Abstract

With the advent of a set of national standards by which to document and assess the efforts of public health departments, the movement supporting accreditation is quickly gaining momentum. Accreditation relative to a clear set of standards and measures supports efforts to improve the quality of service provision and care within the communities the departments serve. This project, conducted within the Fairbanks Regional Public Health Center for the Interior Region of the Section of Public Health Nursing, was undertaken to provide a clear picture of the Interior Region’s readiness for a formal accreditation effort. The purpose of this study was the review of documentation, policies, and procedures currently in place which conform to the standards and measures outlined by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the organization tasked with development, implementation, and oversight of the accreditation process. Review was accomplished through utilization of all available resources provided by the Public Health Accreditation Board and the Interior Regional Nurse Manager, as well as through consultation with partner agencies as appropriate. Supporting documentation was recorded and potential gaps noted for further review. Results indicate that all required prerequisite documents are in place and wholly integrated into Section activities, and supporting documentation was found within each of the first ten domains outlined by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Recommendations based on project findings will support actions to prepare for a future accreditation effort.