Focus on Florida DOH: Planning and Health Initiatives

PRESENTED TO: FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY’S HEALTH, PLANNING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM

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Florida’s Trends:

- Population 17 million
- Approximately 410 acres of farm land being cleared every day due to growth
- 3rd largest energy consumer in the nation
- Over $2 billion in uncompensated health care annually
- Number of residents over 65 will double by 2020
“The Silver Tsunami”

Population Pyramids of Florida
Percent of Total Population

2000

2030
More Trends

- 17% of all traffic deaths in Florida are pedestrian related.
- The state rate for adults who are overweight is 35%.
- 26% of high school students at-risk.
- 19% of household budgets are spent on transportation (Center for Neighborhood Technology and Surface Transportation Policy Project 2005).
- In 2007, Florida had one foreclosure filing for every 243 households.
Do these issues pose a threat?

“When an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.”
The Vision: Assumptions

- Environmental Health includes the built as well as the natural environment
- Health and the Built Environment are inextricably entwined
- Health officials must address these issues if we are to be effective at preventing disease
The Model

Public Health

Sustainability

Smart Growth

Climate Change
Solutions?

- Start improving environmental health at the community level
- Increase recognition of the links between planning and health
- Address sustainability issues as funds and staffing permit
- Actively work to increase capacity of public health to respond to emerging issues
- Increase efforts to identify, track and measure health effects of the built environment over time
Solutions

- PACE EH
- Join the Smart Growth Network
- Hire one state-wide and two county-level land use planners
- Participate in the multi-disciplinary projects to advance research and understanding of sustainability issues
- Work to develop the capacity of public health professionals to meet emerging challenges
Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health

Purpose:
To provide a consistent and holistic process to assist communities in assessing and addressing their environmental health issues

Florida’s Implementation:
Facilitate residents’ efforts through community organizing and pooling available resources

How does it work?
Florida’s First PACE EH Project: Wabasso
2003-2008

- Almost $600,000 in grants provided to county health departments around the state between 2003 and 2005
- 33 total projects
- 10 active projects
- $1.7 million leveraged in Escambia County
- $2.2 million leveraged in Indian River County
Why PACE EH?

- Promote improved communication between environmental health professionals and communities
- Address outstanding environmental health issues in neighborhoods
- Inspire long-term community-based environmental health interventions
### What the Communities Told Us:

- No sidewalks
- No bike paths
- No street lights/Insufficient lighting
- Speeding
- Dilapidated housing
- Drinking water/ well contamination
- Cut off from other neighborhoods.
- No fire hydrants
- Heavy Traffic
- Hazardous waste
- Sanitary nuisances
- Solid waste issues
- Sewage/septic issues
- Frequent flooding
- Water Quality
- Drowning
- Noise
- Air contamination/pollution
Lack of Sidewalks
Failing Septic Tanks
Drainage
Dilapidated Housing
A $30,000 Investment in Wabasso Netted

- Water Project = $825,000
- Park Improvements = $81,750
- Sidewalks = $43,500
- Streetlights = $7,281
- Septic Grant = $40,000
- Demolishing Abandoned Homes = $6,000
- World Changers and Project Hope = 2 New Houses and 26 Homes Improved
- Walking Trail in Wabasso Park = $10,000
- 24 Hour House Build = $130,000
Public Health Planners

- In 2007 FDOH became the first state health agency to hire a land use planner
- In 2008, Orange CHD hired a land use planner
- In 2009, Sarasota CHD hired a land use planner
What do we do: CHD Planners

- Provide community education about planning, sustainability and other land use/public health intersections
- Attend Planning Commission meetings, public hearings and participate in the transportation planning process
- Provide policy recommendations to include health in planning decisions
What do I do?

- Provide technical assistance to CHD staff:
  - Training and education
  - Assistance with comments on planning and transportation policies
  - Support for the formation of green teams, plans and policies at the county level
  - Answer questions about development and planning procedures
  - Facilitate partnerships with local and regional organizations
What else?

- Monthly call of staff, NGOs and planners on issues surrounding health and the built environment
- Review and provide input on state laws, rules and policies
- Providing technical expertise to local, regional and state wide partners
- Grant writing
- Developing measures and reporting mechanisms for sustainability issues
Comprehensive Planning

- Develop capacity at the CHD level to review and provide health-related comments on proposed changes to the local comprehensive plan

- Facilitate relationships between CHD staff and partners like transit services; bike/ped advocates; transportation planners and local decision-makers

- Encourage use of tools like the Seal of Walkability and the Healthy Development Checklist
Promoting Health
One Step At A Time
Green Teams

- In 2007 only 4 CHDs had green teams

- By December 2010 over half the counties have green teams and plans

- Environmental Health is usually the catalyst, but teams are usually from across the CHD

- Distribution lists

- Escambia CHD: Davis Productivity Award
Sample Plan Activities

- Build a coalition across the CHD and the community to support your goals
- Recycle: paper, plastic, batteries, CFL’s, aluminum, cartridges
- Reuse
- Purchase “green” supplies, vehicles, etc.
- Tele-working and flexible work schedules
- Give incentives to take transit
Environmental Health Leadership and Sustainability Evaluation

