

Laboratory Efficiencies Initiative (LEI)

Vision: A sustainable and integrated network of public health laboratories.

Mission: To assure that the public health laboratory network efficiently provides high confidence scientific evidence to drive decision-making that protects and improves the health of the public.

Partnership for PHL Sustainability

APHL and CDC co-sponsor the LEI with important contributions by public health and laboratory partners. Some of the high-efficiency management practices being explored are:

- Sharing of testing services across states,
- Adoption of standardized testing platforms,
- Optimized models of service organization,
- Generation of new revenue sources,
- Application of informatics solutions and
- Procurement cost-savings.

LEI Activities

Beginning in mid-2011, APHL and CDC have:

- Initiated a project to assess public health laboratories' capabilities across the informatics enterprise to address gaps that reduce efficiency.
- Sponsored focus groups to identify practical metrics for measuring the return on investment in public health laboratories.
- Identified "lessons learned" by public health laboratories that have consolidated services, formed multistate testing cooperatives, or been forced to downsize.
- Initiated recommendations and activities to improve management and laboratory access to existing test service data.
- Convened two director forums to document the issues and concerns regarding sustainability facing the public health laboratories.
- Developed a strategic plan to guide the activities of the LEI.
- Convened a Legislative Policy meeting to identify the legal and policy barriers and potential solutions to achieving greater efficiency by public health laboratories.
- Assembled with public health partner organizations APHA, ASTHO, CSTE, and NACCHO to align priorities and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Links:

APHL LEI website: www.aphl.org/lei

CDC LEI website: <http://www.cdc.gov/osels/lspppo/lei>

APHL Member Resource Center: www.aphl.org/mrc

Resources Released through LEI Activities

- **Laboratory Service Changes Guide**
A "how-to" resource for public health laboratory directors considering new approaches to testing services.
- **Legal Considerations Overview**
A resource for public health laboratory directors in assessing potential legal issues related to sharing testing services with other jurisdictions.
- **LEAN Training**
Resources and case studies from the two LEAN workshops are available.
- **Informatics Self Assessment with Guidance**
A tool to assist laboratories in sustaining current capabilities and addressing gaps through standards-based best practices.

New Resources in Development

- **Procurement Strategies**
Exploring new business approaches to make equipment, services, and supplies more affordable.
- **Revenue Generation**
Examining opportunities for revenue such as billing for laboratory tests.
- **Workforce Competency**
Developing relevant workforce strategies, tools, and trainings.
- **Policy Guide for Sharing of Test Services**
Creating a tool to identify and address legal or other policy issues that may support or impede shared services.

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