



Public Health Agency Accreditation System Logic Model

June 2017

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is committed to encouraging research to develop the science base for accreditation and systems change in public health, as well as to evaluating the accreditation program in order to continuously improve it. To support those two goals, the PHAB Research & Evaluation Committee developed and vetted a logic model that was approved by the PHAB Board of Directors in August 2010. More recently, the PHAB Research Advisory Council and the Evaluation and Quality Improvement Committee have revised the logic model. The revised logic model, which was approved by the Board of Directors in June 2017, can be found on the following page.

The logic model is designed to illustrate the contributions of PHAB (shown in yellow); stakeholders and partners, including funders, partner organizations, and researchers (shown in pink); and individual public health agencies that participate in the accreditation process (shown in blue). The model presents a logical framework of how their inputs and strategies may lead to outputs and outcomes for PHAB, participating health departments, and the public health field as a whole, including accredited health departments (shown in white). The proximate outcomes are the results that might be realized in the near term (1 – 3 years) and that are considered to be more directly related to the accreditation process. For example, because many of the standards and measures require the health department to demonstrate partnerships and community engagement activities, increased collaboration is viewed as a proximate outcome for participating health departments. Ultimate outcomes, on the other hand, are the results that are anticipated for further in the future (7-10 years) and are affected by many other factors. For example, health status is heavily influenced by the social determinants.

The logic model is an important tool to help researchers and evaluators understand the goals of accreditation so that they can systematically test the links between the work of the accreditation system and the outputs, proximate outcomes, intermediate outcomes, and ultimate outcomes, in turn. It is also a visual reminder of how the stakeholders in the accreditation enterprise can work together to achieve the goal of the voluntary national accreditation program: “to improve the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments.”

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