



USAPI Laboratory Systems Strengthening: Progress Highlights and Next Steps



**76th PIHOA Executive Board Meeting
Hilton Hawaiian Village
Honolulu, Hawaii
March 24 -28, 2025**

Overview

I. FAS Lab Accreditation Readiness

- Maria Marfel, Regional Lab Program Specialist

II. Laboratory Attachments at LBJ TMC, PPHFP Lab Fellows and A Plan of Improving Lab Services in the USAPI: 2025-2030

- Dr. Vasiti Uluiviti, Regional Lab Strengthening Coordinator

III. CDC PHIG-Supported Lab Data Exchange (DX)/Lab Information Systems

- Global Scientific Solutions for Health: Dr. Paula Fernandez & Enny Pounders

I. FAS Lab Accreditation Readiness

Phase 1: Conduct Stepwise Lab Quality Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) Lab Audit

- Lab audit tool
- ISO 15189 Lab standards
- Assesses the 12 quality system essentials (QSE) of the lab quality management system (LQMS)

Phase 2: Implement Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) Program

- Training curriculum that addresses the gaps/deficiencies of the SLIPTA audit
- SLIPTA re-audit at the end of the program to assess progress

2024 SLIPTA Lab Audits

July 1 - 12, 2024

- Yap State Hospital Lab

September 2 - 13, 2024

- Belau National Hospital Lab

October 7 - 18, 2024

- Majuro Hospital Lab

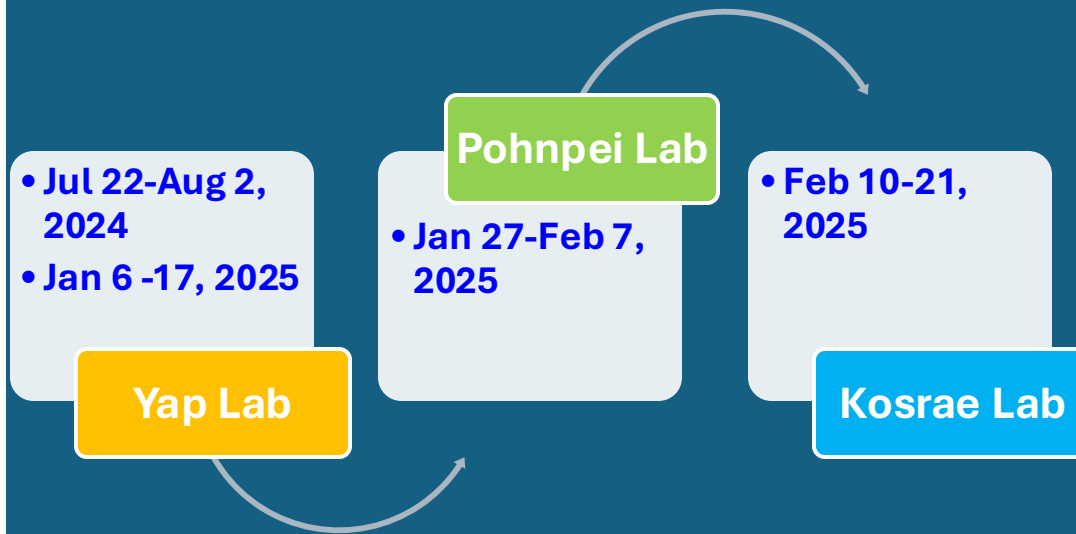
**October 28 - November 8,
2024**

- Pohnpei State Hospital Lab

**November 25 - December
6, 2024**

- Kosrae State Hospital Lab

SLMTA Training



Highlights

- **Kosrae lab joined the SLMTA initiative in November 2024**
 - Small lab with light workloads
 - Qualified and committed personnel
 - Full support from its Administration
- **SLMTA training for Palau on hold**
 - SLMTA training is on hold until installation of telephone lines and internal cables completed
 - Palau lab has the most qualified medical technologist with a total of 12. Eight out of the 12 are locals.
 - Full support from its Administration
- **SLMTA training for Majuro on hold until recruited staff onboard**
 - 3 more staff resigned; 9 vacancies yet to fill
 - Severe shortage of manpower does not allow for an effective SLMTA training

