

Berkshire Public Health Alliance



**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
AND
BERKSHIRE COUNTY
BOARDS OF HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

**PITTSFIELD
APRIL 28, 2011**

Welcome!

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- Exits and Safety briefing
- Cell phones and pagers – vibrate please
- Washroom keys and refreshments
- Questions welcomed anytime
- Meeting Basics:
 - Civil Discourse
 - One at a time please
 - Conscious effort to move forward, not back
- **Introductions**

Today's Goals

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- **Review the status of Berkshire public health**
- **Decide how we all benefit from regional coordination**
- **Explain the Department of Public Health (DPH) District Incentive Grants (DIG)**
- **Determine our strategy and next steps**

What is Public Health?

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Mission of Public Health

- **Promote**
- **Protect**
- **Preserve Life**



Duties of Local Boards of Health

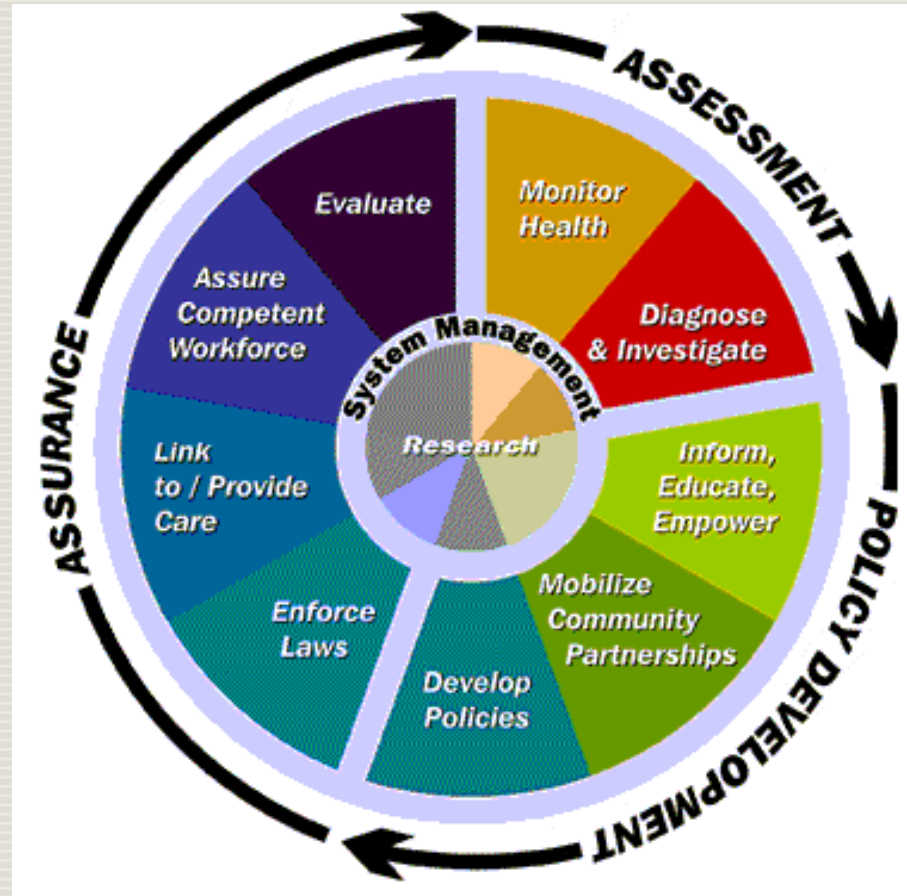
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- Record Keeping
- Nuisances
- Complaints
- Food
- Housing
- Motels & B & B
- Water and Air
- Pools and Beaches
- Camps
- Septic Systems
- Tobacco control
- Noisome Trades
- Tanning and Body Art
- Disease Surveillance
- Disease follow up
- Animals, rabies, beavers
- Solid Wastes
- Hazardous Wastes
- Burial Permits
- I & Q and emergencies
- Funeral Directors
- Subdivisions

Basic Public Health Process

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- **Assessment**
- **Policy Development**
- **Assurance**



Overview of this Project

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- 3 years ago, BCBOHA members formed a regional coordination work group to **Assess** the delivery of local public health services
- Western Mass study of LBOH capacity completed
- Small grant from Boston University to look at regional coordination - PBRN
- District Incentive Grant (DIG) grant applied for (and received) by BRPC with support from BCBOHA

Assessment Results

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- Public health services in the rest of the nation are largely done at the city and county level.
- Local Boards of Health are mandated in M.G.L. Chapter 111 and others to prevent diseases and enforce public health rules and regulations.
- Emerging diseases and emergencies are increasing.
- Every year LBOH have more mandates; training and performance standards are rising; and there is no more money.

Poor Health Outcomes/Indicators

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- A national study of health indicators and outcomes ranked Berkshire County **10/14** in the state!

