

MMS CHS Integration/Delegation

Talking Points

October 2017

- In 1976 the MN Statute 145A was revised changing the governance for public health departments across the state.
- The statute delegates duties from The Commissioner of Health to CHBs to perform certain functions and services of public health in order to assure health and safety of Minnesota residents.
- There are additional statutory requirements for CHB's that include; CHB's serve a population of 30,000. For outstate MN this population requirement meant local county boards enter into joint powers agreement with contiguous counties.
- In 1980, the County Board members of Meeker, McLeod and Sibley entered into a joint powers agreement forming the Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health Services (CHS). A delegation agreement was put into place that delegates duties from the CHS to member counties. Basically this meant money came to the CHS and then allocated to each of the counties.
- Over the years there have been significant budget cuts to public health funding, and revisions to MN Statute 145A requiring more work and reporting of CHB's.
- To address the issues of less funding and more work, staff in Meeker, McLeod, Sibley started to work together in order to be more efficient and cost effective.
- The grants and the majority of funding sources are integrated as a three county, but counties still hire staff to complete duties and responsibilities.
- The CHB now has an opportunity to save money and increase public health services for county residents by "fully integrating", which means to terminate the delegation agreement for the counties.
- By terminating the county delegation agreements, staff within the three counties can be restructured and eliminate the need for counties to hire additional staff. Restructuring of staff will also allow staff to offer more WIC clinic hours, offer more home visits, offer more car seat appointments, and other services. Face to face services at the individual counties will not change and will in fact be increased.
- There is a concern that terminating the delegation agreement that there is a loss of local control. This is a misperception, since the governing authority for public health programs and services is with the CHB. In addition, the joint powers agreement document requires individual county approval if there is a monetary contribution to the CHB.