FAS Lab Accreditation-Ready Status

- As of now, the first two labs likely to become accreditation-ready in 2026 are Kosrae and Palau
- All the labs are re-energized and in competition to reach their set goals by 2026
- Inevitably, the most supported labs by their administration will accelerate this process of achievement
- Achieving one's goal does not only require commitment and dedication but also require steady financial and leadership support from leadership

1st Lab

Kosrae State Hospital Laboratory

2nd Lab

Belau National Hospital Laboratory

3rd Lab

Yap State Hospital Laboratory

4th Lab

Pohnpei State Hospital Laboratory

5th Lab

Majuro Hospital Laboratory

II. Laboratory Attachments

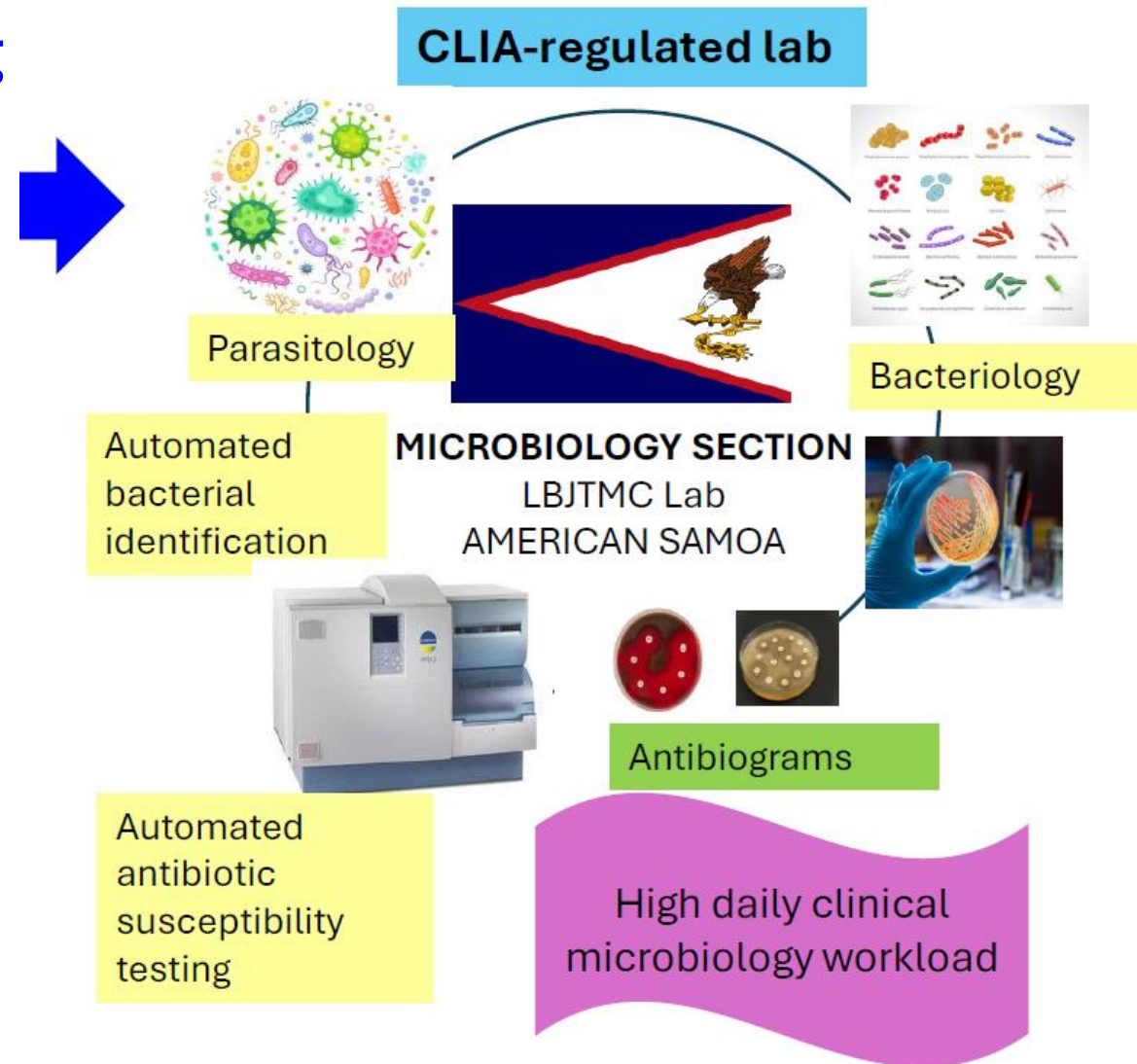
Microbiology Enhancement Training (MET) at LBJ TMC, American Samoa

