

Advancing Public Health Laboratory Websites: Northern Plains Consortium - Emerging Leaders Program

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ABSTRACT

The Northern Plains Consortium (NPC), consisting of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and later Idaho, was formed in 2006. The intent was to develop a regional public health laboratory system where collaboration and laboratory system improvement activities could be established across the region. In 2014 a consortium-wide need for succession planning was recognized and our regional Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) was born. Cohort 1 of the regional ELP occurred in 2015 and our current ELP, Cohort 2, commenced in 2017. Each state selected an individual to participate in the program that highlighted leadership, communication, behavior style and grant knowledge in a public health setting.

ELP cohort 2 members participated in a team project with a goal of updating and improving each of the five states websites. The website activities included:

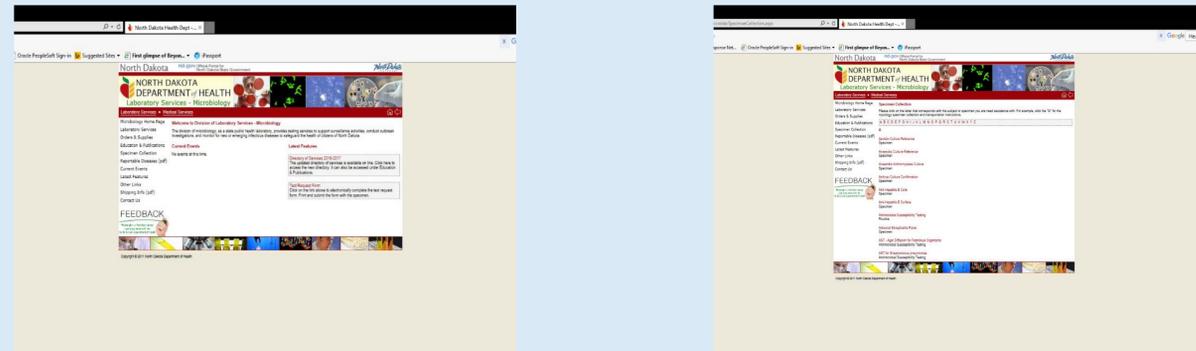
- Analyze each state's website to strategically compile the most effective format and content by utilizing the APHL SharePoint website
- Working towards updating websites to meet ADA compliance
- Challenges each state met when updating their website
- Built a NPC webpage, hosted by Idaho, to each states website that describes highlights of the program

STATES OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS CONSORTIUM

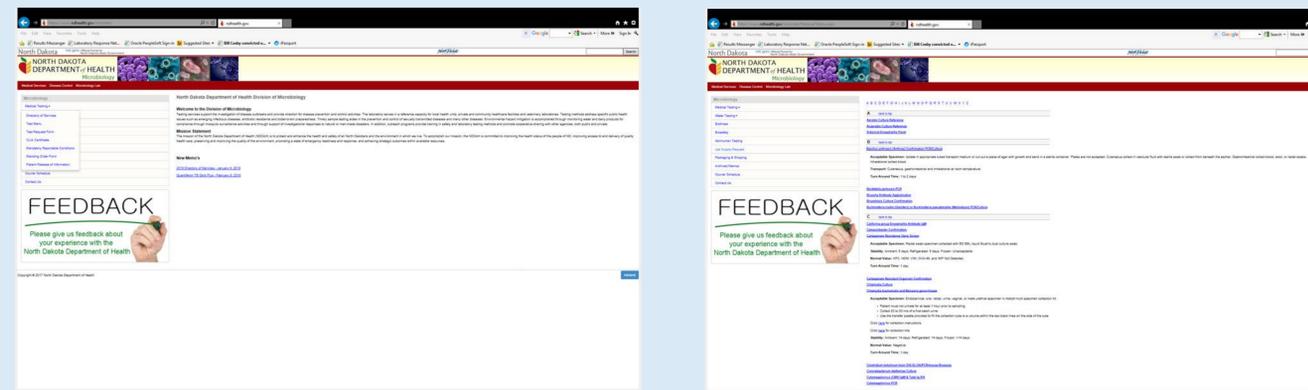


ACTIVITIES

Before



After



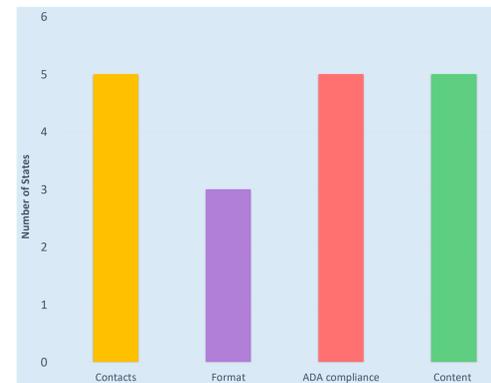
Based on the project goals North Dakota's website was chosen to demonstrate the types of alterations that were made to optimize each website's content and ease of use.

RESULTS

Americans with Disabilities Act

NPC states are working towards updating their websites to meet ADA regulations, using computer programs such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Power Point, Adobe Pro and Word Press to conform non-compliant electronic documents. A major goal of the states for ADA compliance is ensuring that the content is available to everyone, including the disabled.

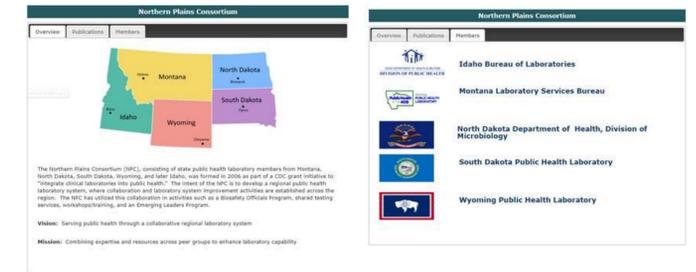
Website Updates



Challenges

- Choosing a project that fulfilled the needs of all cohort participants
- Limited staff to devote to updating websites
- Time constraints of:
 - Cohort Participants
 - Other key laboratory personnel
- Coordination with IT staff
- Virtual coordination between NPC states

NORTHERN PLAINS CONSORTIUM WEBPAGE



Idaho Bureau of Laboratories' website hosts the NPC webpage. Each of the five NPC public health laboratory websites have a link to this webpage. The webpage itself will consist of three tabs. The overview of the NPC, publications done by the NPC collectively and the members tab which will house the links to each states' websites.

EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM COHORT 2



CONCLUSION

Each public health laboratory is working within its own state to roll out the finalized updates in 2018. Since technology is ever evolving, each state will continue to monitor and update information as needed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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