

ABSTRACT 8123: Building an Informatics Savvy Health Department: Chicago Department of Public Health's 2016 Informatics Inventory and Assessment

Presentation Type:
Breakout

While the Program Planning Committee will attempt to schedule selected abstracts for the requested presentation format, this will not always be possible. Would you like to be considered for another presentation format if your abstract is selected and your preferred format cannot be accommodated?:
Y

Paper/Poster Number:
8123
Topic Selection:
Informatics infrastructure in state and local health departments (4753)

BACKGROUND: The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) Informatics Program conducted an agency-wide, Informatics Inventory and Assessment in 2016. The goal was to collect an inventory of all electronic applications and paper-based processes in use, data sharing agreements in place, and training needs throughout the department. Findings from this assessment will guide CDPH's Informatics-Savvy Health Department Assessment in 2017. The CDPH assessment was based on findings from assessments and surveys completed at the Minnesota Department of Health, Oklahoma State Department of Health, and an initial CDPH Informatics Analysis conducted in 2014. Results from the 2014 analysis, including a finding that CDPH had over 100 systems in use, were utilized for the agency's first Informatics-Savvy Health Department Assessment in 2015.

METHODS: The assessment consisted of a two-step process. Program Directors first completed an electronic questionnaire about their program's electronic applications, paper-based processes, data sharing agreements, and training needs. The second step was an in-person discussion with the Program Director, up to three members of their program, and CDPH Informatics Program representatives. The Informatics Program led the discussions by walking through the questionnaire responses to gather more details using an interview discussion template. Everyone present was encouraged to ask follow-up questions and participate in the discussion. The questionnaire was released to programs on June 1, 2016, and the in-person discussions were held from June 29, 2016 to December 19, 2016.

RESULTS: The Informatics Program held 32 in-person discussions based on 40 completed questionnaires. The in-person sessions proved important as some responses on the questionnaire changed based on further discussion and clarification. Data gathered from the questionnaires and discussions went into producing a comprehensive list of the electronic applications used throughout CDPH, training needs identified by programs, and current processes the Informatics Program can help improve. This information will be shared with CDPH leadership and the City's IT Department, and incorporated into workforce development activities.

CONCLUSIONS: Knowledge gained during this assessment will aid in CDPH's 2017 Informatics-Savvy Health Department Assessment. This inventory assessment yielded valuable deliverables for CDPH, including the lists of applications, processes, and training needs. Other benefits from the assessment were dedicating time for programs to articulate their processes and barriers, learning about program activities, and meeting employees across the department. This assessment offered an opportunity for CDPH programs to better understand informatics, who the Informatics Program is, and how the Informatics Program can help with their projects going forward.

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