Engaging Staff in Accreditation

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Recently, the Oneida Nation’s public health accreditation coordinator was invited to present for the Tribal Accreditation Learning Community (TALC) webinar series, sponsored by the National Indian Health Board. Topic of discussion was on successful strategies used in Oneida to keep staff engaged in the very difficult task of preparation for public health accreditation.

As communicated previously, Oneida Nation submitted the required evidence and documentation to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) in January 2017. We are now preparing for the next step in our accreditation journey; our site visit tentatively scheduled some time in Fall.

One of the many benefits of our journey toward accreditation is a renewed focus on quality and continuous improvement. Simply put, nearly everything we do now is met with evaluation and the question, “can we do better?” As an example, in preparation for this webinar, we surveyed the staff to gather their feedback on what keeps them engaged. We didn’t just guess, we collected information from the best source- the staff. The top five strategies staff identified:

1. Special Jean Day celebrations
2. Email communications
3. Color coded Progress Graphs
4. Branding activities
5. Quarterly team meetings

The audience for the Tribal Accreditation Learning Community (TALC) webinar series is tribal organizations seeking public health accreditation. It’s an avenue to learn from each other and talk about the challenges and potential solutions in this magnificent journey of public health accreditation. Perhaps the story of our journey this far will offer some helpful strategies to others.

For more information about this webinar series and other resources/ tools for tribal public health accreditation, visit the National Indian Health Board (NHIB) website at <http://www.nihb.org/tribalasi/index.php>.

Updates on Oneida Nation’s journey to obtain public health accreditation can be found on our website at <https://oneida-nsn.gov/resources/health/community-health-services/> or by calling Community Health Services Department at 920-869-4896.

