

# 8/10/16 Statewide LHD Call Summary

Hosted by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, Center for Local Health

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**Participants: Local Health Departments Represented – 34**

**Bureau Staff – 6**

**Guests – 1**

## Welcome and Introductions

The Center for Local Health Director, Amy Atkins, described the Center's strategic framework as the following:

1. Data driven decision making and accountability for state funding.
2. Aligning the Center's work with the implementation of the Public Health Impact Task Force (PHITF) recommendations.
3. Promoting systems change and opportunities using the Center's operational budget, national partners and state-level partners.

## Data driven decision making and accountability for state funding

### **FY 2017 Program Plan Reporting – Amy Atkins, Center for Local Health**

- All local health departments (LHDs) have submitted the required documentation for the release of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter funding. Invoices were submitted by the Center for Local Health and all local health departments received timely disbursement of funds.
- The deadlines for the second quarter reports are as follows:
  - August 5<sup>th</sup> for the FY 2016 Annual Fees for Services and Permits Report
  - August 31<sup>st</sup> for the FY 2016 Annual Financial Report
- Second quarter funding cannot be released until the required reports are submitted. Delays in submitting the required reports could result in a delay of the agency's second quarter funding.
- As of 8/10, 31 LHDs have submitted the FY2016 Fees for Permits and Service Report. Of those that have submitted the reports, several have submitted incomplete reports.
- The Center for Local Health is working with Bureau for Public Health (BPH) offices and centers and state partners to design a survey instrument that will be deployed in the second quarter specific to accreditation readiness, health assessment and planning, cross jurisdictional sharing and billing. This survey is being designed in an effort to streamline requests for information to local health departments and meet multiple requirements in a single survey instrument.

*Please Note: Questions and Answers specific to the FY 2017 Program Plan are included in the updated FY2017 Program Plan FAQ.*

## Implementation of the PHITF Recommendations

### **Public Health Advisory Council – Rebecca Schmidt, Center for Local Health**

- The Center appreciates the many nominations received from local health representatives across the state and the interest to serve on the Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC).
- The Council will focus on policy and programs that prevent illness and protect the health of all citizens and align with the modern, population- based, prevention-oriented public health system as recommended to the Commissioner by the PHITF.

- The PHAC will provide expert advice and make recommendations to the Commissioner and State Health Officer and assist in the development of policies and programs to provide adequate public health services for the citizens of West Virginia.
- The membership list will be released as soon as all nominations have been confirmed.
- Q & A
  1. *Question:* Has the Council met yet?  
*Answer:* No.
  2. *Question:* How did the advisory council come about?  
*Answer:* It was one of the six recommendations made by the PHITF to modernize the public health system in West Virginia.
  3. *Question:* Is this the Public Health Advisory Council that exists in code?  
*Answer:* No. The Public Health Advisory Council is no longer in code.

### **NACCHO Accreditation Readiness Funding – *Rebecca Schmidt, Center for Local Health***

- With funding from the CDC’s Office for State, Tribal, Local, & Territorial Support, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) announced a funding opportunity for local health departments (LHDs) to engage in accreditation readiness activities. The 2016–2017 Accreditation Support Initiative (ASI) awards are intended to stimulate quality improvement and promote LHD readiness to seek voluntary national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board.
- Application requirements and full details about the ASI opportunity are provided in the Request for Proposals (RFP) and the Application Document. Applications, via the online submission form, are due by **5 PM ET on Wednesday, 8/31/16**.
- More information is available at: [www.naccho.org/fees](http://www.naccho.org/fees)
- Q & A – No questions received.

