**MT Mentorship Participants**

**RiverStone Health (MT)**

 **Background**

**State:** Montana

**LHD Population Size Served**: 145,000

**Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected:** -

**Retail Program Standards Met/Currently Working On:** Self-Assessment

**Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards:** 2003

RiverStone Health’s mission is To Improve Life, Health and Safety. RiverStone Health is the local health district serving Yellowstone County including the cities of Billings, Laurel, Huntley, Shepherd, Worden and Custer. The population served approximates 145,000. RiverStone Health is governed by a 14 member Board of Health and directed by our Health Officer, John Felton, MBA, FACHE, MPH. RiverStone Health is an active member of NACCHO and is represented on NACCHO’s Workgroups.

In 2008, the RiverStone Health Board of Health adopted a strategic initiative specifically directed at integrating quality and process improvement into the organizations’ daily activities. We believe that Self-Assessment of our Retail Food Program and work towards meeting the Program Standards is consistent with this initiative.

As the largest local health department in Montana, RiverStone Health is viewed as a leader in public health across the state. The work completed toward meeting the Program Standards will position RiverStone Health with the knowledge and expertise to assist other environmental health departments across the state of Montana in their work on their Retail Food Programs, as well as to improve our own delivery of services.

**Overview of Mentorship Program Participation**

RiverStone Health participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in the first cohort (2012). RiverStone Health was mentored by Wake County Environmental Health Services (NC).

**Mentorship Program Lessons Learned/Tips**

Conducting the self-assessment gave us useful information to create a work plan on moving forward in the Retail Program Standards.

**Project Contact**

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**Link:**

<http://www.riverstonehealth.org/PublicHealth/EnvironmentalHealthServices/RestaurantsFoodVendors/tabid/294/Default.aspx>