Orientation to the Essential Public Health Services
A little history...

- Three core functions (1988 IOM Report)
  - Assessment
  - Policy Development
  - Assurance
- Core Functions Steering Committee (1994)
  - *Public Health in America* statement
Essential Public Health Services

- Developed by the Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee (1994)
  - Included reps from national organizations and federal agencies
  - Charge: To provide a description and definition of public health
  - Developed the “Public Health in America” statement
Public Health

- Prevents epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protects against environmental hazards
- Prevents injuries
- Promotes and encourages healthy behaviors
- Responds to disasters and assists communities in recovery
- Assures the quality and accessibility of health services
The Essential Services as a Framework

- Used as a foundation for the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) instruments
- Provides a foundation for any public health activity
- Describes public health at both the state and local levels
- NPHPSP Instruments include sections addressing each ES
NPHPSP

Assessment Instruments
- State public health system
- Local public health system
- Local governance

Partners
- CDC
- APHA
- ASTHO
- NACCHO
- NALBOH
- NNPHI
- PHF
Essential Services of Public Health

- Monitor health status
- Diagnose and investigate
- Inform, educate, and empower
- Mobilize community partnerships
- Develop policies and plans
- Enforce laws and regulations
- Link people to needed services / assure care
- Assure a competent workforce
- Evaluate health services
- Research
Monitor Health to Identify and Solve Community Health Problems

1. “What’s going on in our state/community? Do we know how healthy we are?”

- Accurate, periodic assessment of the community’s health status, including:
  - Identification of health risks
  - Attention to vital statistics and disparities
  - Identifications of assets and resources
- Utilization of methods and technology (e.g., GIS) to interpret and communicate data
- Population health registries
Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Hazards in the Community

2. “Are we ready to respond to health problems or threats? How quickly do we find out about problems? How effective is our response?”

- Timely identification and investigation of health threats
- Availability of diagnostic services, including laboratory capacity
- Response plans to address major health threats
Inform, Educate, and Empower People About Health Issues

3. “How well do we keep all people and segments of our State informed about health issues?”

- Initiatives using health education and communication sciences to:
  - Build knowledge and shape attitudes
  - Inform decision-making choice
  - Develop skills and behaviors for healthy living
- Health education and health promotion partnerships within the community to support healthy living
- Media advocacy and social marketing
Mobilize Community Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems

4. “How well do we really get people and organizations engaged in health issues?”

- Constituency development and identification of system partners and stakeholders
- Coalition development
- Formal and informal partnerships to promote health improvement
Develop Policies and Plans That Support Individual and Community Health Efforts

5. “What policies promote health in our State? How effective are we in planning and in setting health policies?”

- Policy development to protect health and guide public health practice
- Community and state planning
- Alignment of resources to assure successful planning
Enforce Laws and Regulations That Protect Health and Ensure Safety

6. “When we enforce health regulations are we up-to-date, technically competent, fair and effective?”

- Review, evaluation, and revision of legal authority, laws, and regulations
- Education about laws and regulations
- Advocating of regulations needed to protect and promote health
- Support of compliance efforts and enforcement as needed
Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Health Care when Otherwise Unavailable

7. “Are people receiving the medical care they need?”

- Identifying populations with barriers to care
- Effective entry into a coordinated system of clinical care
- Ongoing care management
- Culturally appropriate and targeted health information for at risk population groups
- Transportation and other enabling services
8. “Do we have a competent public health staff? How can we be sure that our staff stays current?”

- Assessment of the public health and personal health workforce
- Maintaining public health workforce standards
  - Efficient processes for licensing / credentialing requirements
  - Use of public health competencies
- Quality improvement and life-long learning
  - Leadership development
  - Cultural competence
Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Personal and Population-based Health Services

9. “Are we doing any good? Are we doing things right? Are we doing the right things?”

- Evaluation answers
  - Are we doing things right?
  - Are we doing the right things?
- Evaluation must be ongoing and should examine:
  - Personal health services
  - Population based services
  - The public health system
- Evaluation should drive resource allocation and program improvement
Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems

10. “Are we discovering and using new ways to get the job done?”

- Identification and monitoring of innovative solutions and cutting-edge research to advance public health
- Linkages between public health practice and academic / research settings
- Epidemiological studies, health policy analyses and health systems research.