

Service Sharing and Tribal Health Departments: Initial Considerations

Shared Services Learning Community Meeting
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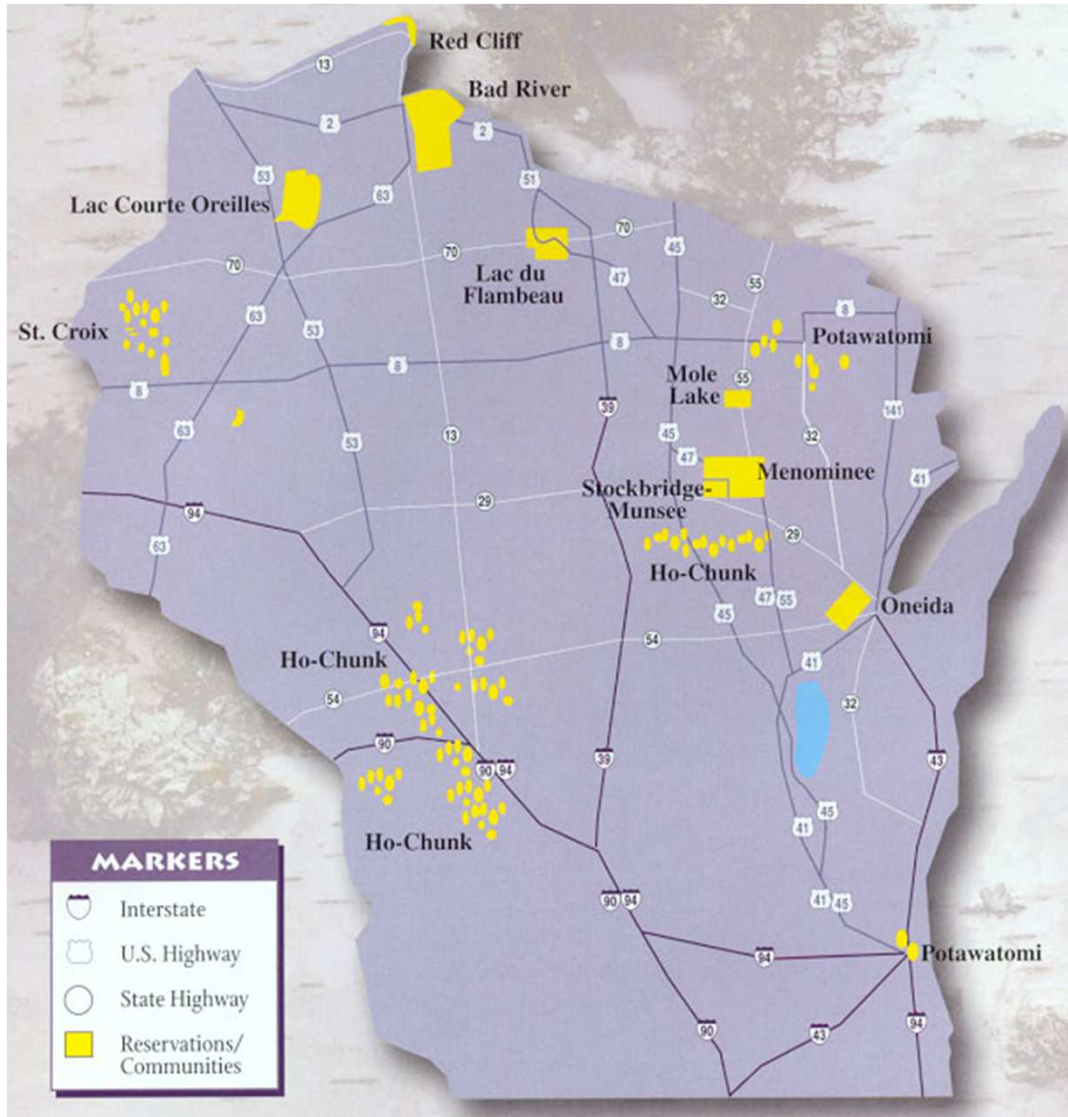
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Some Basics

- ▣ Almost every state represented here has Tribal health department “neighbors”
- ▣ Every Tribe and Tribal health department is different
 - ▣ Tribes are sovereign nations
 - ▣ Often a THD is closely associated with clinical operations
- ▣ There is great potential for service sharing
 - ▣ Context of accreditation
 - ▣ Provision of better services to communities

