

## **Local Health Department (LHD) Triennial Review Evaluation: Improving performance and compliance**

**MODERATOR/DISCUSSANT:** Jill Hutson

**PANELISTS:** Kim La Croix, Eric Einspruch, Alex McFerrin

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** State and local Public Health Professionals working in or overseeing programs that are reviewed by the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division (OHA-PHD) for compliance through the triennial review process.

**ABSTRACT:** Background: OHA Public Health Division conducts a review of each local health department to assess compliance with state, federal and other contract requirements for the provision of public health services.

Approach: The Triennial Review Compliance Findings Evaluation Project reviewed compliance findings from a full three-year cycle of triennial reviews to identify common trends among findings. In addition, key informant interviews with local health department and Public Health Division program staff were conducted to identify specific barriers/challenges to achieving compliance as well as training/technical assistance needs to support greater success in meeting the compliance requirements.

Summary: Kim La Croix will describe the triennial review process, including the purpose and the evolution of the triennial review process over time. Eric Einspruch will discuss the evaluation approach, methods and analysis techniques applied. Alex McFerrin will share results of the evaluation and recommendations to support local health departments in achieving greater compliance and alignment with public health modernization.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to: explain the triennial review process; describe the evaluation approach and methods used to complete this evaluation; discuss compliance finding frequency based on comparative frameworks such as geographic region, size of county population and public health funding; identify successful strategies to promote compliance with public health program elements and alignment with public health modernization.

**PANEL ABSTRACT 1:** A comprehensive review of local county health departments is conducted every three years for most programs. These reviews assess compliance activities of local health departments, evaluate overall program effectiveness, and recommend modification to programs when requested. The results of the review, including commendations, compliance findings, and recommendations are communicated to the Board of County Commissioners (Local Public Health Authority) and the County Health Administrator.

As part of public health modernization and continuous quality improvement, OHA-PHD initiated a Triennial Review Compliance Findings evaluation project in collaboration with the Rede Group. The purpose of the evaluation was to identify trends and recommendations for supporting local health departments in achieving greater compliance and to help align program efforts with public health modernization work. Each criterion for compliance was linked to one or two of the 11 public health foundational programs and capabilities that best aligns with the criterion.

**PANEL ABSTRACT 2:** The evaluation was conducted in two phases. In phase 1, the frequency of compliance findings was quantified and the results were visualized to reveal findings that led to actionable steps for improvement. In the second phase, interviews were conducted with local and state agency staff to gain insight into approaches that could support counties in improving compliance.

**PANEL ABSTRACT 3:** The evaluation identified trends and recommendations for supporting local health departments in achieving greater compliance. Alex will share initial findings, the significance of these findings, findings that are surprising or especially noteworthy and how the findings inform the next steps in program improvement. Actionable recommendations such as resources needed to implement recommendations will also be shared. This final portion of the panel presentation will be an opportunity for engagement and discussion with the audience and presenters.

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