Upcoming Attachments

- Yap: June – Sept 2025
- Majuro: Oct – Dec 2025
- Palau: March 2026
- **American Samoa LBJTMC @ DLS**
Hawaii in 2025 – Pending discussion with DLS

Past Attachments

- Yap x1 – 2017
- Yap x1 and Palau x1 – 2018
- Palau x1 – 2023 (3 months)



Pacific Public Health Fellowship Program – Laboratory Fellows

Current Lab Fellows (5) – AS DOH,
Chuuk, Pohnpei, Yap (x2)

Lab Fellow Projects

- Review and update Lab Quality Manuals
- Improvement of equipment quality system essentials
- Inventory management
- Lab procurement
- Enumeration of lab wastage
- Lab-based surveillance of HIV, STIs, and viral hepatitis
- TB specimen collection quality improvement
- Documenting and categorizing types of problems encountered in the lab



Past graduate

Hope Edeluchel

Palau Lab Fellow 2022 – 24

Main project: Monthly STI testing
stock-out reports at the BNH
Laboratory for STI tests: 2019 - 23

Graduating in June 2025

Karmi Alik

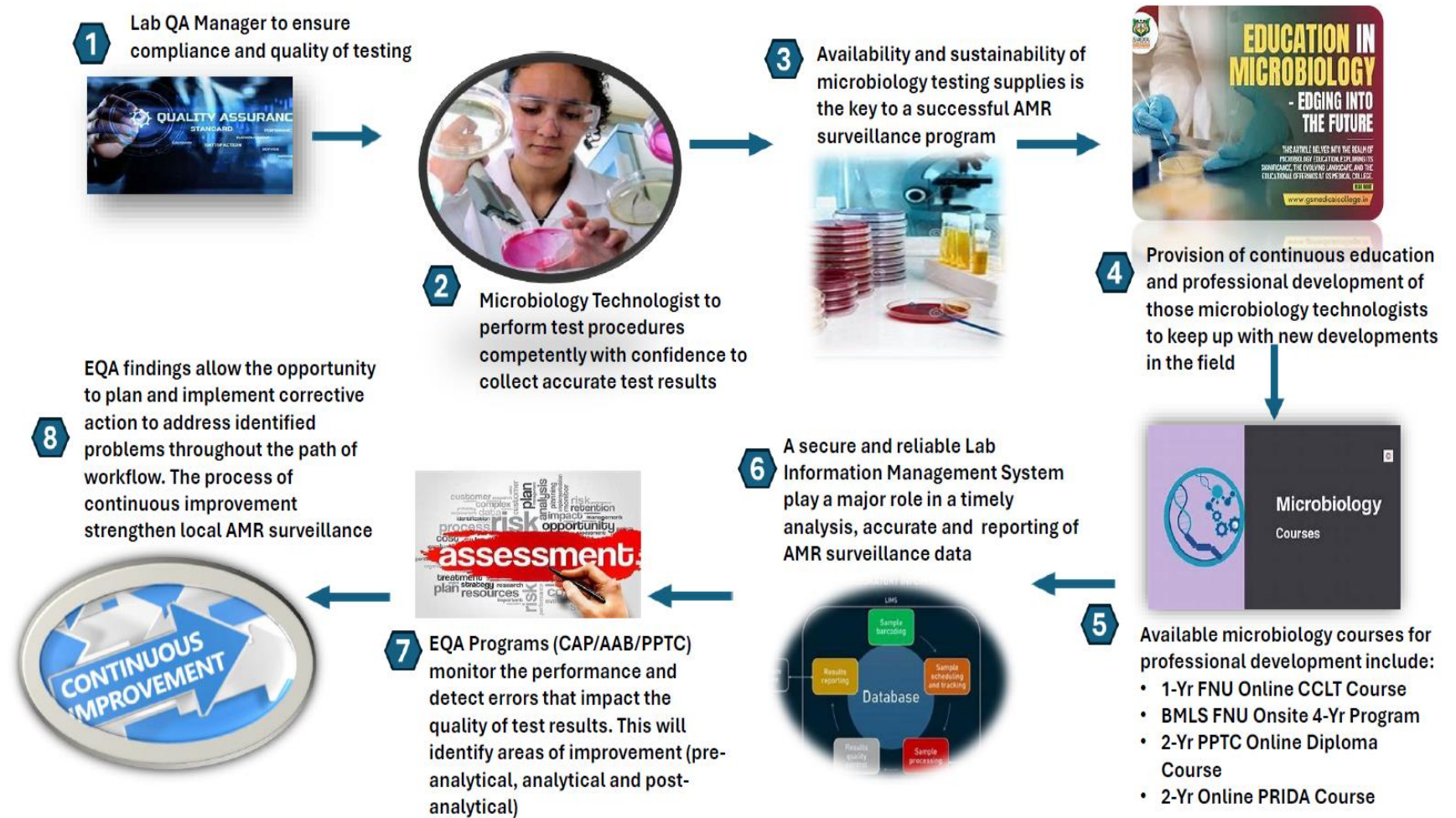
Pohnpei Lab Fellow 2023 – 25

Main project: Development of
Pohnpei Hospital antibiogram for
Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)
lab surveillance

A Proposed Plan of Improving Lab Services in the USAPIs: 2025 - 2030

AMR Lab Surveillance Roadmap in the USAPI Labs: 2025 - 2030

Proposed PIHOA Resolution #2025-76-01 - Concerning Strengthening of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Laboratory Surveillance in the USAPIs



Lab Improvement Process Against 12 Quality System Essentials (QSE) of the Lab Quality Management System (LQMS)

**Proposed PIHOA
Resolution #2025-76-2
- Concerning Efforts to
Improve Public Health
and Clinical
Laboratory Services in
the USAPIs 2025 -
2030**

