ID Mentorship Participants

South Central Public Health District (ID)

Background

State: Idaho

LHD Population Size Served: ~100,000

Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 1139

Retail Program Standards Met/Currently Working On: 1, 4, 7, 9, Self-Assessment, Verification Audit

Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2003

South Central Public Health District’s mission is to prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, and protect the health of the residents in our eight-county area. The District provides the basic health services of community health, communicable disease and prevention, environmental health, public health preparedness, and public health administration. The Environmental Health (EH) Division is responsible for regulating and enforcing Idaho Food Code at the licensed food establishments and ensuring food safety for over 100,000 residents in the District.

Overview of Mentorship Program Participation

South Central Public Health District participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in the first cohort (2012). South Central Public Health District was mentored by Wake County Environmental Health Services (NC).

Mentorship Program Lessons Learned/Tips

My experience in the program confirmed my perception that mentorship program not only helps accelerate the mentee-LHD’s the progress towards meeting a standard but also provides the mentee-LHD some valuable insights on how to sustain a standard once it has been met.

The mentors and mentees in the mentorship program are a group of highly motivated Environmental Health professionals. They are the champions of the Retail Program Standards; they spearhead the efforts in meeting Retail Program Standards at the local level. In order to sustain these efforts, it is critically important to not only continue to support the existing champions but also find ways to develop new champions at the local level.

The mentorship program is very fast pace, so it is extremely important to have a person in charge who is experienced in project management. The planning and the implementation of the project are the critical steps towards successfully completing the project. The organizational skill of the project manager is also very important because there are multiple teleconference calls to participate, different meetings to attend, and several deadlines to meet. It is also beneficial to have the support from Clerical, Public Relations, and IT in case the project requires training, media interaction, and/or website technical support. The support from the Finance department is important as well because the tasks involved in managing the NACCHO contract and purchasing of supplies for the project.

Project Contact

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**Link:**

http://www.phd5.idaho.gov/Environment/index.htm#Food