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

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
Center for Public Health Systems and Services Research
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, variable productivity and efficiency

Resources incongruent with preventable disease burden

Gaps in reach & implementation, difficulties demonstrating efficacy of strategies, impact, value & ROI

Identify resource requirements

Build evidence on contributions to population health & wellbeing

Define a core package of services & capabilities every community needs
New incentives & infrastructure are in play

Next Generation Population Health Improvement

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

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

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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