IL Mentorship Participants

Cumberland County Health Department (IL)

Background

State: Illinois
LHD Population Size Served: 11,048
Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 52
Retail Program Standards Met/Currently Working On: 1, 2, 5, 9 Improvement Plan, Verification Audit
Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2011

The Mission Statement of the Cumberland County Health Department is: To assist Cumberland County residents of all ages to develop and maintain healthy living habits through programs based on each individual’s assessed need.

Overview of Mentorship Program Participation

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

Mentorship Program Lessons Learned/Tips

As a new person in the field of Public Health, I have found that working with another “seasoned” department on the FDA Retail Program Standards has been a very eye opening experience. I found that working with my mentors, Cumberland County, Illinois has a lot of work to be done. The Cumberland County and the State of Illinois Food Codes are not detailed enough to meet compliance with a lot of the FDA Retail Program Standards.

The simplicity of the codes are of a concern to me also. For an establishment owner there are too many “grey” areas within the codes. When information is left open for interpretation, errors can be made. Those errors have the potential to harm the people of Cumberland County. I have a lot of work ahead of me to get Cumberland County up to the standards that the FDA has set.

In working with my mentor, a lot of information was shared on what they did to accomplish the tasks and meet compliance with the FDA Retail Standards. In meeting with my mentor, I feel that I have someone to contact personally now with questions and issues that may arise for me during this journey. I cannot thank Fairfax, VA Health Department enough for the time they took away from their busy schedules for this program. To help me, as a representative of Cumberland County, Illinois to move ahead and make this county safer for those that call it home.
Project Contact

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Link:

http://cumberlandhealth.org/شد/index.php/environmental/food-protection
Jersey County Health Department (IL)

Background

State: Illinois
LHD Population Size Served: 21,941
Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 140
Retail Program Standards Met/Currently Working On: Standards 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8,
Just completed Standard 4 which just got sent off for Verification Audit
Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2011
NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 6 and 8

The mission at Jersey County Health Department (JCHD) is committed to enhancing the quality of life for Jersey County residents by reducing morbidity and mortality through the prevention and/or control of disease, provision of public and professional education, and coordination and/or provision of care.

The JCHD, Division of Environmental Health is responsible for the food safety regulatory oversight of food service establishments within Jersey County, including restaurants, schools, bars, hospitals, nursing homes, daycares, and temporary vendors. We provide protection of the health of the consumer by assuring the food and food products, food service establishments and retail food stores are protected against contamination by infectious disease agents or adulteration of toxic material. We follow the 2017 FDA Food Code. We inspect each retail food establishment at a frequency as required by the establishment’s risk classification. There is currently 1 full-time employee in our retail food regulatory program.

Overview of Mentorship Program Participation

- In cohort 6, Jersey Health Department participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee. Calhoun County Health Department (IL) mentored Jersey on Standards 1 and 6.
- In cohort 8, Jersey Health Department participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentor. Jersey mentored Madison County Health Department, IL on Standards 1, 3, and 6.

Mentorship Program Lessons Learned/Tips

The final findings and lessons learned were that if you have not adopted the FDA Food Code or do not have an ordinance that reflects the FDA Food Code, you will have a hard time completing Standard one. We were able to develop a Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Ordinance. It was beneficial having a mentor that was in the same state because they also followed the same state laws. I learned that developing these policies is a process and there are a lot of steps to achieve to be able to use these. Especially, meeting with the County Boards and getting it approved by the officials.

Other tips include the following:
• Use your resources! Reach out to other jurisdictions and ask to see their current policies and regulations.
• Focus on one criteria at a time.

**Project Contact**

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Madison County Health Department, IL

**Background**

State: Illinois  
**HD Population Size Served:** 265,428  
**Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected:** 1386  
**Retail Program Standards Met by Verification Audit/Working On:** 4  
**Year Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards:** 2017  
**NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s):** 8  
**Version of Food Code:** 2017  
**Pursuing Accreditation (Y/N)?** If Y, have you achieved accreditation? No

**Mission and Brief Background:**

Our mission is to promote, protect, and assure conditions for optimal health through leadership, partnership, prevention and response. The Madison County Health Department is the entity certified by the Illinois Department of Public Health to undertake the planning and implementation of a community health program designed to address the priority community health needs of Madison County residents. The Department provides a core of services in the areas of potable water supplies, food protection, infectious disease control and community health education. Other programs are instituted as local needs are identified and resources to support addressing those needs are found.

**Role in Mentorship Program**
- Mentee or Mentor? Mentee  
- Who were you paired with? Jersey County Health Department

**Accomplishments in the Mentorship Program**

**Lessons Learned/Tips**
- Buy-in from the staff through participation and updates.  
- Set aside time to work on it and stick to that time, don’t give yourself permission to cancel that time set aside.

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**Link to food safety program website:** [www.madisonchd.org](http://www.madisonchd.org)
**Ogle County Health Department**

**Background**

**State:** IL  
**HD Population Size Served:** 53,000  
**Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected:** 350  
**Retail Program Standards Met/Working On:** Meet 5 working on Verification Audit/Working on Standards 2 & 7  
**Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards:** 2015  
**NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s):** 5

The mission of the Ogle County Health Department is to prevent disease, injury and disability by promoting healthy behaviors and preserving the natural environment through health education, environmental protection and public health nursing, nutritional and supportive services. Our challenge the past year has been to fulfill that mission in view of a lack of a state budget for the fiscal year. It has been a challenge to keep our services intact while losing 1/3 of our staff. Our team has pulled together and done phenomenally well.

Ogle County has one Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner and one sanitarian in training very part-time. We inspect nearly 350 restaurants and a large number of temporary permit holders throughout the summer festival season. Our health department derives regulatory authority from Illinois Chapter 77 of the Public Health Code.

**Role in Mentorship Program**

Ogle County participated as mentee in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards cohort five and was mentored by Southern Nevada Health District.

**Lessons Learned/Tips**

Ogle County meets Standard 5 and has been working on meeting additional goals in Standards 2 and 7. For us the challenge has been a lack of a state budget that led to our 2 experienced sanitarians retiring. This actually has become a bit of a blessing in that we are able to start fresh with a new hire. Our biggest tip/lesson learned is to put your practices into written policy.

**Contact**

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