



**Texas Public Health
Laboratory System Assessment
(TPHLSA)
April 18th, 2007**



Presentation Outline

- Public Health Laboratory System Performance Standards Project
 - General Big Picture Overview
- Concepts Applied in the State Public Health Laboratory System Assessment
- Texas Public Health Laboratory System Assessment (TPHLSA)
 - Overview
 - Participant Make-up
 - About the Assessment Tool
- TPHLSA - Assessment Results (Dr. Susan Neill) ★★



Public Health Laboratory System Performance Standards Project

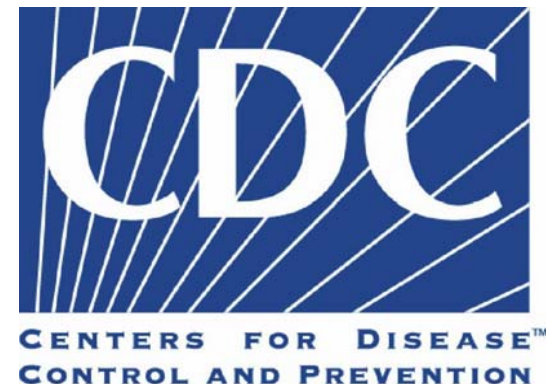
- **APHL Project Mission Statement**
 - Establish optimal standards to guide continuous improvement of public health laboratory practice. The vision is a healthier world through quality laboratory systems that contribute to improvements in public health practice.
- **APHL Project Phases**
 - Phase I: Methodology for developing standards
 - Phase II: Development of standards
 - Phase III: Field test, validate and implement standards





