



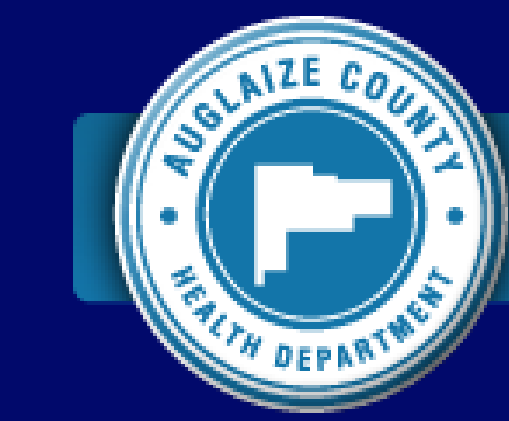
Mercer County Health District  
[www.mchdohio.org](http://www.mchdohio.org)

# Advancing Access to Care

A collaborative project between local health departments in Mercer, Auglaize and Van Wert Counties  
October 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018



Van Wert County General  
Health District  
[www.vanwertcountyhealth.org](http://www.vanwertcountyhealth.org)



**AUGLAIZE COUNTY**  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
*prevent. promote. protect.*

Auglaize County Health  
Department  
[www.auglaizehealth.org](http://www.auglaizehealth.org)

## The Project

This was a collaborative project to assist public health staff from Mercer, Auglaize and Van Wert Counties in better understanding how to fulfill the requirements of Essential Public Health Service 7/PHAB Domain 7 with regard to access to health care. Through the Ohio Local Public Health Accreditation Support Project, we were able to obtain training and technical assistance facilitated by the Ohio State University Center for Public Health Practice.

## Why It Was Selected

In our small agencies with limited staff, access to health care has not been a high priority part of our day-to-day work in the past. As a result, we have struggled to determine how to approach this subject, particularly in the following areas:

- We lacked confidence in our own understanding of what PHAB is asking for in the Domain 7 measures.
- We didn't necessarily recognize some work we have already done in the area of access to care.
- We were unsure of the appropriate strategies to use to bridge the gaps between what we have already done and what we need to do.

## What We Did

We tapped into a blend of training and technical assistance provided by Public Health Consultant Anne Goon, MS, RD, LD. Anne is the former Health Commissioner of one of the earliest Ohio accredited health departments. Ms. Goon provided the following services:

- In-person review session including examples of suitable documents for PHAB Domain 7.
- Review of documents prepared by each health department for PHAB submission.
- Development of a standard reporting template for future access to care assessments.

## Lessons Learned

The following are three major takeaways from this project:

- Access to health care in the community must be addressed in collaboration with the entire local public health system.
- Think broadly when seeking to document strategies employed in the community.
- Focus on populations with specific barriers and provide targeted solutions.

## What We Made

Through the activities undertaken during this project, we were able to make the following advances in the area of access to care:

- Achieve a better understanding of the PHAB Domain 7 requirements around access to care.
- Strengthen existing documentation selected to demonstrate conformance with Domain 7 requirements.
- Increase our knowledge on how best to gather or create documentation where documents hadn't already been selected.
- Establish a standard template for use in reporting the results of future comprehensive assessments of access to health care in our respective communities.

## Project Participants

MERCER COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT   AUGLAIZE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
VAN WERT COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT



*Project participants attend Domain 7 review session at Mercer County Health District on 2-2-18*