Organization

Personnel

Equipment

Purchasing & inventory

Process control

Information management

Documents & records

Occurrence management

Assessment

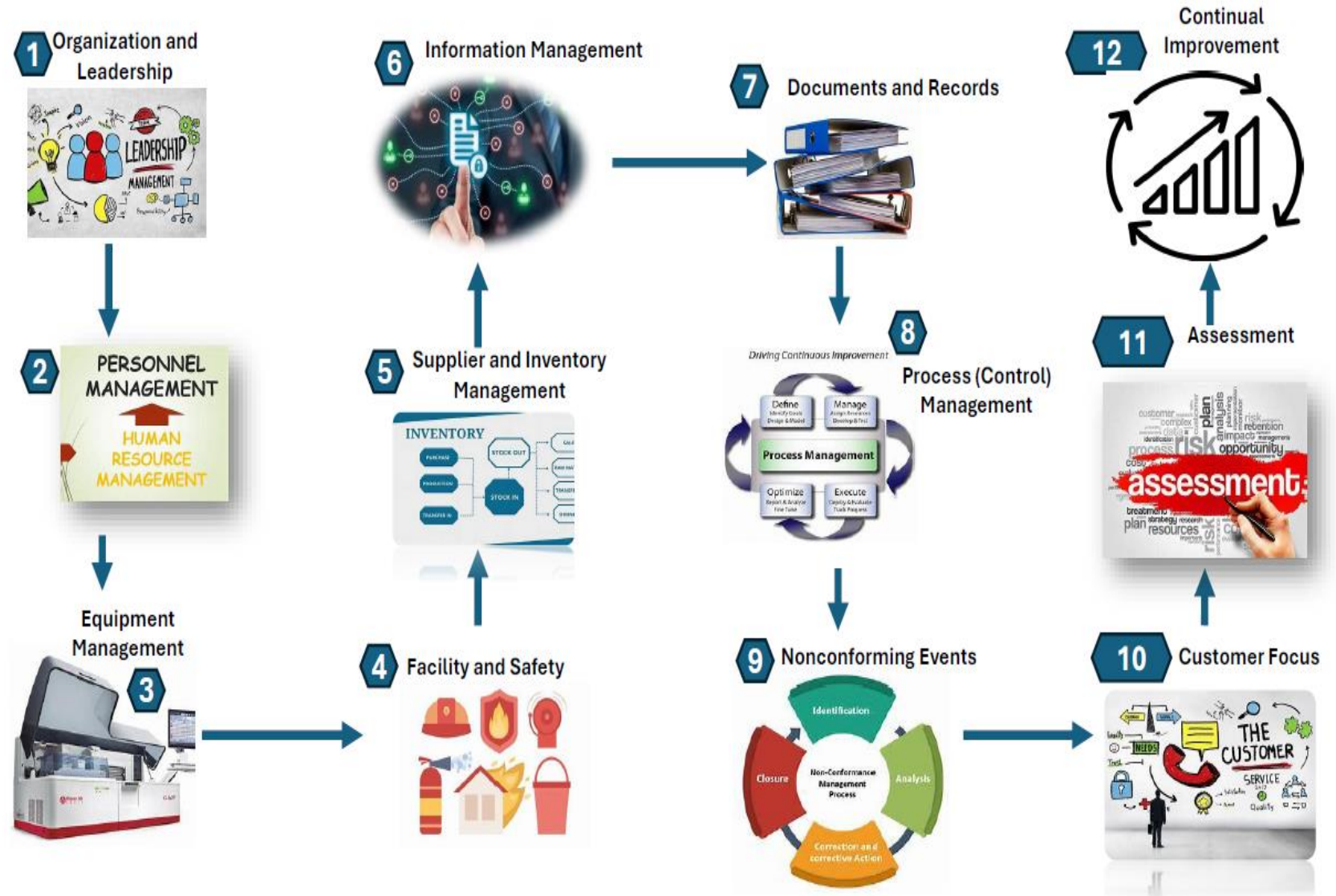
Process improvement

Customer service

Facilities & safety

