Epidemiology Training for Local Health Departments (LHD's) Revised requirements as of 05/2012

The KALHD Preparedness Team identified Capability #13 (Public Health Surveillance & Epidemiological Investigations) as a critical gap for local health departments to address in year one of the new PHEP grant cycle. The team recommended that the grant deliverables in the 2011-12 grant cycle include training for all local health department staff involved in Capability #13. Through this training, LHDs will progress toward "increasing local capacity to investigate health problems and environmental public health hazards to protect the community"[i] and toward quality improvement and the delivery of performance standards in providing public health essential services across Kansas.

In order assist with meeting these PHEP grant deliverables in the 2011-12 grant cycle, KALHD is sponsoring Epidemiology Training for LHDs to fulfill Work Plan Item #13.

From the Public Health Preparedness and Response LHD Work Plan:
Item Number 12:
LHDs will complete an inventory of current staff, including regional partners, who regularly conduct disease investigations and their related epidemiology/surveillance trainings completed. The inventory will include staff names, training(s) attended and completion dates.

Item Number 13:
*(1) All LHD employees **who assist with** epidemiological investigations should document completion, this cycle or before, of an epidemiology training module consistent to ensure that all assisting parties have received at least basic epidemiology training.*

(2) All epidemiologists or medical investigators at LHDs will complete all components of the epidemiology training module, which includes: basic epidemiology, applied epidemiology for Kansas, and an advanced EpiTrax training module focusing on AVR (Analysis, Visualization, and Reporting), performance metrics, and accreditation standards.

Activities planned to fulfill the above requirements:

I. Survey/Inventory

Local Health Departments will be asked to complete a survey/inventory which will collect and document information required to fulfill the staff disease investigation training history requirement for workplan item #12. This will assist in determining the training needs of staff.

II. Training Modules

- Module 1 (Basic Epidemiology) is a group of linked online courses which are found in the "Epidemiology in Practice Training Plan for Local Health Departments" posted to the TRAIN learning management system. Included in this Training Plan are the following preselected courses developed by the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice:
    1. What is Epidemiology in Public Health?
    2. Basic Infectious Disease Concepts in Epidemiology
    3. Introduction to Public Health Surveillance
    4. Introduction to Outbreak Investigation
    5. Data Interpretation for Public Health Professionals

  All courses in Module 1 will be completed and tracked via TRAIN. The approximate time to complete this online training module is 5 hours.

  To enroll in this training plan, go to KS-TRAIN at http://ks.train.org. Select "Search" in the top menu bar; see "Search Options" in left hand menu and choose "By Training Plan". On the next page, select the link for "Epidemiology in Practice Training Plan for Local Health Departments" and enroll. The Training Plan can be accessed at anytime via the My Training Plan link on the right hand side of the TRAIN homepage.

- Module 2 (Applied Epidemiology for Kansas) is now an online course which includes video and activities from a live training event held November, 2011. This course is also found in the "Epidemiology in Practice Training Plan for Local Health Departments" on KS-TRAIN.

  This course participation will also be completed and tracked via TRAIN. The approximate time to complete this online training module is 3 hours.

  Note: Completion of Module 1 or equivalent prior training experience is STRONGLY recommended prior to completion of Module 2.

- Module 3 –Will be an advanced EpiTrax training module focusing on AVR (Analysis, Visualization, and Reporting), performance metrics, and accreditation standards, either live or by webinar. This course will be available as a component of the, "Epidemiology in Practice Training Plan for Local Health Departments" on KS-TRAIN.

III.   Identifying which staff members should take which courses

- Staff members and regional BT coordinators whose responsibilities are limited to assisting with disease tracking (both in terms of definition of job responsibilities and in time assigned) will only be required to complete Module 1 (#1 above). This can be completed any time before the end of the grant year; the deadline is August 9, 2012. Documentation of completed training will be on the TRAIN system.

- Staff members or regional BT coordinators for whom disease tracking is a primary responsibility will need to attend/complete all three modules (#1, #2 and #3 above). Prior training experience can be substituted for Module 1, when applicable.
- Staff members who have professional training in epidemiology and disease investigation that meet the, "Competencies for Applied Epidemiologists in Governmental Public Health Agencies Tier 1: Entry-level or Basic Epidemiologist" (see attached) will be waived from this series of trainings

IV.   <u>Documentation of prior epidemiology trainings which could fulfill this requirement</u>

- Staff members who are determined to need the Module 1 level of training but who have received prior training on these topics will be allowed to "opt out" of this portion of the requirement. Individuals who feel they have received this training will be expected to exert their professional discretion to review the Module 1 course list to determine which of the courses do not need to be repeated. Users can "refresh" learning on any or all courses, as needed or desired.
- On the KAHLD training survey (See item I, fulfilling item #12 on workplan) records will be verified by the responding health department to indicate if staff received prior training (documentation of "opt out") or will be completing applicable modules (1 – 3).

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[i] www.phaboard.org, PHAB Standards, Domain 2.