

CO Mentorship Participants

Alamosa County Public Health Department (CO)

Background

State: Colorado

LHD Population Size Served: 46,439

Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 98

Retail Program Standards Met/Working On: Self-Assessment

Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2014

NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 4

The mission of the Alamosa County Public Health Department is to prevent and control of disease and promote the physical and mental health of individuals, families and the community. Retail food establishment inspections and environmental health are new to the Alamosa County Public Health Department, a service formerly provided by the state. The program serves a rural, economically depressed region where many basic environmental health services have historically not been provided. The program currently has a staff of one inspector, who serves a jurisdiction of 15,000 residents and is responsible for 98 retail food establishments. However, the retail food program being developed in Alamosa County is only the beginning of a larger, multi-year project to expand this service to five other counties in southern Colorado, as the state ceases its own RFE inspection program here. In early 2015, the department will be responsible for inspecting more than 300 RFEs in a region with 46,439 residents. At that point the program will add a second full-time inspector. Very soon we will hire and train a part-time administrative clerk. Retail establishments regulated include restaurants, school cafeterias, gas stations selling food or ice, delicatessens, grocery stores and mobile food units. The program operates on delegated authority from the state, though the inspectors will work in conjunction with six local boards of health.

Role in Mentorship Program

Alamosa participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in fourth cohort. They were mentored by Vineland Health Department (NJ).

Lessons Learned/Tips

We have learned that we can all be mentors as well as mentees in the program standards. We are now mentoring another local public health department on the standards, how they can be met and how they can get funding to do this work with the standards.

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San Juan Basin Health Department (CO)

Background

State: Colorado

LHD Population Size Served: -

Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 525

Retail Program Standards Met/Currently Working On: 2, 3, 7, Self-Assessment

Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2003

As found on our Web-site, <http://www.sjbhd.org>, "San Juan Basin Health Department ("SJBHD") is an organized district health department that has served the residents of La Plata and Archuleta counties since 1948. It is governed by a local Board of Health whose seven members are appointed by the County Commissioners of the two counties.

SJBHD's mission is "To protect human and environmental health and Inspire well-being in our community." Additionally, "services include personal health (women's and child health, communicable disease, immunizations, home health, HIV testing, emergency preparedness, child dental health), environmental health (water, septic, food and air quality) and community health promotion programs (tobacco and substance abuse prevention, cardiovascular screenings, health promotion to the Latino community and injury prevention). The agency has a long history of successfully administering federal, state, local and private grants. Its current annual budget is about \$6.8 million. For over 60 years, San Juan Basin Health has had the opportunity to improve the health and environment of the Southwest Colorado community."

Our jurisdiction covers not only La Plata and Archuleta Counties but also San Juan County, where the popular tourist town of Silverton, CO, is located. Throughout these three counties, SJBHD is responsible as the delegated regulatory authorities for the safety, oversight, and compliance of about 525 licensed retail food establishments (RFEs).

Overview of Mentorship Program Participation

SJBHD participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in the second cohort (2012-2013). The SJBHD Department was mentored by Tulsa County-City Health Department (OK).

Mentorship Program Lessons Learned/Tips

From the NACCHO Mentorship Program, we have witnessed how other agencies, especially those also seeking mentorship, have been able to work with their resources to make progress on and/or meet the Standards they had selected. The funding we received ensured that we carved out the time to put toward the requirements for training and pre-standardization under Standard 2. It was also really helpful to meet with Tulsa's other mentor agency (St. Francois, MO) and to learn with and from them during our mutual on-site visit with Tulsa.

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Summit County Environmental Health (CO)

Background

State: Colorado

LHD Population Size Served: 27,994

Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 386

Retail Program Standards Met/Currently Working On: 2, 7, Self-Assessment, Verification Audit

Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2010

Summit County is located in the heart of the Colorado Rockies about one hour west of Denver. The county seat is Breckenridge, CO, which has an elevation of 9,600 feet. As of the 2010 census, 27,994 permanent residents live in the county. This permanent resident distinction is important because Summit County's primary industry is recreation based with four world class ski areas. It is also a popular summer destination as folks seek relief from the heat at lower elevations. During busy periods, the population can surge to 150,000. Therefore, the infrastructure must be able to meet this demand. The Environmental Health Department is a part of the Public Health Department. Although they work in different facilities, they share a common mission of "...providing a variety of services for a safe and healthy environment, while strengthening our mountain community so that everyone thrives."

Overview of Mentorship Program Participation

Summit County Environmental Health participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in the second cohort (2012-2013). Summit County Environmental Health was mentored by Fairfax County Health Department (VA).

Mentorship Program Lessons Learned/Tips

The mock audit at the in person meeting was very valuable, especially having people who had gone through the process, as well as FDA representatives, who could directly answer all the questions that came up. We felt confident going into the actual audit. In fact, most of the questions that came up during the audit (conducted by another LHD and observed by a State of Colorado representative) I was able to reference materials and knowledge obtained during the mentorship process and answer the questions.

Meeting Standard 2 will benefit our county by ensuring that all staff members have received a high level of training as outlined by FDA. All regulated facilities will be inspected by qualified inspectors and will be getting more uniform inspections.

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