

**From:** Paul Kuehnert <[pkuehnert@phaboard.org](mailto:pkuehnert@phaboard.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 1, 2021 3:17 PM

**To:** Marcus Cheatham <[mcheatham@mmdhd.org](mailto:mcheatham@mmdhd.org)>

**Cc:** Ross Pope <[rpope@mmdhd.org](mailto:rpope@mmdhd.org)>; Jennifer Jimenez <[jjimenez@phaboard.org](mailto:jjimenez@phaboard.org)>; Marita Chilton <[MCChilton@phaboard.org](mailto:MCChilton@phaboard.org)>; Mark Paepcke <[MPaepcke@phaboard.org](mailto:MPaepcke@phaboard.org)>; Jessica Kronstadt <[JKronstadt@phaboard.org](mailto:JKronstadt@phaboard.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Mid-Michigan District Health Department's Accreditation Status



Dear Director Cheatham,

Thank you for your and Mr. Pope's time this afternoon joining Mark Paepcke and me in a conversation about your department's accreditation status.

As discussed, we are offering to extend your current accreditation status for one year, through March 31, 2022. This means that your deadline for deciding to apply for reaccreditation will be approximately one year from now. We are offering extensions of up to one year to health departments because we wish to be as responsive and supportive to accredited health departments' needs as we can during this crisis, especially given the significant staffing issues that many departments are facing. I am hopeful that new, sustainable federal funding resources will be made available to health departments within the next year to address public health infrastructure, including the costs of achieving and maintaining national public health accreditation. I will share information about the federal legislation that is going to be introduced under separate cover.

We are asking departments to pay a fee of \$850 if they are seeking to extend their accreditation status for a year. This \$850 will meet our direct costs for maintaining the e-PHAB software license for your department and for your access to our Accreditation Specialist as needed, as well as any education offerings we will provide to accredited health departments. We will invoice you after we hear from you that you would like to have the extension.

Thank you, again, for your communications with us. And thank you for all you have done, and are doing, to protect and promote the health of your community!

Take care,

Paul

***Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, FAAN***

President & CEO

Public Health Accreditation Board

1600 Duke St., Suite 200

Alexandria, VA 22314

703-778-4549, ext. 103 (office)

207-441-8366 (cell)

[pkuehnert@phaboard.org](mailto:pkuehnert@phaboard.org)

For scheduling with me, please contact Catrina Kerrison: [ckerrison@phaboard.org](mailto:ckerrison@phaboard.org)

**From:** Marcus Cheatham <[mcheatham@mmdhd.org](mailto:mcheatham@mmdhd.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2021 2:41 PM

**To:** Paul Kuehnert <[pkuehnert@phaboard.org](mailto:pkuehnert@phaboard.org)>

**Cc:** Ross Pope <[rpope@mmdhd.org](mailto:rpope@mmdhd.org)>; Jennifer Jimenez <[jjimenez@phaboard.org](mailto:jjimenez@phaboard.org)>; Marita Chilton <[MChilton@phaboard.org](mailto:MChilton@phaboard.org)>; Mark Paepcke <[MPaepcke@phaboard.org](mailto:MPaepcke@phaboard.org)>; Jessica Kronstadt <[JKronstadt@phaboard.org](mailto:JKronstadt@phaboard.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Mid-Michigan District Health Department's Accreditation Status

Did you read the letter we sent after the decision? That is spot on. If you haven't read it please do so. Kay Bender's reply to us seemed to pretty well acknowledge that our challenges were well understood by PHAB. I am confident you heard me and I heard you, and there it is.

The issue is entirely the fees. Our Board was clear they valued the process and believed it had been beneficial. You really don't need to try to persuade us of that.

I've been a great advocate for national accreditation through my entire career and continue to believe something like that needs to be in place. The current fee structure is just too steep. Do you still feel you have anything to offer?

Mark W. (Marcus) Cheatham  
Health Officer  
Mid-Michigan District Health Department  
615 North State Street  
Stanton, MI 48888  
989-287-0701  
Cindy Partlo ([cpartlo@mmdhd.org](mailto:cpartlo@mmdhd.org))  
989-831-5237



*We take action to protect, maintain and improve the health of our community*

**From:** Paul Kuehnert <[pkuehnert@phaboard.org](mailto:pkuehnert@phaboard.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 12:07 PM

**To:** Marcus Cheatham <[mcheatham@mmdhd.org](mailto:mcheatham@mmdhd.org)>

**Cc:** Ross Pope <[rpope@mmdhd.org](mailto:rpope@mmdhd.org)>; Jennifer Jimenez <[jjimenez@phaboard.org](mailto:jjimenez@phaboard.org)>; Marita Chilton <[MChilton@phaboard.org](mailto:MChilton@phaboard.org)>; Mark Paepcke <[MPaepcke@phaboard.org](mailto:MPaepcke@phaboard.org)>; Jessica Kronstadt <[JKronstadt@phaboard.org](mailto:JKronstadt@phaboard.org)>

**Subject:** Mid-Michigan District Health Department's Accreditation Status



January 8, 2021

Dear Director Cheatham,

I am writing in follow up to the email exchange (below) between Ms. Jimenez and Mr. Pope regarding Mid-Michigan District Health Department's accreditation status. I would like to request a video conference call with you at your earliest convenience to better understand your decision to not seek reaccreditation.

