

Specific expectations of Board of Health members:

**Assess**

- Educate yourself on your community and its public health status. As a resident, you are in an excellent position to know your community's problems and needs.
- Educate yourself on your board and local department's history, goals, achievements, and current situation.

**Develop Policy**

- Review statutes, administrative rules and local policies.
- Attend board meetings regularly and promptly.
- Review all meeting materials in advance of meeting.
- Do assigned work between meetings.
- Participate fully in open, constructive dialogue regarding local public health both in and out of meetings.
- Ask critical questions; seek clarity and implications of decisions before voting.
- Function as a policy-maker not as an administrator.
- Link the community and the local health department.
- Represent a broad cross-section of the community to the board.
- Represent public health to the community.
- Speak for the board only when delegated to do so.
- Actively participate in political activities at local, state, and national level concerning local public health.

**Assure**

- Keep decision-making at the primary and secondary policy levels.
- Stand behind decisions of the board and its director/health officer.
- Inform the community of public health financial backing.
- Anticipate trends likely to affect the local health department.