Lab Improvement Roadmap in the USAPI Non-Regulated Labs: 2025 - 2030

Proposed PIHOA
Resolution #2025-76-2
- Concerning Efforts to
Improve Public Health
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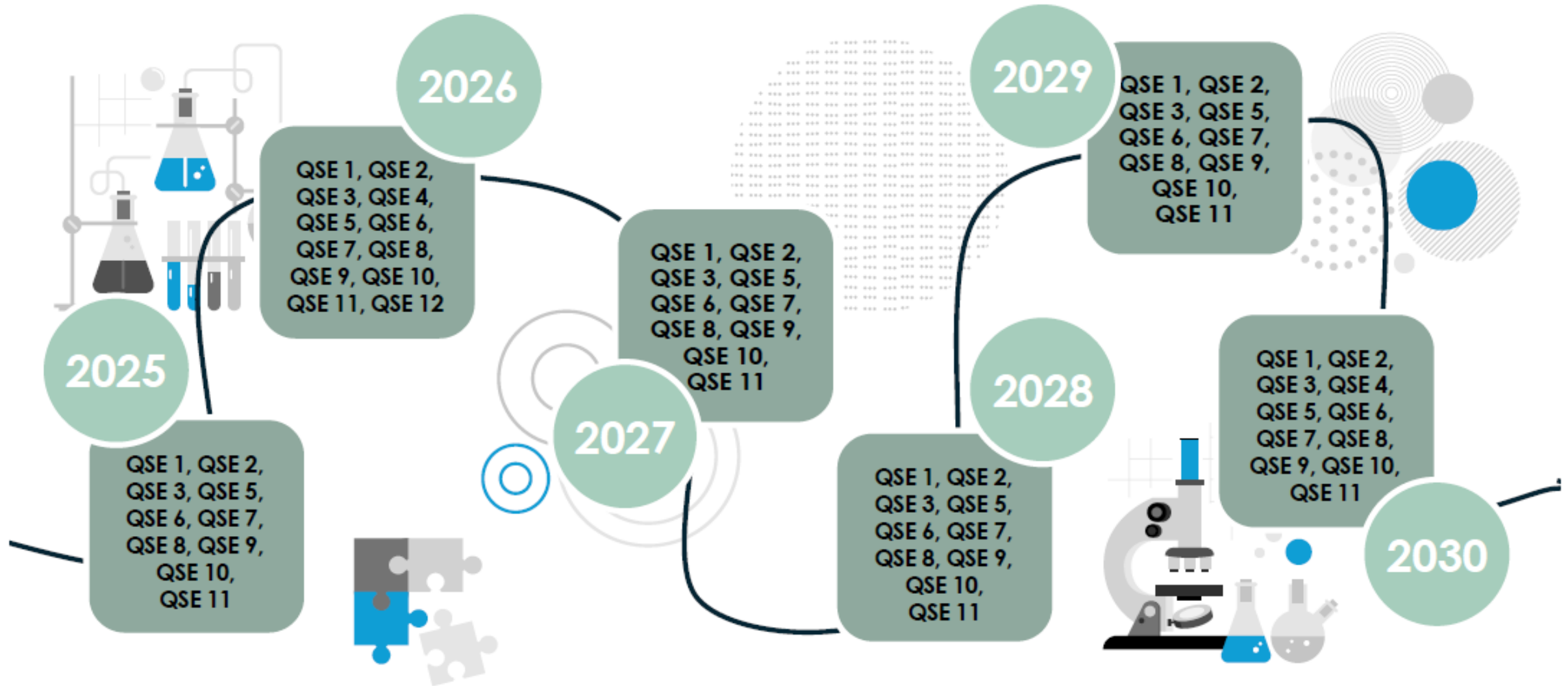


