

# MULTI-COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES FEASIBILITY STUDY (LINCOLN, LANGLADE & MARATHON COUNTIES)

## Task Force Members

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# Presentation Outline

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- Purpose of the Feasibility Study
- What the Task Force was charged with doing
- What information was gathered and who gave input
- The process the Task Force went through
- The role of NCHC
- What is next

# Purpose

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- In late 2012 and early 2013, the Lincoln, Langlade, & Marathon County Boards passed resolutions establishing a multi-county task force.
- Who was part of the Task Force

# Task Force was charged with:

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- conducting a study to determine the feasibility of providing child welfare services on a multi-county basis
- identifying methods to more effectively and/or efficiently deliver child welfare services by means of intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration, such that children and families are better served
- identifying the impacts to the organizational structure of other social services programs in the event the method of delivering child welfare services is changed

# Information Gathering & Input

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- The Task Force gathered information about human services organizational design, governance, and programs.
- Input was given to the Task Force from county/DSS managers, elected officials, and stakeholders including service provider agencies, legal and law enforcement agencies, county employees, consumers and advocates.

# Why is reorganization being considered?

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To achieve improved coordination of social services with mental health and substance abuse services and to create opportunities for broad regional improvements in the delivery of care and services.

- The State encourages it in sec. 46.23, Wis. Stats.
  - ▣ *“The intent of this section is to enable and encourage counties to develop and make available to all citizens of this state a comprehensive range of human services in an integrated and efficient manner.”*
- The State is moving to regionalization (Family Care, Income Maintenance)
  - ▣ The State is clearly moving to regionalization. We can be proactive and have a say into what the County wants that to look like.
- To achieve improved coordination of social services with mental health and substance abuse services and to create opportunities for broad regional improvements in the delivery of care and services.
  - ▣ There would be a single point of entry for consumers with multiple needs.
  - ▣ To generate administrative efficiencies which maximize funding for direct services.

# What do we hope to accomplish?

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- Better youth health and AODA services
- Improved coordination of child welfare with mental health/AODA
- Enhanced efficiency and cost containment
- More specialization/specialized services
- Earlier intervention with children and families before problems become severe
- Adopt a leadership position in the state thus attracting more funding for innovations
- Retention of local input
- Smooth transition and continued good customer outcomes for programs
- Fewer out-of-home placements, resulting in reduced family disruption, societal cost and cost savings

# Other Topics Studied by the Task Force

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- Potential advantages and disadvantages of a single comprehensive agency
- Addressing quality issues now and the future
- What problems may be created by development of the multi-county HSD and how will these be dealt with?
- Who is likely to be opposed to the multi-county HSD
- How to solicit stakeholder input
- What specific changes would the counties like to see made in the way the agencies are organized and programs are operated
- What effect will the reorganization have on staff, programs, and budgets

# The Study Process

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- Developing the Task Force Charter
- Procuring a facilitator team to guide the study process
- Reviewing statutory and state agency requirements for human services departments
- Obtaining input from Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Department of Health Services (DHS) regional staff
- Reviewing current programming and budgets of NCHC and the Social Services Departments in 3 counties
- Reviewing Human Service Departments in Wisconsin and other states
- Holding meetings between the facilitators and county staff, county officials and DHS and DCF regional staff
- Identifying and analyzing six different organizational options
- Holding four focus group/stakeholder meetings in each county
- Holding meetings in individual counties to develop a template describing key components of a multi-county HSD
- Reviewing the decision making process for each county

# Who is NCHC and where does it fit?

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- North Central Health Care is the current multi-county (Lincoln, Langlade, Marathon counties) delivery system for substance abuse, mental health and developmental disabilities services.
- In studying the feasibility of a multi-county human service department, we are building on a intergovernmental business collaboration existing since 1972.
- A multi-county human service department would include the services presently being delivered by NCHC.

