



Public Health Law Network

Shared Accountability and Regional Governance

(Panel #11 – July 13, 2011)

CDC Public Forum – Atlanta, GA

Best Practices for Community Health Needs Assessments

Gene W. Matthews, JD, Director

Southeastern Regional Center

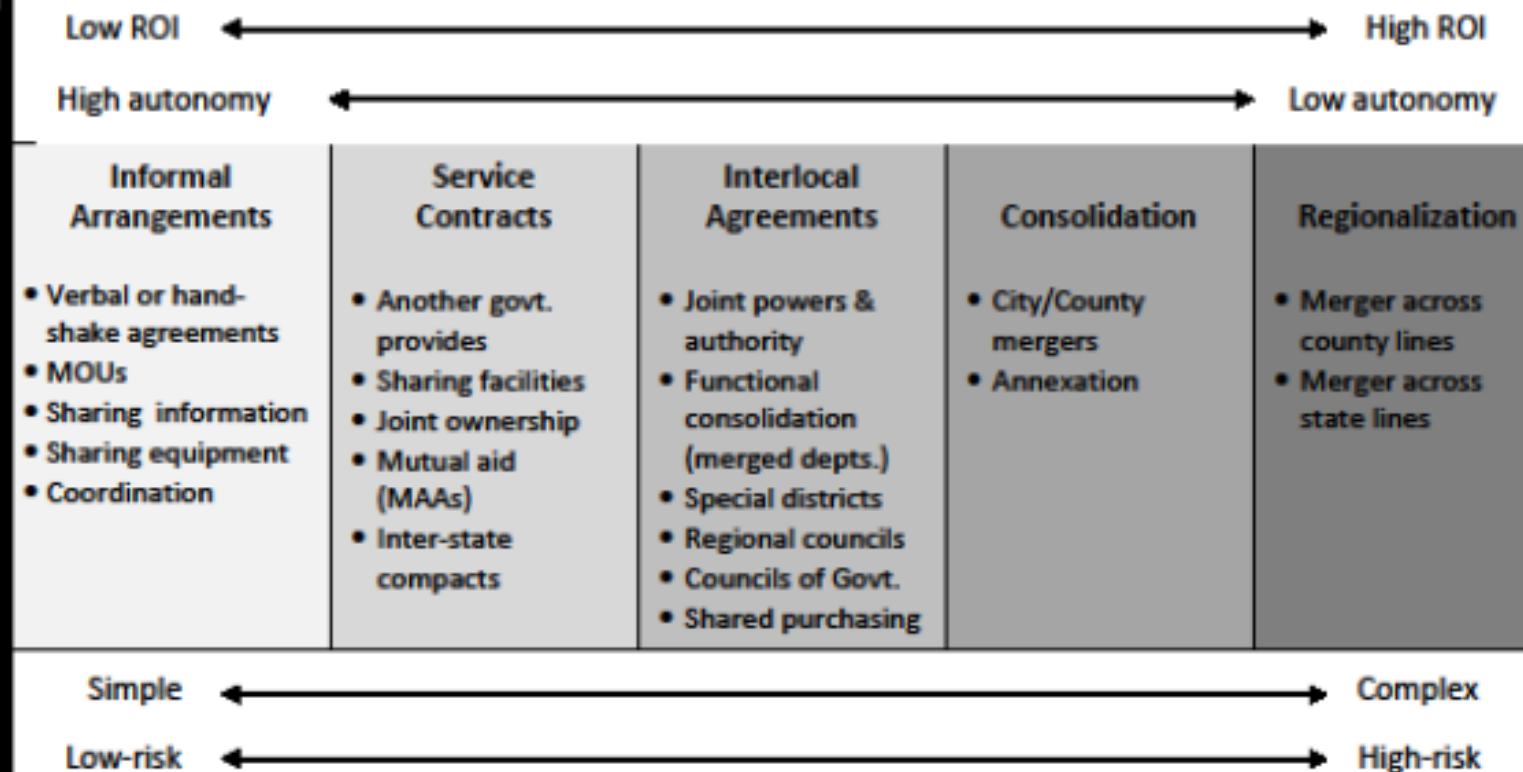
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Government Shared Services Continuum



