

Developing an Iowa Environmental Community Action Network

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2015 APHL™
ANNUAL MEETING

and ninth government environmental laboratory conference

May 18–21, 2015
Indianapolis
Indiana Convention Center



*Performance
Driven —
Racing to
Results*

Iowa Environmental Community Action Network

- APHL/CDC Project
 - National Issue – Exposure to environmental contaminants
 - Meeting Community Health Needs through Environmental Health Laboratories
 - Community Access to Environmental Health Laboratories
- Iowa Meetings





◆ SAVE-THE-DATE ◆

Improving Environmental Health through Innovation, Practice, and Policy

A one-day meeting hosted by the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa and the Association of Public Health Laboratories to strategize methods of improving the environmental health system in Iowa and enhancing community access to the capabilities of public health laboratories.

- ◆ **Monday, April 28, 2014** • **9:00 am – 5:00 pm** ◆
Iowa Laboratories Facility • State Hygienic Laboratory
2220 South Ankeny Boulevard • Ankeny, IA 50023
Lunch provided
RSVP/Questions: HygienicLab-RSVP@uiowa.edu

GOALS:

1. **Identify and prioritize** community environmental health concerns that can be (at least partially) addressed by public health labs.
2. **Define and evaluate** existing ways for communities to engage the environmental health system, particularly the laboratory.
3. **Explore opportunities** for enhancement or improvement of the system, focusing on how the laboratory can provide important testing for communities, improve the health of vulnerable populations, and reduce health disparities.
4. **Determine techniques** for effective outreach and engagement that can be replicated.

TOPICS:

Topics are intended to be used as a foundation for testing hypotheses for systematic improvements.

- **Water Quality:**
 - Metals (Pb, As, Hg), well water, toxic algae, environmentally persistent pesticides and pesticide degradates
- **Air Quality:**
 - Metals, particulate matter
- **Food Safety:**
 - Community gardens, farmer's markets, environmentally persistent pesticides and pesticide degradates



Improving Environmental Health through Innovation, Practice, and Policy

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Improving Environmental Health through Innovation, Practice, and Policy

April 28, 2014 Meeting Participants Represented:

County Public Health Departments	Centers for Disease Control Protection
Iowa Poison Control Center	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Iowa Department of Public Health	U.S. Department of Education
Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals	Association of Public Health Laboratories
Iowa Department of Natural Resources	Iowa Environmental Council
Iowa Department of Agriculture	Iowa Environmental Health Association
Des Moines University	Iowa Public Health Association
UI IHR Hydrosience & Engineering	State Hygienic Laboratory
UI College of Public Health	UI Center for the Health Effects of Environmental Contamination

Note – Several State Legislators invited and accepted, but could not attend as legislature was still “in-session.”

Improving Environmental Health through Innovation, Practice, and Policy


➤ April 28, 2014 Meeting Topics:

- Review Objective and Goals
- Response to recent flooding
- Present and discussed hypothetical scenario
 - Mercury exposure – numerous issues including air quality, vulnerable population, cross-county issues, public schools
- Presented and discussed actual scenario
 - Cerro Gordo County Arsenic Contamination
- Process discussion
 - Identify best practices
 - Identify gaps
 - Identify needed resources
 - Develop replicable model
- Next steps and action items
 - Objective: ensure sustainability and momentum





Improving Environmental Health through Innovation, Practice, and Policy

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- Several gaps identified in environmental health system:
 - Awareness of capabilities and capacities across agencies
 - Develop formalized communication channels amongst agencies
 - Develop statewide tracking system
 - Track issues/concerns
 - Track follow-up

Scope of Services Inventory

- Gap - Agency-to-Agency Scope of Services
 - ✓ Many agencies do not know the full scope of services that their partner agencies provide.
 - ✓ The medical community, law enforcement, other first responders, and local governmental agencies need to better understand the capabilities of the local labs and State Hygienic Laboratory and when to engage their services.





Communication to Community

- Gap - Agency-to-Community Communication
 - ✓ The environmental health system needs to improve its communication and outreach efforts to the general public.
 - ✓ Community members need to be aware of the various agencies in the environmental health system, the resources these agencies provide, and when/how to seek assistance from the experts.



