Engaging Stakeholders in Policy Development and Governance Through the Baltimore City LHIC

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Outline

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What the heck is an LHIC?
LHICs

- Local Health Improvement Coalitions (LHICs) are groups of jurisdictional-level stakeholders.

- Each LHIC sets public health priorities for their respective communities.

- LHICs address these health priorities through programs, policies, and coordinated efforts with programmatic, data, and infrastructure support from the state and county.
Public Health Applications for Student Experiences (PHASE)
PHASE Responsibilities

1. Conducting literature review on community and stakeholder engagement/retention, community health governance, models of community health improvement projects

2. Review applicable data regarding past work done on the LHIC, with the potential of conducting further interviews, focus groups, or outreach with other municipalities, community organization and members

3. Develop policy recommendation(s) on the future of LHICs, with special attention to community involvement and in a timely manner to have it ready when the new health commissioner begins

4. Implement policy commendation and LHIC improvement plan
Methods:
The Literature Review
Literature Review

Records identified through database searching (n = 2400)

Additional records identified through other sources (n = 35)

Records after duplicates removed (n = 1937)

Records screened (n = 1937)

Records excluded (n = 1859)

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility (n = 78)

Full-text articles excluded, with reasons (n = 56)

Studies included in qualitative synthesis (n = 22)
Findings
Literature Review

Member recruitment and participation:

1. Prior collaborative relationships can be leveraged to increase community participation in assessment and implementation (*Kegler et al 2011; Zakocs et al 2006*)

2. Size of representation region for members can be negatively associated with efficiency (*Pennell et al 2017*)
Literature Review

Council Functioning:

1. Opportunities to build skills in areas of goal-setting, leadership associated with increase in council satisfaction and active participation (Chutuape et al 2015; Kegler et al 2011; Zakocs et al 2006)

2. Diverse membership positively associated with indicators of coalition effectiveness (Douglas et al 2015; Chutuape et al 2015; Feinberg et al 2008)

3. Developing a quality and shared strategic plan leads to improved member participation and cohesion (Pennel et al 2017; Kegler et al 2011; Zakocs et al 2006)
Recommendations

The Local Health Improvement Council (LHIC) were established per memo sent by then Deputy Secretary of Public Health Services at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene after recommendations made by Maryland’s Health Reform Coordinating Council Final Report outlined local strategic plans to achieve improved health outcomes. Since October, I’ve been conducting a literature view on best practices related to coalition development, effectiveness, and stakeholder engagement. The review is not complete, but here are some of the interim findings and associated recommendations that are relevant to the future of Baltimore City’s LHIC:
Recommendations

1. Recruit from existing Baltimore City Health Department Advisory Committees to establish Steering Committee
2. Prioritize community organizations and neighborhood associations for membership
3. Include Steering Committee membership in shared vision, goal-setting and decision-making
4. Provide regular skill-building activities around leadership, public health, and evaluation
Challenges & Lessons Learned
Challenges

• Change of leadership
• Limited literature on shared community governance with local health departments
• Mixed messaging from state-level partners
Lessons Learned

• Literature Review: Know what you’re getting yourself into
• Periods of transition are challenging, yet illuminating
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