LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES:

WHY THE REGIONAL APPROACH MAKES SENSE FOR COUNTIES

NOVEMBER 12, 2015
Greg Blount, Senior Manager
Local Government Solutions

Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS)
A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization guide by Board of Directors representing:
**REGIONAL APPROACH**

- **Regional Approach**: the concept of two or more jurisdictions that work together to share information, resources, activities and capabilities of organizations to achieve an outcome that otherwise could not be achieved by the organizations individually.

- Commonly referred to:
  - Shared services
  - Collaboration
  - Public – Public Partnerships
CAN WE?

- Many types of municipal services can be regionalized
  - Floodplain services
  - Building Department services
  - Animal Control services
  - Emergency / Ambulance / Fire / Police services
  - Shared, web-based software systems
  - Planning, Zoning, Land Use services

The task is to define what common services can be regionalized, then ask:

Should we regionalize these services?
Begin with a regional conversation:

- Understand your problems/pains
- Know your service needs
- Understand your soft costs
  - Governance & monitoring costs
  - Define what benefits are required
  - Improved citizen satisfaction

This builds trust amongst sharing jurisdictions, as well as defining the path of shared needs.

*IBTS can assist with defining and navigating this path through a service delivery matrix decision tool*
REGIONAL APPROACH SUCCESS STORY

- How 369 jurisdictions (counties & municipals both) successfully and rapidly implemented the regional model and has become a model which many others follow.

- Many regional approaches include state, county, municipal and council of government partnerships.

- Therefore, it may look different, yet guided by similar laws, in each region being served.
Which of the following natural disasters caused the most damage in the United States?

1. Hurricane/Superstorm Sandy - 2012
2. Hurricane Ike - 2008
3. World Trade Center - 2001
5. Hurricane Andrew - 1992
# COMPARISONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Damage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane/Superstorm Sandy</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$72 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane Ike</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$37 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Trade Center</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$8.1 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northridge Earthquake</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>$9.1 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane Andrew</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>$2.5 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount St. Helens Eruption</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>$1 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$129.7 Billion</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of these combined, didn’t equal the $146 Billion caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005
LOUISIANANA CHALLENGES – POST KATRINA

- The insurance industry demanded implementation of building codes statewide

- The state responded with mandated building codes, therefore:
  - 369 Certified Building Officials were required (1 for each jurisdiction)
  - Hundreds of Certified Residential/Commercial Inspectors were required
  - Hundreds of Certified Plan Reviewers were required
  - Many jurisdictions didn’t have or understand building codes
  - Most departments had to be built from the ground up
POST- KATRINA CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

- There were only 22 certifications in Louisiana (thousands would be needed)
- With $250 billion in economic loss, how would this be paid for?
- Louisiana is primarily a rural state, jurisdictions couldn’t afford full-time staff
- So, how would this be sustained??
FACTORS DRIVING THE REGIONAL SOLUTION

**Life Safety**
- Uniform standards necessary to protect Louisiana families

**State Law**
- Mandated implementation

**Finance/Insurance**
- No codes, No insurance, No mortgage

**Staff Shortages**
- 770,000 citizens left the state
  - Salary demands – CBO salaries doubled overnight
  - Certifications – high degree of talent, coordination and oversight
Local governments were driven to work together, on a regional basis, to comply with these new requirements.
FACTORS DRIVING THE REGIONAL SOLUTION

NON-REGIONAL APPROACH
Would require:
22 Certified Building Officials
22 TOTAL STAFF
+ 22 vehicles
   22 units of fuel
   22 units of maintenance

REGIONAL APPROACH
Only requires:
1 Certified Building Officials
3 Certified Inspectors
3 TOTAL STAFF
+ 3 vehicles
   3 units of fuel
   3 units of maintenance
GOVERNANCE UTILIZED

State Contract Implementation
- State-provide funds in “emergency areas”

Individual Jurisdiction Implementation
- No intergovernmental agreements
- No private partnerships

Local Government Shared Services Implementation
- Public to Public Intergovernmental Agreements
- Public to Private Service Agreements
- Public to Non-Profit Service Agreements
LONG TERM RESULTS

- Jurisdictions use the same requirements state-wide
  - Contractors don’t worry about jurisdictional limits
  - Some jurisdictions use the same fees

- Jurisdictions are obtaining Building Dept ISO ratings resulting in:
  - Reduced insurance premiums & flood insurance rates

- Structures are being built to resist high winds and floods

- Unlicensed contractors/scammers have been reduced
CAN WE REGIONALIZE?
A LOOK AT THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

- Several jurisdictions showed interest in regional services...
  - IBTS in partnership with the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG), the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA) and the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) conducted surveys to determine service needs and pain points of counties, cities, towns and tribal nations.
  - Response overwhelmingly identified several key areas of needs and pain points in common areas
  - Therefore, the answer was yes, we have many common needs, so in short, yes, a regional approach can be a possible solution

- So next is the hard question, Should We?
OKLAHOMA THEN ASKED, SHOULD WE?

The conversation continued…

> Numerous site visits with County Administrators, Mayors, City Managers and other municipal staff was conducted to “dive deep” and look at viable, sustainable regional solutions.
> The same answers came back, we can regionalize and we should.
> Survey and site visit reports was discussed with INCOG, NODA and OML.
> Master Agreement(s) were jointly developed by INCOG, NODA and OML to provide regional solutions to the service needs.
> Solutions identified even offered paths to implement at no cost to the municipal for most services.
SO WHO ELSE IS DOING THIS?

Connecticut, 9 Regions

Regional Services
- Building Dept Services
- Floodplain Mgmt
- Stormwater Mgmt
- Planning & Zoning
- Animal Control
- Licensing
- GIS Services
- Code Enforcement
- Public Housing
- Disaster Response
- Safety Services
- Crime Lab
- Sidewalk Programs
- Streetlight Programs
- 911 Services
- Economic Development
- Grant Writing/Mgmt

Swaziland, South Africa 4 Regions

Louisiana, 3 Shared Regions

Mid-America Regional Council
Kansas City, MO area
9 Counties, 119 Cities
ONE LAST QUESTION

- Are you a proactive or a reactive jurisdiction?

- Recommendation: Don’t wait to address your service needs and have a disaster test and expose week spots like the State of Louisiana did. This caused errors to be made at enormous amounts of expense.

- Regional Solutions offers the thought process and time to address your service needs and pain points with maximum benefit and little to $0.00 costs for implementation.
FAQ’S

- How do you get stakeholder “buy-in?”
- What does a shared region, geographically, look like?
- What about staffing & expertise?
- How flexible are regional shared services?
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Greg Blount, Senior Manager
Local Government Solutions
Institute for Building Technology and Safety

gblount@ibts.org
703-481-2000