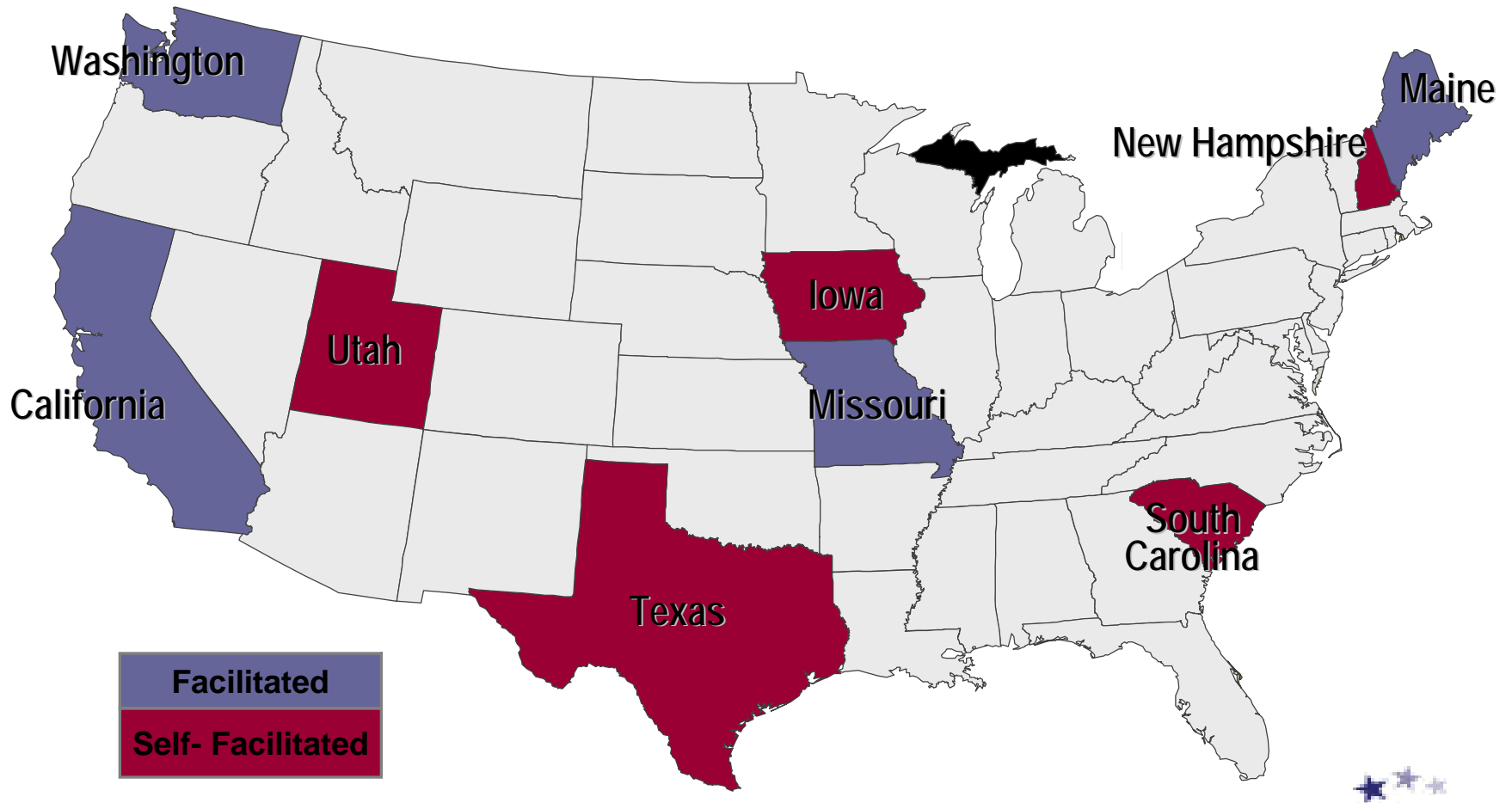
National Partners

- SPH Laboratory System Performance Measurement Program is a collaborative effort of two national partners:



