Figure 2: Components of each standard

Goal

The goal is a statement that reflects the broadest level of results to be achieved in a specific standard. The work of boards of health, along with community partners, non-governmental organizations, governmental bodies, and community members, contributes to achieving the goal.

Societal Outcomes

Societal outcomes entail changes in health status, organizations, systems, norms, policies, environments, and practices. Societal outcomes result from the work of many sectors of society, including boards of health, for the improvement of the overall health of the population.

Board of Health Outcomes

Board of health outcomes are the results of endeavours by boards of health. Outcomes often focus on changes in awareness, knowledge, attitudes, skills, practices, environments, and policies. Boards of health shall direct their efforts towards, and shall be held accountable for, these outcomes.

Each board of health shall establish internal processes for managing day-to-day operations of programs and services to achieve desired board of health outcomes. These processes should be outlined in each board of health's local operational and strategic plans. These in turn align with the board of health outcomes articulated in these standards.

Requirements

Requirements are the specific statements of action. Requirements have been developed to achieve a balance between flexibility and the need to provide clear program direction for consistent province-wide implementation and the achievement of provincially set outcomes. All boards of health shall demonstrate progress based on established baselines.

Program requirements have been generally grouped into four categories representing public health functions. These complementary and interdependent categories are:

- Assessment and Surveillance;
- Health Promotion and Policy Development;
- Disease Prevention; and
- Health Protection.

In addition, protocols are named in many requirements to provide further direction on how boards of health must operationalize specific requirement(s).

Source: Ontario Public Health Standards, 2008