

08-07

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Certification in Public Health and Maintenance of Certification

Policy

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recognizes that the National Board of Public Health Examiners has developed a professional certification examination focused on measuring public health academic competencies. Furthermore, NACCHO recognizes that the Certification in Public Health (CPH) offered by NBPHE is not a pre-requisite for working in a governmental local public health agency and that the CPH credential is related to individuals who are a subset of the public health workforce. NACCHO recognizes that the NBPHE is developing a Maintenance of Certification process for individuals with the CPH credential. NACCHO agrees to participate in the Maintenance of Certification administered by NBPHE and recommends its participation involve the designation and provision of continuing education activities and credits.

NACCHO urges the development of practice-based competencies in public health.

Justification

The National Board of Public Health Examiners has developed, prepared, administered, and evaluated certification examinations for graduates from Council on Education for Public Health – accredited schools and programs of public health. NACCHO has representation on the NBPHE.

NACCHO is committed to the continuing education and professional development of its members. For example, NACCHO offers continuing education activities and credits to its physician and nurse members at its annual meeting and other trainings. NACCHO is committed to extending these benefits to members who possess the CPH credential.

NACCHO works to include practice-based content and knowledge in all academic public health preparatory programs.

NACCHO has helped to define the capacities communities can reasonably expect of their local governmental public health departments through the Operational Definition of a Functional Local Health Department and it is necessary to ensure that the public health workforce is competent to provide these capacities.

Finally, NACCHO continues to foster the development of a competent, productive workforce for local health departments.

Record of Action

*Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors
March 2009*

