

Master of Public Health: Defense of Thesis and Field Experience

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Field Experience Overview

- Fort Riley Department of Public Health [DPH] Rotations
 - Divisions of DPH
 - Experiences during rotations
- Public Health Accreditation Board [PHAB]
 - Accreditation process
 - Impact on DPH

DPH Overview

- Divisions of DPH include
 - Environmental Health
 - Army Wellness Center
 - Industrial Hygiene
 - Occupational Health
 - Army Hearing Program
 - Health Promotions Officers
 - Public Health Nursing
 - Veterinary Services

Environmental Health Rotations

- Conduct food service safety and sanitation inspections.
- Water Quality Surveillance:
 - Collected, transported, processed, and analyzed water samples.
- Collected, identified, and shipped mosquitos and ticks for vector surveillance.
- Hospital Waste Management:
 - Introduced to waste management codes, laws, and regulations.
 - Observed a medical and hazardous waste inspection.
- Observed a child development center sanitation inspection.

Army Wellness Center Rotations

- Observed three physical fitness (YMCA) exercise tests.
- Observed three metabolic and body composition tests.
- Observed three fitness and nutritional counseling sessions.
- Observed one stress management course.
- Observed one tobacco cessation course.

Industrial Hygiene Rotations

- Educated on the basic principles of Industrial Hygiene including:
 - Ventilation
 - noise exposure and protection
 - air contaminants
 - asbestos, lead, and other hazardous materials
- Conducted an indoor air quality and ventilation investigation.
- Calibrated, tested and used noise dosimeters for a worksite noise level assessment.
- Conducted an office ergonomics assessment and provided solutions.
- Observed two Tuberculosis mask fitting/testing.

Occupational Health Rotations

- Observed pre-employment physical exams.
 - Physical included: Hearing test, spirometry test, vision screening, immunization check, tuberculosis screening, and vital checks.
- Educated on various occupational health programs such as:
 - Medical surveillance examinations and screenings
 - blood borne pathogens
 - hearing conservation
 - vision conservation,
 - occupational health and injury prevention and mitigation
 - work related immunizations.

Army Hearing Program

- Introduced to Army hearing regulations and Fort Riley Hearing Program policies.
- Understood the key aspects of the hearing program:
 - Noise abatement
 - Audiometric monitoring
 - Hearing protectors
- Understood the procedures of Fort Riley's hearing program:
 - Hearing readiness
 - Hearing conservation
 - Clinical hearing services

Health Promotions Office Rotations

- Introduced to a multitude of initiatives to prevent/mitigate behavioral and mental health issues among soldiers at Fort Riley.

Public Health Nursing Rotations

- Conducted daycare sanitation inspections
- Introduced to disease surveillance and prevention
 - DRSi reports
- Attended one meeting with community partners to negotiate the Irwin Community Hospital's on-campus smoking policy changes.
- Observed an STD counseling session covering awareness, treatment and prevention.
- Observed a Smoking cessation counseling session.

Veterinary Services Rotations

- Food sanitation inspection at local supermarket and one in a child development center.
- Understood the role in animal preventative medicine as identification and evaluation of:
 - zoonotic diseases
 - treatment and management of disease in the animal population
 - removal and collection of ticks/fleas to analyze for vectored diseases.

