



*Issue 22 - March 2015*

## Welcome to qualitymatters!

In this issue, you'll find information on the newest PHQIX drawing and three new QI initiatives. You will also find registration information on many upcoming partners' events that you won't want to miss out on. Finally, you'll find a featured resource from the Public Health Foundation (PHF) and a blog post from the National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ) on engaging leadership in your project! You can always visit [www.phqix.org](http://www.phqix.org) and connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for more news and updates!

Would you like to submit something for possible distribution in a future PHQIX newsletter? Let us know at [contact@phqix.org](mailto:contact@phqix.org).

-The PHQIX Team

## News and Updates

### PHQIX Will Be at the Open Forum!

PHQIX is excited to be attending the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) Open Forum this week in San Antonio, Texas! We will be announcing the recent winners of the QI Innovator Award and will be tweeting throughout the conference at #COPPHI. We will also be holding a participatory drawing called "Find Your PHQIX Match!" Stop by the PHQIX booth to learn how you can participate, further network with the QI community, and maybe walk away with some PHQIX prizes!



### PHQIX Open Forum Presentation: Quality Improvement in the Real World

PHQIX will be presenting "*Quality Improvement in the Real World: Lessons Learned from the Public Health Quality Improvement Exchange (PHQIX)*" during the NNPHI Open Forum! Please join us if you are interested in hearing about the experiences of other QI practitioners that can help you improve your own projects, avoid pitfalls, and better plan for future work. PHQIX has analyzed fifty recently published Quality Improvement projects and identified significant and overarching experiences, impressions, and lessons learned shared by submitters implementing projects in real-world settings. Hear these insights and share your own in this interactive, discussion-based session aimed at informing your Quality Improvement journey. Join us on **Thursday March 19th from 3- 4 pm CT in the Pecan Meeting Room** at the NNPHI Open Forum!



### New Website Drawing for Two PHIT Scholarships!

In case you missed it, PHQIX announced our latest drawing for two scholarships to [NNPHI's Public Health Improvement Training \(PHIT\)](#)! PHIT will be held from June 9 to 10, 2015, at the InterContinental New Orleans hotel in Louisiana. To enter the drawing, you must submit a new QI initiative or update a current QI initiative by **April 3, 2015**. We will select two winners from the pool of users who submit or update a QI initiative by April 3; the scholarship cannot be transferred to another person within the winners' organization. Click [here](#) to learn more about how to submit a QI initiative, and click [here](#) to submit a QI initiative. You need to be registered on [www.phqix.org](http://www.phqix.org) to submit an initiative, so click [here](#) to register.



## PHQIX Webinars

Thank you to everyone who participated in our PHQIX webinars! They were a great success, and we couldn't have done it without our wonderful presenters and you! To view the webinar recordings, the webinar slides, and a summary of the questions discussed during the webinars, visit the [PHQIX Videos and Webinars page](#).

# New QI Initiatives

## Electrifying the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program Evaluation

Review of timely and accurate evaluation data is crucial for health departments to provide effective interventions to improve the health of their communities. The Women's Health Branch of the North Carolina Division of Public Health used several QI methods and tools—including a Kaizen event; multiple Plan, Do, Study, Act cycles; and Lean approaches—to reduce waste and decrease the time needed to share useful evaluation data with local health departments that are implementing a teen pregnancy prevention program. This ultimately helps departments use the evaluation data to make their programs more effective. Read more [here](#)!

## Streamlining the Pregnancy Care Management Referral Intake Process

Cabarrus Health Alliance and partners used QI to streamline their processes for referrals for pregnancy care management to improve overall handoffs and cycle times, resulting in more timely and effective referrals for care management to ensure healthier mothers and babies. Read more [here](#)!

## Improving STD Prevention and Control by Implementing a Formalized Plan for Managing Increased STD Cases or Decreased STD Staff

Because of decreases in funding, the economic climate, and social determinants of risk behavior in Nevada, the Washoe County Health Department (WCHD) had to be ready to effectively manage any large sexually transmitted disease outbreak with reduced numbers of Sexual Health Program staff. Using QI processes, WCHD collaborated with other programs and divisions to devise a new plan, which has been successfully implemented, exceeding their goal. Click [here](#) to read more!

