



## Operational Definition *defining a functional local public health agency*

*MCHCOM Webcast  
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*Grace Gorenflo  
National Association of County and City  
Health Officials*

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## Goal

To develop a shared understanding of what everyone, regardless of where they live, can reasonably expect from the governmental public health presence at the local level

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## Objectives

- Achieve agreement on an operational definition of a functional local public health agency
- Create a compelling version of the definition that effectively communicates the role of governmental public health to the general public
- Generate public support for a robust governmental public health presence at the local level

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## Why a Definition, and Why Now?

- “If you’ve seen one LPHA, you’ve seen one”
- The Need for Accountability
  - Bioterrorism funding
  - State efforts
  - National Dialogue on Accreditation

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## Funding



- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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## Stakeholder Input



- Local health officials and board of health members
- **State and federal public health agencies**
- Local and state elected officials
- Sister Associations and academics

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## Input from MCHB

- MCHB and State MCH and CSHCN Directors
- What do functions do YOU rely on governmental public health to fulfill at the *local* level?

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## Governmental Public Health Task Force

- Rick Matheny, Chair
- Harvey Wallace, NALBOH
- Cassie Lauver, MCHB and Shirley Henley, Region VI (HRSA)
- Mary Selecky (WA) and Brian Amy (MS), ASTHO
- Sylvia Pirani (ASTLHLO)
- Steve Boedigheimer and Liza Corso (CDC)



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## Draft 4 - Introduction

- Governmental entities with a consistent responsibility to the public
- Standards framed around the 10 EPHS
- Capacity and authority of LPHAs vary, but leadership in meeting standards is consistent
- Structure of LPHAs will continue to vary
- LPHA is the leader of the local public health system

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## Essential Services

- **EPHS 1: Monitor health status**
  - Data collection and analysis
- **EPHS 2: Diagnose and respond to health problems**
  - Surveillance
  - Communications
  - Public health and emergency response

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## Essential Services

- **EPHS 3: Educate the community**
  - Targeted and culturally-appropriate information
  - Work with the media
- **EPHS 4: Mobilize the community**
  - Comprehensive, strategic planning process
  - Include the local public health system
  - Develop partnerships

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## Essential Services

- **EPHS 5: Policy Development**
  - Serve as a resource to elected officials
  - Lead and join advocacy efforts
- **EPHS 6: Enforcement**
  - Work to maximize compliance with public health laws, regulations and ordinances

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## Essential Services

- **EPHS 7: Access to health care**
  - Lead or join efforts to increase access to culturally-competent, appropriate care
  - Link people to services
  - In some cases, serve as provider of last resort

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## Essential Services

- **EPHS 8: Workforce Development**
  - Recruit and retain a diverse, competent workforce
  - Increase opportunities for students to have practical experience in LPHAs
  - Enhance public health interventions provided outside the health department

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## Essential Services

- **EPHS 9: Evaluate Effectiveness and Quality of Services**
  - Community Process
  - LPHA Programs
  - Public Health Interventions provided by others
- **EPHS 10: Research**
  - Implement programs with a science base
  - Work with researchers who approach the LPHA

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Your Feedback, Please!

[www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org)  
Grace Gorenflo  
[ggorenflo@naccho.org](mailto:ggorenflo@naccho.org)  
(202) 783-5550 x222

Please help us spread the word!!

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