



June 28, 2021

Dear Dr. Lee Pearson and members of the SHaPE SC Health Subcommittee:

Please see attached in response to your request concerning the final summary report from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) site visit of the agency, as well as a copy of the [State Health Assessment](#) and [State Health Improvement Plan](#).

As part of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC's) commitment to continuous improvement, the agency recently participated in a voluntary national public health accreditation (PHA) process to enhance our customer service and public health standards. This included completing, for the first-time ever in South Carolina, a State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan, with the involvement of multiple partners from across the state.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) was awarded national accreditation through PHAB in February of 2021. PHA, which lasts five years, sets standards against which the nation's governmental public health departments use to continuously improve the quality of their services and performance.

About PHA

This national accreditation program is a nonprofit organization that receives support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Its aim is to advance and transform public health practices by championing performance improvement, strong infrastructure, and innovation. These goals are fully in sync with DHEC's strategic plan and the agency's core values of embracing service, inspiring innovation, promoting teamwork, and pursuing excellence.

To achieve accreditation, health departments must go through a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets a set of quality standards and measures. During the accreditation process, DHEC has already taken several actions to improve core services, including:

- Launching a [new immunization information system](#) to help the agency and immunization providers ensure access and availability of essential immunizations to help keep South Carolinians healthy.
- Spearheading the successful [statewide transition to eWIC](#), providing South Carolina families that qualify for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) services access to healthy foods easier than ever before. South Carolina's WIC program aims to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care.
- Collaborating with community partners across the state to [develop a comprehensive statewide health improvement plan](#), [Live Healthy SC](#).

More information about PHAB and accreditation can be found at www.phaboard.org.