



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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San Joaquin County Public Health Services Awarded National Accreditation

(Stockton, CA) May 19, 2021 – San Joaquin County Public Health Services (PHS) has achieved national accreditation through the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#) (PHAB), it was announced today by Zienna Blackwell-Rodriquez, PHS Director. “It is an honor to be recognized nationally for meeting very high standards of excellence. We were pleased to see that our COVID-19 mitigation efforts helped to take us over the finish line,” she added.

The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), sets standards against which the nation’s 3,000 public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a peer-reviewed rigorous assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds these quality standards and measures. Accreditation is maintained for five years. Twenty of the 61 local health departments in California have achieved accreditation status to date.

“I am extremely proud of my staff and what each of them contributed over the past several years to achieving this milestone. It reflects our Department’s culture of quality, professionalism, and service that is evident in everything we do,” said Blackwell-Rodriquez. Greg Diederich, Director, San Joaquin County Health Care Services Agency, added, “This recognition is a great tribute to PHS staff as well as our partners throughout the County who are foundational to the success of our community public health programs.”

“The value of becoming nationally accredited through PHAB extends far beyond the interior walls of the health department,” said PHAB President and CEO Paul Kuehnert. “People living and working in communities served by these health departments can be assured that their health department is strong and has the capacity to protect and promote their health. Just going through the accreditation process itself helps health departments pinpoint the areas that are critical to improving the work they do for their communities.”

Often called the “backbone” of the public health system, local public health departments across the nation provide services to promote healthy behaviors; prevent diseases and injuries; and prepare for and respond to public health emergencies, as well as working with partners in all sectors to reduce health disparities.

Dr. Blackwell-Rodriquez concluded, “We will continue to look for innovative ways to improve what we do as we maintain accreditation over time. Nothing would make us happier than to realize our vision in which all of our San Joaquin County communities are healthy, safe, equitable, and thriving.”

To learn more about PHAB and the accreditation standards achieved in San Joaquin County, visit www.phaboard.org.

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