We wish to be as responsive and supportive to accredited health departments needs as we can during this crisis, especially given the significant staffing issues that many departments are facing. I would deeply appreciate the opportunity to hear from you directly about your circumstances and understand why you are choosing to discontinue your national accreditation. My hope is that we could find a solution to maintain your status for now and defer a decision on pursuing reaccreditation for a period of 9 or 12 months to get on the other side of the demands of the surge in COVID cases and the anticipated mass vaccination program.

If, however, you are firm in your decision not to apply for reaccreditation, the PHAB Accreditation Committee will meet on February 12, 2021 and likely vote to designate your health department as No Longer Accredited— Accreditation Expired. Loss of your accreditation status means that you would no longer be able to use the "PHAB Accredited" seal on your website, stationery, business cards, or any other health branding that you may have. In addition, you would not be able to present your health department in any manner as an accredited health department. This change in your accreditation status would be shared with the Michigan Department of Health and with the CDC. Should you decide to pursue accreditation in the future, you would need to reapply as a new applicant and go through the initial accreditation process.

Thank you for considering my request for a conference call.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul Kuehnert'.

Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, FAAN  
President & CEO  
Public Health Accreditation Board  
1600 Duke St., Suite 200  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-778-4549, ext. 103 (office)  
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[pkuehnert@phaboard.org](mailto:pkuehnert@phaboard.org)

For scheduling with me, please contact Catrina Kerrison: [ckerrison@phaboard.org](mailto:ckerrison@phaboard.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Jimenez <[jjimenez@phaboard.org](mailto:jjimenez@phaboard.org)>

Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 5:45 PM

To: Ross Pope <[rpope@mmdhd.org](mailto:rpope@mmdhd.org)>; Marcus Cheatham <[mcheatham@mmdhd.org](mailto:mcheatham@mmdhd.org)>

Cc: Jennifer Jimenez <[jjimenez@phaboard.org](mailto:jjimenez@phaboard.org)>

Subject: RE: e-PHAB: Eligible for Reaccreditation

Hi Ross and Marcus,

I'm so sorry that you continue to receive unwanted emails from us. And you're correct, the email sent out today is an auto-email. Mid-Michigan District Health Department is still considered a PHAB accredited health department until the end of this year and until you pass your application deadline you will remain an active health department in e-PHAB.

Once you pass your application deadline and PHAB's Accreditation Committee votes that you are no longer accredited, you will receive a final communication from us.

I have your letter and emails indicating you will not apply for reaccreditation, so we don't need anything further.

Jennifer

Jennifer Jimenez, MPH (she/her/hers)

Ph: 703-778-4549, x107

[jjimenez@phaboard.org](mailto:jjimenez@phaboard.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ross Pope <[rpope@mmdhd.org](mailto:rpope@mmdhd.org)>

Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 5:06 AM

To: e-PHAB <[noreply@e-phab.org](mailto:noreply@e-phab.org)>; Marcus Cheatham <[mcheatham@mmdhd.org](mailto:mcheatham@mmdhd.org)>

Cc: Jennifer Jimenez <[jjimenez@phaboard.org](mailto:jjimenez@phaboard.org)>

Subject: RE: e-PHAB: Eligible for Reaccreditation

Hi Jenifer,

We formally stated that our health department was not seeking reaccreditation in our last annual report and through multiple emails in the past year. I realize this is probably an automated email generated by e-PHAB letting us know the site is open, however if you need something specific from us stating this please let me know.

Thank you,

Ross Pope

Ross Pope

Quality & Process Improvement Coordinator Mid-Michigan District Health Department

615 N. State Street, Suite 1

Stanton, MI 48888-9702

Office phone: (989) 831-3601

Fax: (989) 831-5522

We take action to protect, maintain and improve the health of our community

-----Original Message-----

From: e-PHAB <noreply@e-phab.org>  
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 1:05 AM  
To: Marcus Cheatham <mcheatham@mmdhd.org>  
Cc: Ross Pope <rpoppe@mmdhd.org>; jjimenez@phaboard.org  
Subject: e-PHAB: Eligible for Reaccreditation

Dear Marcus Cheatham,

Your Health Department is eligible for Reaccreditation. To begin the application, please log on to e-PHAB and hit the "Begin Application" button on the home page. The application is due on 12-31-2020. If you are not planning to apply for reaccreditation, please send formal correspondence to PHAB prior to the application due date.

IMPORTANT: If you need to change either the health department director or accreditation coordinator, please contact your Accreditation Specialist BEFORE you begin the reaccreditation application. Profile edits are not required at this time, as you will update this information as part of your Application for Reaccreditation. If you have questions, please contact your Accreditation Specialist.

Please do not reply to this message. PHAB is unable to access electronic responses to this e-mail.

Sincerely,  
PHAB

Public Health Accreditation Board  
1600 Duke Street, Suite 200  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(P) 703.778.4549  
(F) 703.778.4556

***Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, FAAN***

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For scheduling with me, please contact Catrina Kerrison: [ckerrison@phaboard.org](mailto:ckerrison@phaboard.org)