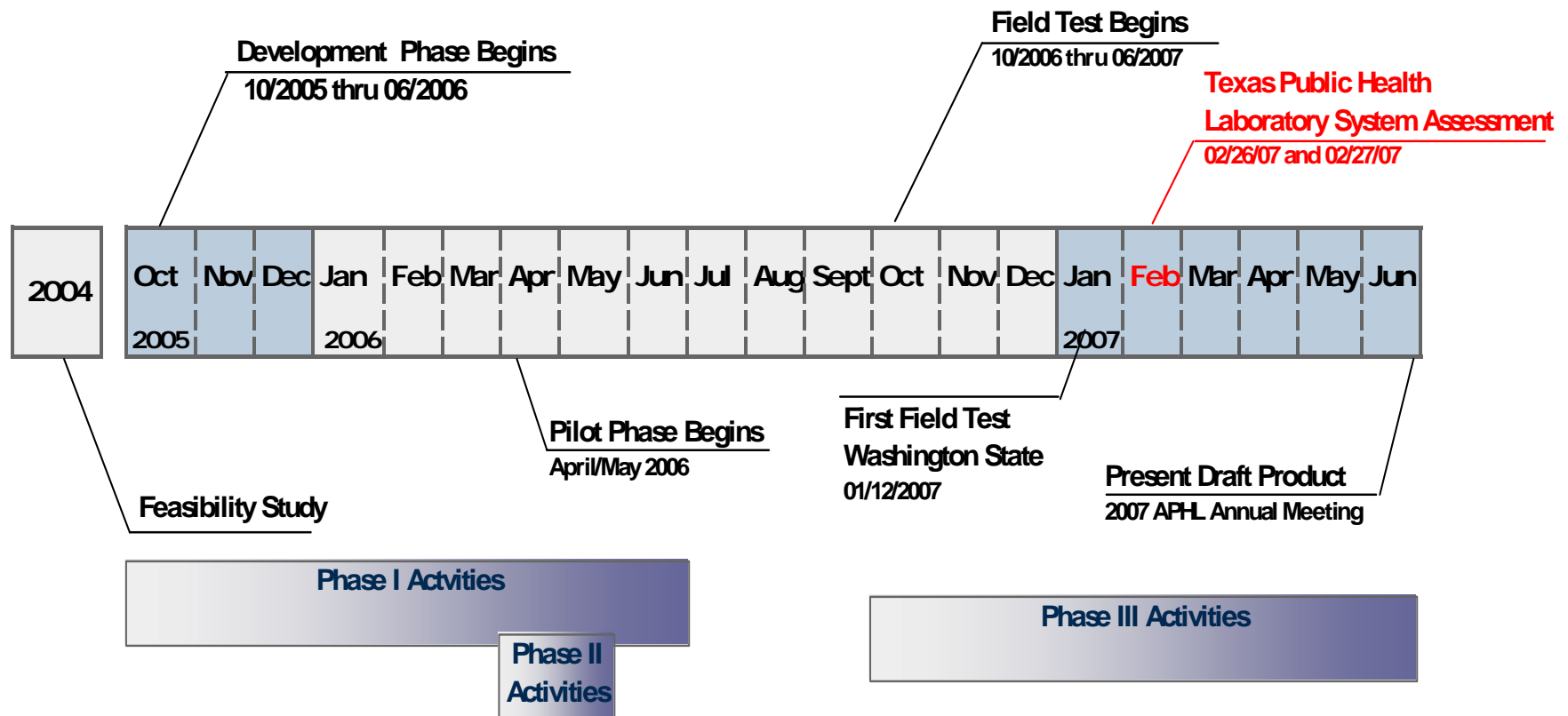


APHL Field Test Sites State Participation





Overall Project Timeline





State Public Health Laboratory System Assessment

- Assessment was a field test of a national instrument designed to:
 - Create collaboration among public health laboratory partners throughout the state;
 - Identify the public health laboratory “system” in Texas; and
 - Determine its strength.





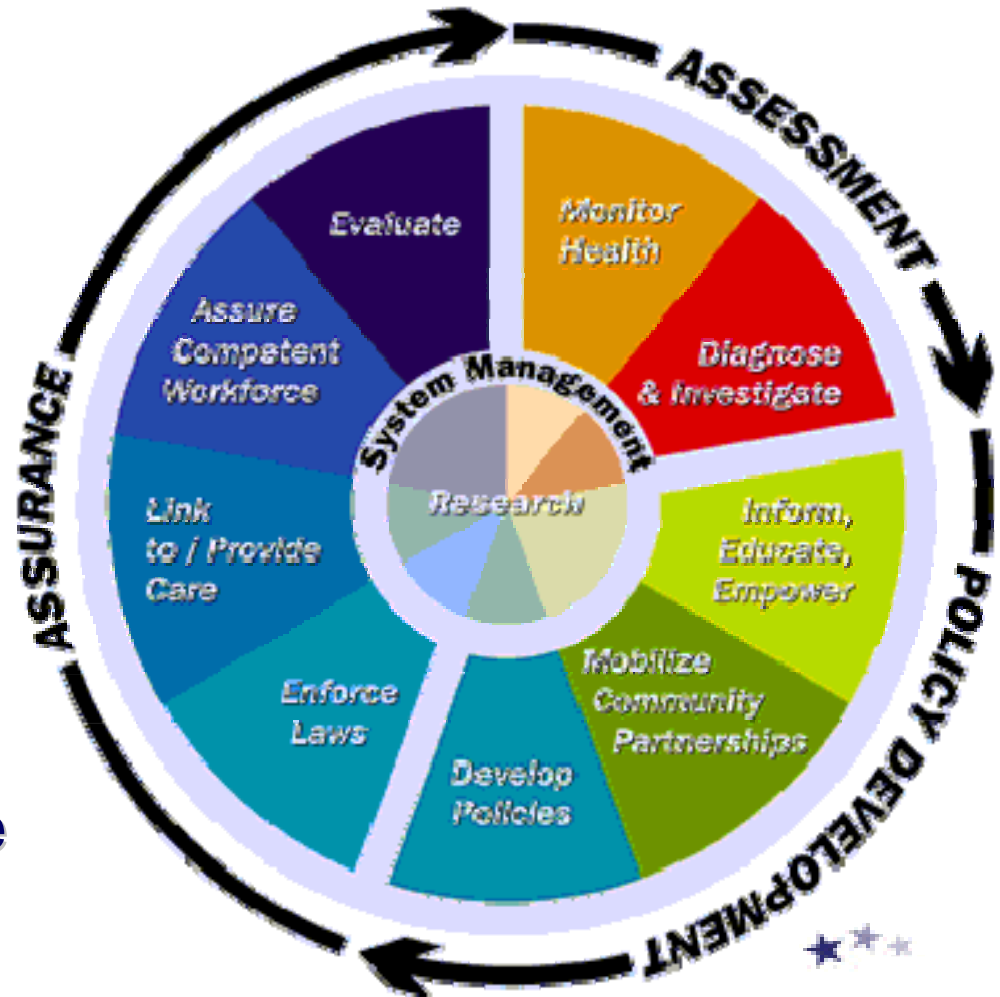
State Public Health Laboratory System Assessment

