

Results from the Field:

The National Environmental Public
Health Performance Standards in
Action

**Patrick Bohan, PhD, East Central (OK)
University
and
Sarah Kotchian, PhD, University of
New Mexico**

**National Environmental Public
Health Performance Standards
(NEnvPHPS)**

Learning Objectives

- Describe how the NEnvPHPS have been used to improve agency capacity
- List results achieved by agencies using the NEnvPHPS
- Describe resources available to support improvement of agency capacity

The Pilot Phase of the NEnvPHPS

- National workshop held at the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Annual Education Conference in June, 2007
 - 17 agencies participated
 - Performed an assessment in advance using the Standards and identified gaps
 - Developed action plans/timelines for one or more of the essential services gaps

Selected Results from the Field

Chatham County, NC

- Original gap identified was #1:
Monitor health status
 - Specifically, County had no ability to actively monitor existing onsite wastewater systems

Initial action plan

- Develop onsite inspection checklist
- Identify pre-1992 onsite wastewater systems
 - mobile home parks selected for first phase of monitoring
- Develop and send letter to residents informing them about upcoming inspection

Actual results greater than expected

- Involved broader PH department staff, not just EH staff
- Identified public health issues that went beyond onsite waste water
- Created a partnership with NC Rural Communities Assistance Program
- Two mobile home parks assessed to date

Additional benefits - staff also:

- Assessed broader citizen EH concerns
- Educated citizens
- Identified mosquito breeding sites
- Determined pet vaccination status

More Benefits

- EH staff learned about the 10 Essential EH services
- The process engaged others from the broader public health agency and community
- Process has led to enhanced information for decision-makers

Expected long term outcomes:

- Reduced vector borne disease
- Increased pet vaccination
- Reduced impact of failing septic systems on wells and surface water quality
- Ability to identify, prioritize and address community EH concerns

DeSoto County, FL

- Identified gap in Essential Service #9
 - No formal process to measure satisfaction of stakeholders and residents with EH services

Planned Actions:

- Meet with County health dept. leadership to identify survey questions
- Conduct and compile survey to assess quality of EH services
- Use results to design customer satisfaction survey for routine use
- Use results to improve EH services

Albuquerque Area IHS

- Gap in Essential Service #1: Monitor environmental and health status

Actions:

- Develop protocol and plan for analysis and reporting of EH data
- Use data to guide program priorities and resources

Albuquerque Area IHS

- Gap in Essential service #9: Evaluate EH services
- Actions:
 - Develop guideline and schedule for periodic program evaluations
 - Finalize and conduct Customer Satisfaction assessments
 - Use results to improve program effectiveness

Saginaw County, MI Dept. of Health

- Catalyzed entire health department to do a community public health assessment
- EH recognized by Health Officer and Board of Health as being “light years ahead” in preparing for National Public Health Performance Standards

Marathon County, WI Health Department

- Gap in Essential Service #3: Inform, educate and empower people about EH issues
- Actions:
 - Guidance on writing press releases
 - Training on media interviews

Marathon County, WI

- Gap in Essential Service #10: research for new insights and innovative solutions
- Actions:
 - Each staff member will research and apply a best practice to a selected environmental health topic
 - Goal: Implement six best practices by June 2008

Worcester County, MD Health Dept.

- Gap in Essential Service #1: Monitor environmental and health status
- Actions:
 - Inventory current data sources for EH
 - Select key indicators
 - Implement Management Information Plan to identify and solve community EH problems

Worcester County, MD

- Gap in Essential Service #4: Mobilize Community Partnerships
 - Establish routine meetings with key EH agency partners to develop collaborative working relationship
 - Develop clear delineation of authority and responsibilities
 - Improve coordination and effectiveness of EH service delivery

Phoenix Area IHS

- Gap in Essential Service #2: Diagnose and investigate EH problems and hazards
 - Review sample protocols from other agencies
 - Develop and implement District-wide investigation protocol manual and guidelines

Phoenix Area IHS

- Gap in Essential Service #4: Mobilize partnerships
 - Identify 3 tribal communities for possible PACE-EH implementation
 - Implement PACE-EH process with one tribal community
 - Share community EH priorities with Tribal Council

On-line resources for NEnvPHPS

- NEnvPHPS draft standards and assessment instrument:
 - http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/EnvPHPS/Docs/Env_Public_Health_Performance_DRAFT_Standards.pdf
 - CDC web site with NEnvPHPS resources:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/EnvPHPS/default.htm>
 - CDC web site with NPHPS resources:
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/od/ocphp/nphpsp/>

NEnvPHPS Toolkit

- <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/EnvPHPS/resources.htm>