

ICEHI/PACE-EH
Environmental Health Assessment Team (EHAT)
MINUTES

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2003
Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Location: Heller Road Fire Station, Oak Harbor, WA

Present: Tom Baxter, Phyllis Brett, Sheilagh Byler, Roger Case, Lisa Clark, Toni Marie Dinelli, Wes George, Nels Konnerup, David Macys, Kristy Miller, Laurie Mosolino, Jim Patton, Marie Piper, Dana Pratt, Linda Rhodes, Reece Rose, Jodi Samek, Matt Sullivan

Staff Present: Keith Higman, Tim McDonald, Nancy Farnsworth, Celine Servatius

Excused: Joline DeVos, Kevin Rio Kiper, Mark Lathrop, Duke LeBaron, Steve Markle, Henry Powers, Jack Sharpe Jr., Jill Usher

Guest: Susan Sutherland

Call to Order: Tom Baxter EHAT Chair called the scheduled meeting of the Environmental Health Assessment Team to order at 5:30pm.

Agenda Items:

1. Review Minutes from August Meeting, CDC Visit Update, & Introductions

- a) Minutes from the August 21, 2003 EHAT meeting accepted as written.
- b) CDC Visit on Sept. 9th – Updated on the progress of EHAT, the issues selected issues, and the draft profiles.
- c) Introductions – everyone introduced themselves stating: name, what part of county they are a resident, if they belong to a subcommittee which one, and briefly stated their background and interest.

2. Group Updates

- a) WNV – Working on draft profile, still narrowing it down.
- b) Dumping – Working on a draft of the issue profile. Some of the members met with Susan before EHAT and got new ideas.
- c) Walkable Island County – Will obtain pedometers to distribute, suggested walking 10,000 steps per day. Will work to develop a list of partnerships, health benefits of issue, and educational ideas. Challenged EHAT to do a trial walking audit this month; set a destination, document any problems, describe lighting & sidewalks, list where you walked, and the time of day. Audit can be done by walking, biking, or wheelchair. It can be to any destination, including accessibility to the public transit system.
- d) Water/Arsenic – members discussed current situation in Island County, EPA new standard, and financial implications to residents. They are working on their draft issue profile.

3. Presentation by Susan Sutherland: PACE Success, Challenges, Barriers (Delaware County, Ohio)

- a) Tim McDonald introduced Susan Sutherland. She is the current Assessment Coordinator for Environmental Health in Delaware County, Ohio General Health District. Tom met Susan at the PACE Training he attended in Chicago.
- b) **Delaware County PACE Project Background:** Delaware County has a population of 110,000 people, and is 459 square miles. It is the 15th fastest growing county in the nation. The PACE Project began in 1998, and took approximately 1½ years to complete. The original 25 members have remained active on one of the 4 subcommittees. Members identified health risks & how to reduce, engaged the community, and mobilized into an action plan. Initially identified 465 issues, then narrowed it to the top 4 issues with 10-12 indicators each. Top 4 priorities are: County Development, Environmental Education, Surface Water Quality, Litter Prevention and Recycling. The project had strong support from the Health Department, but it was the community members that ran the project.

- c) **Challenges/Barriers:** Recognized the need to keep the community engaged, so they identified the anchors in the community and invited them to participate. They discovered that by forming partnerships/collaborations, and pooling community resources, they had more of an impact on the results of the project.
- d) **Barriers:** The gaps in data were a barrier, so they identified the gaps, and if there was an impact because of it, they began a process of generating the data. If the data did not support the perceived concern of the residents, then they developed an educational campaign. Used other community resources to help with collecting data.
- e) **Keys to Success**
 1. Establish a media campaign. Informed the community on what are the top issues and the progress of the project. Developed a plan to use the media for routine updates. Made civic presentations and showed where they were in the process. Put progress in the Health Dept newsletter. Was visible at community events, fairs, booths, and displayed brochures and information on the project.
 2. Keep the Politicians Informed. Kept the elected officials updated on the progress of the project. Board of Health supported the project, because they were issues that concerned the community. PACE committee chair chosen to talk to the elected officials. Established a communication plan and committee.
 3. Create Community Partnerships. They developed partnerships in the process, so they would have a bigger impact on the outcome. They had more resources around the table. They formed partnerships before they developed the action plan. They educated and provided awareness and training opportunities. They partnered with the schools. They got everyone in the community involved in the process.
- f) **Ranking:** Reviewed the handouts and discussed the process they used in Delaware County, Ohio. Selected top criteria by aesthetics, ecological impact, fairness, future generation, peace of mind, scale, recreation, sustainability, ethical, sense of community.
- g) **Success Stories:** Had the same 25 people come back to the project after taking a year off. They celebrated small successes, and got them recognized in the media. The Commissioners backed the process because it was what the residents wanted. When the community is behind the charge, it influences the elected officials. They discovered the power in numbers, by forming new partnerships in the community and sharing resources. The PACE project successfully educated the community and had impact on legislation.

4. Questions and Answer

- a) The public was kept informed by using the media. They published articles in the newspaper. They partnered with nursing and health services to publish a regular newsletter, with info on health and environmental health issues. The newsletter that was sent out to hospitals, businesses, and doctor's offices. They attended health activities and sponsored events, where they had information available about the project.
- b) They established a communication committee that handled media relations. They had decided who was going to write the press releases, and provide the media with information. Every month a community member spoke to at least one community group about the project. PACE members contacted the media, not the staff. They gave the same consistent message to the media.
- c) They developed an action plan to form community partnerships. They identified who in the community should be involved. The group shared resources and developed a plan with specific objectives. Partnerships were easily formed because most community members care about where they live and the quality of their life. This process helps members make a difference in the community. It is important to keep the members engaged and motivated. Don't get bogged down in the process.

5. Homework Assignment

- a) Review draft profile for your subcommittee
- b) Read Task 10 on Ranking.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.