NEEPHLD Consortium
A Regional Laboratory Efficiency Initiative

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Public Health Services
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Department of Health & Human Services

History of NEEPHLD

- Began in mid 1970's around NBS legislation
- Expanded to other functions of the PHL
- Second "E" added in the 1980's
- Activities:
    - Regional Emergency Response Plan with EPA
    - Multi-state exercises and COOP Planning
    - Sharing of information- costing; job descriptions; methods sharing; training; LIMS implementation
    - Shared services during emergency events

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Consortium Participants

- States: NH, Vt, MA, ME, NY, NJ, RI, Ct
- Locals: NY City
- Federal regional partners: EPA Region I

Test Services Sharing Models

- Environmental Testing
  - Gross Alpha Rad
  - Cyanotoxins
- Clinical Testing
  - Arboviral Testing for Humans
  - HCV NAAT/Typing

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1. **Site:** Connecticut

Test Name Arbovirus Panel	Agent	Test	Method	Sample Type	Volume required	Reagent Source	TAT (received to reported-days)	Frequency of performing the Test (eg. 1X per week off season, 4X/week in season)	2013 Number of specimens received
Enceph. IgG	CE	IgG	FA	Serum/CSF	500ul	FDA Approved	7	On request	119
Enceph. IgM	CE	IgM	FA	Serum/CSF	500ul	FDA Approved	7	On request	118
EEE IgG	EEE	IgG	FA	Serum/CSF	500ul	FDA Approved	7	On request	119
EEE IgM	EEE	IgM	FA	Serum/CSF	500ul	FDA Approved	7	On request	118
WEE IgG	WEE	IgG	FA	Serum/CSF	500ul	FDA Approved	7	On request	119
WEE IgM	WEE	IgM	FA	Serum/CSF	500ul	FDA Approved	7	On request	118
IgG		IgG	FA	Serum/CSF	500ul	FDA Approved	7	On request	119
IgM		IgM	FA	Serum/CSF	500ul	FDA Approved	7	On request	118
IgM	WNV	IgM	EIA	Serum/CSF	500ul	CDC			

Services Sharing Model

NEC Training Survey Response:

- ➤ All STCs have additional duties in the lab
- ➤ 25 different annual trainings required annually
- ➤ 7/8 labs develop own training programs and all willing to share them

Next Steps:

- ➤ Create a site to post state-developed trainings
- ➤ TNA within labs needed to define regional training needs

Issues to study using models

- Legalities of test sharing
- Billing
- IT- ETOR
- Sample transport
- Effect on Providers/SHOs/EPIs/Users of Services

Legal Support for Test Service Sharing

NEEPHLD members are:

- Using the new LEI "Policy Guide" to
    - Review 15 MOUs and contracts that other states have signed to explicitly authorize test service sharing
    - Learn from the solutions that 17 state PHL directors have crafted to address specific legal/policy issues
- Assessing their own states' existing, relevant laws
- Exploring approaches to addressing any legal issues, e.g., out-of-state lab certification, liability, and payment for out-of-state testing.

Policy Guide for Public Health Laboratory Test Service Sharing

Laboratory Efficiencies Initiative

April 2014

APHL | LEI LABORATORY EFFICIENCIES INITIATIVE | CDC
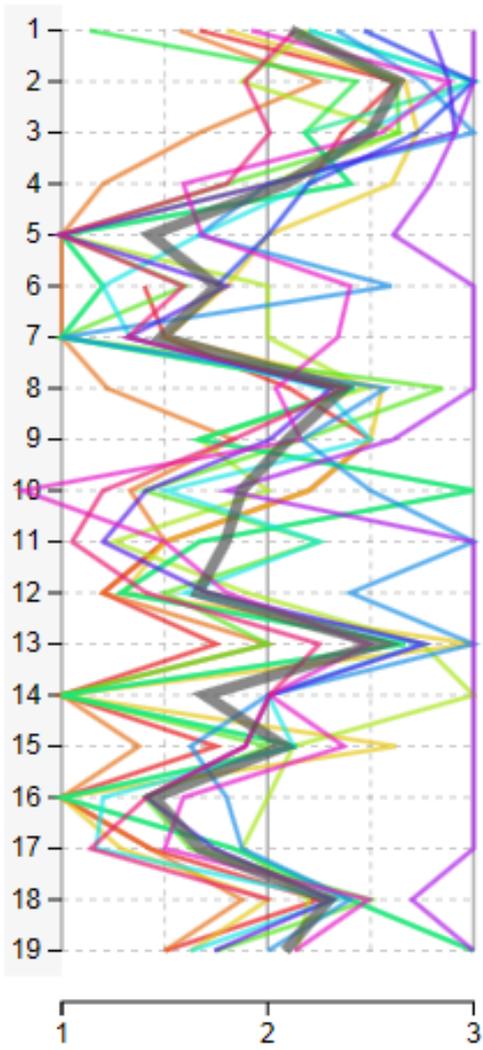
LEI Tools put to the test

- Test Services Database
- Informatics Self-Assessment
- Funding/Cost per test analysis
- Resource template
- Communication fact sheets for information sharing

Informatics- ETOR

- Evaluation of current ETOR capabilities
- Barriers to the implementation of ETOR
- Develop multiple solutions to account for varying capabilities among submitting providers
- Develop best long-term solution for establishing ETORs capacity
  - To be used between PHLs
  - To be preferred solution to messaging with hospital submitters

Laboratory Efficiencies Initiative Pilot Data

Sort

1 Laboratory Test Request and Sample Receiving

2 Test Preparation, LIMS Processing, Test Results Recording and Verification

3 Report Preparation and Distribution

4 Laboratory Test Scheduling

5 Prescheduled Testing

6 Specimen and Sample Tracking/Chain of Custody

7 Media, Reagents, Controls: Manufacturing and Inventory

8 Data Exchange and Interoperability

9 Statistical Analysis and Surveillance

10 Billing for Laboratory Services

11 Contract and Grant Management

12 Training, Education and Resource Management

13 Laboratory Certifications, Accreditations and Licensure

14 Customer Relationship Management

15 Quality Control (QC) and Quality Assurance (QA) Management

16 Laboratory Safety and Accident Investigation

17 Laboratory Mutual Assistance and Disaster Recovery

18 Core IT Services: Hardware, Software and Services

19 Policies and Procedures, Including Budgeting and Funding

Lab: AL

NJ_Clin

NJ_NBS

NJ_Env

RI

MA

CT_Clin_Env

CT_NBS

NH

NY_Clin

NY_NBS

AL

KY

NYC

WV

avg

NEEPHLD Cost Accounting

- Adopted cost accounting tool for Influenza testing developed by Booze Allen Hamilton.
- States receiving specimens will do costing first.
- Plan is to cost tests before test sharing, then cost tests after test sharing to see if there is a change in cost per test.
- Will cost out arbovirus, HCV and gross alpha in water.

Evaluation Metrics

- Cost measures
  - cost per reportable result
  - number of tests/FTE
- Informatics measures
  - % orders received or processed electronically
  - % laboratory tests supported by LIMS
- Workforce measures
  - Number of hours of training for current staff

Issues of Quality and Sustainability

- What are advantages to service sharing?
- Can this be sustained in a public health emergency?
- Issues to consider:
  - Specimen transport
  - Staffing requirements and how to fund
  - Impact of loss of capability in state

Questions?

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