



qualitymatters

The official newsletter of the Public Health Quality Improvement Exchange

Issue 1 - June 2013

Welcome to "qualitymatters"

In this first issue of our monthly newsletter, we celebrate a milestone - it's been over 6 months since www.phqix.org went live! The site now has over 780 registered users, new QI initiatives have been published, and we're seeing new online exchanges every day. This success would not have been possible without you! We want to thank those of you who have enthusiastically engaged with our online community in our first few months. Here's to growing, learning, and improving together!

In this newsletter, you'll find upcoming events, updates, and new resources. For example, we are offering a new incentive to encourage site participation this month! As always, please reach out to us at contact@phqix.org or [@PublicHealthQIX](https://twitter.com/PublicHealthQIX) on Twitter if you have any questions. Happy Summer!

-The PHQIX Team

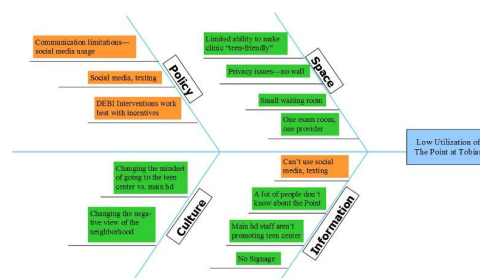
News and Updates

Featured QI Initiative

[Using Marketing Strategies to Increase Use of a Teen Health Center](#) - Submitted by the [South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control](#), this QI initiative outlines how this organization used appropriate marketing strategies to increase awareness and use of its teen health center.

New QI Initiatives

Be on the lookout [here](#) for new QI Initiatives in the coming month. In addition, take part in the ongoing discussion in the comments section of submitted QI Initiatives. Here is an [example](#).



Agency Plans are Coming...

PHQIX users have expressed interest in a specific place on the PHQIX site for departments to share their QI Agency plans. We want to let you know that we hear your feedback and that development of this new functionality is now in progress. Look for this new space soon! See the discussion that led to this improvement [here](#).

Discussions on Our Community Forum

Our community forum lit up with activity this month! Below are some discussions that may be relevant to you.

- Does your health department have a [social media policy](#)?
- What is the role of [informatics in public health](#)?
- What is a sample of an effective [QI performance management system](#)?
- Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) measure: Do you want to see sample [agency QI plans](#)?
- How do I begin [performance management](#)?

Drawing Winners

From March to May, we gave away iPad minis, Memory Joggers, and flashlights. See our winners [here](#) and on our Twitter feed!

Upcoming Events

June Drawings

PHQIX now has an "upvoting" or "liking" feature. Each time you "like" or comment on a QI initiative during the month of June, you will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a Fitbit activity tracker, Public Health Memory Jogger, or 8GB flash drive. Browse [all submissions](#), browse [submissions by key category](#), or search for [submissions of interest using your own key words](#).



Join the Discussion!

We'll be hosting a Twitter chat about QI on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 from 12 PM to 1 PM. All chats will be hashtagged as #QITogether. We will focus the conversation on QI experiences, the value of QI in public health practice, and new ideas and innovations in QI.

Open Forum for QI in Public Health in Milwaukee

PHQIX team members will be attending the [Open Forum for Quality Improvement \(QI\) in Public Health](#) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin June 12-13, and we'd love to meet you, whether to talk about how PHQIX can better serve your needs or just to socialize! If you'll be at either of these gatherings, let us know by e-mailing contact@phqix.org or tweeting at @PublicHealthQIX!

Featured Resources

Excuses, Excuses

Jack Moran, member of the PHQIX Expert Panel, recently wrote about [making excuses for not doing QI](#).

The Difference between QI and Quality Planning

Cindan Gizzi, Community Health Assessment, Planning, and Improvement Manager, and her expert

team explain the differences [here](#).

Advancing the Science of QI Research and Evaluation

In February, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation started a new [website](#) that serves as a repository for its funded work that advances QI research and evaluation. Read about the website's inception [here](#) - very cool development to help bolster our collective QI efforts!

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PHQIX | 1440 Main Street | Waltham | MA | 02451