SHARED SERVICES: Bucks County Examples

Stephanie Teoli
Middletown Township Manager

June 7, 2013
Examples

• Bucks County Consortium
• Delaware Valley Trusts
• Towns Against Graffiti (TAG)
Bucks County Consortium
Bucks County Consortium

- Initiated in 1980
- Discussion of common interest areas
- Monthly meetings led to the official creation of the Bucks County Consortium
Bucks County Consortium

- Today includes 38 communities, operating under formal Articles of Agreement adopted by membership
Articles of Incorporation

• Voluntary organization
• Seeking solutions to mutual problems for mutual benefit
• Combining resources to meet challenges
Wide Variety of Inter-municipal Programs

- Joint Bidding
- Addressing Governmental Mandates
- Personnel and Labor Relations
Joint Bidding

- Road Salt
- Heating Oil
- Gasoline/Diesel Fuel
- Road Materials
- Pipe
- Leaf Recycling Bags
- Road Paint
Programs Addressing Governmental Mandates

- Drug Testing Program
- Cooperative Effort to address Storm water Management Regulations
- Healthcare Legislation
Personnel and Labor Relations

- Labor Contracts
- Annual Salary Survey
- Personnel Policies
- Training
Monthly Programming

• Annual budgeting roundtable
• Meetings with elected officials at other levels of government
• Discussion of timely topics
  • Social media
  • Economy
  • Performance Measurement
• Joint Programming with Montgomery County Consortium
Benefits - Financial Savings

• **Joint Bidding:** advertising costs, bulk purchasing savings, contract administration, staff time.

• **Addressing Mandates:** power of group, less duplication of effort, access to higher-level professionals

• **Personnel/Labor Relations:** access to information can lead to savings, cost reduction for group training
Other benefits

• Knowledge sharing
• Mentoring of junior managers
• Networking with peers
Delaware Valley Insurance Trusts
What are Delaware Valley Insurance Trusts?

- Risk-sharing pools
- 94 public entity members
- Members opt to voluntarily leave commercial insurance market and share, or collectively retain, risk
- Delivering tailored, quality coverage for significantly lower administrative overhead
Risk pooling coverage lines

- Property & Liability (DVIT)
- Workers Compensation (DVWCT)
- Health & Dental (DVHIT)
Management

• Trusts governed by a Board of Trustees

• Each municipality receives one (1) vote on the Board; voting is not weighted.

• Executive Committee provides management oversight
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trust</th>
<th>Initial Members</th>
<th>Premium</th>
<th>2011 Membership</th>
<th>2011 Premium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DVIT</td>
<td>18 (1989)</td>
<td>$3 Million</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>$7.7 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>DVWCT</td>
<td>27 (1992)</td>
<td>$3.1 Million</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>$9.5 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>DVHIT</td>
<td>16 (1999)</td>
<td>$6.8 Million</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>$75 Million</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Overall advantages

- Excess funds returned to membership:
  - Dividends
  - Rate Stabilization Fund
  - Multi Trust Discounts
  - Loss Control Grants

- Coverage levels and technical services greatly surpass conventional insurance programs.
- Conservative premium-to-surplus ratio.
Towns Against Graffiti
Towns Against Graffiti

- Cooperative program formed in 1997

- 9 Municipalities
  - Bensalem Township
  - Bristol Borough
  - Bristol Township
  - Falls Township
  - Lower Makefield Township
  - Lower Southampton Township
  - Middletown Township
  - Penndel Borough
  - Tullytown Borough
History

- Proliferation of graffiti in early 1990s
- Association of graffiti with gang activity
- Effort initiated by Mayor of Bensalem
Getting Started

• Working committee
  ▫ Elected officials and police
• Gain bipartisan support of elected officials
• Goal
  ▫ Full time employee and equipment to provide graffiti removal
Getting Started

• Fundraising:
  ▫ Corporate Donations
  ▫ Grants
Three pronged approach

• Graffiti Abatement Legislation

• Graffiti Removal and Criminal Enforcement

• Community Awareness
Graffiti Abatement Legislation

• Zero Tolerance Ordinance
  ▫ Possession of aerosol container of spray paint or broad-tipped indelible marker by any minor is prohibited on all public property

• Prohibition of Sale to Minors
  ▫ Sale to minors prohibited
Graffiti Removal and Criminal Enforcement

- Graffiti hotline
- Response from full-time employee
- Removal within 48 hours
- Photo documentation of all “Tags” for use in enforcement
- Coordination with schools
Community Awareness

- Public involvement in fight against blight
- TAG hotline
Addition of Litter Removal Program

- Public Partnership with Department of Corrections
- 5 days/week
- All main thoroughfares
Results

• More than 10,000 sites addressed since inception
• Because graffiti is about recognition, prompt removal has led to a reduction in incidents
• 57,000 bags of trash
  3,300 tires collected since 2002
Questions?

Stephanie Teoli
Middletown Township Manager
3 Municipal Way, Langhorne, PA 19047
steoli@middletown-township.org
215-750-3800