

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REGIONAL DOG KENNEL AND ADOPTION PROGRAM

From Concept to Start-Up: Using DLTA Funding to Regionalize

Overview

- Who?
 - 13 Franklin County towns
 - Franklin County Sheriff's Office
 - Franklin Regional Council of Governments
- What?
 - Regional Dog Kennel and Adoption Service
- Where?
 - Town of Montague, Franklin County
- Why?
 - Concern from local officials and police about decreasing ability of towns to properly house stray dogs
 - Growing reliance on police to deal with dog-related issues
- How?
 - Planning funded through District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) funds
 - Implementation partially funded through a CIC grant



Planning Task Force

The Issue

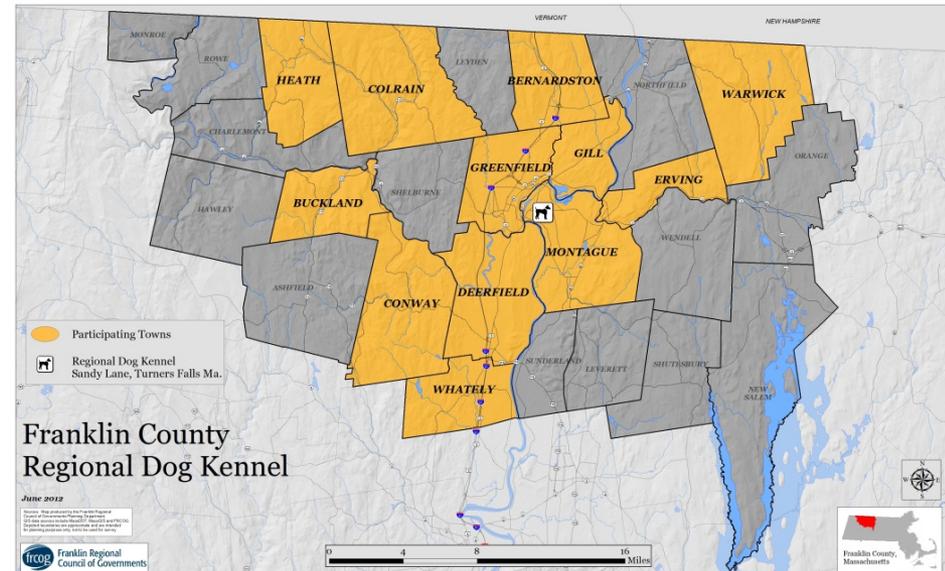
- Difficult to provide a dog officer
- Poorly insulated and unheated kennels or no kennels at all
- Police officers required to respond to complaints
- Untrained town administrator or a select board member shelter the dog.



Bottom Line: it is difficult to impossible for towns working individually, faced with economic issues, to provide proper and safe dog kenneling.

Planning

- Needs Assessment
- Task Force: 13 towns, Sheriff, FRCOG
- Other regional or shared models
- Kennel dog programs
- Location of kennel
- Inter-municipal agreements
 - ▣ 13 towns and FCSO
- MOUs
 - ▣ FCSO and Town of Montague - Kennel
 - ▣ FCSO and FRCOG - Financial



How was planning funded? DLTA

Major Planning Obstacles

- Determining Payment Method
 - ▣ Issue: Unclear how dog pickup and kennel fees were to be paid.
- Towns with Dog Officers
 - ▣ Issue: Dog officers afraid program would replace them
- Startup Funding
 - ▣ Issue: Lack of funds beyond DLTA for implementing program



Implementation: From DLTA to CIC

- CIC Grant:
 - FRCOG received a \$19,900 Community Innovation Challenge grant
 - Grant to purchase equipment, materials & supplies for the kennel.
 - Structure of the program was in place through planning with the DLTA funds

Outdoor Kennels: Before and After



Governance

- Kennel director
- Oversight Committee
- FRCOG provides fiscal administration of grants and dog fees.
- FCSSO manages personnel and operating costs.
- Inter-municipal agreement between towns and Sheriff's Office

Oversight Committee Meeting



Structure

- Director is an employee of the Sheriff's Department
- Towns are assessed a yearly fee based on population
- Kennel collects transportation and kenneling fees from owners to pick up their dogs
- Volunteers
- Minimum security inmates
- Search for other grant sources



Lessons Learned and Recommendations

- Even for something “simple” planning and implementing a regional or share service program takes time
- Ongoing involvement by major stakeholders
- Collaboration not always about saving money
- Learning curve for non-typical regional host agency

The New Kennel



Current Updates

- ❑ Kennel is operational
- ❑ Official opening in September
- ❑ The Sheriff's Office hired Leslee Colucci as the first regional kennel director
- ❑ Over 40 dogs have gone through the kennel since late May with over 20 adoptions.
- ❑ We have a volunteer coordinator and 10-15 volunteers