- The assessment is not classified as a scientific study but rather a ballpark study.
- Various stakeholders were gathered together providing a snapshot picture of their perspective on the strength of our laboratory system in the state of Texas.
- The assessment is based on the work of the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP), the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), and their partners.



Concepts Applied in the State Public Health Laboratory System Assessment

- Designed around core processes in public health to promote health and prevent disease.
 - Ten Essential Public Health Services (Pictorial representation shown on right.)
 - Eleven State Public Health Laboratory Core Functions





Other Concepts Applied in the State Public Health Laboratory System Assessment

- Focused on the overall State Public Health Laboratory System, rather than a single organization.
 - Public, private, voluntary entities including entities beyond the laboratory realm
- Describes an optimal level of performance, rather than minimum expectations.
- Provides standards intended to support a process of quality improvement.



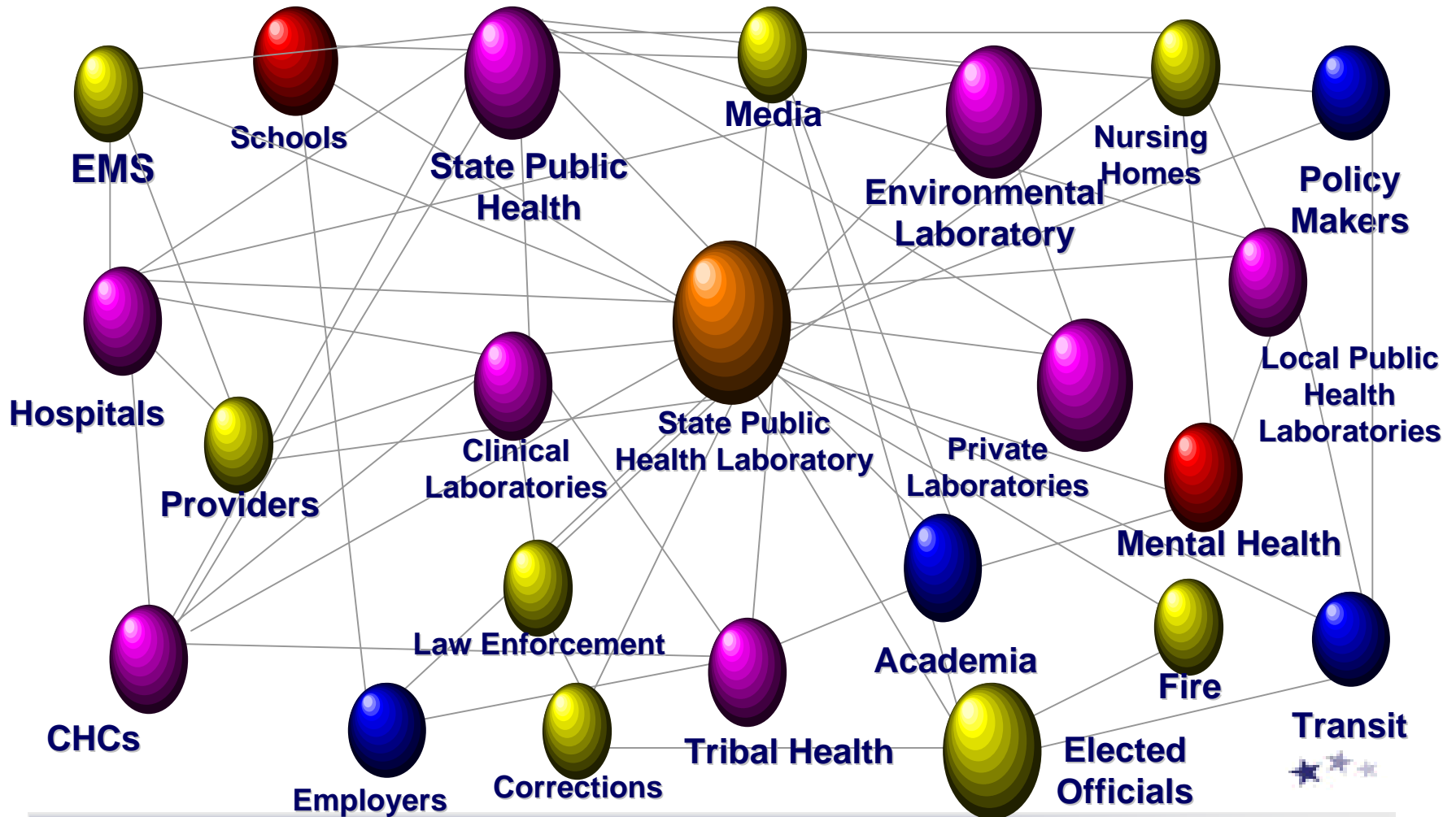


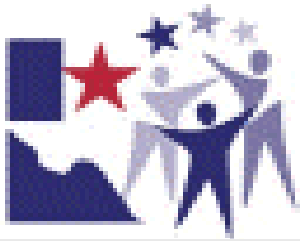
Essential Public Health Services Versus Laboratory Core Functions

| | | | |
|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Essential Public Health Services | (1) Monitor Health Status, Identify Community Health Problems | Disease Prevention, Control, & Surveillance (1) | Laboratory Core Functions |
| | (2) Diagnose, Investigate Health Problems & Health Hazards in Community | Integrated Data Mgmt (2), Environmental Health Protection (4), Food Safety (5), Emergency Response (8) | |
| | (3) Inform, Educate & Empower People About Health Issues | | |
| | (4) Mobilize Partnerships to Identify & Solve Health Problems | Partnership & Communication (11) | |
