



Transforming to a Sustainable Public Health Laboratory System

Encouraging an Effective Public Health Laboratory System

The Laboratory Efficiencies Initiative 2012 Year in Review

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Transforming to a Sustainable Public Health Laboratory System

The Laboratory Efficiencies Initiative (LEI) was established through a partnership by APHL and CDC to help laboratories maintain their public health testing services despite decreased funding, which causes many laboratories to eliminate or reduce testing for certain diseases. In response to the challenges PHLs are facing, the LEI aims for a sustainable and integrated network of public health laboratories.

The LEI 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.

The LEI Vision

A sustainable and integrated network of public health laboratories.

The APHL LEI website: www.aphl.org/lei



The Strategic Plan

Representatives from state and local PHLs, APHL staff and CDC convened in the summer of 2012 to develop the 3-year LEI strategic plan with these goals:

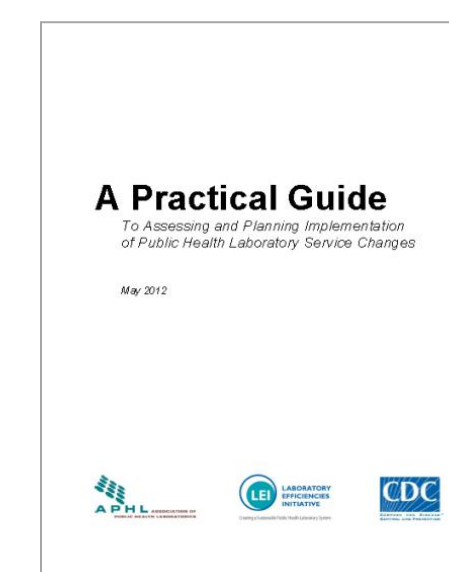
- I. Implement and sustain innovative laboratory management practices.
- II. Assure that public health laboratories have full informatics capability to participate in electronic information exchanges
- III. Identify and address institutional, legal and policy barriers to greater efficiency
- IV. Assure that resources, infrastructure and partnerships are adequate to meet the LEI mission
- V. Communicate, inform and educate on the critical purpose of public health laboratories and the value of LEI in sustaining them
- VI. Transform all laboratories in the public health system to a culture of efficiency
- VII. Develop a comprehensive public health laboratory workforce strategy

Results

PHL leaders, APHL and CDC achieved these LEI results in 2012:

Laboratory Management Practices (Goal I)

- Meeting to identify procurement models.
- Exploring joint data gathering and reporting processes.
- Developing strategies for improving testing platform selection and implementation.
- Collaborating with the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) and the Michigan Department of Community Health to host a billing webinar.
- Publishing “A Practical Guide to Assessing and Planning Implementation of Public Health Laboratory Service Changes”.

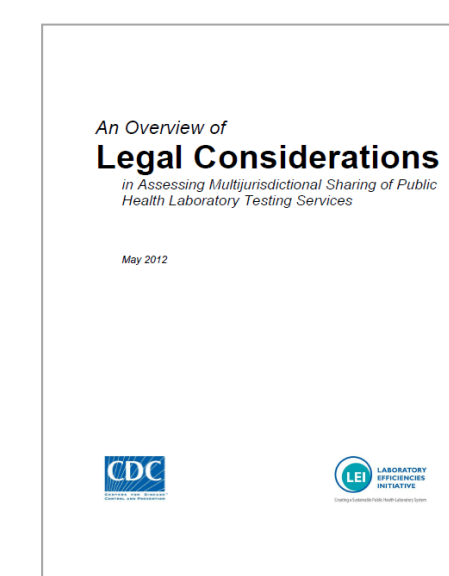


Informatics (Goal II)

- Identifying methodologies and developing a tool to improve PHL informatics capabilities on a national level.

Institutional, Legal, and Policy Barriers (Goal III)

- Identifying the legal and policy barriers and potential solutions for achieving greater PHL efficiency.
- Publishing “An Overview of Legal Considerations in Assessing Multijurisdictional Sharing of Public Health Laboratory Testing Services”.



Resources, Infrastructure, and Partnerships (Goal IV)

- Hosting a forum for alignment of LEI activities with partner public health priorities. Partners include:
 - American Public Health Association (APHA)
 - Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
 - Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
 - National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Education on PHL Critical Purpose (Goal V)

- Presenting to audiences across the nation about the LEI and the importance of increasing efficiencies for sustainability.

Culture of Efficiency (Goal VI)

- Awarding funding for seven Innovations in Quality Public Health Laboratory Practice projects.
- Conducting two Lean training sessions.

Workforce Strategy (Goal VII)

- Developing PHL workforce competencies that will aid in determining appropriate job descriptions, evaluating personnel based on standardized criteria, and developing career ladders, among other activities.

Upcoming Products

Development of the following products began in 2012 and will be completed in 2013:

- A test directory that will be collected and aggregated by APHL to create a national picture of public health laboratory test services,
- An informatics self-assessment tool for PHLs, and
- A guide to laws and policies for sharing of testing services among states’ public health laboratories.

For More Information

www.aphl.org/lei

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