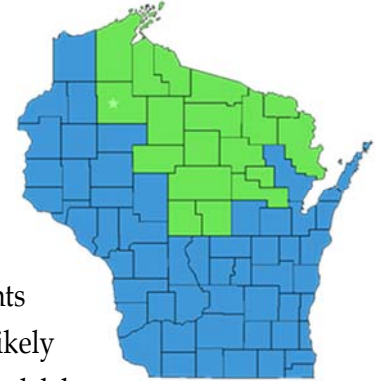


Northwoods Shared Services Project: January 2015

Accomplishments & Lessons Learned

Jurisdictions continue to successfully progress further along the spectrum as their sharing arrangements mature. It's only through successful shared services at any level of the spectrum that health departments will progress to more formalized and higher levels of sharing. While "Shared Function with Joint Oversight" might be a desirable direction for health departments to move toward for some public health functions or services, it requires a higher level of trust, experience and elected official support. Currently, local health departments have comfort in exploring shared services when grant dollars are involved, less likely with tax levy resources. The Northwoods Preparedness Collaborative fits this model, but we have witnessed how shared services on any level of the spectrum can change with staff turnover and unstable funding to justify investing in hiring a staff person. Since the dissolution of the Northwoods Preparedness Collaborative, several jurisdictions have entered into smaller sharing arrangements. We do not foresee jurisdictions entering into "Regionalization" due to the strong value of local control.



Next Steps

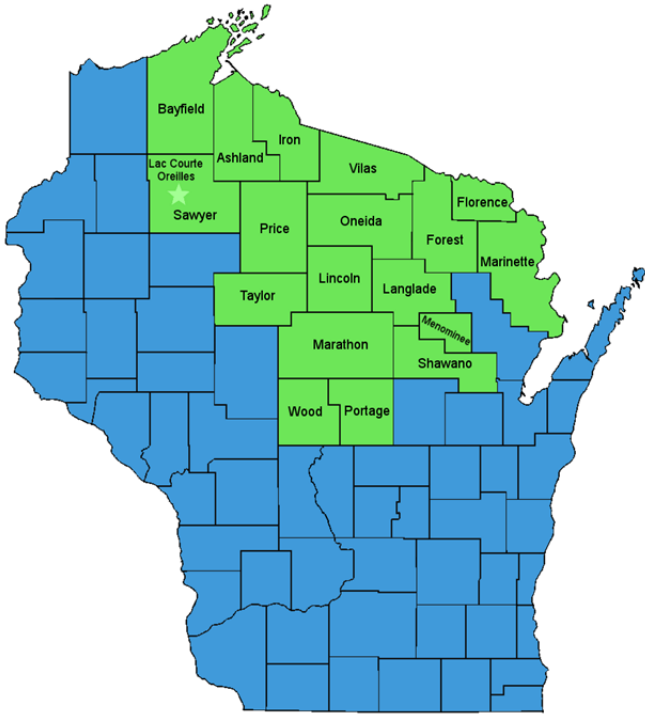
We have discussed the role of the Northern Region Department of Public Health, and the appropriateness and capacity to provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions wishing to share services. The State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services-Division of Public Health Northern Regional RADAR Team is charged with providing leadership in the development of public health system capacity and has been involved in facilitating local health department mergers in other parts of the state. We will continue to provide health departments with technical assistance through the grant period as they explore new possible sharing arrangements and formalize existing arrangements, connecting in the RADAR Team as appropriate as they will be providing long-term support and assistance.

Continuation of Resources

Counties will continue to consider opportunities for sharing services after the grant period, with technical assistance and support coming from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services-Division of Public Health Northern Regional RADAR Team. Monthly Northern Regional WALHDAB meetings provide an avenue for exploring such possibilities. The website, which houses the Northwoods Shared Services Toolkit (<http://northwoodssharedservices.org>), will continue to be available for the calendar year of 2015; after that, the need for continuation of the website will be assessed.

Northwoods Shared Services Project

A Partnership Project with Public Health and Policymakers



Ashland County
Bayfield County
Florence County
Forest County
Iron County
Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe
Langlade County
Lincoln County
Marathon County
Marinette County
Oneida County
Portage County
Price County
Sawyer County
Shawano-Menominee Counties (*combined health department*)
Taylor County
Vilas County
Wood County

What is the purpose of the project?

The project is aimed at helping health departments and policymakers explore the potential of cross jurisdictional sharing to expand the quality and availability of services while also improving efficiency.

What is Cross Jurisdictional Sharing?

Cross jurisdictional sharing enables health departments to share programs, services, and resources across the jurisdictions they serve.

Key Activities/Outcomes

Spring - Summer 2013	Assessment of cross jurisdictional sharing arrangements, inventory of services, and interviews with health officers
Summer 2013	Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) self-assessment baseline
Summer-Fall 2013	Policymaker conversations (focus groups, discussion groups, phone conference calls, etc.)
Fall-Winter 2013	Develop tools, resources, recommendations, and sharing criteria Policymaker conversations phase II
Winter 2013-14	Final report of recommendations
2014	Teams develop sharing criteria, identify sharing opportunities, complete PHAB self-assessment

For more information contact Chris Dobbe, Marathon County Health Department, Wausau, WI
chris.dobbe@co.marathon.wi.us 715-261-1915 <http://northwoodssharedservices.org/>