



Wisconsin Public Health LabNetwork

Vision

The Wisconsin Public Health LabNetwork, as a section of the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) will be recognized as a dynamic network that provides public health laboratory leadership, education, training and analysis for the day-to-day health of our communities and environment and during a public health emergency.

Mission

The mission of the Wisconsin Public Health LabNetwork is to work collaboratively to provide public health services that:

- Monitor and detect human and environmental health factors to prevent disease, illness, and environmental degradation.
- Promote positive human and environmental health practices.
- Provide quality data to inform policy and procedural decisions.
- Rapidly respond to public and environmental health emergencies.

Strategic Goals

1. To provide and promote a professional organization for public health laboratories in Wisconsin
2. To foster cooperation and networking among public health laboratory professionals by providing a forum for dialogue and exchange of information
3. To obtain recognition of public health laboratories as an integral part of the public and environmental health community
4. Through WALHDAB, provide professional laboratory expertise to inform the legislative and political process to promote and advocate for public health
5. To encourage, educate, train, promote professional growth, and assist with the recruiting, employment, and retention of qualified laboratory professionals
6. Continue to build and sustain capacity and ability for public health laboratories to effectively respond to a public and environmental health emergency
7. Create, access, or leverage an effective data management system to optimize the use and management of laboratory data

Strategic Goal 1:

To provide and promote a professional organization for public health laboratories in Wisconsin

Objectives:

1.1 Obtain a grant and create a statewide laboratory network.

Activities:

- In 2006, the State Laboratory of Hygiene applied for and was granted a UW-partnership grant to create the Wisconsin Public Health Laboratory Network. The grant expired in February 2008.
- In 2009, the State Laboratory of Hygiene applied for and was granted an Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) grant to continue the mission and development of the Wisconsin Public Health Laboratory Network. The grant expired in June 2010.

1.2 Find a permanent home for the labnetwork to further establish and organize itself.

Activities:

- In 2009, the Wisconsin Public Health Laboratory Network (a.k.a LabNetwork) was approved to become a section of WALHDAB which provided a structure with guidelines and bylaws.

Strategic Goal 2:

To foster cooperation and networking among public health laboratory professionals by providing a forum for dialogue and exchange of information

Objectives:

- 2.1 Create a mechanism for partners of the LabNetwork to communicate with each other effectively and efficiently.

Activities:

- Since 2006, The State Laboratory of Hygiene hosts through UW-Madison the LabNetwork email listserv which provides laboratory partners with the ability to send one email to a number of labs with inquiries, suggestions, or laboratory information.

- 2.2 Provide at least one annual face-to-face meeting at a central location.

Activities:

- July 9, 2009 – WPHA/WALHDAB Annual Conference, Appleton
- October 5, 2009 – City of Racine
- January 11, 2010 – UW Oshkosh
- April 23, 2010 – Eau Claire City-County Health Department
- May 27, 2010 – WPHA/WALHDAB Annual Conference, Middleton
- November 30, 2010 – Madison Dane County Public Health

- 2.3 Provide a mechanism for the LabNetwork activities to be available and useable for all partners.

Activities:

- The LabNetwork has their information posted on their parent website (WALHDAB) which can be found at: <http://www.walhdab.org/AboutUs-Laboratory.htm>

- 2.4 Provide either one exhibit or submit an abstract annually at the WPHA-WALHDAB annual conference or other appropriate venue.

Strategic Goal 3:

To obtain recognition of public health laboratories as an integral part of the public and environmental health community

Objectives:

- 3.1 Develop plans for short-term internal and long-term external recognition
 - 3.1.1 Create an informative pamphlet discussing Wisconsin Public Health Laboratories
Activities:
 - Pamphlet created in 2006 and updated in 2007.
 - 3.1.2 Create a template for an informative insert to the above pamphlet for LabNetwork partners to customize for their own laboratory.
 - 3.1.3 Create a Wisconsin Public Health Laboratories Projects document/pamphlet that details local public and environmental health projects accomplished through the use of local public health labs.
Activities:
 - Document created in 2009 and updated in 2010
 - 3.1.4 Outreach to the medical community to educate and inform them about the services provided by the local public health laboratories and the importance of these laboratory services.
 - 3.1.5 Develop a media plan to increase community awareness of public health laboratory services and the impact those services have on human and environmental health.
 - 3.1.5.1 Develop a specialization list for laboratory contacts with specialized knowledge in laboratory services to partner in media outreach.
 - 3.1.6 Create an electronic poster board presentation that can be used by all LabNetwork partners for outreach to the public and academia (e.g. career days, June Dairy Days).
- 3.2 Review laboratory services (as outlined in Goal #5) and determine potential options for laboratory service regionalization to enhance local community's access to laboratory services.
 - 3.2.1 Outreach to other counties without local laboratory services.

