

The Partners

Kandiyohi-Renville Community Health Board
Environmental Services Integration



Meeting at least monthly :
Jill Bruns, Administrator; Dave Distad, EHS;
Chris Wenisch, EHS; Denise Kragenbring,
Supervisor; Brenda Menier, MDH Consultant
(Board Member Harlan Madsen has also been
vested in the project)

The Idea

Kandiyohi and Renville County joined to form a new Community Health Board (CHB) on Jan 1, 2013. To continue with a delegation agreement with the Minnesota Department of Health, we were required to integrate our environmental health licensing functions to meet standards.

The CHB strongly desired to keep the licensing local and to make the environmental health program stronger and of better quality for both the citizens and licensed establishment we serve.



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The Outcomes

In 2013, we accomplished much for the foundation of the program including:

- Comparing programs and policies
- Agreeing on common inspection reports, categories, fees
- Developing policies and budget for an integrated program
- Amending each county's ordinances
- Obtaining delegation agreement from MDH

In 2014, we operationalized the program and are working toward:

- Refining internal processes and policies
- Standardizing practice and inter-rater reliability of EHS
- Implementing and tweaking an integrated electronic record
- Finalizing program review with MDH

Reflections

Having CHB commitment to this integration was vital and help set the goal to accomplish this.

The administrative planning in 2013 was comprehensive and time consuming. Meeting face-to-face at least monthly aided with communication and accomplishing timeline tasks.

Operationalizing has required continued diligence to communication and change management. Policies and standardization are helping. Still have not gotten to a consistent attitude of “we” in the program.



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