



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 28, 2022

Contact: Whitney Abbott whitney@ncdhd.ne.gov

March 28, 2022 O'Neill – North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) is pleased to announce accreditation has been conferred upon NCDHD by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). PHAB is the nonprofit organization that administers the national accreditation program, which aims to advance and transform public health practice by championing performance improvement, strong infrastructure, and innovation. Accreditation through PHAB demonstrates the NCDHD's commitment to excellence in serving their communities of northcentral Nebraska.

"We are so pleased to be recognized by PHAB for achieving the rigorous national standards that are set forth," said Roger Wiese, Health Director. "As a Nationally Accredited Public Health Department, NCDHD can reassure the community, partner organizations, and elected officials that the work and services provided are responsive to the needs of north central Nebraska."

The national accreditation program, which receives support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. Over 80 percent of the U.S. population now reap the benefits of being served by a health department that has undergone PHAB's rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets a set of quality standards and measures.

"The value of becoming nationally accredited through PHAB extends far beyond the interior walls of the health department," said PHAB President and CEO Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, FAAN. "People living and working in communities served by these health departments can be assured that their health department is strong and has the capacity to protect and promote their health. Just going through the accreditation process itself helps health departments pinpoint the areas that are critical to improving the work they do for their communities."

Often called the "backbone" of the public health system, local public health departments are on the front lines of communities' efforts to protect and promote health and prevent disease and injury. Across the nation, health departments provide services aimed at promoting healthy behaviors, preventing diseases and injuries, and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies. Currently, NCDHD serves the community through programs focused on preventing disease and injury, promoting healthy lifestyles, and working on the population level to increase quality and quantity of life such as: disease surveillance, immunizations & vaccinations, worksite wellness programs, Miles of Smiles school based oral health program, emergency response, and environmental health.