| | (5) Develop Policies & Plans that Support Individual, Community Health Efforts | Policy Development (7) | |
| | (6) Enforce Laws, Regulations that Protect Health, Safety | Laboratory Improvement & Regulation (6) | |
| | (7) Link people to health services & assure provision of health care when unavailable | Reference & Specialized Testing (3) | |
| | (8) Assure Competent Public & Personal Health Care Workforce | Training & Education (10) | |
| | (9) Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, Quality of Personnel & Population-based services. | Reference & Specialized Testing (3) | |
| | (10) Research New Insights & Innovative Solutions to Health Problems. | Public Health-Related Research (9) | |



State Public Health Laboratory System





Texas Public Health Laboratory System Assessment (TPHLSA)

- **Date of TPHLSA Assessment**
 - 02/26/07 and 02/27/07
- **Assessment Location**
 - Commons Pickle Center at UT Austin





TPHLSA Key Players

**TPHLSA
Steering
Committee**



| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Susan Neill, PhD | DSHS Texas Public Health Laboratory, Director |
| Mirsa Douglass | DSHS Texas Public Health Laboratory, Special Projects |
| Mike Messinger | Business Process Improvement, Center for Program Coordination |
| Marty Herrin | Williamson County Office of Emergency Mgmt, Hazardous Materials Response Chief |
| Shonnie Pinno | Seton Hospital, Microbiology Team Leader |
| Santos Urrea | City of Austin Water Utility, Laboratory Director |
| Linda Gaul | DSHS Infectious Control Unit, Epidemiologist |
| Dan Sowards | DSHS Environmental Consumer Safety Section, Director |
| Joan Aalbers | DSHS Preventive and Primary Care Unit, Title V Program |
| Rita Broad | Clinical Pathology Laboratories, Laboratory Manager |
| Walter Reichert | Natus Medical, Inc, Information Technology |





