Usage and Deadlines

To support states participating in an L-SIP assessment, APHL is providing funding to state public health laboratories or their partners. Funds can be used for costs associated with the actual assessment, including purchasing refreshments/food, renting a facility, paying for facilitators, supplies, etc. Proposals will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Grantees are expected to complete the state assessment process and begin a performance improvement action plan. Mini grant applications for the Spring 2010 cohort must be received by **COB Monday, February 1, 2010**.

Updated Map

As of today, 20 states have completed a state public health laboratory system assessment. Minnesota, Oregon and South Dakota are the first states to-date that have committed to participate in L-SIP in Spring 2010.

L-SIP Impact Survey

An L-SIP Impact Survey will be distributed to the states that have completed an L-SIP assessment to capture post-assessment activities. APHL will use the findings from this survey to help inform states of the benefits of involvement and to make improvements in the program.

Schedule of Spring 2010 Cohort L-SIP Technical Assistance Calls

L-SIP offers technical assistance to state laboratories via multimedia trainings and conference calls. Technical assistance calls for the Spring 2010 cohort will be held from 11:30-12:30 PM EST on the following dates.

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- Thursday, January 28, 2010
- Tuesday, February 9, 2010
- Thursday, February 25, 2010
- Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Schedule of Future Quality Improvement Technical Assistance Calls
These calls will be held from 1:00-2:00 PM EST on the following dates.

- Tuesday, January 26, 2010- Topic: The Web Communicator
- Tuesday, February 23, 2010- Topic: After the L-SIP Assessment

If you are interested in participating in any of the aforementioned technical assistance calls, please contact Tina Su at bertina.su@aphl.org.

Upcoming Quality Improvement Training Call: "Quality Improvement: The Basics", March 11, 2010 from 1:00-2:00 PM EST

APHL is offering a free teleconference that will review the basics of Quality Improvement (QI) including defining a project "Charter" and highlighting its value in system improvement. A few of the basic tools used in QI will be discussed as well as the differences between QI, quality assurance and research. Participants are encouraged to bring questions, examples of how QI has been used in their laboratory system, their needs/issues and plans for using QI in the future. More details on registration to follow.

Save the Date: Quality Improvement Workshop in Cincinnati, OH - June 5, 2010. Details on content and registration coming soon.

For More Information
Please visit: www.aphl.org/lsip

Or contact:

Tina Su, MPH
Laboratory Systems and Standards Specialist
Phone: 240.485.2729
E-mail: bertina.su@aphl.org

forward TO A FRIEND —

APHL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES
8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 700 | Silver Spring, MD 20910 | Phone: 240.485.2745 | Fax: 240.485.2700
info@aphl.org | www.aphl.org

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