

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH **FUTURES SURVEY**

As a member of the Legislative Committee on Public Health Futures, you are an important stakeholder of local health departments. You were appointed to this legislative committee by either legislative leadership or your respective association in order to participate and assist in developing a report that recommends legislative and policy changes necessary to make local health departments more effective and efficient in the future. Chairman Burke and Vice-Chairman Press are asking you to answer the questions below in order to understand what issues are most important to you and what particular issues you are looking to address over the course of the Committee’s work.

A. Which stakeholder do you represent? _____

PART I

In review of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) report entitled, *“Public Health Futures: Considerations for a New Framework for Local Public Health”*, please answer the following questions regarding their 19 recommendations as shown in the Executive Summary of the report.

{Using numbers 1-10, please rank these recommendation based on their importance to you with 1 being least important and 10 being most important.}

A. Local public health capacity, services, and quality

1. All Ohioans, regardless of where they live, should have access to the Core Public Health Services described in the Ohio Minimum Package of Local Public Health Services. (see Minimum Package diagram)

Rank: _____

2. All local health departments (LHDs) should have access to the skills and resources that make up the Foundational Capabilities in order to effectively support the core services.

Rank: _____

3. The Ohio Minimum Package of Local Public Health Services should be used to guide any future changes in funding, governance, capacity building, and quality improvement. (see Structure Analysis diagram)

Rank: _____

4. All LHDs should become eligible for accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

Rank: _____

5. LHDs that meet Minimum Public Health Package standards should be prioritized for grant funding in their jurisdiction.

Rank: _____

6. The biennial LHD Health Improvement Standards reported to the Ohio Department of Health via the Ohio Profile Performance Database should serve as the platform for assessing LHD provision of the Minimum Package. The Profile Performance Database may need to be updated periodically to capture the Core Public Health Services and Foundational Capabilities.

Rank: _____

7. The Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) supports a review of current laws and regulations to determine where mandates may need to be revised or eliminated and should advocate for elimination of mandates that do not align with the Minimum Package of Public Health Services.

Rank: _____

B. Jurisdictional structure

8. Decisions about the jurisdictional structure of local public health in Ohio should be based upon LHD ability to efficiently and effectively provide the Minimum Package of Public Health Services. Additional factors that should be considered are:

- a. Number of jurisdictions within a county,
- b. Population size served by the LHD, and
- c. Local geographic, political, and financial conditions. (see Structure Analysis diagram)

Rank: _____

9. All LHDs should assess:

- a. Their ability to provide the Minimum Package of Public Health Services,
- b. The potential impact of cross-jurisdictional sharing or consolidation on their ability to provide those services, and,
- c. The feasibility of and local conditions for cross-jurisdictional sharing or consolidation.

Rank: _____

10. Most LHDs, regardless of size, may benefit from cross-jurisdictional sharing. However, LHDs serving populations of <100,000 in particular may benefit from pursuing cross-jurisdictional sharing or consolidation to ensure adequate capacity to provide the Minimum Package.

Rank: _____

11. LHDs in counties with multiple LHDs should consider the feasibility of voluntary consolidation.

Rank: _____

12. Statutory barriers to voluntary multi-jurisdictional consolidation and cross-jurisdictional sharing should be removed, such as allowing for:

- a. Multi-county levy authority, and
- b. Consolidation of non-contiguous cities or counties, and
- c. Addressing other barriers identified in feasibility analyses

Rank: _____

C. Financing

13. All LHDs should have adequate funding to maintain the Minimum Package of Public Health Services. AOHC should continue the work of the Public Health Futures Financing Workgroup to identify cost estimates for the Minimum Package (Core Services and Foundational Capabilities) by November 2012.

Rank: _____

14. The Ohio Department of Health and LHDs should work together to shift the focus from managing fragmented program silos and funding streams toward improving and coordinating state and local organizational capacity to effectively deliver the Minimum Package.

Rank: _____

15. AOHC should advocate for block grants or direct contracts when possible so that communities can implement programs based on Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan priorities.

Rank: _____

16. AOHC should work to assure that local health departments are able to obtain fair reimbursement from public and private payers for eligible services (including efforts to streamline insurance credentialing).

Rank: _____

17. AOHC should explore new mechanisms for improving the stability and sustainability of federal, state, and local funding, such as:

- a. Dedicated percentage of inside millage in lieu of local levies,
- b. Standardized cost methodology to establish fees for programs where no explicit fee-setting authority currently exists,
- c. Increasing Local Health Department Support (“state subsidy”) to LHDs to support Foundational Capabilities,
- d. Excise taxes (e.g., tobacco, sugar-sweetened beverages, medical transactions),and
- e. Integrated health care delivery reimbursement

Rank: _____

D. Implementation Strategy

18. AOHC should seek funds to support feasibility assessments, transition planning, and incentives necessary for LHDs to implement the new framework (such as submitting a proposal to the RWJF Center for Sharing Public Health Services grant program).

Rank: _____

19. AOHC should convene a meeting with state health policy leaders to formally present and discuss the recommendations of the Public Health Futures final report and to collaboratively plan strategies and action steps to advance forward progress toward the vision for the future.

Rank: _____

Please use this space to provide any other comments regarding the AOHC report.

PART II

Please answer the following questions:

20. Do you feel the governance body of the Board of Health should be changed relative to its composition, terms, and/or how it is appointed? If yes, please explain.

21. What legislative issues or policy requirements are you seeking to address as a committee member?

22. In order to assure adequate capacity for a basic level of services, how should local Health departments be funded (ie state funded, excise taxes on tobacco, local permit fees, local levy, other suggestions?)

23. In consideration of all the information provided to you to date, please provide your thoughts regarding the structural framework of local health departments. Should the structural framework of local health departments be changed to encompass a minimum population or geographical size? Or should a shared service center arrangement (similar to educational service centers) be established? Or should local health departments remain structured as they are today?