Adapted from: Ruggini, J. (2006); Holdsworth, A. (2006)



The Strategic Vision Group; from Kaufman, N. J. Regionalization of Government Services: Lessons Learned July 21, 2010



➤ **Regional partnerships: contrasting views**

“It’s the region that enables the counties to do what they need to do, not the other way around.”

--Public health attorney from a rural state

“ ‘Regionalization’ is a dirty word.”

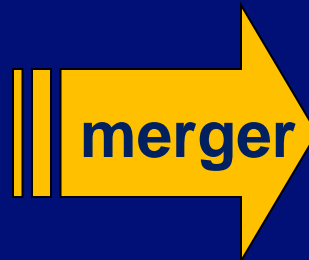
--County health officer

“If you are a home rule state, don’t pretend that a need to share services doesn’t exist. As we look at accreditation...it’s the elephant in the room.”

--Health official from a home rule state

Local Human Service Agency Consolidation (County “Umbrella Agency” Mergers)

**Social Services + LHD
+ Medicaid + WIC +
Child Protection +
Etc.**



**Single Local
HHS Agency**



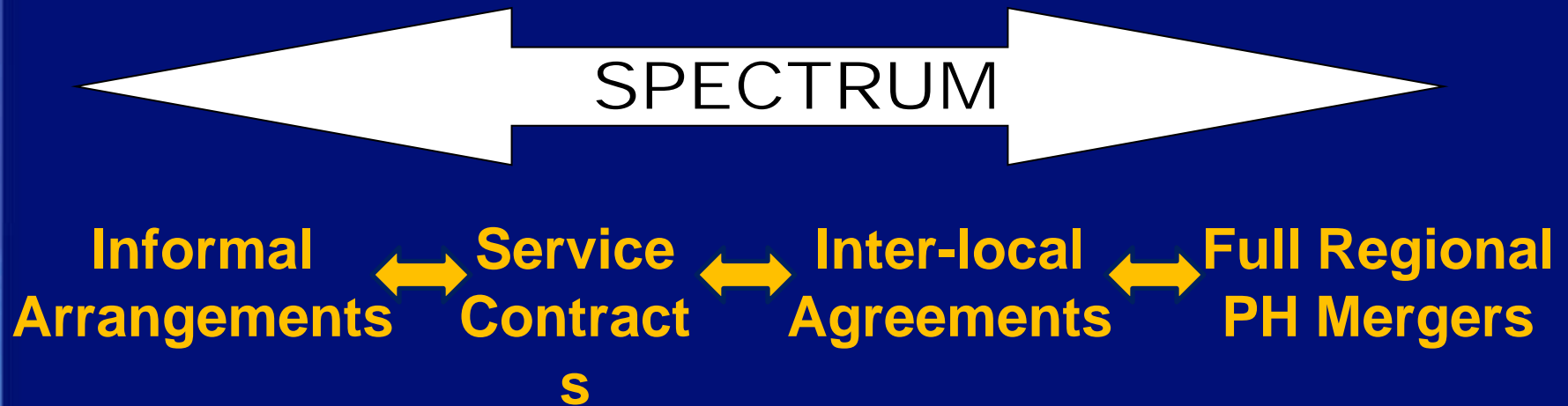
- **Concern about loss of “public health” identity, especially in local emergency workforce situations**



Cross-Jurisdictional LHD Collaborations

(Horizontal Regional Arrangements)

Shared Service Arrangements



Adapted from: Ruggini, J. (2006); Holdsworth, A (2006); and
The Strategic Vision Group; from Kaufman, N. J. Regionalization of Government Services: Lessons Learned.

