

Release Date: January 31, 2013 @ 1PM

Marathon County Health Department Receives a National Grant to Improve Local Public Health Services among 18 Local and Tribal Health Departments.

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Health officials will explore how “cross-jurisdictional sharing” can lead to greater efficiency and impact. Marathon County Health Department is pleased to announce that it has received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to explore how “cross-jurisdictional sharing” might help it fulfill its mission of protecting and promoting the health of the community. This two-year grant will enable the Health Department to explore ways to share resources with the goal of providing more efficient and effective public health services.

The \$125,000 grant was awarded to a coalition of 18 local public health agencies in northern Wisconsin. Besides Marathon County Health Department, the agency responsible for overall project administration, Ashland, Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marinette, Menominee, Oneida, Portage, Price, Sawyer, Shawano, Taylor, Vilas, and Wood Counties and the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe are participating in the project.

“We have learned first-hand of the value added from shared services and are eager to learn more about the opportunities and systems that need to be put in place to further this concept”, said John Robinson, Marathon County Board of Health Chair.

Communities across the country rely increasingly on public health departments for services ranging from immunizations and health education to disaster preparedness and response. In recent years, funding for public health has dropped significantly even as the mission of public health departments has continued to expand.

Cross-jurisdictional sharing enables health departments to share programs, services, and resources across the jurisdictions they serve. Sixteen projects in 14 states are being funded through the Center for Sharing Public Health Services. The Center will help health officials, policymakers, and other key stakeholders identify and share best practices as a strategy to expand the quality and availability of services while also improving efficiency.

The Center is a national initiative managed by the Kansas Health Institute (KHI) with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). To learn more, visit www.PHSharing.org.

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