# Upcoming Events

## Register Now for NACCHO's Next Performance Improvement

## Webinar

The National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NACCHO's) next performance improvement webinar, "[The Social Determinants of Health in Assessment and Planning: Challenges and Solutions](#)," will be held on Monday, March 30, at 3:00 p.m. ET. This FREE 90-minute webinar will feature the stories of two local health departments (LHDs) and a new NACCHO-developed tool, "the Community Health Improvement Matrix."



Representatives from LHDs in North Carolina and New Orleans will share their work on these initiatives and provide insight into how the initiatives have helped to improve health department performance and community health outcomes. Participants who have community health improvement plans are encouraged to bring a copy for reference during the webinar. Space is limited, so [register now](#).

## Register Now for the NNPHI Annual Conference: Building Healthy Communities in Our Connected World: A Vision for 2020!

The conference will be held from May 12 to 14, 2015, in Louisiana at the scenic Hilton New Orleans Riverside hotel. Registration is now open! [Click here](#) for more information about the conference and to register.

## Apply to Participate in the 13th Annual PHIT!

The 13th annual PHIT: Advancing Performance in Agencies, Systems and Communities will be held from June 9 to 10, 2015, in Louisiana, at the InterContinental New Orleans hotel. PHIT will provide opportunities for training in performance improvement topics such as performance management and performance measures, national voluntary accreditation, facilitation, QI, health assessment and improvement planning, and strategic planning. PHIT attendees have the opportunity to network and participate in a variety of interactive learning and skill-building sessions designed for different experience levels. PHIT also features dynamic keynote sessions, stimulating discussion groups, and convenient networking activities. **Because of the high demand to attend PHIT, registration is limited, and your registration will require approval.** Those who submit their registration information will be informed of their registration status within 30 days of application submission. Currently, PHIT will approve up to two representatives from each organization pending availability. Once registration is approved, there is a registration fee of \$120 to participate in PHIT. Registration closes on Thursday, May 7, 2015, or when capacity is reached. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply to register!



## Register Now for NACCHO Annual 2015!



Registration is now open for NACCHO Annual 2015: Envisioning the Future: Creating Our Path! The conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, from July 7 to 9, 2015. NACCHO Annual 2015 is an opportunity to join a thousand of your colleagues for the year's largest gathering of local health officials in the United States. The conference will provide an interactive setting for local health officials and their public health partners from around the country to examine strategies, share ideas, and plan actions for sustaining or reinventing their organizations in the new era. Click

[here](#) to learn more and to register!

## 2015 Lean Systems Summit and Pre-Summit - Where Government, Services, and Manufacturing Meet

It's time to begin planning to participate in the sixth annual 2015 Lean Systems Summit, which will be held on August 6 and 7 in Portland, Maine. The Summit is organized by the public/private, multistate/provincial Continuous Improvement Lean Collaborative (CILC). You are also invited to submit a workshop and/or seminar proposal to share your continuous improvement knowledge, ideas, and experience (what worked and what didn't), your best practices and innovations, your implementation strategies and results, and/or your lessons learned. The intent of the Summit is to provide a forum for exchanging information, ideas, opinions, and experiences in a collaborative environment.

This [Call for Workshops](#) includes a brief summary of the CILC and the Summit. Please note that there are different types of sessions for the August 7 Pre-Summit and the August 8 Summit: The Pre-Summit seminars are longer (typically 4 hours or a full day), and the Summit workshops are shorter (75 minutes). The deadline to submit proposals is the end of the day on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

## Featured Resources

### New and Improved Public Health Improvement Resource Center



Searching for public health improvement resources? PHF's Public Health Improvement Resource Center is new and improved. Use the Advanced Search feature to filter resources by accreditation domain, any of the 10 Essential Public Health Services, or other improvement topics. The refreshed site features updated and additional resources, including a new "Public Health and Healthcare" category of materials. Read more about it [here!](#)

### NICHQ Blog: 8 Tips for Engaging Leaders in Your Project

Lack of leadership support is one of the most common reasons that a QI project fails. Whether you're trying to convince executive, administrative, or frontline leadership, we have eight field-tested tips that will enable your leaders to not only support your project, but also advocate for it. Read more [here!](#)



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