Issue Intake and Tracking

- Gap -Community issue intake and tracking
 - ✓ Reported issues currently enter the environmental health system in a number of ways, and due to overlapping scope of services and strong agency partnerships, agency representatives believe reported community issues are appropriate addressed; however
 - There is not a collaborative, cross-institutional intake and tracking process that ensures individuals reach the appropriate agency and that agencies are then accountable for responding.
 - It is assumed that there is a silent minority/majority that does not report environmental health concerns because they do not understand how to navigate the system and/or are not aware of available resources.



Incident Command System

- Gap - Incident Command System
 - ✓ Agency representatives have strong interpersonal relationships and feel comfortable reaching out for assistance.
 - ✓ However, there is not an Incident Command System in place to connect positions instead of individuals.



Emergency Planning and Preparedness

- Gap – Emergency Planning and Preparedness
 - ✓ Emergency response is strong, but pre-emergency planning is insufficient.
 - ✓ Emergency preparedness may result in improvements and identification of weaknesses.



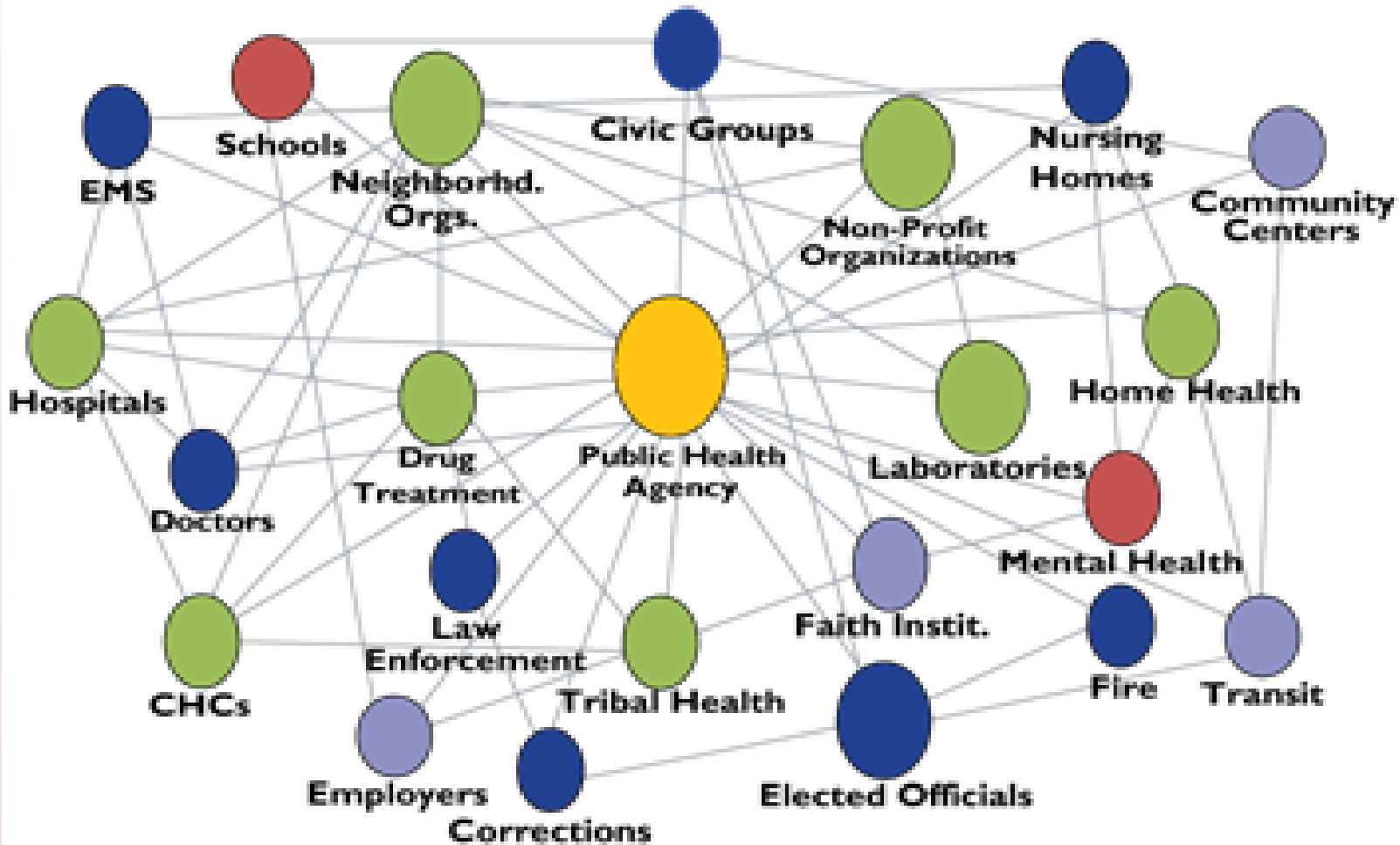
Gaps - Scope of Services Inventory

- Agency-to-Agency Scope of Services
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Complex - Public Health System Model

