



## 2009 State Report

**State:** Colorado

**Contact:** Zulema Flores Smith

**Phone:** 970-248-7170

**Date:** April 15, 2009

**Email:** zfsmith@state.co.us

**Fax:** 970-248-7198

The Public Health Nursing Section is now located in the newly organized Office of Planning and Partnerships. We used to be in the same office of the Local Liaison. Our Public Health Consultants consists of three Public Health Nurses that serve different regions of the state. Our main role is providing technical assistance to local PH Nursing Directors. Our office also works closely with other PH Nurses at the State Health Dept. to coordinate education offerings to take out to the field to the local agencies.

- Consults with local agencies to plan, implement, and evaluate public health programs
- Supports professionals to provide safe and competent nursing care according to legal and ethical standards
- Facilitates the recruitment, orientation and retention of public health nurses in local agencies

### **Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:**

Public Health in Colorado is going through some changes this year. Senate Bill 194, Public Health Act of 2008 was signed into law by Governor Ritter, This bill requires each that each County, by resolution of the boards of county commissioners of the respective counties may establish and maintain a district public health agency. Public Health Nursing will now receive more support from their local board of health, as this has not happened in some counties due to the fact that the Commissioners were not familiar with the role of Public Health in their counties.

### **Projects/Issues Pending:**

Certification of Public Health agencies is one of the goals of the 2008 PH ACT in the future. For our nurses in the field that do not meet the minimal requirements to be a Director, the time frame to meet the standard will be 5 years. Our staff will be available to provide assistance to the staff wishing to meet the standard.

Another goal for our office is to develop modules for self-study as new nurses are hired in the local agencies. We are providing new PHN orientation in class's format but it is not easy for every one to attend when we schedule them.

**Please go to our website for more information on PH Nursing Consultants**

**CDPHEEDPlanningandPartnerships@state.co.us**