**[HEALTH DEPARTMENT LOGO]**

**[DEPARTMENT NAME]**

**Governing Entity Accreditation Pursuit Informational**

WHAT: The (Department Name) is currently pursuing national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). PHAB is currently the only nationally accrediting body for health departments. National public health accreditation consists of demonstrating conformity to a set of best practice standards that align with the 10 Essential Public Health Services; a process to measure health department performance against those standards; and recognition for those departments that meet the standards. PHAB is backed by the Center for Disease Control, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and several national academic stakeholders in the public health system.

WHY: Public health department accreditation aims to improve the quality of practice and performance. A national accreditation system has been developed because of the desire to continuously improve the quality of service and accountability of health departments to their stakeholders.

* Currently only [#] state health departments have earned this status (ex: Illinois; New York; Florida; Minnesota; Oklahoma; Washington; Vermont; California).
* 6 local health departments in Illinois have earned this status (ex: Chicago; Champaign-Urbana; Cook county; DuPage; Kane; St. Clair)

HOW: During the site visit, reviewers will confirm their findings based upon our documentation submitted in the (Date) by meeting with content experts in the health department for one on one “interview” sessions. The site visit team will also meet with (Department Name) community partners, representatives from the governing entity, and representatives from the state board of health.

WHO: The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of Tribal, state, local, and territorial public health departments.

* The site visit team consists of chair and 2-3 reviewers trained by PHAB All members have experience in public health management and will be from health departments similar to IDPH. Their role is to meet with IDPH and generate the site visit report. The site visit report will be presented to the PHAB Accreditation Committee and will be the basis for (Department Name) accreditation recommendation. The report will be finalized within two weeks of the last day of the site visit.

WHEN: The (Department Name) submitted the application to PHAB in [Date] and submitted documentations to demonstrate conformity to national standards in (Date).

* (Department Name) is scheduled for a site visit by PHAB on (Date). This visit will occur at (Location) headquarters.

GOVERNING ENTITY & STATE BOARD OF HEALTH’S ROLE IN THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS:

A component of PHAB’s site visit includes a 1 hour session between the PHAB reviewers and representation from our governing entity and Board of Health to learn 1) how the (Department Name) engages with the entities and 2) to confirm their support for the health department to becoming accredited.

For more information on PHAB please visit <http://www.phaboard.org/>

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