

March 30, 2010

Dear Gianfranco, Tatiana, Edie, Dick, Shirley, and Mary Beth:

Thank you for hosting us during your learning session and site visit on March 25-26, 2010. It was an informative and well-organized meeting, and we were excited to see first-hand the considerable progress you have made since the site visit last year. We commend you for broadening the scope of your work to include all the regions and health departments interested in participating in the community health assessment mini-collaborative. While we have mentioned some of these previously, we want to take the opportunity to let you know the aspects of your project we believe will be of particular value not only to other states within the MLC, but also to those across the country who will be undertaking QI and accreditation preparation work in the future:

- Regional cooperation efforts
- Partnership among Kansas Health Institute, Local Association of Local Health Departments, the State Health Department, and the Kansas University Area Health Education Center to manage and implement the project. Your efforts as a team to implement this project are seamless.
- Design, planning, and implementation of the mini-collaboratives, including the development of the collaborative handbook and creation of a virtual storyboard, and the assignment of tasks related to accessing data
- Management of a large number of health departments participating in the CHA collaborative to achieve greater spread of QI learning while preparing for accreditation
- Lessons that you may have to share from your Accreditation Preparation Collaborative regarding the viability of this model as strategy to prepare for accreditation

We were also excited to see you applying the lessons learned from the first-mini-collaborative to the second collaborative, and thereby demonstrating your own PDCA cycle. It was a pleasure to attend this well-organized, well-facilitated meeting, and we look forward to learning more from your efforts in this next year of the MLC. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Jennifer McKeever