- First three years, voluntary
- Second year of implementation
- Catalogs activities of EH Professionals in each county on issues ranging from the formation of a green team to sitting on a planning commission
- Allows for differences between rural and urban as well as population differences
Monthly HBE Calls

- Partners include:
  - 1,000 of Florida
  - Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida
  - 10 CHDs
  - Alachua Planning Department
  - UF and FSU Urban and Regional Planning Faculty
  - UM Schools of Architecture, Planning and Medicine
  - Two regional planning councils
  - Broward County Smart Growth Coalition
  - State Agencies: Transportation; Community Affairs, Environmental Protection and Elder Affairs
Topics

- Smart Growth versus New Urbanism
- Hometown Democracy
- Florida’s Growth Management System: Will it survive session?
- Alachua County Health Element
- Regional Visioning: Where does health fit in?
- Community outreach
- Health Effects of climate change
- April 6: Health Impact Assessment
Grant Writing

- Association of State and Territorial Health Officers Climate Change Capacity Building $105,000
- Southeast Regional Florida Partnership Sustainable Communities Regional Visioning Grant
- ING Foundation with Broward CHD, Broward MPO and the Smart Growth Coalition $90,000
- CDC HIA grant for $150,000 (pending)
Governor Crist's Executive Order calls for an 80% reduction of 1990 CO2 emissions by 2050.

Figure EX-1. Gross GHG emissions by sector, 1990–2020: historical and projected (consumption-based approach) business as usual/base case.

RCI = direct fuel use in residential, commercial, and industrial sectors; ODS = ozone depleting substance.
Governor Crist’s Climate Change Policies

- **Executive Order 07-126** directed state government to lead by example by quantifying operational emissions and meeting specific reduction targets;

- **Executive Order 07-127** established reduction targets for the emissions of greenhouse gases in Florida as follows: by 2017 reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 2000 levels, by 2025 reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels, and by 2050 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent of 1990 levels.
ASTHO Climate Change Grant

- Presentation to Upper Management Pre-Training
- Survey to Key Informants Post-Training
- Six regional workshops to educate and receive input from staff about their needs in the area of climate change information and education:
  - What are you doing in this area?
  - What are your educational needs?
  - What tools or support do you need to do more?
  - What are the barriers to these plans?
Key Findings

- Lack of information on what you can do
- Lack of data on local areas
- Lack of education on issues related to health impacts (HIAs) Lack of connection with CC to public health
- Unable to relate it to the individual
- Financial/Health Benefits ("Co-Benefits")
- Timeframe issue, too long term
- How do we collect data? Measures unclear and no reporting mechanism in place
Key Findings

- Not enough workforce or funding for additional projects
- Lack of buy in from local and state officials
- Global Warming/CC are ‘loaded’ terms
- Lack of enforceable regulation in local codes that relate to health and built environment
- No statutory authority to regulate, not mandated so it doesn’t get prioritized
Formulate a Strategic Plan

- **Goal 1: Engage FDOH Leadership about the Need for Connecting Climate Change and Health Outcomes**
  - Objectives: Form Leadership Working Group, Educate leaders about links between climate change and human health outcomes and Identify strategies to measure health outcomes related to climate change

- **Goal 2: Formulate a Strategy for Data Collection to Inform the HIA Tool Creation Using the Technical Working Group**
  - Objectives: Identify which indicators are already being monitored and by whom and Develop action plans to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change

- **Goal 3: Develop and Enhance Public Health Infrastructure to Respond and Adapt to the Health Effects of Climate Change**
  - Objectives: Develop HIA Tool and Provide Training to Staff and Partners to Conduct Climate Change-Specific HIAs
Developing Measures

- CSTE Workgroup/Climate Change Collaborative/Environmental Public Health Tracking
  - Heat Waves
  - Frequency of storm events
  - Identification of vulnerable populations
  - Movement of vector-borne disease
  - Amount of exercise
  - Kids biking and walking to school
  - Barriers to walking, biking, public transit
  - Access to green space, active parks
  - Effects of seal level rise
Where are we going now?

- Climate Change:
  - Webinars
  - On site trainings
  - Online resources
  - Formation of Technical Working Committee
  - State wide Guidelines for CHDs
  - Adaptation and Mitigation Plan Training
Where are we going now?

- EHLSE tool usage
- Health Impact Assessment Training
- Earth Day Celebrations
- Local Food and Community Gardens
- Continuing evaluation of and comment on land use and transportation issues
- Engaging with communities to build capacity
Ultimately...

- Identifying, adapting and utilizing best practices
- Continuing to educate our stakeholders and practitioners
- Identifying champions to advocate for sustainable practices
- Garnering resources and utilizing partnerships with subject matter experts
Most of All….

Work to ensure that Public Health is included at the table when policy and planning decisions are being made.

Thank you!

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