Connecticut Convenes an L-SIP Assessment

On December 10, 2013, Connecticut became the 30th state to complete a state public health laboratory system assessment through APHL’s Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP). In spite of a snow storm, approximately 55 participants from different parts of the laboratory system attended. Based on the meeting evaluations, the attendees expressed that the experience was valuable and that they were glad they attended. To read more about the experience, please refer to the upcoming Winter 2014 issue of APHL’s Lab Matters.

In the Queue

Congratulations to the Orange County Public Health Laboratory for committing to a March 2014 local L-SIP assessment! The new local L-SIP assessment tool will be piloted at this event.

Updated L-SIP Map

The colored city and states in the map represent the 30 states and one local public health laboratory system that have convened an L-SIP assessment, as well as one state that completed an L-SIP reassessment. If your laboratory has not completed an assessment, and you are interested in learning more about L-SIP and how to get your laboratory system partners connected through convening an L-SIP assessment, join your colleagues for the spring 2014 technical assistance calls. States that conducted an assessment in 2007 and 2008 are strongly encouraged to join New Hampshire and conduct a reassessment to document the impact of previous changes and to assess where gaps still might be in the laboratory system since the first assessment. Funding is available to help offset the expenses.

For More Information

Please visit the L-SIP site on APHL.org.

Contact

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Quality Improvement Forum Update
The Quality Improvement Forum (QIF) has met via teleconference bimonthly since the August 2011 in-person meeting. Each call consists of a structured training or learning component and "open mic" time for sharing of quality improvement activities or obtaining of information from your peers. The learning component of the calls has been focused on the sharing of quality improvement activities in state systems, including post-L-SIP assessment activities.

In September 2013, Dr. Robert Rej, director of Clinical Chemistry and Hematology at the Wadsworth Center for Laboratories and Research of the New York State Department of Health, presented the major features of the third edition (15189:2012) and highlight areas where it differs substantially from earlier editions. His presentation was entitled "What's New With ISO:15189 (2012)," which may be accessed from the APHL Member Resource Center (MRC) by using the search keywords "Robert Rej."

In November 2013, Charlene Thomas, the laboratory manager in the Alabama public health laboratory’s Quality Management Division, discussed how to invoke change after a risk assessment and how to compile information, measure findings and communicate results/changes to staff with training and rewritten SOPs. Her presentation was entitled “Making the Change After the Risk Assessment.” This presentation and related slides may be accessed from the MRC by using the search keywords “Charlene Thomas.”

If you would like to share with others a presentation on a quality improvement activity occurring in your laboratory or would like to join the group either as a participant on the calls and/or to be part of one of the workgroups, contact Tina Su at bertina.su@aphl.org to be added to the distribution list.
Save the Date: Quality Improvement Forum Call on Milwaukee’s Post-L-SIP Assessment Quality Improvement Activities

The Quality Improvement Forum Call on the City of Milwaukee’s Post-Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP) Assessment Quality Improvement Activities will be held on Tuesday, January 28 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm (EST). Steve Gradus and Sanjib Bhattacharyya, from the City of Milwaukee Laboratory, will present on new research and workforce committee activities and internal quality improvement initiatives that were a result of their 2010 L-SIP assessment. To join the call, use bridge number 877.485.1403 and passcode 3709718. To add your email address to the call distribution list and receive announcements for future calls, contact Tina Su at bertina.su@aphl.org.

L-SIP Recruitment

Recruitment for state or local laboratories interested in hosting an L-SIP assessment in Spring 2014 has begun. Public health laboratories that conducted an assessment in 2007 and 2008 are strongly encouraged to conduct a reassessment to assess the impact of previous changes and to document where gaps still might be in the laboratory system since the first assessment.

These calls offer APHL members planning an L-SIP assessment a chance to learn more about the assessment and the logistics of planning for one. They are also an opportunity for the assessment coordinators, facilitators and theme takers to ask any questions they have about their roles and responsibilities.

Technical assistance calls for spring 2014 will be held on the following dates/times.

**Thursday, February 20, 1:00 pm ET**

Topics covered: overview of L-SIP, resources available to members, process for preparing for an assessment

**Tuesday, March 4, 1:00 pm ET**

Topics covered: identification of stakeholders to invite to an L-SIP assessment, details about facilitators and theme takers, materials to include the participant packet

**Tuesday, March 18, 1:00 pm ET**

Topics covered: assessment evaluation, examples of post-assessment quality improvement activities

Once your state/local public health laboratory system has committed to conducting an assessment, APHL will provide a mentor, a representative from a state/local laboratory that has
previously conducted an L-SIP assessment to offer guidance. The mentor will serve as a resource and can answer questions related to preparing for an assessment. Additionally, mini grants are available to assist in offsetting expenses. To receive information about the process, financial support and technical assistance, please contact Tina Su at bertina.su@aphl.org.

Quality Assurance Listserv
Laboratory staff from all United States member laboratories is invited to sign up to participate on the Quality Assurance Listserv. This member benefit is a forum for your quality-related questions to your peers and the sharing of possible solutions and lessons learned. Recent topics include discussions about storage requirements on Andrade’s indicator, CAP Competency Program and supply and service contract language for ISO 17025 compliance. To join in on the conversation or view an archive of previous listserv postings, please contact Tina Su at bertina.su@aphl.org.

Articles of Interest
October 2013 issue of *Quality Management Journal*

- [The Influence of Continuous Improvement Practices on Learning: An Empirical Study](#)
- [Diagnostic Quality Problem Solving: A Conceptual Framework and Six Strategies](#)

November 2013 issue of *BMJ Quality & Safety*

- [Conventional Evaluations of Improvement Interventions: More Trials or Just More Tribulations?](#)
- [Huddling for High Reliability and Situation Awareness](#)
- [Incorporating Evidence Review Into Quality Improvement: Meeting the Needs of Innovators](#)

2014 APHL Annual Meeting Call for Posters
The [Call for Posters](#) is now available for the 2014 APHL Annual Meeting and Eighth Government Environmental Laboratory Conference being held June 1–4, 2014 in Little Rock, AR. Posters are open to all members this year and we again encourage scientific and research posters, in addition to those relating to quality improvement. There are a limited number of spaces
Abstracts are due to the APHL office no later than January 24, 2014.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- The 2014 National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) Annual Conference will be held in New Orleans at the Marriott New Orleans Downtown Convention Center, May 19–21. More information and registration coming soon!

- The 2014 APHL Annual Meeting and Eighth State Environmental Laboratory Conference will be held in Little Rock, AR June 1–4. Visit the meeting website for more information.

- The 2014 National Association of City & County Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA on July 9–11. Connect with good-natured colleagues from near and far to share local health department challenges and opportunities, best practices, and success stories. Engage with federal and local partners and gain insights from public health experts. Learn more at nacchoannual.org.