Guam Public Health Laboratory

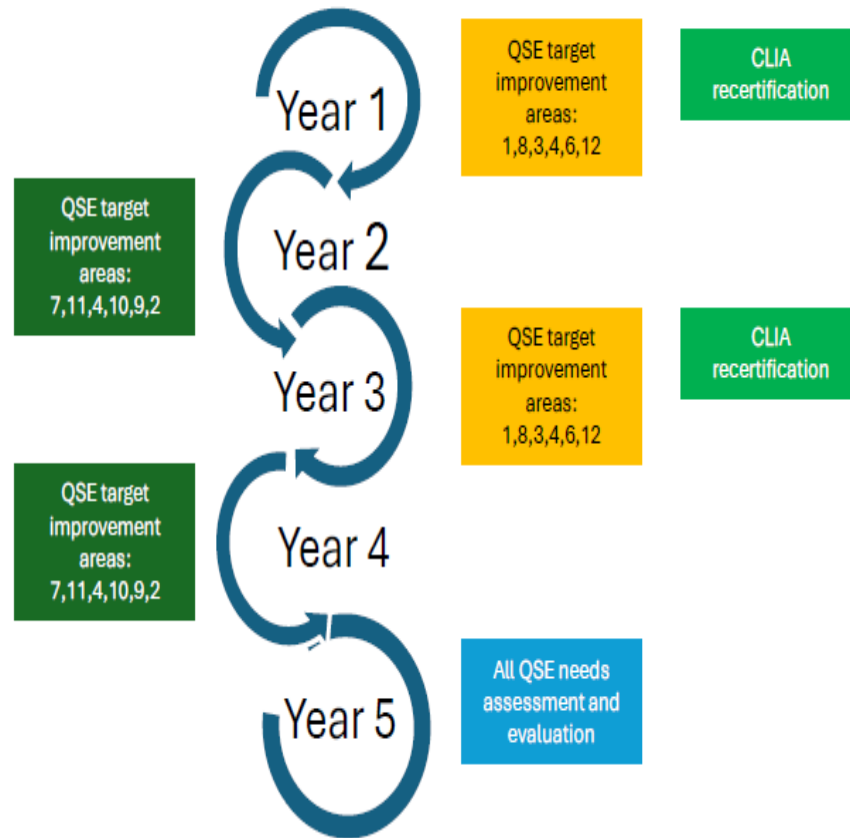
Improvement of Public Health Laboratory Services

