



Western U.P. Health Department has been granted continuing accreditation by the Michigan Public Health Accreditation Commission. “The award of accredited standing represents a confirmation, by outside experts, of the high quality of public health services that are the hallmark of Western U.P. Health Department”, said Jean Chabut, Deputy Director of Michigan Department of Community Health and Chair of the Michigan Public Health Accreditation Commission, during a presentation to the Board of Health recently.

Accreditation of local public health in Michigan was the first program of its type in the nation, and has been in effect for 15 years. Local health departments which receive accredited standing must be surveyed every three years to maintain the standing. Western U.P. completed an intense one week survey which covers 12 program areas and 153 essential indicators. Authors of the Michigan accreditation process are the Michigan Department of Community Health, Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Quality and Michigan Public Health Institute.

Speaking of the accreditation, Guy St. Germain, Health Officer/Executive Officer, said “This level of excellence is not a given. It is the result of high achieving employees, management team and board, all dedicated to the critical role of public health in our communities.”

There are 45 local public health agencies in Michigan providing basic public health services such as immunizations, communicable disease control and environmental health services.

“In addition to the basic public health services, Western U.P. provides a wide range of maternal-child health, disease control, prevention and education services to the area. Senior programs and bio-emergency preparedness are also part of its mission”, said St. Germain.

Western U.P. Health Department is the regional public health agency serving Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, Ontonagon, and Gogebic counties with environmental, personal and community health services. Western U.P Health Department has offices in Hancock, L'Anse, Ontonagon and Bessemer.