



The Great Lakes Border Health Initiative

8th Annual GLBHI Conference
Plymouth, Michigan
April 24, 2012



What is GLBHI?

- A collaborative effort between jurisdictions in the U.S. & Canada to enable infectious disease surveillance and facilitate communication



Initiative Context: *Ontario, Canada*

Operation Health Protection

- GLBHI aligned with commitments to enhance health system preparedness, *including* improving surveillance, and to negotiate health emergency response agreements with neighbouring States/Provinces

FPT Commitments

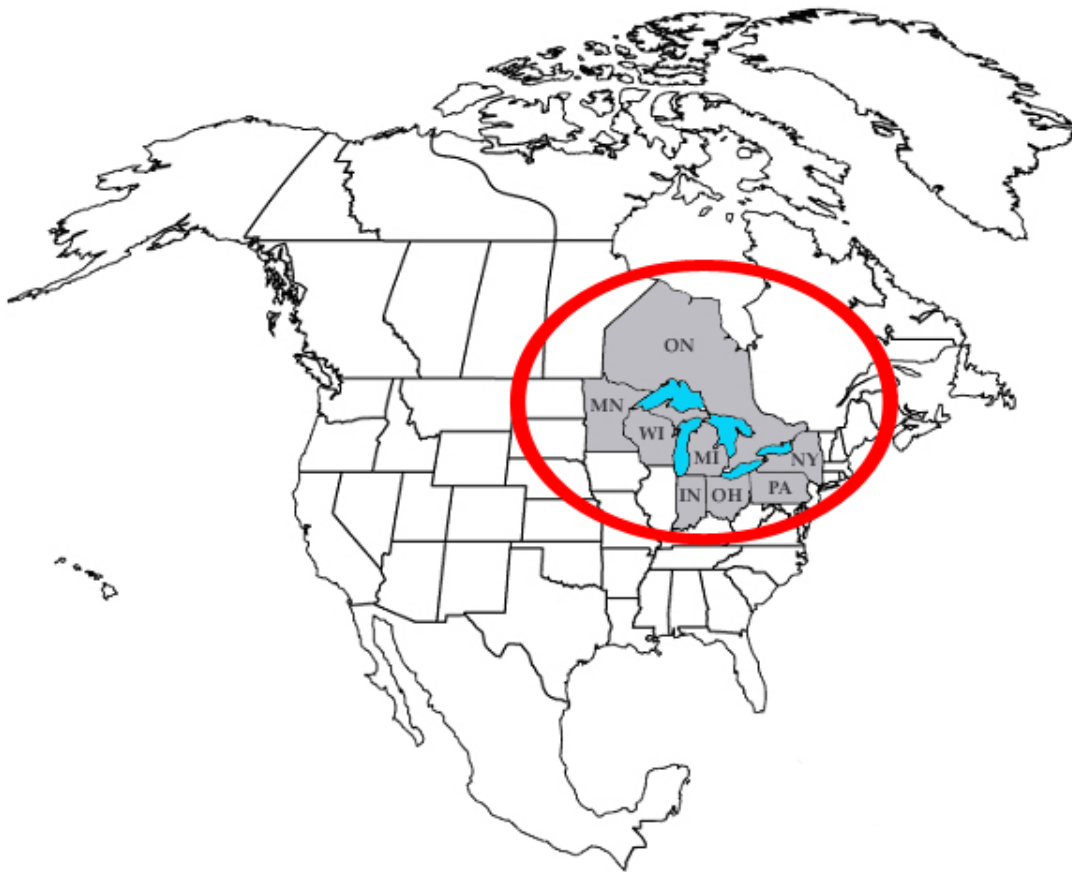
- A Mutual Assistance Agreement has been established as a component of the National Framework for Health Emergency Management which will address resource sharing in an emergency between *Canadian* jurisdictions

Discussions among other PTs, and US States

- Other Canadian jurisdictions have had discussions with their bordering US States under EWIDS, including Québec, New Brunswick and British Columbia



