



Community Grant Outcome Report

Name: Development of a Wisconsin Public Health Laboratory Network

Grantee: Madison Department of Public Health

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Academic Partners: Ronald H. Laessig, PhD, Professor, Population Health Sciences and Pathology, UW SMPH; Jan Klawitter, MA, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

Program: Development

Grant Duration: 03/01/2006 to 02/29/2008 (24 months)

Expenditures: \$36,297 of \$49,234 (74% expended)

Use of Funds: Needs assessment/plan

► **Description:** This project team developed and piloted a network of Wisconsin state and local public health laboratories. Initial tasks included assessing the current capabilities and capacities of the laboratories and outlining the ways in which these labs can meet the state's future needs.

► **Results:** This project successfully created a forum for the state's public health laboratories to share information. Thirteen public health laboratories from around Wisconsin joined together to share information about the individual labs' resources and the focus of their work, with the objective of strengthening the laboratory system. Specifically, the project: (1) strengthened linkages between public health labs and partners through meetings and the establishment of a list serve, (2) completed an assessment of testing capabilities and physical resources, (3) planned for and began addressing training needs, (4) identified workforce development issues related to local public health laboratories, (5) determined how the value of these laboratories can be better communicated to the public, and (6) explored technological enhancements to increase capabilities and efficiency. The network also created a Q&A informational document titled "Wisconsin's Local Public Health Laboratories."

► **Met Objectives:** Project completed

► **Baseline Progress on State Health Plan Objectives:** Not measured

► **Academic Partner Role:** Assisted in the planning process.

► **Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** \$25,290

► **Dissemination:** Individual labs used "Wisconsin's Local Public Health Laboratories" to communicate the purpose and distinctive roles of these labs to community leaders.

► **Sustained:** The laboratories continue to meet as a network and utilize the list serve. Project participants have explored and discussed many options for sustaining the activities of the lab network. In 2008, the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) awarded the network a one-time grant of \$8,375 to help build sustainability and continue network training and information-sharing activities. In 2009, the network became a section of the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards. This allows the network to have an "organizational home" as it continues its activities in the future.