



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Central District Health Department (WCDHD) is pleased to announce that we have achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). WCDHD is one of fewer than 230 health departments that have thus far achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011. "Staff have worked tirelessly and with great pride to reach our shared goal of accreditation. WCDHD's efforts are a direct reflection of our commitment to bringing quality resources and services to all within our community" said Shannon Vanderheiden, Health Director, of the WCDHD. Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health of people and communities. In cities, towns, and states across the nation, health departments provide a range of services aimed at promoting healthy behaviors; preventing diseases and injuries; ensuring access to safe food, water, clean air, and life-saving immunizations; and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.

To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures. "The West Central District Health Department joins the growing ranks of accredited health departments in a strong commitment to their public health mission," said PHAB President and CEO Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN. "The peer-review process provides valuable feedback to inform health departments of their strengths and areas for improvement, so that they can better protect and promote the health of the people they serve in their communities. Residents of a community served by a nationally accredited health department can be assured that their health department has demonstrated the capacity to protect and promote the health of that community."

Public health aims to educate, promote and improve the overall health of our communities and each resident; allowing all who live, work, and play to thrive. Through collaborations and partnerships, we will leverage the knowledge, relationships, and resources necessary to influence conditions that promote good health and safety for everyone. Visit us online today at: www.wcdhd.org.