



**ANDSOOHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Report from OCCHA**  
Summary of Activities  
**April 2010 – January 2011**

**OCCHA's Mission Statement**

The Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation promotes accountability and excellence in public health programs and services.

**OCCHA's Mandate**

- ✓ To establish, review and revise accreditation standards related to governance, administration, program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- ✓ To enhance knowledge through consultation and shared experience.
- ✓ To measure agency performance against peer set standards, provide comprehensive reports and confer accreditation awards.
- ✓ To promote and facilitate continuous quality improvement in public health units through consultation across Ontario public health units.
- ✓ To work in partnership with other community health organizations and relevant provincial ministries to promote excellence in public health programs and services.

**Key Initiatives for 2010 - 2011**

1. Ongoing implementation of the new accreditation program, *Advancing Quality in Public Health*.
2. Ongoing development and expansion of quality indicators and quality attributes in support of the OCCHA quality framework for public health units and to enhance the accreditation reporting process.
3. Continued consultation with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in support of the public health performance management and accountability.
4. Development of planning and reporting tools for public health units to facilitate preparation for and participation in the accreditation process.

## **OCCHA's Accreditation Program**

The revised accreditation process, *Advancing Quality in Public Health*, was implemented in January 2009. This new process, which links to the OCCHA quality framework for public health units, operates on a three year cycle and includes an annual one day review component in support of continuous quality improvement. Additional tools which have been developed to support this process include:

- 1) On-line surveys for boards of health, staff members and community partners;
- 2) An annual health unit questionnaire, and
- 3) An annual review summary report, which includes outstanding areas of improvement, areas of follow-up in support of CQI, additional OPHS program review components and a review of any organizational changes to a public health unit.

In addition, work continues on the development and implementation of an accreditation standards spreadsheet to facilitate ongoing efforts to meet accreditation standards and preparation of evidence. This spreadsheet identifies the frequency of review, specific examples and evidence required as well as linkage to the OPHS and organizational standards. OCCHA has also initiated discussions with a number of professional associations towards the development and/or enhancement of standards which support the public health core competencies and professional standards of practice.

The accreditation documents can be found on the OCCHA website at [www.occha.org](http://www.occha.org). As additional tools are formally approved, they will also be made available on the website.

OCCHA offers ongoing support to all health units through on-site presentations and program updates. For further information on the accreditation process, please contact Meighan Finlay, Executive Director, at [meighanfinlay@occha.org](mailto:meighanfinlay@occha.org).

## **OCCHA's Accreditation Fees**

Prior to the implementation of the revised accreditation program, OCCHA's fee structure was based on a one-time survey fee (to cover the costs of the actual on-site survey) and annual maintenance fees. Health units applying for accreditation were required to pay the survey fee (\$6,500.00) plus the first year's maintenance fee (\$3025.00). Upon being awarded accreditation, the health unit was billed an annual maintenance fee of \$3025.00 for each remaining year of accreditation.

In order to facilitate health unit budget preparations, when *Advancing Quality in Public Health* was implemented in January of 2009, the OCCHA Board approved a new fee schedule, thereby blending the survey and maintenance fees into a one annual standardized fee. As of January 2011, this fee is \$6,800.00 per year. This includes all costs associated with the on-site review (including both the initial on-site review and annual reviews) as well as the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of accreditation tools, documents and processes. It should be noted that this fee, which is based on the actual costs of running the accreditation program, represents the first change in accreditation fees in four years.

## Quality Indicators and Attributes

The OCCHA quality framework for public health units can be found on the OCCHA website. To support this framework, OCCHA has identified quality indicators and attributes for all of the OCCHA standards. These indicators will be disseminated to health units and member organizations for feedback. Once formally approved, the indicators and attributes will be incorporated into the accreditation process to facilitate participation in the process and to identify areas of innovation across public health units.

Should you wish further information on the quality framework or supporting quality documents/tools, please visit the OCCHA website at [www.occha.org](http://www.occha.org) or contact Bev Russ at [bevruss@occha.org](mailto:bevruss@occha.org).

## Public Health Performance Management and Accountability

As previously noted, the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) have been incorporated into the new accreditation program. OCCHA is reviewing the draft organizational standards to ensure their linkage with the accreditation process.

OCCHA supports the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to develop and implement the accountability framework and is currently collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care towards the development of survey tools in support of the organizational standards, the foundational standard and emergency management.

## 2010-2011 OCCHA Board of Directors *(as of Jan 2011)*

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