WHY REGIONALIZE?

- Over past 15 years Local Public Health has had diminishing resources and increasing responsibilities
- LPH workforce not always able to provide basic, essential PH services
- Significant variations/inequities across the Commonwealth
- Regionalization creates sustainable system to provide increased services to residents with available resources.
STATE MANDATED PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

- Records, Record Keeping, and Reporting
- Communicable Disease Control
- Enforce Sanitary Codes for Housing
- Enforce lead poisoning prevention
- Inspection of public facilities (e.g., restrooms)
- Ensure site for hazardous waste disposal
- Ensure site for solid waste disposal
- Ensure safe and adequate storage of medical and biological waste
- Enforce Title V codes for septic waste disposal
- Make rules and regulations for the removal, transportation and disposal of garbage
- Investigate nuisances that may be injurious to health
- Issue permits for all food service establishments
- Inspect retail food establishments (temporary and permanent) at least two times per year
- Inspect and monitor quality of public pools and beaches
- Inspect camps, mobile home parks, and cabins
- Enforce local and state smoking regulations
CENTRAL MA REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE (CMRPHA)
CMRPHA IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

- 2009 Public Health Taskforce
- 2011 MDPH Planning Grant
- 2011 Signed IMA with Shrewsbury
- 2011-2012 DIG Funding; RWJ Funding
- 2012-2014 5 more towns sign IMAs
## ESTABLISHING A HEALTH DISTRICT

### CMRPHA Experience

**Process**
- 2009 Worcester Public Health Task Force recommendation
- Convened 12 municipalities in 2011
- Funded by a planning grant from MDPH
- Additional funding from MDPH and RWJ
- Signed an IMA with 1 town in 2011
- 5 more towns signed on from 2012-2014

**Assessment**
- What are the available resources?
- What are the mandated services?
- What is the current capacity of public health?

**Goals**
- Leverage available resources
- Reduce costs
- Improve mandated services
- Expand the capacity of the public health infrastructure
WORCESTER’S PUBLIC HEALTH TASK FORCE

- Convened in 2009 following massive budget cuts and layoffs in the health department
- Charged with identifying strategies to improve the delivery of the 10 Essential Public Health Services in the City
- Recommendations:
  - Reconstitute the BOH
  - Achieve National Accreditation
  - Regionalize public health services
  - Make data-driven decisions
ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CMRPHA Experience

Key Decisions
- Governance
- Fees
- Roles & responsibilities
- Scope of Inter-municipal Agreements
- Staffing
- Logistics
- Communication protocols

Context and history
- Governance
- Fiscal and service implications
- Legal sharing-agreement
- Legal issues
- Logistical issues
- Communications
- Timeline
- Monitoring
GROWING PAINS

- Standardization
- Unexpected costs (mileage, trainings)
- Lack of engagement
- Communications
SUCCESES: IMPROVEMENTS IN MANDATED SERVICES

• Substantial increases in submission of food reports to MDPH; all towns meeting state requirements for inspections
• 100% reporting on MAVEN
• Increased completion of routine communicable disease reports
• Improvement in consistency of beach inspections for a majority of the districts
• Increased BOH training – from 10 – 30% to 60 – 90%
SUCCESES: EXPANDED COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMMING

- 2012 CHA/CHIP
- Regional Youth Health Survey
- Central MA Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Healthy Eating/Active Living Programming
  - Healthy Markets Program
  - Complete Streets trainings
- Regional Substance Abuse Prevention strategies
  - Sharps disposal program
  - Rx drug disposal program
SUCCESSES: IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE

- Increased number of public health professionals serving all communities
  - Improved ability to respond to emergencies
  - Increased administrative support
- Diversified funding to support services
  - Regional funds
  - Regional grant opportunities
- Academic Health Department
  - Increasing service provision and advancing health by tapping into resources of area colleges and universities
- National Accreditation
  - Increased resources to meet the standards
QUESTIONS?