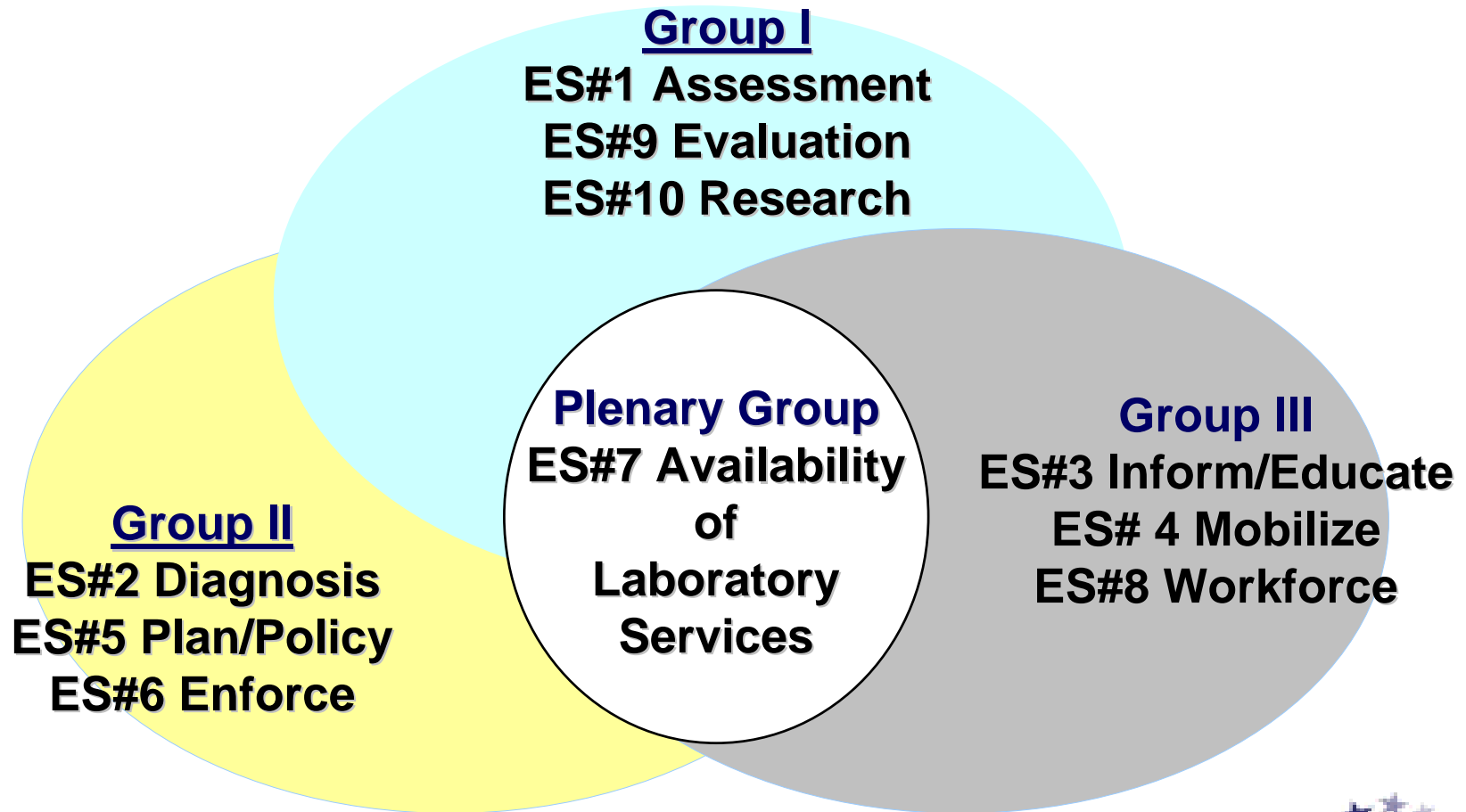
Who participated in the TPHLSA?