# Next Steps

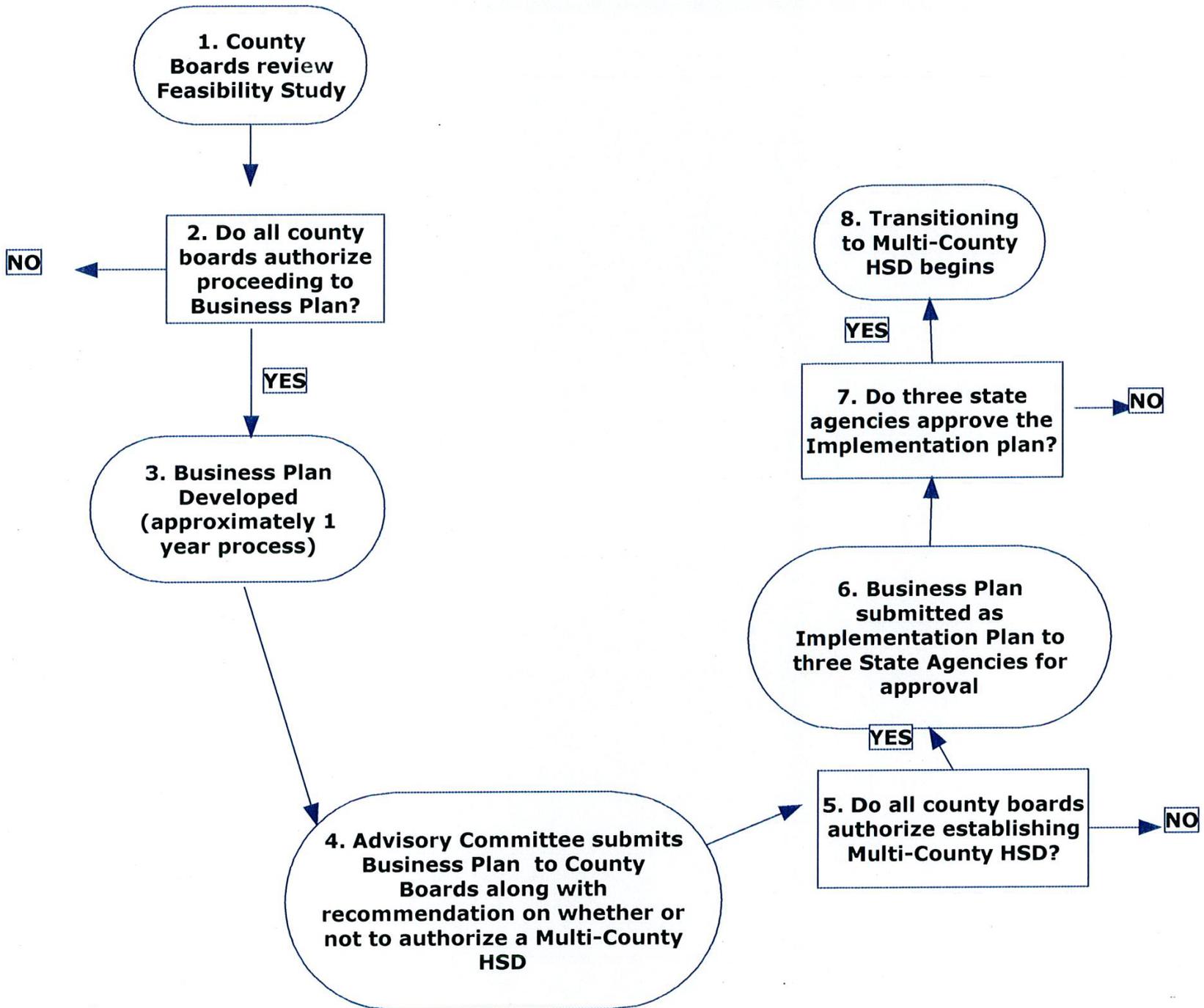
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- The three counties are being asked to review the Feasibility Study and authorize development of a detailed Business Plan
- The Business Plan process would be guided by an Advisory Committee
- The Committee would select a business plan consultant
- When the Business Plan is completed, the committee would report back to the County Boards
- If each county approves moving forward to create a multi-county HSD, all 3 counties would have to pass additional resolutions:
  - ▣ Creating the multi-county HSD and appointing county representatives to the HSD Board
  - ▣ Dissolving the NCHC 51 Board
  - ▣ Dissolving the County Social Services Department and Committee

# Next Steps

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- If approved by all three counties, the Business Plan would be submitted to the State for approvals
- Authorizing the development of the a Business Plan does not necessarily mean that the multi-county DHS will eventually be approved
- The next slide shows the flow chart of the process going forward



# Action Items/Recommendation of the Task Force Committee

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- Next month a resolution will come before the Committee/County Board for authorization to move forward with the Business Plan