Quality System Essentials Priorities (QSE) 2025 - 2030

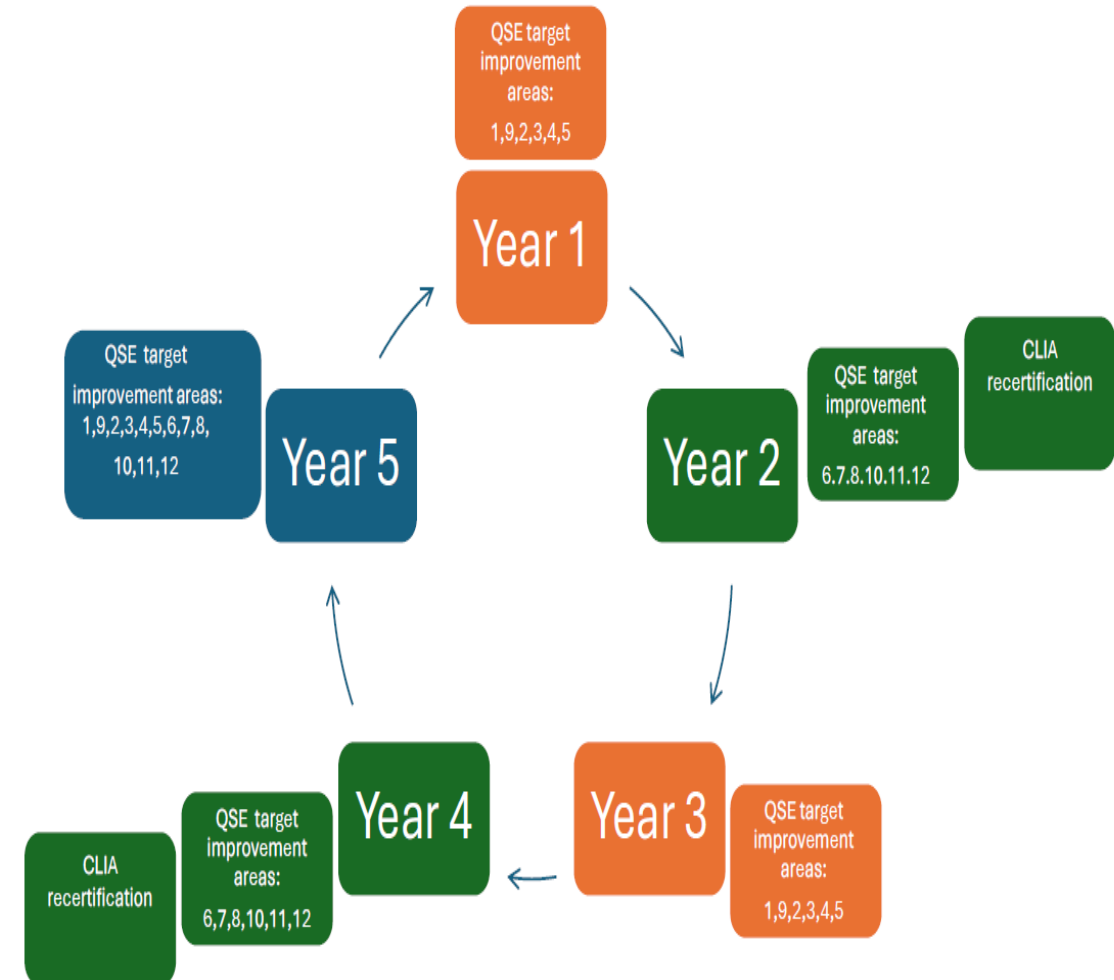
(CLIA Regulated Laboratory)



American Samoa DOH Laboratory Improvement of Public Health Laboratory Services Quality System Essentials Priorities (QSE) 2025 - 2030 (CLIA Regulated Laboratory)



American Samoa LBJTMC Laboratory Improvement of Clinical Laboratory Services Quality System Essentials Priorities (QSE) 2025 - 2030 (CLIA Regulated Laboratory)



Thank You!

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