July 21, 2010
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2. Cross-Jurisdictional LHD Collaborations (LHD + LHD + LHD Horizontal Arrangements)



Examples of legal issues:

- Issue of written documentation of agreements
- Termination procedures (“the pre-nup”) in advance
- Funding arrangements
- Exercise of public health control powers across local jurisdictional lines (e.g., quarantine or closures)





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➤ What are options for formal agreements with binding financial commitments?

The “pre-nup!”

“Have a meeting of the minds on the rules of the game.”

In many states, interlocal agreement acts require that participating government agencies spell out in advance:

- purpose of the agreement
- the duration
- manner of financing and maintenance of a budget
- methods for terminating the agreement



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➤ Benefits health departments have already learned

“We’re working towards accreditation, but for me that is not the goal, it’s kind of a side benefit. The goal is to operate more efficiently.”

-Local public health administrator

“We’ve seen some agencies that got recognition [for being accredited] from their local government structure that meant more money for them, or better access to the mayor’s office.”

-Director of a nonprofit public health institute



Solving The Alignment Puzzle

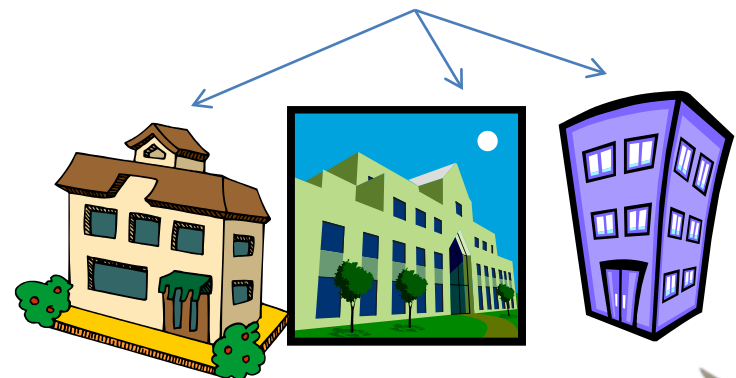
Remember:

Geographical Alignment
for CHNA Areas of
Hospitals + LHDs Collaboration



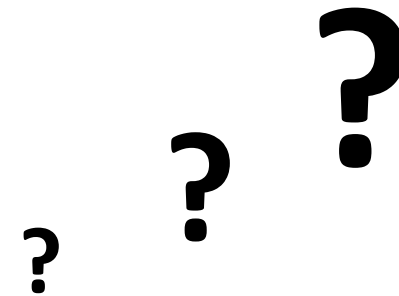
Local Health Dept.
Jurisdictional Areas

Multiple hospitals may collaborate with multiple LHDs





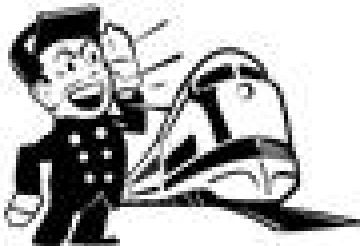
➤ Anti-trust implications



“Beware of Red Herring”



➤ CHNA Trains Are Leaving the Station



STARTING
March 23,
2012



MOST APPLICABLE
LATEST TAX DATE
December 31, 2013

(Hospitals will be reaching out...

Who will engage them?



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A New Initiative in Development to Assist Public Health Agencies

“Evolving Legal Issues Initiative”

Responding to a Changing Public Health Infrastructure

<http://www.publichealthlawnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/PHLN-InitiativeFINAL.pdf>

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Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Evolving Organizational Changes Faced by Public Health Agencies

- 1. Local Health and Human Services Agency Consolidations**
- 2. Cross-Jurisdictional LHD collaborations**
- 3. FQHC and LHD Partnerships**
- 4. Nonprofit Hospitals and LHD collaborations**
- 5. Data Sharing Arrangements**
- 6. Other Areas**

<http://www.publichealthlawnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/PHLN-InitiativeFINAL.pdf>

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