### **Promoting Systems Change and Opportunity**

#### **Chart of Accounts Update – *Amy Atkins, Center for Local Health***

- West Virginia is one of four (4) states selected to participate in a two-year project sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The goal of the project is to assess the feasibility of a uniform chart of accounts to measure public health investment and spending. The project aligns with a national framework of Foundational Public Health Services and Capabilities and will provide the WV Bureau for Public Health and the participating local health departments with an opportunity to map the current basic public health services and enhanced services provided by local health departments in West Virginia to this national framework. The Center for Local Health, along with four (4) participating local health departments (Mid-Ohio Valley, Kanawha-Charleston, Cabell-Huntington and Monongalia Health Departments) will gain a better understanding of the implications of the national framework for West Virginia specific to the development of a modern framework for public health services as called for by PHITF.
- Q & A
 

*Question:* Would the Center and the Bureau prefer that local health departments keep the local chart of accounts as they are or are we allowed to change them?

*Answer:* As autonomous agencies, local health departments are empowered to make operational decisions. The Center can provide resources and information to assist in operational decision-making. However, the Center is not aware of the context that would necessitate a change in the existing chart of accounts for any local health departments. The work of the Bureau and the 4 participating local health departments on the national uniform chart of accounts project should provide valuable information for

West Virginia in assessing the status of our statewide chart of accounts and discussing any necessary changes to align with a minimum package of services as called for by the PHITF.

**Cross ROADS Initiative (Cross-Jurisdictional Resources and Opportunities to Advance the Delivery of Services) – Amy Atkins, Center for Local Health**

- The Center launched the Cross ROADS Initiative the week of July 18<sup>th</sup> with visits to the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department and the Mineral County Health Department to discuss the intent of the initiative and local health involvement.
- The initiative includes multiple national, state and local partners and consists of the following projects:
  - Internal Agency Assessment of the only regional health department in the state conducted by Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department.
  - Cross ROADS Study which will determine how evidence-based policies and procedures related to the combination of local boards of health can be applied to assure the provision of basic public health services across the state and provide equitable coverage for all citizens. Study objectives are as follows:
    - Understand the applicability of various models for local boards of health considering resource sharing, up to and including combining;
    - Learn from other service sharing initiatives both in West Virginia and in other states;
    - Identify quantifiable benefits and costs that occur as a result of resource sharing; and
    - Determine the factors that should inform the geographic design under which local boards of health may share services and/or combine.
  - Participants include the West Virginia University Bureau for Business and Economic Research, the Center for Sharing Public Health Services, and twelve (12) local health departments, in three (3) regions of the state, serving almost 40% (700,000 citizens) of the population in West Virginia.
  - Cross ROADS Toolkit which will provide resources, including discussion guides and other tools, for local boards of health and county commissions considering sharing resources through various arrangements, including the combination of boards of health.
- The end goal of this initiative is to improve health across the state by understanding and documenting the ways in which services are currently shared and providing evidence-based tools for agencies, boards and communities who want to share services/improve their operations.
- Materials from the launch meetings were sent to the participating local health departments on 8/10 with follow-up action items. Relevant materials, including the launch presentation, will also be posted to the CLH website.
- Q & A – No questions received.

**State Medical Association Training**

- The Center for Local Health provided support for four (4) local health departments to send a representative to the State Medical Association's Certified Medical Insurance Specialist training in Charleston. The health departments have agreed to support and share information from the training program with the counties in their TP region and the Center for Local Health.
- Additional information will be provided in the September statewide meeting.
- Q & A – No questions received.

**Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center/WVU School of Public Health – Amy Atkins, Center for Local Health and Ranjita Misra, WVU School of Public Health (SPH)**

- Dr. Ranjita Misra, a professor at WVU SPH, the project lead for WVU's contract with the Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center (MAPHTC). The MAPHTC is one of five performance sites funded by Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), whose purpose is to provide workforce training, practice based learning and continuing education to build the capacity of the public health workforce. The MAPHTC offers both in-person and online training opportunities.
- WVU has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bureau for Public Health, Center for Local Health which includes co-funding a Workforce Development position that will be housed at the Bureau to develop and coordinate trainings for the public health workforce.
- Currently, WVU SPH is developing webinars on accreditation readiness with plans to complete them by the end of August. Input and feedback from local health departments on the content of the webinars is welcome.
- Q & A – No questions received.

