

Laboratory Efficiencies Initiative: California's Guide for Assessment and Implementation of Service Changes

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Overview

- California's PHL System
 - Economic Challenges
 - Marin County PHL Consolidation
- LEI in Action
 - Public Health Laboratory Systems Working Group
 - California's Service Change Guide

California's PHL System



- 61 local health jurisdictions
- 35 County and city PHLs
 - 2 PHL consolidations and 1 closure
- 1 State laboratory facility
- Counties operate independently the State

Challenges Affecting Laboratory Sustainability

Economic Forces

- State budget deficit
 - Decreased funding for PHL programs

Commercial Laboratory Competition

- Penetrating PH testing
 - More affordable testing prices
 - Widespread courier service
- ACA- Redirection of testing

Workforce Shortages

- Graying of the PHLD workforce
- State laboratory capacity declining due to shortage of staff
- Losing microbiologists to commercial and clinical labs

Marin County PHL Regionalization

- 2008 - HH&S assessed reorganizing service provision
 - 2010- Realignment of County medical clinics to Federally Qualified Health Centers
- 50% decline in PHL testing volume
 - ~10K tests: ~\$900K to support the PHL
- 2011- Discussed closure of PHL
- July 2013- PHL closed and joined a regional laboratory

Public Health Laboratory System Working Group (PHLSWG)

- Directive to State PHLD to re-form working group to identify strategies to enhance Statewide laboratory efficiencies
 - 2 members from: CDPH, CCLHO, CHEAC, CAPHLD
- CDPH strategic goal 2012-2014
 - Strengthen statewide infrastructure to improve health

PHLSWG's First Project

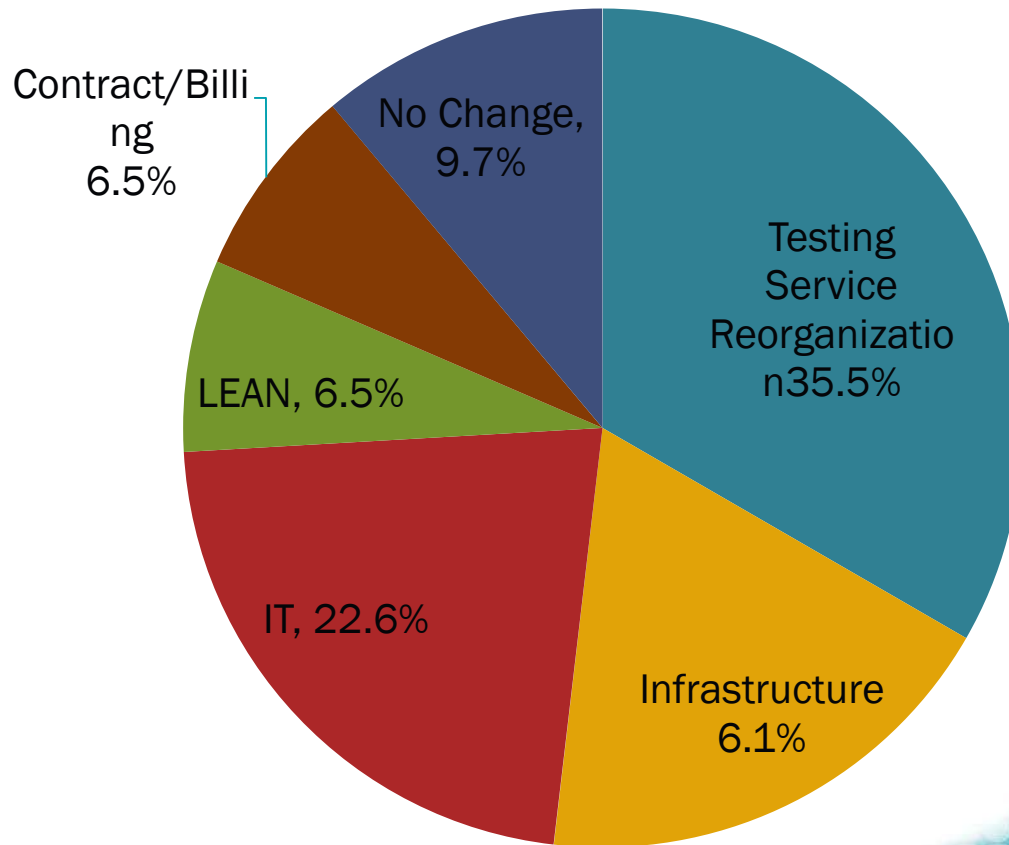
- Create a California specific Guide for Assessing and Planning Implementation of PHL Service Changes
 - Based on CA PHL System and State and County regulations/needs
 - Help identify practices to help California's PHLs achieve long term sustainability

