Wauwatosa Health Department
7725 W. North Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213
414-479-8936
14 staff
Approximately 46,000
Database development

1. Getting Started
Oriented staff to Health Improvement Committee (HIC) process
Assemble HIC and subcommittees
Develop logic models
Identified ongoing data collection system as problem

2. Assemble the Team
Health Officer
HIC committee
QI consultant
Database consultant

3. Examine the Current Approach
Current Excel spreadsheets are limited with data analysis

4. Identify Potential Solutions
Contracting out for data analysis (too expensive), developing an Access database internally for the data (too unstable for the type of data needed), or contracting with an IT specialist for a database with a more robust platform.

5. Develop an Improvement Theory
Contracting with an IT specialist for a robust database platform will provide 1). a functional database and 2). the ability to generate reports to standardize the coding system.

6. Test the Theory
Contracted with GBL Solutions, Inc. to develop the database. Many obstacles were encountered during this development phase, including delays due to sentinel events (outbreak, floods) and personnel changes. There were also many glitches encountered during beta testing of the data entry.

7. Check the Results
WHD did not complete the ‘big PDCA’ of database development to begin generating reports. However, WHD did test the database’s functionality many times as part of the ‘small PDCAs’. As a result, several glitches and areas for improvement were noted and worked on to make the database functional.

8. Standardize the Improvement or Develop New Theory
Due to the many delays, the ‘big PDCA’ of the database development will continue, but with the timeline extended.

9. Establish Future Plans
WHD is still meeting with the IT consultant to get the database to be functional. The plan is for modules 1 through 3 to ‘go live’ near the end of January 2009. In addition, development continues on modules 4 and on identifying components needed for generating usable reports.