SAPHE Regional Grant Partnership -- Needham, Dover, Medfield, and Sherborn

Working Group Meeting #1

March 20, 2023

Agenda

- Introductions
- Grant Overview and Internal Planning Process
- Working Group Goals - Discussion
- Stakeholder Interview Summary and Discussion
- Next Steps

Introductions

Grant Overview and Internal Planning Process

Overview of the SAPHE Grant

- Based upon the recommendations from the Special Commission on Local and Regional Health contained within its report, the "Blueprint for Public Health Excellence," and the State Action for Public Health Excellence (SAPHE) grant program, the Town of Needham and its Public Health Division entered into a regional grant partnership with the neighboring communities of Dover and Medfield. Sherborn committed to joining the group in 2023.
- As part of an internal planning process about how best to work with its regional partners and with other interested parties, Regina Villa Associates (RVA) interviewed key stakeholders about current public health capacity in the district.
- Invitations were sent to 54 individuals from the four communities

Internal Planning Process Overview

- In January 2023, the Needham Public Health Division (NPH) engaged Regina Villa Associates (RVA) to facilitate an internal planning process about how best to work with its regional partners and with other interested parties to discuss the future of shared public health services in the four communities.
- This planning process includes three key elements:
  - Stakeholder Interviews
  - Development of a Working Group, with representation from the four communities
  - Final Report with Recommendations
- The planning process will be complete by June 2023.

Working Group

- Comprised of Stakeholders from all 4 Communities
- Meeting Schedule
  - Meeting #1 - Share Summary of Interviews; Finalize Goals/Objectives of Working Group
  - Meeting #2 – Share models/scenarios for shared services; Develop consensus of preferred model
  - Meeting #3 – Finalize Recommendations and an Implementation Strategy

Schedule

	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023	June 2023
Stakeholder Interviews					
Working Group Meetings					
Research Shared Services Models					
Develop Recommendations					
Develop Implementation Strategy					
Implementation					

Working Group Goals

Goals

- What goals do you want to see from this process?
- What are the best ways to achieve these goals?
  - Can they be achieved in the timetable identified?
  - Do we have the right number of meetings?
  - What is the preferred format?

Stakeholder Interview Summary and Discussion

Stakeholder Interview/Feedback Process

- In February – March 2023, RVA staff conducted interviews with key stakeholders about current public health capacity in the district.
- Invitations were sent to 54 individuals from the four communities and other regional partners.
- Feedback was collected from 21 individuals*:
  - Interviews were conducted with 20 individuals (virtually)**
  - One additional stakeholder completed an online feedback form

** One interview included feedback collected from several individuals from Dover*

*** One participant also provided additional written feedback (not counted here)*

Feedback Collected by Community

Needham	11
Medfield	5
Dover	1
Sherborn	2
Other	2

Public Health Capacity by Community

- Each stakeholder interviewed was asked to share perceptions of the public health capacity of each of the four communities in a variety of areas:
  - Administration
  - Disease Control and Prevention
  - Environmental Health
  - Tobacco Use Prevention
  - Staff Levels
  - Staff Training
- Not all stakeholders responded to these questions
- Approximately half the stakeholders felt they did not have enough information to answer these questions about Dover and Sherborn

Current Perceived Strengths by Community - Administration

	Comprehensive Capacity	Moderate Capacity	Limited Capacity	No Capacity	Don't Know
Needham	15	2	0	0	3
Medfield	8	8	3	1	6
Dover	0	2	8	0	10
Sherborn	0	3	3	0	14

Current Perceived Strengths by Community – Disease Control and Prevention

	Comprehensive Capacity	Moderate Capacity	Limited Capacity	No Capacity	Don't Know
Needham	14	3	0	0	3
Medfield	4	4	7	0	7
Dover	0	2	7	0	11
Sherborn	0	3	2	1	14

Current Perceived Strengths by Community – Environmental Health

	Comprehensive Capacity	Moderate Capacity	Limited Capacity	No Capacity	Don't Know
Needham	13	2	1	0	4
Medfield	2	5	5	0	8
Dover	1	6	4	0	9
Sherborn	1	3	1	1	14

Current Perceived Strengths by Community – Tobacco Use Prevention

	Comprehensive Capacity	Moderate Capacity	Limited Capacity	No Capacity	Don't Know
Needham	12	3	1	0	4
Medfield	1	5	4	2	8
Dover	1	1	3	2	13
Sherborn	0	1	2	2	15

Current Perceived Strengths by Community – Staff Levels

	Comprehensive Capacity	Moderate Capacity	Limited Capacity	No Capacity	Don't Know
Needham	14	4	0	0	2
Medfield	1	4	8	1	6
Dover	1	2	9	1	7
Sherborn	0	1	5	0	14

Current Perceived Strengths by Community – Staff Training

	Comprehensive Capacity	Moderate Capacity	Limited Capacity	No Capacity	Don't Know
Needham	8	4	1	0	7
Medfield	2	2	4	2	10
Dover	0	2	4	1	13
Sherborn	1	1	1	1	16

Shared Services Grant - Opportunities

- Multi-year cross-community grants for programs (not staff) as models were cited
  - Mass Call 3 (substance abuse prevention with 4 towns)
  - Mental health program grant with Needham, Walpole and Westwood
- Some interest in more “county-style” public health approach, like in Western MA and other areas
- Could increase staffing capacity for some of the communities
- Communities with similar interests could work together potentially – like Dover and Sherborn on septic issues
- Dover and Sherborn could collaborate to share a Public Health Nurse
- It would be helpful to eliminate constructed borders for accessing services, especially during declared emergencies

Concerns about a Shared Services Grant

- The four communities are different with different issues and needs
  - Needham has a very different organizational model than the other three communities
  - Dover and Sherborn are much smaller communities with different needs, including a heavy focus on septic
- There is not much of an incentive for Needham specifically
- Regulations are different for each community, which would make it difficult to share services
  - Food service
  - Septic
- Potential loss of independence for some of the communities
- Towns may try and access shared public health funds for inappropriate expenditures
- Universal agreement between the four towns is needed and could prohibit funding certain programs (especially if they become controversial)

Additional Feedback from Working Group

- Any overall feedback to what has been shared?
- Are there other opportunities for this grant that you did not see included?
- Are there opportunities that you would like explore as a group?

Next Steps

Next Meeting

- Format
- Agenda
- Date/Time

Action Items?