California's Guide for Assessing and Implementing PHL Service Changes

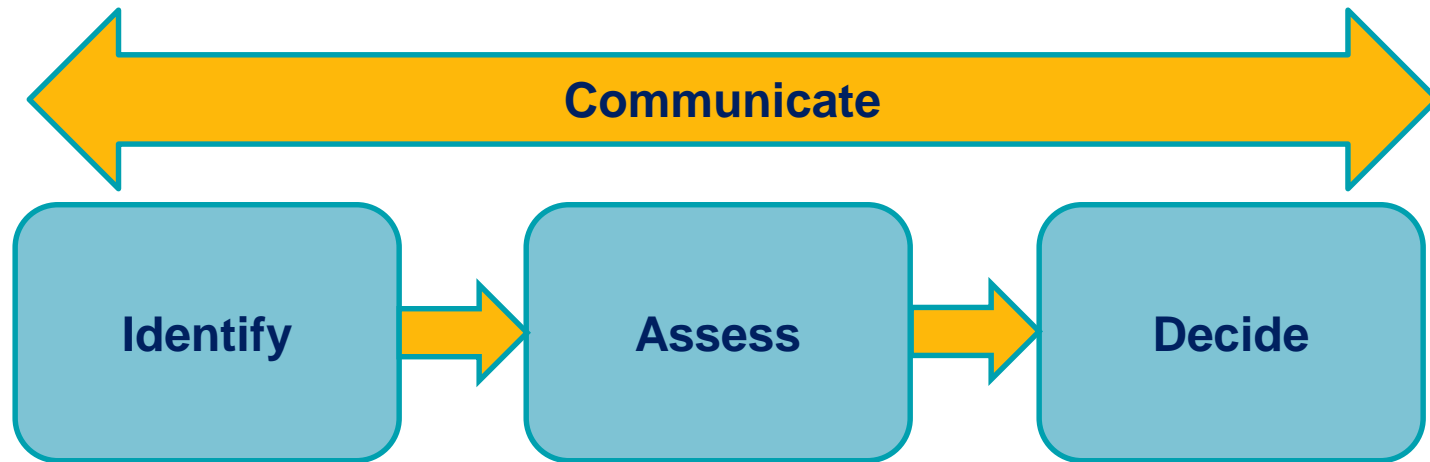
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Service Changes Adopted by California's LPHLs



Framework for Assessment

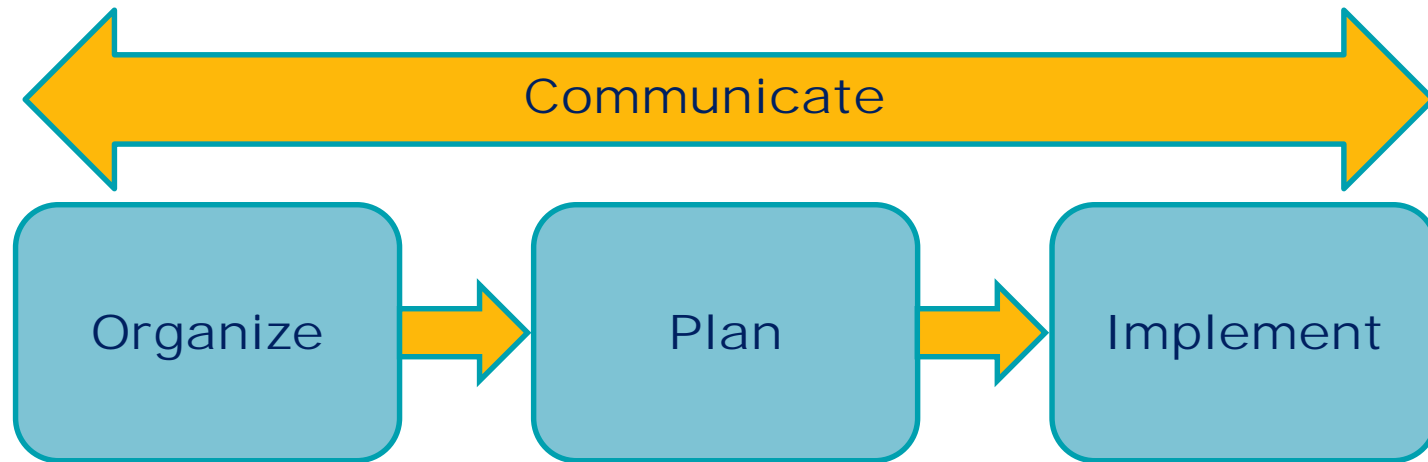


- Identify the pertinent individuals to take part in the assessment process
- Identify the service change that aligns with the LHDs' strategic plan
- Identify the role of the PHL in the community and whether the service change aligns with these goals

- Assess various options for the service change proposed
- Assess the impact of the proposed service change on all laboratory operations and relevant stakeholders
- Assess the feasibility of implementing the proposed service change

- Decide whether to adopt the service change
- Decide how to communicate the decision to the necessary stakeholders

Framework for Implementation



- Organize the pertinent individuals that will take part in the implementation process
- Organize a team to relay information to stakeholders and answer any unresolved questions that may arise

- Plan the service change implementation with the current and future state of the laboratory in mind

- Implement the service change and manage and monitor against the work plan

Service Change Case Studies

- Napa/Yolo/Solano County PHL Consolidation
- Mendocino County PHL Closure
- Marin County PHL Consolidation
- State PHL Contracting for Services
- Lake County: Impacts of Laboratory Service Change
- San Diego County Testing Reorganization

Guide in Use

- Sacramento Regional Laboratory Discussions
 - Health Executive utilizing the Guide to assess PHL functions and long-term sustainability

PHLSWG Project #2

- Strategies to Enhance PHLD Pool
- Possible Future Projects:
 - Looking at State versus County responsibilities for testing
 - Assistant Laboratory Director Training Program
 - Public Health Microbiology Training Program
 - Impacts of ACA on PHL

THANK YOU!

Questions?