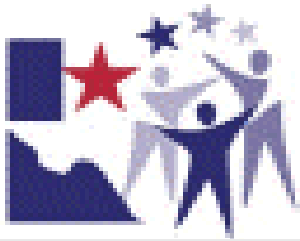
- Academia/Researchers
- Local Public Health Laboratories
- Local Health Departments
- Other Laboratories
 - Clinical, veterinary, environmental, food
- Users of test results
 - Epidemiologists, public health programs
- Professional organizations
- Hospital





Essential Service (ES) Grouping Among Participants





About the Assessment Tool Used for Measuring Performance

- Based on the 11 Core Functions of Public Health Laboratories and is designed within the framework of the Ten Essential Public Health Services.
- Each essential service contains indicators used to measure performance.
- Each indicator
 - has a model standard which describes the optimal level of performance.
 - has a sub indicator or key idea. A vote was taken for each key idea.
- The idea is to monitor indicators to reveal the direction of the laboratory system within the state.



Examples of Indicator and Key Idea Categories

ES #2 Diagnose & Investigate

Indicator 2.1 Appropriate and State of the Art Testing

Key Idea 2.1.1 The SPH Laboratory System assures provision of services at the highest level of quality to assist in the diagnosis and investigation of all health problems and hazards.

Indicator 2.2 Collaboration and Networks

Key Idea 2.2.1 SPH Laboratory System members are actively involved in networks that collaborate in the epidemiological investigation of and response to natural and man-made disasters.

Indicator 2.3 Continuity of Operations Plan and Surge Capacity
(Key Ideas Not Listed for 2.3)

ES #7 Link To Provide Care

Indicator 7.1 Availability of Laboratory Services

Key Idea 7.1.1 The SPH Laboratory System identifies laboratory service needs and collaborates to fill gaps



Assessment Tool Example: ES #1 Monitor Health Indicator SPHLS Model Standard

Indicator 1.1: Surveillance Information Systems

SPHLS Model Standard:

The SPH Laboratory System generates surveillance information to support others to monitor and identify health problems in the community.

To accomplish this, the SPHL System:

- identifies sentinel events and trends through interoperable laboratory information systems
- participates in national surveillance systems for state and national linkage
- partners collaborate to strengthen surveillance systems



Assessment Tool Example:

ES #1 Monitor health status to identify community health problems

1.1 Surveillance Information Systems

Key Idea 1.1.1: The SPH Laboratory System identifies sentinel health events and trends through interoperable laboratory information systems

Points for Discussion:

Does SPH Laboratory System:

- establish and/or participate in a sentinel system?
- have multiple means for gathering laboratory data from sentinel laboratories?
- use disease registries?
- coordinate information with the state epidemiology section?
- translate data into useful information for subsequent public health use?

Evaluation:

| 1.1.1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
|--|-------------|----|--------------|---------------|-----|----------------|
| | No Activity | No | No Partially | Yes Partially | Yes | Does not Apply |
| How would you rate the performance of the State Public Health Laboratory System collectively on achieving this Standard? | | | | | | |



Voting Mechanism

| YES | YES PARTIALLY | NO PARTIALLY | NO | NO ACTIVITY |
|---------------|--|--|--|--|
| YES | Greater than 75% of the activity described within the question is met within the state public laboratory health system | Greater than 50%, but no more than 75% of the activity described within the question is met within the state public health laboratory system | Greater than 25%, but no more than 50% of the activity described within the question is met within the state public health laboratory system | No more than 25% of the activity described within the question is met within the state public health laboratory system |
| YES PARTIALLY | | | | None of the members of the state public health laboratory system perform any activity in this area |