The Region

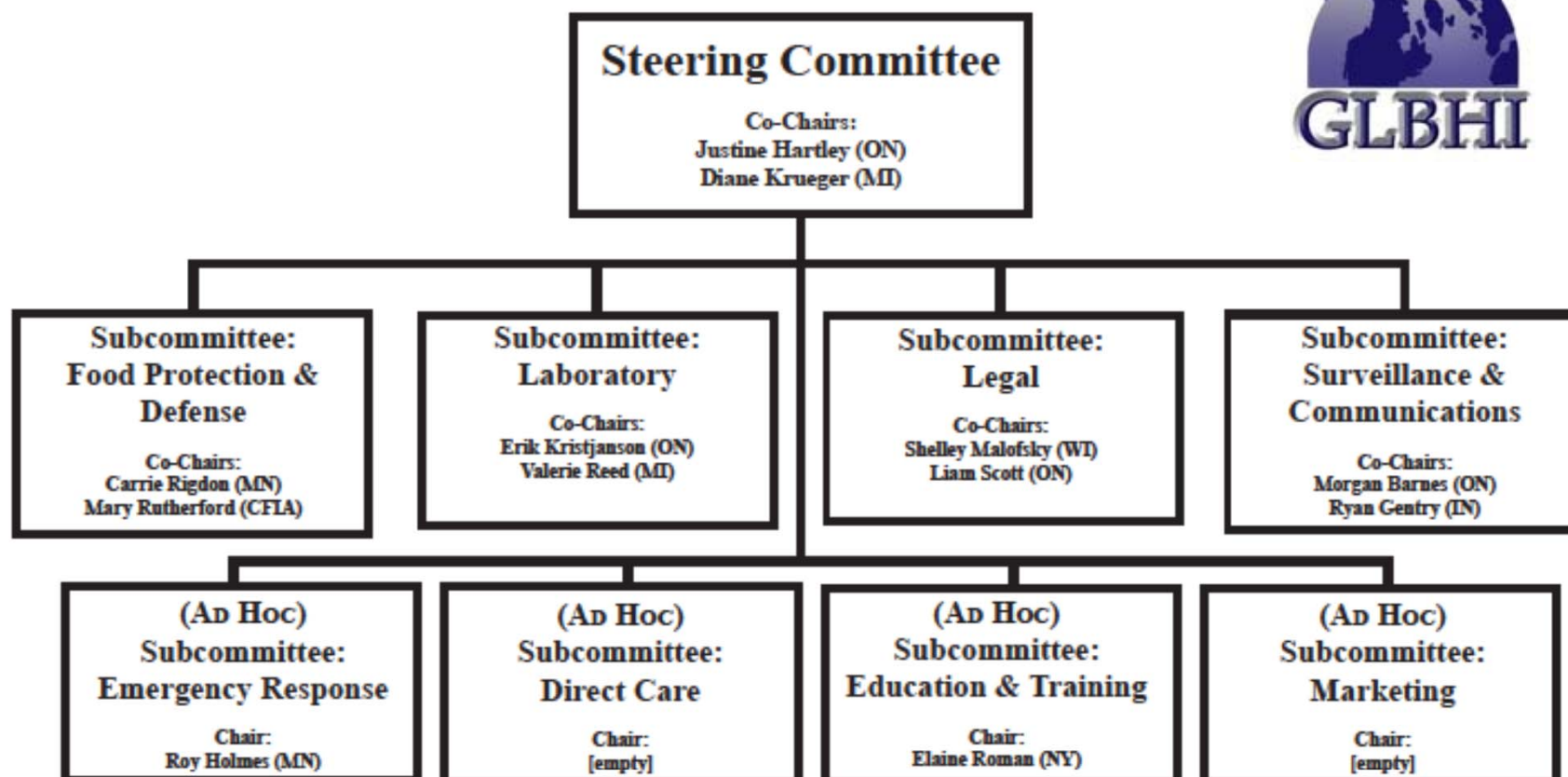


Key Dates

- GLBHI began in 2004 as the Border Health Initiative between Ontario & Michigan
- In 2005, New York, Wisconsin and Minnesota joined to form GLBHI
- In 2006, Ohio joined
- In 2007, Pennsylvania and Indiana joined



Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Committee Organization Chart



About the Committees

- Members include:
 - State / Provincial representatives
 - Local public health representatives
 - Tribal / First Nations representatives
 - Federal representatives
- U.S. and Canadian Co-Chairs for each Primary Subcmte & Steering Cmte
- Scheduled to meet monthly to bi-monthly (Primary Subcmtes)



Best Practices, Tools and Documents

- Regular teleconference calls & face-to-face meetings
- Communication pathways
 - Federal and Local / Regional
 - Cross enrollment on U.S.'s Epi-X and Canada's CNPHI PHA national health surveillance / alerting systems
 - Tracking successes with Case Studies
- Infectious Disease Emergency Communications Guideline
- Data Sharing Agreement
- Conducting exercises / writing After Action Reports / producing annual summaries / producing Case Studies
- GLBHI website - www.michigan.gov/borderhealth



GLBHI in Action

Recent Examples of Practice:

- Pertussis Exposure Event in Michigan, July 2010
- *E. coli* Outbreak in Ontario, September 2010
- Cryptosporidiosis at an Indoor Water Park in Ohio, December 2010 – January 2011
- *E. coli* Outbreak in Ontario, October 2011

Response:

- Immediate contact through established GLBHI contacts (Infectious Disease Emergency Communications Guideline)
- Sharing of relevant data (Public Health Data Sharing Agreement)
- Use of communication pathways (CIOSC / HAN)
- On-going monitoring and communication of incident (established relationships and partnerships)



Recent & Future Efforts

- Learning from the past:
 - Historical mapping of regional influenza progression
- Communication exercises to test infectious disease notifications
- Supporting & participating in CA-U.S. Pan Border Public Health Preparedness Council
- Continuing quality improvement of tools/systems
- Increasing awareness about GLBHI (e.g., marketing, case studies)
- Long-term strategizing



GLBHI Steering Committee Co-Chairs

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