

Michigan Mentorship Participants

Health Department of Northwest Michigan (MI)

Background

State: Michigan

LHD Population Size Served: 120,000 residents, 250,000 during summer

Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected (FY 2015): 736 licensed food facilities

Retail Program Standards Working On: 5, 6 7, and Self-Assessment.

Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2016

NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 6

The mission of Health Department of Northwest Michigan (HDNW) is to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality health care, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors in our communities.

Being a health district, the department covers four separate counties in Northern Michigan. These include Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. They are a travel destination for summer tourist and because of this, the population more than doubles during the summer months.

HDNW has four full time sanitarians and a half time sanitarian that cover this district. They report to a supervisor, who reports to the Environmental Health Director and finally the Health Officer. One sanitarian teaches Certified Food Manager classes. Each full time sanitarian is responsible for plan review for new and remodeled facilities in their respective county. In addition, our sanitarians and supervisor conduct foodborne illness complaint and outbreak investigation in coordination with our communicable diseases division and the State of Michigan. HDNW has an extensive training program for newly hired staff. This program utilizes staff trainer who has completed a standardized trainer program through the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). Together, we inspect institutional facilities such as public and private K-12 schools and colleges, hospitals, county jail, assisted living and senior living facilities, seasonal concession stands and seasonal clubs. In addition, we inspect mobile food trucks, temporary food events, fixed food establishments, and special transitory food units.

HDNW derives our authority under the Michigan Food Law of 2000 (Act 92, P.A. 2000 as amended), effective October 1st, 2012. The Michigan Food Law adopted an amended version of the 2009 FDA Food Code. In addition, HDNW operates under 4 additional County Sanitation Codes, depending on location.

Role in Mentorship Program

HDNW participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in the sixth cohort and was mentored by Oakland County, MI on conducting a self-assessment, 5, 6, and 7.

Lessons Learned/Tips

Mentorship programs are essential to implementing any type of new standards, regardless of the program. Having someone to reach out to and have that working relationship is what made this successful. We are not reinventing the wheel. This also strengthened our relationships with other local health departments who are now interested in implementing other standards to strengthen their own program.

Contact

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Oakland County Health Division (MI)

Background

State: Michigan

LHD Population Size Served: 1.26 Million

Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected (FY 2015): 4,500

Retail Program Standards Working On: Met Standard 1 & 7; Working on Standards 2-6, 9

Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2015

NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 5, 6, 7, 9

Version of Food Code: 2009 (working to adopt 2017)

Mission statement: To protect the community through health promotion, disease prevention and protection of the environment.

Vision: Your recognized leader in public health.

Oakland County Health Division's (OCHD) food inspection program consists of thirty-three (33) inspectors, six (6) supervisory staff and one (1) program chief. 55% of our program staff are either a Registered Sanitarian, Registered Environmental Health Specialist or have obtained an MPH credential. OCHD has three (3) plan review specialists who complete plan review and approval for new and remodeled food services. OCHD has an extensive training program for individuals who are new to the food program. We utilize staff trainers who have completed a standardized trainer program through the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The OCHD Environmental Health Services Unit maintains a student internship program that allows six (6) students from both national and regional colleges to apply for a paid student internship program. A high percentage of interns are hired as food trainee sanitarians upon graduation.

Role in Mentorship Program

Oakland County participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in the fifth cohort and was mentored by Fairfax County Health Department (VA).

In the sixth cohort, Oakland mentored Northwest, MI and Lee County Health Department, NC on conducting a self-assessment and Standards 2, 5, 6, and 7.

In the seventh cohort, Oakland mentored Union County, OH and Chelsea, MA on self-assessments and Standards 1, 5, and 7.

In the ninth cohort, Oakland mentored Portage County Health District, OH on Standards 2-6 and 9.

Lessons Learned/Tips

- Learn to adapt in a constantly changing system
- Adopt alternatives to face-to-face meetings
- Include discussion of real-time events regarding COVID-19 pandemic
- Schedule all meetings early in the process to ensure meetings occur consistently
- Ask mentees for recently developed policies/documents to review and offer guidance

Contact

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Link to food safety program website: <https://www.oakgov.com/health/services/environmental-health/Pages/food-safety.aspx>

Ottawa County Department of Public Health (MI)

Background

State: Michigan

LHD Population Size Served: 263,000

Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected (FY 2015): 1212 food licenses issued annually, including:

700 total licensed facilities (699 fixed, 1 mobile), 168 vending machines, 34 STFU inspections, 300 temporary licenses issued

Retail Program Standards Working On: 1, 2, 4, and Self-Assessment.

Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2015

NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 5

Mission Statement: Ottawa County Department of Public Health will assure conditions in which all people can achieve optimum health.

Retail Food Regulatory Program: In Michigan, food service establishments are inspected by environmental health specialists (sanitarians) at local health departments to audit for compliance with the regulations. The goal of these inspections is to reduce the occurrence of violations (risk factors) and many tools are available to help accomplish this task. Compliance with the regulations on a day-to-day basis requires operators that not only understand the regulations, but also implement interventions to ensure the application of the rules is continually occurring.

Current Number of Staff: 5.4 FTE employees for routine inspections, ~0.5 FTE for temporary inspections, and 1 Food Supervisor

Types of Retail Establishments Regulated: Licensed food service establishments including restaurants, schools, breweries and other establishments whose sales of onsite food is greater than or equal to 50% of total sales.

Version of the FDA Food Code Adopted: 2009 Food Code

Regulatory Authority: Regulatory authority is granted via the Michigan Food Law Act 92 of 2000

Role in Mentorship Program

Ottawa County participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in the fifth cohort and was mentored by Lake County General Health District (OH).

Lessons Learned/Tips

Our biggest lesson learned is to stay focused on completing a full self-evaluation of all the standards first. Don't get sidetracked with trying to fix things or make changes during this time

period. It is best to get a full picture of your food program and also helps with staff familiarity of the standards.

Contact

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