

# Overview of the Department of Regional Collaboration

Presented to County Council's  
Finance and Budgeting Committee

July 18, 2011

“It’s time to stop competing against ourselves and start competing against the world.”

- *County Executive Ed FitzGerald*

- *Director Ed Jerse, Appointed January, 2011*
- *Department Created, Ord. O2011-0009 – 4/25/11*

# Department Undertakings

- Outreach
  - Met with 37 of 57 Mayors;
  - Explain office; explore collaborations.
  - Attend Mayors & Managers Meetings.
- Survey
  - 32 surveys completed;
  - Highest interest: Bulk purchasing; joint fire; crime lab; joint dispatch; health benefits; animal warden; garbage collection; sewer maintenance.

# County Provided Services

- Services That Might Be Shared
  - Health benefits;
  - Web design;
  - IT services;
  - Civil Service examinations.
- “Cluster” concept

# Multi-County Efforts

- Regional Prosperity Initiative
  - Focus: Revenue sharing; regional planning
- Efficient Government Now Network
  - Focus: Development of a collaboration “playbook” or “how to” manual; conference on collaboration
- Sustainable Communities Consortium
  - Focus: Long-term planning on transportation, environment, sustained communities

# Anti-Poaching Protocol

- Circulated in June. comments requested by
- Concepts: No active solicitation; notice; cooperation in County “one-stop”
- Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> draft; target adoption in September
- Comments: Generally favorable; suggestions re thresholds, confidentiality.

# Merger Study

- Penner Pike Orange Moreland Hills
- Announced June 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Planning Commission (“PC”) staff to assist
- Value: Identify potential shared services; may lead to merger; template for communities considering merger; develop PC capacity

# Other Activities

- Interaction on federal and state budgets/
- Member: Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Committee (NOACA); County Planning Commission
- Support of efforts to develop “playbook” and hold conference on collaboration



# Budget

- Currently, one-man shop (supplemented by summer intern, loaned executives, PC staff)
- Transition committee recommended an assistant
- Plan “lean” operation at outset; additional staff needs to be evaluated as mission evolves
- Other expenses typical: travel, copying, etc.
- More significant expenses – e.g., a “seed fund” for collaborative efforts – most likely would be placed in Development budget.

# Conclusion

- Exciting time for regional collaboration
- State: Removal of legislative barriers; \$45 million “Innovation Fund;” “Regional Service Centers” concept.
- County: Focus on collaboration; local enthusiasm; anti-poaching protocol; merger study
- Local: “home grown” initiatives: West Shore COG; Shaker-University Heights Fire Study; joint dispatch efforts
- Foundation support; Press enthusiasm