Strategic Goal 4:

Through WALHDAB, provide professional laboratory expertise to inform the legislative and political process to promote and advocate for public health

Objectives:

- 4.1 If requested by WALHDAB, the LabNetwork will provide professional expertise regarding legislative issues.

Activities:

- The LabNetwork provided written testimony at the Raw Milk Bill (SB434) hearing to the Senate Agricultural Committee on March 10, 2010.
- 4.2 Identify and monitor existing or proposed legislation pertaining to public and environmental health; providing recommendations to WALHDAB through the chair, vice-chair, or sectional liaison.

Strategic Goal 5:

To encourage, educate, train, promote professional growth, and assist with the recruiting, employment, and retention of qualified laboratory professionals

Objectives:

- 5.1 Create a common location for the partners to access laboratory position details (e.g. positions, pay scales, etc.)
 - 5.1.1 Collect job descriptions and pay scale information to be kept in a secure location, accessible only to LabNetwork partners.
 - 5.1.2 Compile a spreadsheet (or the like) listing current vacancies (internships, limited term, part-time, and full-time) at Wisconsin Public Health laboratories complete with position description and details (paid/unpaid, duration in hours and dates, internships for credit/non-credit, etc.)
- 5.2 Work with Academia to provide students with the necessary coursework and internships to enhance workforce development and research capabilities for public health laboratories.
 - 5.2.1 Compile a list of all Academia locations that provide public and environmental health laboratory coursework.
 - 5.2.2 Outreach to the Academia program directors and faculty.
 - 5.2.3 Work with Academia to modify or develop curriculum suitable to public health laboratory functions.

Activities:

- The Eau Claire City-County Health Department is a member of the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire Environmental and Public Health (UWEC-ENPH) Advisory Committee. This committee advises program staff the current needs and demands of the workforce. The last advisory meeting was December 2, 2010.
- The Eau Claire City-County Health Department offers both job shadowing and laboratory internships for the UWEC-ENPH students as well as other interested students studying water, geology, geographic information systems and microbiology.
- The City of Racine Laboratory Director has worked with UW-Parkside to develop coursework and curriculum in the aquatic microbiology and public health programs.
- The City of Racine Laboratory also offers internship opportunities to undergraduate students from local, regional, and international academic institutions.
- The City of Racine laboratory Director has participated with several academic institutions serving several roles, including mentor, clinical associate professor, and participation on committees.
- The City of Milwaukee provides internships for five area colleges and universities.

- The La Crosse County Health Laboratory provides training to University of Wisconsin LaCrosse Masters of Public Health program students on laboratory management in February of each year. Last class training was February 25, 2010.

5.3 Review a list of all current laboratory activities and review for consistency and potential changes (e.g. upgrades, modifications etc.)

5.3.1 Create a common location for partners to access laboratory standard operating procedures.

5.3.2 Methodically review laboratory services offered for standardized methods and best practices.

5.3.3 Work on quality improvement and standardization of services and methods provided by public health laboratories (e.g. internal training opportunities).

Strategic Goal 6:

Continue to build and sustain capacity and ability for public health laboratories to effectively respond to a public and environmental health emergency

Objectives:

- 6.1 Review public health laboratory services as outline in Goal #5 and determine local capabilities and public/private partnerships for responding to emergencies.
 - 6.1.1 Review the potential for shared services/partnerships for capacity and overflow services in the event of an emergency.
 - 6.1.1.1 Review and formalize any necessary agreements for the above service modifications.
- 6.2 Identify grant-writing and funding workshops that educate public health laboratory directors on where to identify grants and how to write and apply for them.
- 6.3 Discuss and formalize a template for public health laboratory directors to advocate for maintenance funding as well as growth funding for public health laboratory functions.
- 6.4 Create guidance and examples on how to work effectively with other departments and divisions that provide laboratory services (e.g. Public Works).

Strategic Goal 7:

Create, access, or leverage an effective data management system to optimize the use and management of laboratory data

Objectives:

- 7.1 Survey public health laboratories in a number of different data collection areas to determine what data collection systems exist, their effectiveness for data analysis and review, and review potential options for enhancing data collection and review.