



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Meeker McLeod Sibley
Community Health Services

Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health Services

1805 Ford Avenue, Suite 200
Glencoe, Minnesota 55336

Direct Line (507) 766-3531
Fax Number (320) 864-1484

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: All newspapers and radio stations in Meeker, McLeod and Sibley Counties
FROM: Allie Elbert, CHS Director

Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health Services awarded National Accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board

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

Glencoe, MN — December 13th, 2017

Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health Services (MMS CHS) 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.

MMS CHS is one of fewer than 200 health departments that have thus far achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011. Another point of achievement for MMS CHS is that they are the first multi-county rural CHS to become accredited in Minnesota. 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 Allie Elbert, MMS CHS Director. "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, MMS CHS is demonstrating increased accountability and credibility to the public, funders, elected officials and partner organizations with which we work."

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.





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“Whenever you see our seal of accreditation, you will know that Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health Services has been rigorously examined and meets or exceeds national standards that promote continuous quality improvement for public health,” Elbert said. “By continuing to improve our services and performance, we can be sure we are meeting the public health needs of those we serve as effectively as possible.”

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 three health departments that work under Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health Services have solidified their relationship together to function as a unified staff. In addition, MMS CHS is viewed as a model for the state of Minnesota in establishing multi-county jurisdictions. MMS CHS has done a great job putting aside jurisdictional differences to improve the health of the community. Their relationships with community partners to leverage external resources help to further its mission into the community.

“Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health 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 Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health 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.”





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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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For more information, or to schedule an interview with Allie Elbert please call or email Allie at (507)766-3531 or via email at Allie.Elbert@co.mcleod.mn.us .

