



State/Territory Report

State/Territory: North Carolina

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Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

- 1) Revision of the “Introduction to Principles and Practices of Public Health Nursing” course to include on-line pre-requisites.
- 2) Revision of the “Management and Supervision” course for new PHN Directors and Supervisors to allow any new PH manager to attend selected sessions; received extremely positive feedback from those participants on the value of our course.
- 3) Completed the process of “banding,” from an HR Classification perspective, all of the Nurse Consultant positions within State government; PH had to develop its own template because the committee that developed the main template was composed entirely of Nurse Consultants in institutional settings.
- 4) Nurse Consultants in the Unit focused on quality improvement work with local health departments using the PDCA cycle to make improvements in a variety of processes.
- 5) The NCBON published a revised template for Standing Orders for all RNs and the Nurse Consultants have been working with the local health departments to convert all Standing Orders (e.g., for the administration of immunizations, for screening and lab tests, etc.) to the new format.

Projects/Issues Pending:

- 1) We are rolling out a new Health Information System to all 85 local health departments. This system replaces a mainframe-based, green-screen system developed in the early 1980’s. It includes the ability to capture electronically, for the first time, clinical information on clients seen for preventive services in local health departments.
- 2) NCBON continues development and testing of the proposed model for requiring new graduates to demonstrate competency and critical thinking prior to getting an unrestricted license; the challenge for PHN will be to find or develop validated simulations to test the critical thinking needed in our setting.
- 3) Accreditation, which has been mandatory for local health departments in NC since 2006, was suspended for FY10 due to the budget crisis; the hope is that it will be re-started in FY11 (currently 50/85 local health departments are accredited.)