

Date: May 4, 2010

Dear Public Health System Assessment Participant:

On August 14, 2009, public health system partners of Vigo County convened a meeting to evaluate how to better serve the public health and healthcare needs of the county's estimated 105,000 residents. The Rural Health Innovation Collaborative hosted the all day event, in partnership with the Vigo County Health Department. The Indiana State Department of Health, in collaboration with Purdue's University's Healthcare Technical Assistance Program, worked together to create this opportunity for all local public health system partners to identify existing strengths, as well as opportunities to establish and formalize public health system infrastructure in Indiana counties.

Vigo County partners met to complete the CDC National Public Health Performance Standards, Local Public Health System Assessment – a nationally-recognized public health system assessment tool. The assessment process and results enabled greater understanding of how the County's healthcare and public health organizations relate to one another and how they provide essential public health and healthcare services to the public they serve. The assessment specifically focused on areas such as communication, partnerships, linking people to needed services, and sharing of resources. Findings of the assessment revealed strengths of the system that included:

- identification and surveillance of health threats, and response to public health threats and emergencies
- informing, educating and empowering the public about public health issues
- enforcement of laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety

The assessment also revealed important areas for performance improvement, including:

- mobilizing community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
- developing community health improvement processes
- using current technology to monitor, manage and communicate population health data
- The Assessment process can serve as the foundation to formalize processes that strengthen local public health system infrastructure with the capacity and resources to improve quality and effectiveness of healthcare services in Vigo County.

For a complete overview of the report please visit [therhic.org](http://therhic.org) and click on the "Public Health System Assessment" link located on the home page. On behalf of the RHIC we would like to thank you for participating in the health assessment. If you have any questions about the results please contact Stephanie Laws, 812-238-7479.

Sincerely,

David Doerr  
RHIC Leadership Chair