



Accreditation Initiative Update Technical Assistance Conference Call

February 5, 2010

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration
Bureau of Primary Health Care
Office of Quality and Data



Purpose



- **2010 Accreditation Initiative Overview**
- **What You Need to Know**
- **Accrediting Organizations**
- **How to Apply**
- **Resources and Contacts**
- **Question and Answers**



2010 Accreditation Initiative



Overview



- The Accreditation Initiative encourages and supports health centers in undergoing rigorous and comprehensive survey processes.
- Participation is voluntary and provides an opportunity for health centers to achieve accreditation and at the same time satisfy regulatory and program requirements of HRSA/BPHC.
- HRSA/BPHC supports this effort by paying for health centers' survey costs.



Goal and Benefits



- **Goal:** Improve quality health care and outcomes for Health Center populations
- **Benefits:**
 - Accreditation by a nationally recognized organization is an indicator of quality of care.
 - Accreditation increases health centers' competitiveness in the marketplace.
 - The accreditation process provides structure and resources to support health centers' quality improvement and risk management.



HRSA/BPHC Commitment to Accreditation



- **A BPHC three-year contract provides services through two national accrediting organizations:**
 - **The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC)**
 - **The Joint Commission (TJC)**



Eligible Organizations



- **Organizations funded by the Health Center Program authorized in section 330 of the Public Health Service Act:**
 - **Community Health Center (CHC) Programs, 330(e);**
 - **Migrant Health Center (MHC) Programs, 330(g);**
 - **Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) Programs, 330(h); and**
 - **Public Housing Primary Care (PHCP) Programs, 330(i).**



- **Ambulatory care**
- **Behavioral health care**
- **Laboratory services**
- **Technical assistance and training**



What You Need to Know



The Joint Commission (TJC)

Presented by: Lon Berkeley
**Project Director, Community Health
Center Accreditation**



The Joint Commission (TJC)



**Lon
Berkeley**



**Ginny
McCollum**



**Rex
Zordan**



Topics to Be Addressed



- **Background about the Joint Commission's 12 year experience with HRSA/BPHC's Accreditation Initiative**
- **Advantages of the Joint Commission's "Gold Seal of Approval"™ accreditation for Health Centers**
- **Support and resources from dedicated and experienced Joint Commission staff**
- **Recent modifications to the Joint Commission's standards and survey process**
- **Opportunities for training and education from The Joint Commission and Joint Commission Resources**



Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC)

**Presented by: Meg Gravesmill
Senior Director, Accreditation
Services**



Topics to Be Addressed



- **Brief history of the AAAHC**
- **AAAHC philosophy**
- **AAAHC surveyors**
- **The 2010 Handbook of Standards**
- **Education opportunities**
- **Pre-survey activities**
- **Overview of the survey**
- **Post-survey activities**
- **Contacts within the AAAHC**



How to Apply



How to Apply



Initial Surveys

- Submit a Notice of Interest (NOI) to HRSA/BPHC by email: accreditationinitiative@hrsa.gov.
- To complete and submit the NOI form, go to: <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/policy/pal0912/AccreditationNOIform.pdf> to access PAL 2009-12.
- HRSA will review the NOI, alert your requested accrediting organization and email you on status.
- The accrediting organization will directly contact the health center to begin the survey process.



How to Apply



Re-Accreditation Surveys

- Eligible health centers may preserve their accreditation status through re-accreditation.
- Health centers seeking re-accreditation are not required to submit an NOI and supporting documentation.
- The accrediting organization will contact eligible health centers for resurvey under the HRSA Accreditation Initiative.
- An NOI is required if an accredited health center seeks to change its status with one survey organization and seek status with the other accrediting organization.



After Approval for Survey



- **AAAHC or TJC will send additional resources on the survey process to health centers, including, but not limited to:**
 - The organization's most current accreditation manual or handbook;
 - Access to the organization's support and resources for accreditation;
 - Details regarding the application for accreditation process; and
 - Instructions on how to achieve compliance with standards and prepare for your survey.



HRSA Resources



- **Program Assistance Letter 2009-12**
<http://bphc.hrsa.gov/policy/pal0912>



Contacts



- **AAAHC**
<http://www.aaahc.org/> or by contacting Ron Smothers, Assistant Director, AAAHC Accreditation Services, rsmothers@aaahc.org or (847) 853-6067.
- **TJC**
Joint Commission.org/Accreditation Programs/Ambulatory Care/Bureau of Primary Health Care <http://www.jointcommission.org/> or by contacting Delia Constanzo, dconstanzo@jointcommission.org or (630) 792-5011.
- **HRSA/BPHC**
Accreditation Initiative Program Manager at accreditationinitiative@hrsa.gov or (301) 594-0818.



Questions and Answers

Thank you for partnering with HRSA!