Objectives Today

- ▣ Share some preliminary thoughts about public health service sharing as relates to Tribal health departments
 - ▣ THD to THD, THD to LHD, THD to SHD, THD to Tribal Epidemiology Centers & any combination thereof
- ▣ Advance exploration of service sharing as tool for strengthening public health services in areas where there is a Tribal presence



11 Tribes with land holdings throughout state

11 Tribal Health Departments

Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center

System & Experience So Far

Wisconsin public health system

- ▣ Home rule - 11 Tribal and 88 Local Health Departments, Department of Health Services in Madison & five regional offices

Tribal public health quality activities

- ▣ THD leaders gather regularly to explore accreditation and quality
- ▣ Initial support from RWJF's Multi-State Learning Collaborative
- ▣ Continuing support from National Public Health Improvement Initiative, Center for Sharing Public Health Services, TARGET

Shared services research/activity

- ▣ Statewide service sharing exploration in 2009
- ▣ "Quick Strike" study of service sharing in WI LTHDS in 2012
- ▣ Exploration of Tribal Service Sharing - Now

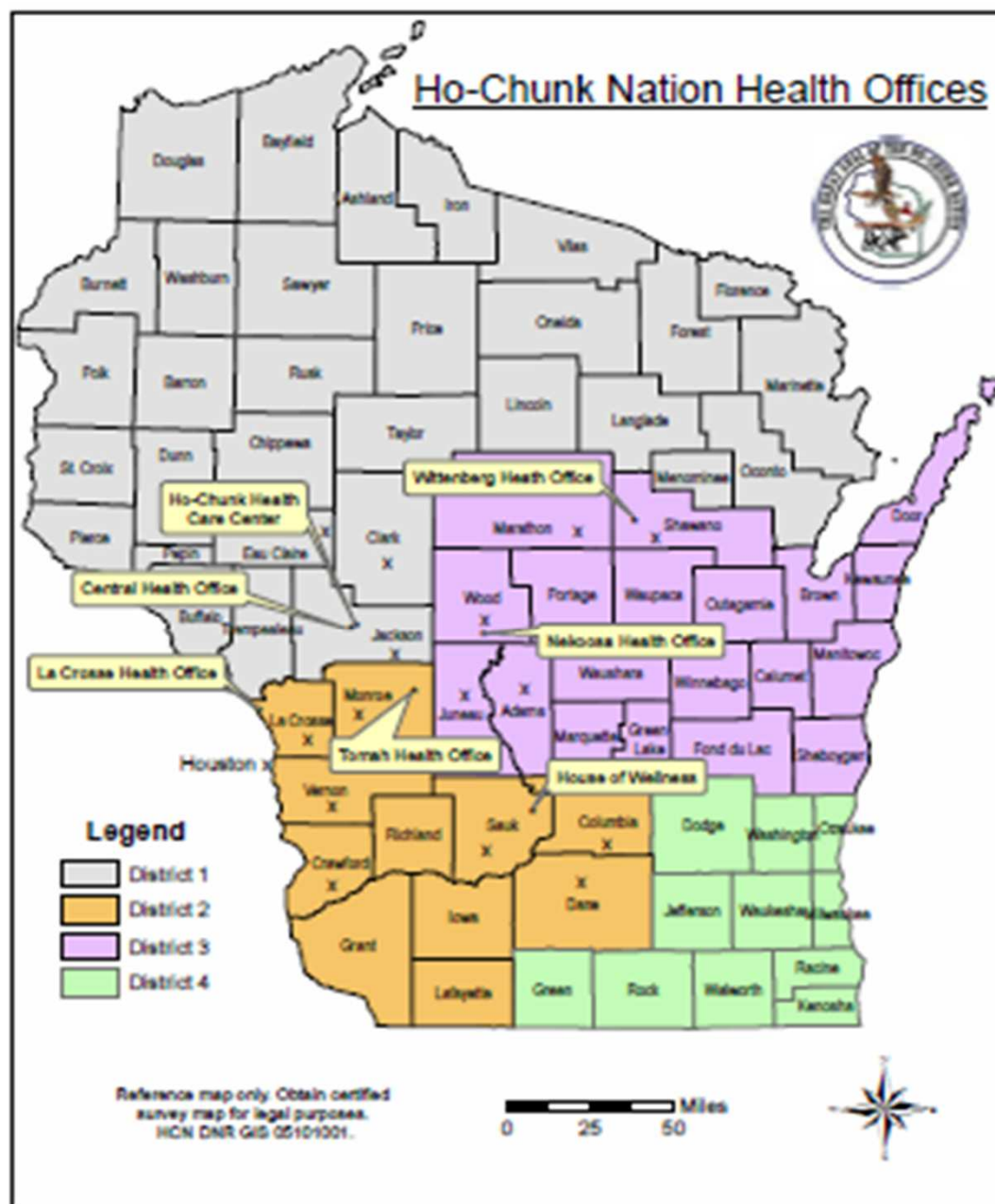




The Ho-Chunk Nation

“People of the Big Voice”

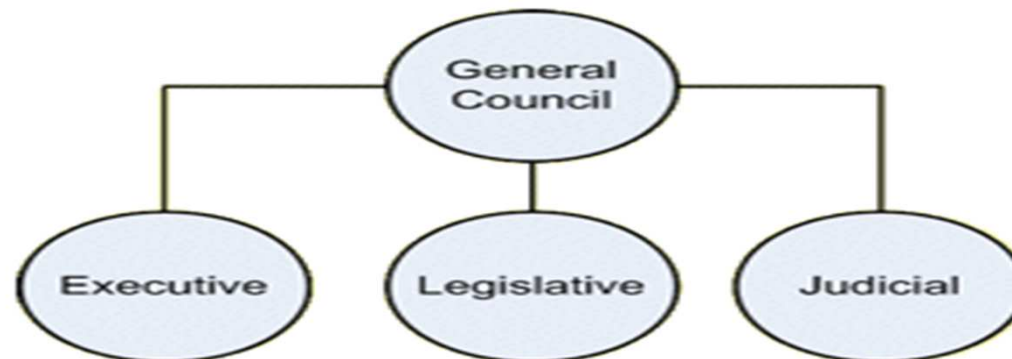
Carol Rollins





A Sovereign Nation

- ❑ Recognition by the Federal Government and treatment as a State
- ❑ Right to safeguard tribal interests, sustain culture, promote traditions and to perpetuate existence
- ❑ Right to govern themselves



Public Health Laws

- ▣ Food Code
- ▣ Lodging and Campground Code
- ▣ Swimming Pool Code
- ▣ Nuisance Code
- ▣ Water and Wastewater Codes
- ▣ Safety Codes

Development of Relationships

- ▣ Historically the Ho-Chunk Nation Health Department delivered services under the direction of Indian Health Service