### **Zika Update – Donnie Haynes**

- The Bureau has three working groups related to Zika that meet regularly:
  - Zika Task Force is responsible for producing and implementing the Zika Action and Response Plan.
  - Zika Case Management Team is a multi-disciplinary group formed within the Bureau to help improve the quality and effectiveness of the work units that will be providing case management services and care coordination to Zika cases.
  - Zika Response Strategy Team meets weekly to provide guidance and a more centrally defined structure to the Zika Task Force and the Zika Case Management Team.
  - The nine work units within the Bureau that are identified in the Zika Response Strategy Team are:
    - Office of Laboratory Services
    - Office of Environmental Health
    - Epidemiology and Preventive Services
    - Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health
    - Center for Threat Preparedness
    - Center for Local Health
    - Risk Communications
    - Administration
    - Bureau Senior Leadership
- The attached Zika Presentation to WVALHD on June 2, 2016 provides a high level summary of the funding and targeted areas to support Zika response statewide (slide 5). Other areas of support for Zika response include:
  - A bulk shipment of mosquito dunks for use in affected areas. The Center for Threat Preparedness and the Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services will be working to develop a distribution plan.
  - Local health department training, public information materials, surveillance and purchase of lab supplies.
- As of the date of the statewide call, fifty-two (52) specimens submitted for testing: thirty-two (32) were negative and nine (9) were positive, one (1) of whom is pregnant. There are eleven (11) pending cases waiting for confirmation. To date, all cases are travel associated. The first specimen was tested in January 2015 and the last specimen to be sent for testing was August 9, 2016.
- The cases counts nationally can be found on the Centers for Disease Control website at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/united-states.html>.

- Q & A

1. *Question:* Do you anticipate any Zika funding coming to local health departments?  
*Answer:* The funding for Zika response is targeted to build statewide capacity in areas such as the laboratory testing, participation in the national Zika Pregnancy Registry, vector control and communications. Through this funding, the Bureau has provided training, developed communication materials including a Zika website, and purchased mosquito dunks to be distributed to affected areas. These statewide resources are available to support response efforts in areas where Zika is identified and response is needed. Additionally, State Aid is available to support local health department functions related to communicable and reportable disease prevention and control which includes disease surveillance, case investigation and follow-up, outbreak investigation, response to epidemics, and prevention and control of rabies, sexually transmitted diseases, vaccine preventable diseases, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other communicable and reportable diseases. In addition, the FY 2017 Emergency Fund for Local Boards of Health is available to local boards of health.
2. *Question:* Are you looking to enhance mosquito surveillance or rely on the human surveillance?  
*Answer:* Mosquito surveillance activities will be enhanced to look for the known competent mosquito in the United States. Currently, only *Aedes albopictus* has been identified in West Virginia. Additional efforts (including use of different trapping techniques) are being done and will be done during the 2017 mosquito surveillance season. The Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services (OEPS) will be available on the next statewide call to answer questions related to surveillance. We also encourage you to send questions to the Center mailbox at [dhhrbphclh@wv.gov](mailto:dhhrbphclh@wv.gov) 5 or 7 days prior to the statewide call so that we can be prepared to address them.
3. *Question:* What if we have questions based on new information received on the call?  
*Answer:* We are happy to answer any questions we can on the call and, if we need to consult with subject matter experts and provide responses after the call or in the next statewide call we will do that as well.
4. *Question:* What funding did the Bureau receive for Zika?  
*Answer:* The Bureau has applied for and received funding from three funding streams: the Public Health Emergency Response Grant, the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grant and the Surveillance and Birth Defects Grant which is dedicated to developing a statewide pregnancy registry that can be reported back to CDC. The Center for Local Health, with support from Bureau offices and centers, delivered a presentation to the WV Association of Local Health Departments on June 2<sup>nd</sup> regarding Zika planning and funding and distributed the presentation in a statewide e-mail on June 17<sup>th</sup>. This presentation may be a useful resource for local health departments interested in a more detailed summary of the funding.

The next statewide meeting will be held September 7<sup>th</sup> from 1pm – 2pm at the Diamond Building in conference room B10-11.