

The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

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DPH earns first-ever national accreditation



Division of Public Health (DPH) staff is joined by Governor Jack Markell for a historic photo in front of the Jesse Cooper Building, their administration building in Dover, Delaware. Holding the banner, from left: Dr. Paul Silverman, DPH Associate Deputy Director for Health Information and Science and accreditation process leader, Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) Secretary Rita Landgraf, Governor Markell, DPH Deputy Director Crystal Webb, and DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay (holding PHAB plaque). At far right is Dave Walton, chief of the Office of Performance Management, who kept staff on course for meeting standards and measures. Photo by Donna Sharp.

Delaware's Division of Public Health (DPH) is one of 19 state health agencies to receive national accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and the only one in the mid-Atlantic region.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified accreditation as a strategy to strengthen the nation's public health infrastructure.

"DPH decided to pursue accreditation not for its own sake but to ensure we were the best we could be," said DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay. "DPH must constantly evolve and respond to the needs in the community and potential health challenges far beyond Delaware."

"The Division of Public Health's decision to seek accreditation demonstrates its commitment to continuous improvement and I congratulate the entire staff for earning this recognition after several years of hard work," said Governor Jack A. Markell.

"Most important is the positive impact it will have on the people we serve through better health outcomes for all Delawareans."

DPH began preparing four years ago by finalizing the first state health improvement plan and an organizational strategic plan, creating strategy maps for health reform and health equity, adding a performance management system, and integrating information technology infrastructure.

"Every day, there are new issues coming Public Health's way - Ebola, the Zika virus and the addiction epidemic," Department of Health and Social Services Secretary Rita Landgraf said. "I am grateful for the level of expertise you provide to our state and to every Delawarean."

DPH thanks its many public health partners for their support during its accreditation journey.