Characteristics of Cross-Jurisdictional Shared Services Arrangements Between Local Health Departments in Wisconsin

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Shared Services Agreement

“A written document that describes, defines, or governs sharing of resources across jurisdictions on an ongoing or as needed basis. Shared resources may include, but are not limited to, organizational functions, staffing, programs, services, capacity, data, information, and technical assistance”

Specific Aims

1. Describe SSA and LHD characteristics, motivations, and expected outcomes
2. Measure extent of implementation
3. Measure performance in achieving expected outcomes

Methods

- IRB approval UW-Madison
- Invited LTHD to participate
- Collected SSA documents
- Extraction of SSA features from SSA
- Interview LTHD directors
- Content coding of open-ended questions (NVivo10)
- Local Public Health Department Survey (annual state administered data)
- Analysis using NCSS & Stata

Results

Primary Program Area n= 83 SSA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Program Area</th>
<th>SSA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental health</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency preparedness</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicable disease</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health promotion/chronic</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCH</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type of Sharing n= 83 SSA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Sharing</th>
<th>SSA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharing services</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing staffing</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing administrative functions</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing technical assistance</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results (cont.)

Number of Partners

- Mean = 3.46 partners/SSA
- SD=3.46, Min/max: 2-15
- 74% with 2 partners
- 77/88 LHD (87.6%)
- 5/13 Tribal (38.5%)
- 7 other organizations

Length of Term

- Min/max = 4 months to open-ended
- 40% = 12 months
- 33% = not specified

Motivations for SSA

- Meet requirements
- Cost savings
- Increase revenue
- Enhance quality
- Expand capacity
- Increase efficiency
- Improve outcomes

Discussion

Limitations

- SSA are common; current strategy
- Used in variety of program areas
- Used in large and small LHD
- Number of partners can vary: fit to purpose
- More complete agreements (legal) may be stronger

Next Steps

1. Describe SSA and LHD characteristics, motivations, and expected outcomes
2. Measure extent of implementation
3. Measure performance in achieving expected outcomes

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