

Meeting Community Environmental Health Needs The New Hampshire Approach



Presented at the
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May 1, 2014
9 AM- 4 PM

New Hampshire Public Health Laboratories
29 Hazen Drive Concord, New Hampshire

Improving Environmental Health through Innovation, Practice and Policy

A one-day meeting to strategize methods of improving the environmental health system in New Hampshire and enhancing community access to the capabilities of the public health laboratory.

- *Identify & prioritize community environmental health concerns*
- *Define & evaluate existing ways for the community to engage the environmental health system*
- *Explore opportunities for enhancement or improvement of the system*
- *Determine techniques for effective outreach & engagement*

Hosted by the New Hampshire Public Health Laboratories and the Association of Public Health Laboratories. There is no charge for this event. Lunch will be provided by APHL. Please RSVP sandra.j.white@dhhs.state.nh.us or 603.271.4854



Invitees

- ❑ State Officials
- ❑ Local Health Officers
- ❑ Community Members
- ❑ Academics
- ❑ Advocates



Agenda

- Overview of the environmental health system in NH
 - Multiple agencies with responsibilities
 - Sometimes challenging for community
- Community Health Assessments
- State Health Improvement Plan
 - Many goals have an EH connection
 - Cancer
 - Cardiovascular disease
 - Asthma
- Public Health Laboratory Capabilities
 - Overwhelming surprise

Scenarios

□ Food Contamination

- Multi-state mercury intoxication
- Acute illness associated with multiple food products
- Investigated & managed well due to established protocols, existing relationships, clear jurisdictions

□ Private Well Contamination

- Challenging issue for community
- Complex technical issues
- Jurisdiction ???

Recommendations for Enhancing the Environmental Health System

- Greater communication between public health, environmental services and local partners
- Develop updated materials for stakeholders
- Increase awareness of PHL capabilities and role in environmental health investigations

Grassroots Approach

- ❑ Formation of an Environmental Health Team
 - Quarterly meetings
 - Discuss projects & emerging issues of concern
 - Fact sheets
- ❑ Student Intern designing materials
- ❑ Laboratory Open House
- ❑ Increase community outreach