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

Policy Recommendations

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Regional Coordination is needed to:

- ***Improve our delivery of mandated/needed services***
- ***Ensure better health outcomes***
- ***Leverage our resources***

Regional Coordination Strategy

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- 1. Share Grants**
- 2. Share Information**
- 3. Share Regional Emergency Response**
- 4. Share Disease Surveillance**
- 5. Share Wellness Programs**
- 6. Share Inspectors such as**
 - Public Health Nurses**
 - Temporary Food Events**
 - Housing**
 - Camps and pools**

The essential elements to form our regional
(working name)

Berkshire Public Health Alliance

Regional Coordination Elements

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1. Legal Agreement between communities

- **Must be signed by the CEO and the BOH Chair**
- **Enough Towns/Cities to be sustainable**

2. Regional Governing Board

- **Work together as a Regional Public Health Alliance**
- **Set Policy**
- **Regional Programs Oversight – Quality Assurance**

3. Fiscal Agent (must be a government agency)

- **One Town or BRPC**
- **Manage grants , programs and any staff**
- **File all required paperwork**

Proposed Organizational Structure

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City/LBOH

Town/LBOH

Town/LBOH

Town/LBOH

Town/
LBOH

Governing
Board

Host
Fiscal
Agency

Regional Health
Alliance
Department

Legal Agreement Essentials

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1. Each LBOH keeps its authority
2. **NO** financial commitment other than grants, gifts and fees without approval
3. Each community has at least one voting representative
4. Governing Board representatives approved by LBOH
5. Opt-out options
6. Allows for shared programs, staff and grant applications & administration

Governing Board Essentials

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1. Role of Governing Board is to set policy, programs, budgets, and recommend hiring/ firing.
2. Every LBOH has a voting representative plus another representative chosen by the community.
3. Meet Quarterly or as needed
4. Board makes its own rules in the form of operating regulations.

Host Fiscal Agency Options

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Must be a government body to manage grants, contracts, staff, benefits, insurance, office, etc. and retain governmental liability protections. Options:

1. **One town** acts for the Alliance (example: Lee for Tri-Town)
2. **Berkshire Regional Planning Commission** acts for the Alliance (example: Franklin COG)

Shared Services Ideas

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**COULD BE ANY
PUBLIC HEALTH
SERVICE**

Here are some ideas already discussed:

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- Share Information
- Public Health Nurse, including MAVEN
- Pool Inspector, including beaches
- Camp Inspector
- Animal Inspector, including rabies
- Food Inspector, especially for Temporary Events
- Housing Inspector, including lead
- Solid Waste Management, including sharps
- Regional emergency planning/response
- Lab for bacterial testing

Funding Options

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Eventually must be self-sustaining:

- **Grants and Gifts**
- **Revolving Funds:** Inspection/Permit Fees /Fines - for services provided – by agreement only
- **LBOH Budgets:** General Revenues - by agreement and appropriation only based on an agreed funding formula.

DIG Grant Requirements

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By September 30, 2011 the grant requires us to:

- Hold meetings to discuss regional coordination
- Create a regional Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) and encourage communities to sign on
- Identify a Host Fiscal Agency
- Create plans and strategies for implementation
- Cooperate in the grant assessment process
- Apply for a District Implementation Grant OR report why we aren't applying

Aggressive DIG Timeline

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- **April**

- Draft an Inter-Municipal Agreement
- Discuss possible shared services
- Agree on strategy and future meetings

- **May**

- Hire consultant(s) to assist with shared services planning
- Finalize Inter-Municipal Agreement
- Determine Host Fiscal Agency
- Develop a Host Fiscal Agency contract,
- Determine likely shared services

- **June**

- Continue shared services discussion
- Finalize Host Agency contract
- Draft of Business Plan
- Communities commitment to the IMA

- **July/August**

- IMA Signatures
- Governing Board operating rules completed
- Grant planning started by committed communities

- **September**

- Governing Board meets
- Implementation Grant finalized and submitted.

Next Steps

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- **Inter-Municipal Agreement reviewed by Communities and their legal advisors**
- **Final Agreement approved**
- **Meet with each LBOH and Selectmen to explain needs, strategy and sign Agreement**
- **Agree on Shared Services and create plan**
- **Apply for grants such as the DIG implementation grant and/or RWJ grants**

Committees or Joint Meetings?

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- **Services:** Shared Service Options and costs
- **Legal:** Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) and Host Agency Agreement
- **Finances:** Fee Schedule, Budgets, Funding, Business Plan
- **Governance:** Board Operating Rules
- **Grants:** DIG Implementation Grant Application
- **Outreach** and Signing the IMA - everyone

Meeting Schedule

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May and June will be busy months

- Lots of paper or on-line access?
- Committees or whole group?
- Days of the week, Time of Day?
- How do we engage Selectmen/Mayors?
- Suggest the following meetings:
 - May 11th or 12th - Shared Services; Legal (IMA)
 - May 16th or 17th - Host Agency; Final IMA to Town attorneys
 - June 1st or 2nd - Governing Board Rules
 - June 15th or 16th - Business Plan and Outreach

This Week's Homework

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1. Each Town/City designate a Point of Contract (POC) for this project.
2. Each POC keeps his/her BOH and Chief Elected Officials (CEO) briefed on issues and questions.
3. Each town/city decides and reports back on what shared services they are interested in.

What have we forgotten?

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Questions?

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