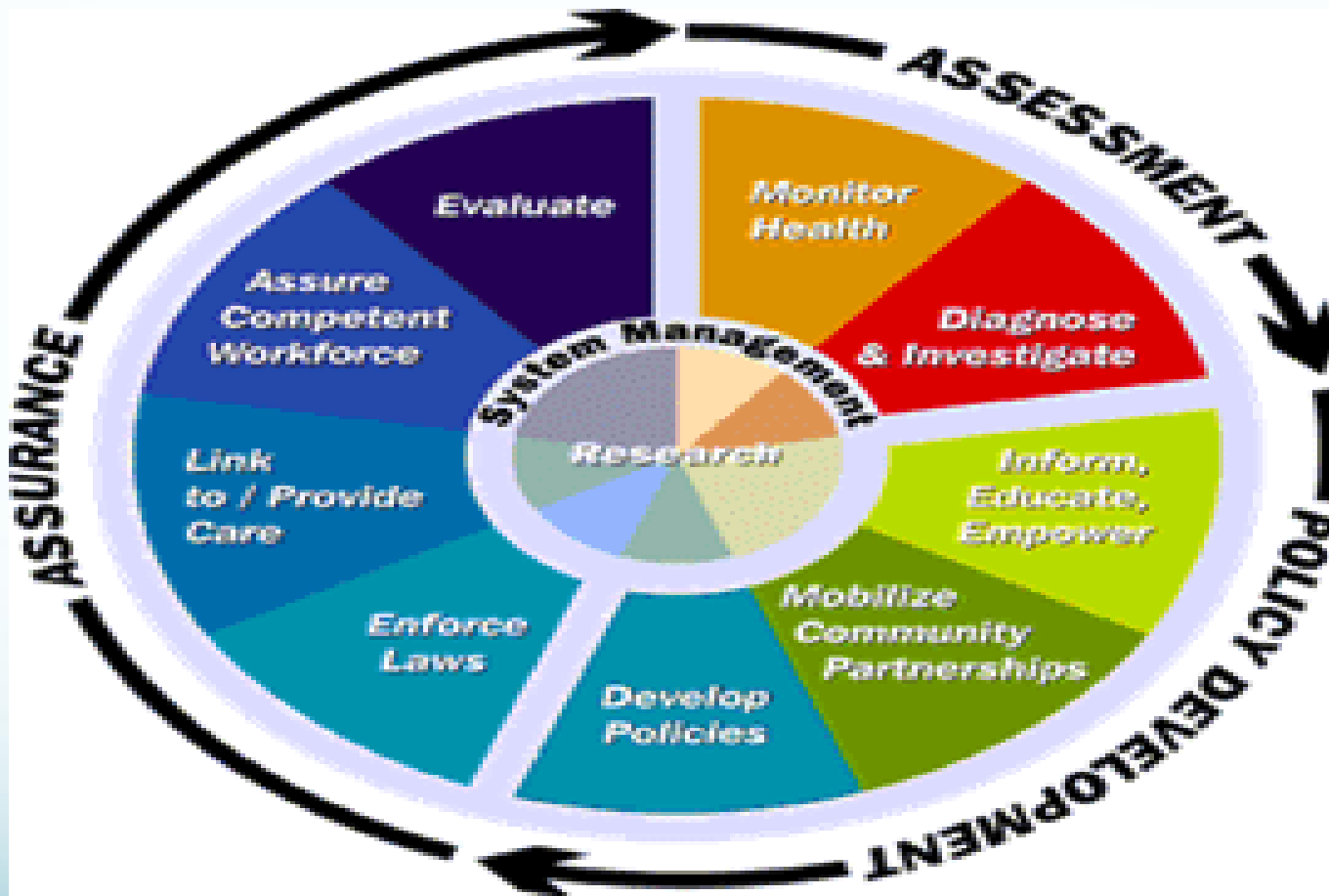
Public Health Accreditation Board Overview

- PHAB is accreditation board that ensures the accountability and quality of public health departments through accreditation.
 - 121 million USA citizens are living in an area covered by an accredited department
- Accreditation serves as an affirmation that a health department is practicing effective methods to improve the health of their community and is able to maintain these methods over time.

PHAB Accreditation Process

- 1) Pre-application
- 2) Application
- 3) Documentation, selection, and submission
- 4) Site Visit
- 5) Accreditation Decision
- 6) Reports
- 7) Reaccreditation

Step 3 – Documentation, Selection, and Submission



PHAB's Impact on DPH

- Through a Community Health Assessment DPH learned:
 - A large portion of people would like to have access to a farmer's market on post
 - Military spouses largest concerns often revolve around daily stress.
- Improved intradepartmental communication
- Greater attention to the 10 essential public health services

Limitations of DPH

- Higher command has to approve all initiatives that affect military troops.
 - Even if an initiative is well researched and is likely to be effective, higher command can prevent it.
 - Ex. Reduction of mental health issues (e.g. depression, anxiety, and suicide) through increased autonomy
 - However, autonomy promoting is highly regulated

Field Experience Relevance

- Exposed to a wide range of public health initiatives
- First hand experience in applying the 3 core functions of public health (Assessment, Policy Development, Assurance)
- Experience applying the 10 essential public health services and other theoretical constructs (Transtheoretical Model, Motivational interviewing) to an ecological system.