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Kentucky’s Public Health Strategic Plan: Strengthening Foundational Services & Improving Population Health

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Kentucky’s Public Health Strategic Plan: Strengthening Foundational Services & Improving Population Health

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Glen Mays, PhD, MPH
Vicious cycles in public health delivery

Limited public understanding & political support

Incoherence in missions, responsibilities & expectations
Complex, fragmented, variable financing & delivery systems

Large inequities in resources & capabilities
Variable productivity and efficiency

Resources incongruent with preventable disease burden

Gaps in reach & implementation of efficacious strategies
Difficulties demonstrating impact, value & ROI
Articulating Foundational Services in public health

2012 Institute of Medicine Recommendations

- Identify the components and **costs of a minimum package** of public health services
  - Foundational capabilities
  - Basic programs
- Implement a **national chart of accounts** for tracking spending and flow of funds
- Expand **research on costs and effects** of public health delivery

Vicious cycles to learning systems

Limited public understanding & political support

Incoherence in missions, complex, fragmented, variable responsibilities & expectations, financing & delivery systems

Large inequities in resources & capabilities

Resources incongruent with preventable disease burden

Gaps in reach & implementation of efficacious strategies

Difficulties demonstrating impact, value & ROI

Define a core package of services & capabilities every community needs

Build evidence on contributions to population health & wellbeing

Identify resource requirements
New incentives & infrastructure are in play

Next Generation Population Health Improvement

- Hospital community benefit regs
- Value-based payment
- Health insurance expansions
- Community Transformation Grants
- ACOs and PCMHs
- Employer wellness incentives
- Public health Accreditation
- Funding constraints
- Innovation Center Funding
Foundational Services & Population Impact

- Counseling and Education
- Clinical Interventions
- Long-Lasting Protective Interventions
- Changing the Context to Make Individuals’ Default Decisions Healthy
- Socioeconomic Factors

Increasing Population Impact | Increasing Individual Effort Needed

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2014
Foundational Services & Next-Gen Public Health

Public health agency as chief health strategist for the system:

- Articulate population health needs & priorities
- Engage community stakeholders
- Plan with clear roles & responsibilities
- Recruit & leverage resources
- Develop and enforce policies
- Ensure coordination
- Promote evidence-based practices
- Monitor and feed back results
- Mobilize performance improvement
- Ensure transparency & accountability: resources, results, ROI
Articulating Foundational Services

Programs/Activities Specific to an HD and/or Community Needs
Most of an HD’s Work is “Above the Line”

Foundational Areas
- Communicable Disease Control
- Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention
- Environmental Public Health
- Maternal, Child, & Family Health
- Access to and Linkage w/Clinical Care

Foundational Capabilities
- Assessment (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Capacity)
- All Hazards Preparedness/Response
- Policy Development/Support
- Communications
- Community Partnership Development
- Organizational Competencies (Leadership/Governance; Health Equity, Accountability/Performance Management, QI; IT; HR; Financial Management; Legal)

Variation in Delivery of Foundational Services

National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems

Percent of U.S. communities

Percent of activities performed

National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems, 2014

Mays et al. 2011; 2015
Prevalence of Public Health System Configurations, 1998-2014

National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems

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**Comprehensive** (High Foundational Services)

**Conventional**

**Limited**

Mays et al. 2011; 2015
# Changes in Foundational Services prevalence and coverage

National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems

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Mays et al. 2011; 2015
Comprehensive systems do more with less

National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems

Mays et al. 2011; 2015
Public health investments produce larger gains in communities with Foundational Services

Impact in Communities with Low vs. High Public Health Infrastructure

Log IV regression estimates controlling for community-level and state-level characteristics

Mays et al. 2011; 2015
Public health investments generate larger health & economic gains in low-resource communities

Impact in Low-Income vs. High Income Communities

Log IV regression estimates controlling for community-level and state-level characteristics

Mays et al. 2011; 2015
Estimating Resource Requirements for Foundational Services
Pilot Results from a National Costing Study

Current

Projected

Unmet Financial Need
Foundational Services: the bottom line

- Business as usual is increasingly not an option in public health

- Foundational Services are catalytic functions that can improve public health’s reach, influence, engagement, & coordination

- Expanded implementation of Foundational Services may improve public health impact, equity & efficiency – but only with adequate financing.

- If not governmental public health, then who will perform these vital functions for the health system?
For More Information

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