

CALPHO

Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials

May 14, 2009

Attn.: Ms. Linda Shearman
Secretary, State Board of Health
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246

Dear State Board of Health Members:

The Board of the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials has reviewed the revised Minimum Qualifications for Public Health Directors and would like to support the rules proposed.

We recognize that there is controversy when any qualifications are added to public positions. We do, however, see these proposed qualifications as consistent with previous rules and consistent with the intent of the Public Health Act of 2008 which intends to move all public health agencies toward standards, core services, and a more comprehensive approach to public health in the state. The qualifications are similar to those that have been required for many years, and a waiver process exists for those counties whose size or geographical location creates problems for recruitment.

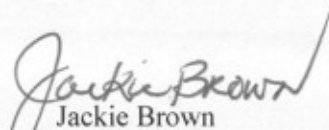
Importantly, the qualifications allow the state Board of Health to substitute experience for academic requirements. The public health community will anticipate that a number of public health directors will utilize that substitution to meet the qualifications. This is also consistent with previous practice.

We have high expectations that the new Center for Public Health Practice at the Colorado School of Public Health will develop public health training for practitioners that will be available through distance learning with an adult education focus. This will allow additional education/training to reach throughout the state without requiring admission to a graduate program. We intend to work with the Center to develop practical approaches with practical content that will be useful to all of us.

In supporting these rules, we are aware that the State Board of Health has always been willing to support a reasonable waiver and substitution request. We also expect that such processes will be simple and relatively easy for counties to use.

I look forward to personally testifying on behalf of CALPHO at the May State Board of Health Meeting.

Sincerely,


Jackie Brown
President, CALPHO

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