Kentucky Public Health Transformation Plan

- Kentucky's public health system faces a time of unprecedented instability and uncertainty. The implementation of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion changed the role of public health across the country. However, the KY public health system did not adopt post-ACA public health principles across the board. Moreover, Kentucky's pension crisis has created a financial situation that threatens the solvency of up to 63 of the state's 120 local health departments (LHDs) within 24 months.
- Kentucky's current public health system is comprised of program oriented services that are not
 always reflective of local community public health needs. As such, the system is not structured in a
 manner as to allow our communities to focus on and prioritize community-identified issues.
- According to America's Health Rankings, Kentucky's health outcomes currently rank in the bottom five in the nation, rising into the top 40 states only one time since 1990. We believe that the lack of community oriented focus and differentiation is a predominant driver of these outcomes.
- Rooted in a desire to implement fiscally responsible government, the public health transformation (PHT) plan will create an emergent system that modernizes, simplifies, and prioritizes our public health system using public health 3.0 principles. This involves simplifying core public health as Foundational Public Health plus critical programs of WIC, HANDS, and Harm Reduction/SUD. Having recognized the importance of a strong and engaged community, PHT founds public health priorities in local needs assessments. From there, public health will focus and differentiate service and funding options to accommodate local priorities.
- This will allow LHDs to shrink their service offering to account for increase pension costs, while focusing on key priorities and improving the health of all Kentuckians.
- A key component of the PHT will focus on strengthening existing partnerships, as well as identifying
 and supporting nontraditional and traditional partnerships within the community, for the
 achievement of shared goals of creating and sustaining healthy communities.
- Kentucky public health is governed by disparate, voluminous and outdated public health law. A key
 component of PHT is modernizing public health policy, which includes re-examining each public
 health statute, cross-walking with the existing regulation, and simplifying the existing voluminous
 works into one Foundational Public Health statute with a correspondingly simplified body of
 regulation.