- ▣ In 1990, the Nation began to add new services and exercised more autonomy in the healthcare field
- ▣ Relationships gradually began to change with counties and states during the late 1990s
- ▣ After 9/11, the Homeland Security Act mandated that States, Counties and Tribes would work together that barriers seemed to fall

Areas of Need for Cooperation

- ▣ Communicable Disease
- ▣ Data Sharing
- ▣ Emergency Response
- ▣ Environmental Health
- ▣ Fatality Management
- ▣ Isolation and Quarantine
- ▣ Community Health and Safety Events

Communicable Disease

- ▣ Some examples of service sharing
- ▣ The Ho-chunk Nation Health Department fully realizes that you cannot address a communicable disease outbreak in a *portion* of the population
- ▣ We need to work with our partners and support each other in our efforts



Jackson County, WI

- ▣ Small rural county located between La Crosse and Eau Claire WI
- ▣ Total population is 19,400 with largest city of Black River Falls around 2,500 persons
- ▣ Small number of Amish, Hispanic and about 7% Ho-Chunk
- ▣ High rate of poverty (second only to Milwaukee), suicide, infant mortality and smoking





Jackson County, WI

- ❑ Many recreational opportunities
- ❑ Business opportunities consist of healthcare, construction, Ho-Chunk businesses and county government
- ❑ Health department is located in the county seat of Black River Falls within the Department of Health and Human Services
 - ❑ 2.4 Nurses, 1 Sanitarian, a Social Worker and the PH Manager, Women, Infants and Children 1 nutritionist, .8 clerk and .4 tech



Shared Service Opportunities

- Statutory mandates for health departments and role of health officer - including control of communicable disease, lead, emergency preparedness
- Wisconsin does not fund the mandates
- Resources and shared services with the Ho-Chunk Nation are vital due to limited resources but also to assure appropriate intervention



