

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Eau Claire City-County Health Department Awarded National Accreditation

**Eau Claire, WI – February 28, 2018-** Eau Claire City-County Health Department (ECCCHD) is announcing today that we have achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The national accreditation program works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of the nation's state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments. ECCCHD is one of fewer than 200 health departments that have achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011. However, hundreds of health departments across the country are preparing to seek accreditation through PHAB.



“We are pleased and excited to be recognized for achieving national standards that foster effectiveness and promote continuous quality improvement,” said Lieske Giese, Health Officer/Director. “The accreditation process helps to ensure that the programs and services we provide are as responsive to the needs of our community. With accreditation, ECCCHD is demonstrating increased accountability and credibility to the public, funders, elected officials and partner organizations with which we work.”

The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's nearly 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

“The Eau Claire City-County Health Department joins the growing ranks of accredited health departments in a strong commitment to their public health mission,” said PHAB President and CEO Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN. “The peer-review process provides valuable feedback to inform health departments of their strengths and areas for improvement, so that they can better protect and promote the health of the people they serve in their communities. Residents

of a community served by a nationally accredited health department can be assured that their health department has demonstrated the capacity to protect and promote the health of that community.”

Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health of people and communities. In cities, towns, and states across the nation, health departments provide a range of services aimed at promoting healthy behaviors; preventing diseases and injuries; ensuring access to safe food, water, clean air, and life-saving immunizations; and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies. To learn more about the Eau Claire City-County Health Department go to [www.ehealthdepartment.org](http://www.ehealthdepartment.org).

“We are excited and proud to become one of the many strong, local, tribal, and state health departments across Wisconsin and the nation who are nationally accredited. It is a journey that was made possible by the commitment of staff, our Board of Health, many colleagues, and a whole variety of community partners. We would not be here without them. The work done to be nationally accredited is difficult, but worth it. We are a stronger department and are confident that we are engaged in work that is making a difference in Eau Claire,” Giese said.

*About the Public Health Accreditation Board*

*The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), established in 2007, was created to serve as the national public health accrediting body, and is jointly funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The development of national public health accreditation has involved, and is supported by, public health leaders and practitioners from the national, Tribal, state, and local levels. Learn more about PHAB or sign up for the PHAB e-newsletter by visiting [www.phaboard.org](http://www.phaboard.org).*

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