NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS
Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

ACCREDITATION WORKGROUP

June 17, 2026, 2:00-3:00

Meeting Notes

Agenda Item	Discussion
PHAB Refreshed Standards & Measures (2026) – New Resources & Updates	Meredith (PHAB) provided an overview of the upcoming 2026 refreshed standards, which will go into effect July 1. She emphasized that the updated version is not a complete overhaul but is intended to streamline requirements, reduce documentation burden, and decrease prescriptiveness. Existing major plans developed under Version 2022 will still meet the updated requirements. Meredith shared information about the upcoming PHAB webinar on June 23 (2:00–3:30 PM), where additional details and implementation guidance will be provided. She also noted that health departments will be assigned a dedicated accreditation specialist moving forward, who will provide support throughout the accreditation lifecycle (application, review, site visit, and annual reporting).
Roundtable Introductions: LHD Accreditation Status & Needs	Participants introduced themselves and provided updates on their accreditation status: • Jefferson County shared that they recently applied for initial accreditation and are preparing to schedule their site visit. • Orange County noted they are not currently pursuing accreditation, though staff use the standards and measures as a framework for public health work; a staff member also serves as a PHAB site visitor. • Albany County, Rockland County, and others reported they are in the reaccreditation process and awaiting site visit scheduling following documentation submission. • Genesee and Orleans Counties shared that they achieved accreditation in early 2025 and find the workgroup valuable for peer discussion and support. Participants also shared that the workgroup is helpful as a forum for asking questions and learning from peers at different stages of the accreditation process.

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Open Discussion / LHD Updates / Accreditation Questions	Discussion focused on accreditation logistics, documentation, and site visit preparation: • Greene County asked questions related to initial accreditation requirements, including timing of submitting workforce development and quality improvement plans and documentation authentication. Meredith clarified that all documentation can be submitted within one year of application and suggested using screenshots, meeting materials, or supporting documents to demonstrate authorship and authenticity. • PHAB clarified that under the updated process, departments will have a dedicated accreditation specialist for ongoing support and consultation. • Albany County requested guidance on preparing for virtual reaccreditation site visits. Meredith explained that reaccreditation site visits are typically shorter and more focused, often completed in one day, with emphasis on clarifying documentation and reviewing foundational capabilities. She noted that PHAB conducts a logistics call in advance and recommended having IT support available during the visit. • Additional guidance included: – Reaccreditation allows for follow-up documentation (typically within two business days) if needed. – The goal is to achieve “largely demonstrated” measures, not perfection. • Peer sharing emphasized the importance of clearly describing activities in documentation (“selling your work”) to ensure reviewers fully understand the scope of efforts. Participants noted that health departments often perform more work than is reflected in submitted materials. • NYSACHO encouraged departments to share and celebrate accreditation milestones and invited counties to include NYSACHO in local recognition events.
Next Meeting	Wednesday, July 15, 2026 from 2:00-3:00PM

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