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Shared service examples

- ❑ Preparedness
- ❑ H1N1 and mass vaccinations
- ❑ Certified lead risk assessment
- ❑ Mutual aid
- ❑ Indoor air testing
- ❑ Communicable disease investigation follow-up



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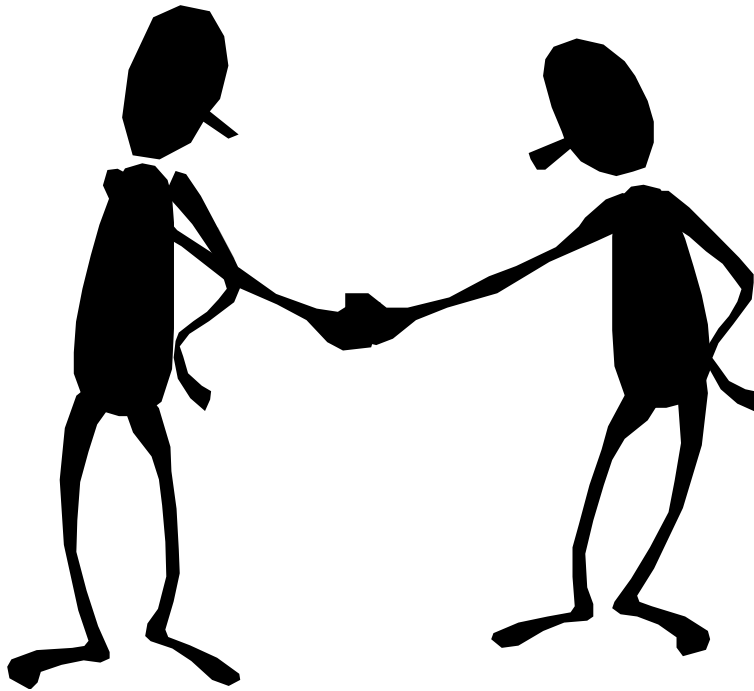
Keys to Successful LHD-THD Work

- ❑ Understanding of the culture and hierarchical structure of the nation & agency
- ❑ Ask about proper protocol for communication
- ❑ Listen with respect
- ❑ Allow for grey areas – focus on trust
- ❑ Understand that there are politics in every culture and agency – Tribes are no exception

Keys...Continued

- ▣ It's ok to begin with a handshake
- ▣ Understand buy in for shared services has to come not only from governing bodies but also from peers who will be carrying out the work
- ▣ Trust takes a looonnng time to develop!!
- ▣ Humility and patience are critical
- ▣ Be lucky enough to find dynamic, professional, passionate and knowledgeable partners!!

HANDSHAKE vs MOU Communicable Disease



Challenges

- Cultural Mistrust
- Realization of Need
- Lack of Tribal capacity
- Cultural barrier to discuss disease/disaster
- Convincing Tribal government to give authority to another agency



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Model MOU - Three Major Points

1. Agreement assures that the county will coordinate communicable disease follow-ups with the Tribal health department
2. Agreement assures the Nation will report communicable disease cases
3. Agreement gives authority to the Nation to declare a public health emergency which would allow the county to implement isolation and quarantine, if necessary

Next Steps for MOU

- ▣ Formalize the relationship for continuity
- ▣ Agreement must be passed by the Tribal Legislature and by the County Board
- ▣ If successful, the Ho-Chunk Nation hopes to establish a similar agreement with other counties where tribal members reside

Special thanks

- ▣ Our team attending this meeting
 - ▣ Kristin Hill, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center
 - ▣ Christine Hovell, Jackson County Health Department
 - ▣ Mary Kaulaity/Nelis, Bad River Tribal Health Center
 - ▣ Carol Rollins, Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health
 - ▣ Pam Sanborn, Bad River Tribal Health Center
 - ▣ Lorrie Shepard, Forest County Potawatomi Health & Wellness Center
 - ▣ Pam Thunder, Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health
 - ▣ Hope Williams, Peter Christiansen Health Center
 - ▣ Dustin Young, Institute for Wisconsin's Health, Inc



Special thanks...continued

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- ▣ Center for Sharing Public Health Services at the Kansas Health Institute
- ▣ Aleena Hernandez, Red Star Innovations LLC
- ▣ Dan Stier, JD, Dan Stier Consulting LLC



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