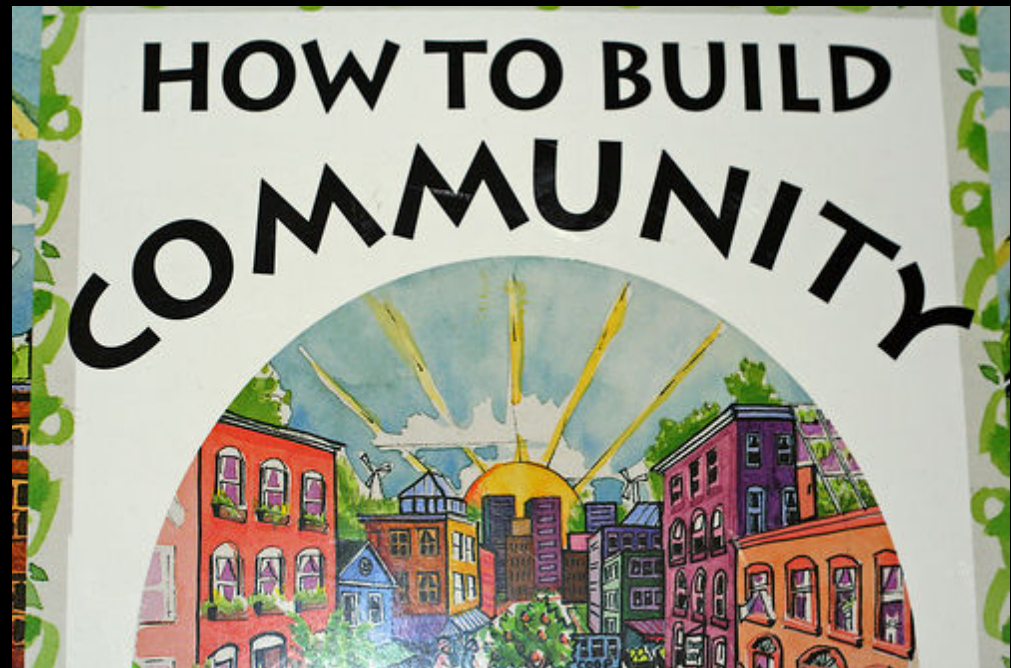
Building Partnerships in the Community

- ❑ Clinicians
- ❑ Public Health Partners
- ❑ Environmental Partners
- ❑ Poison Control
- ❑ Law Enforcement
- ❑ Military
- ❑ Medical Examiners
- ❑ Academic partners



Expand Partnerships in the Community

- ❑ Residents
- ❑ Advocates
- ❑ Civic Organizations
- ❑ Community Leaders
- ❑ Businesses
- ❑ Educators



Community Events

- Town Days
- Road Races
- Recycling Events
- Fairs & Festivals
- Blood Drives
- Flu Clinics
- Library Events



Wild New Hampshire Day

- ❑ Organized by Department Fish & Wildlife
- ❑ PHL had displays and hands on activities for children
 - Food safety
 - Water quality
 - Radiation
- ❑ Took the opportunity to inform parents about the importance of well testing
- ❑ Distributed 125 water test kits



New Hampshire Public Health Laboratories

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday May 28, 2015, 1-3 PM
29 Hazen Drive Lobby
Concord, New Hampshire

Please join us to learn more about the laboratory's analytical capabilities and its integral role in protecting the public health of New Hampshire residents.

Meet and talk with laboratory scientists, take a laboratory tour and/or view the displays.

Light refreshments will be served.

New Hampshire Emergency Preparedness Conference

- Large 1–day event
- Cross section of partners
 - First responders
 - Clinicians
 - Public health
- PHL will have a booth
 - Bio, chem and rad lab capabilities

Farmers Markets

- Resurgence in popularity
- Intimate by design
- Ample foot traffic
- Attract shoppers interested in healthy, nutritious foods & products
- Likely to be receptive to EH information



Piggy-back

- ATSDR Publications
- CDC *Solve the Outbreak* App
- Professional Meetings
- Community Events



ATSDR Community Resources

- ❑ *How to Reduce Your Exposure to Chemicals at Home, Work and Play*
- ❑ *Health Effects of Chemical Exposure*
- ❑ *Sensitive Populations and Chemical Exposure*
- ❑ *Chemicals Cancer & You*

Development of Custom Materials

- Internal Communications Department
- MIYO – *Make it Your Own*
- Low Cost /Free Tools
 - Infographics
 - Presentations
 - Materials

Educational Settings

- Middle & High Schools
- Key age –group
- Teachers enthusiastic
 - Real-world examples
 - Alignment with curriculum frameworks
 - STEM Initiatives



Adult Education Programs

- ❑ Engaged audience
- ❑ Often underserved populations
- ❑ Proven model for success



Civic Organizations

- ❑ Chamber of Commerce
- ❑ Rotary Clubs
- ❑ Medical Reserve Corps
- ❑ League of Women Voters



Grand Rounds

- ❑ Poison Control Fellows
- ❑ Teaching Hospitals
- ❑ Medical Examiners



Public Health Partners

- ❑ Joint presentations with partners
 - EH Programs
 - ❑ Epidemiology, Toxicology & EPHT
 - ❑ Lead Poisoning Prevention
 - ❑ Food Protection
 - ❑ Local Health
 - ❑ Occupational Health
- ❑ Federal Partners
- ❑ Poison Control Centers
- ❑ Schools of Public Health

Interns

- ❑ College students
- ❑ APHL fellows
- ❑ High school students?



Potential Resources

- ❑ Medical Reserve Corps
- ❑ America Corps
- ❑ City Year
- ❑ Teachers



Yes, we can!