From the New Hampshire meeting - Dr. Jose Montero, the DPHS Director, explained the elements of the public health system in New Hampshire and the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)



In Response . . .

Development of Iowa Environmental Community Action Network

- Address some of the identified gaps
 - Scope of services
 - Communication forum
- Cross-agency communication platform to address environmental health concerns of Iowa communities
- Participants - Environmental Health System Partners





Iowa Environmental Community Action Network

Iowa Environmental Community Action Network (IE-CAN)

What is IE-CAN?

IE-CAN is a cross-agency communication platform to address environmental health concerns of Iowa communities.



Discussion Forum



Environmental Health Concerns and Alerts



Emergency Response and Preparedness



Training and Educational Opportunities

Who should participate?

Environmental Health System Partners



Public Health and Commercial Laboratories



Local, State and Federal Agencies



Educational Institutions



Environmental Organizations

Why?

To fulfill the shared mission of improving the quality of life for Iowans.



Addressing Community Needs related to environmental health concerns



Sustained Monitoring of Iowa's air, water and soil for contaminants of concern



Surveillance for emerging environmental issues impacting quality of life



Identification and Investigation of contaminants that can negatively impact environmental quality and human health

How to join!

It's easy (and free) to become a member.



E-mail
alyssa-mattson@uiowa.edu



Call
319.335.4500 or
800.421.IOWA (4692)



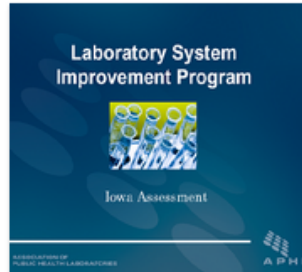
Iowa Climate Science Educators Forum

- The second annual Iowa Climate Science Educators forum was held October 31, 2014 at the Center for the Advancement of Laboratory Science at the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa in Coralville.
- Focus was on the public and environmental health impacts on Iowans from climate change. The lead scientists and authors of the “Iowa Climate Statement 2014: Impacts on the Health of Iowans” presented the statement and discussed impacts in Iowa.
- *Opportunity to introduce IE-CAN to participants*



Recent Developments

Iowa's Public Health Laboratory Information Exchange



Iowa Lab System Improvement Program (L-SIP)

The Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP) is recognized nationally by APHL and CDC to identify public health laboratory system gaps and needs in alignment with the 10 Essential Public Health Services. Through a guided process of performance evaluation, system improvements, and periodic evaluation and reassessment, L-SIP can strengthen Iowa's Public Health Laboratory System.



Laboratory Benchmarking Group

Lab Benchmarking Group (LBG)
Lab Benchmarking is a group of clinical laboratory managers who gather to share best practices, discuss solutions to common issues and work together to strengthen the practice of laboratory medicine throughout Iowa.



Iowa Laboratory Response Network (ILRN)

The Iowa Laboratory Response Network is a system throughout Iowa for sentinel laboratories and any organization involved in CB/RNE response to share information, provide emergency alerts and updates, and to respond appropriately to emergency events.



Iowa Environmental Community Action Network (IE-CAN)

The Community Action Network is working to connect environmental health partners across the state of Iowa to better understand and address the environmental health issues that impact our local communities.



Iowa Environmental Response Laboratory Network (IERLN)

The IERLN is comprised of Iowa environmental agencies and serves as a tool to share information and enable rapid response to environmental emergencies and emerging contaminants.



State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) at the University of Iowa

Since 1904, the State Hygienic Laboratory has been at the forefront of public health issues in Iowa. As the state's public health and environmental laboratory, the Hygienic Laboratory serves all of Iowa's 99 counties through disease detection, environmental monitoring, and newborn and maternal screening.



IE-CAN Website Development

- Discussion Forum
- Develop Cross-Agency Services Directory
- Goal - Develop Membership Directory
 - Environmental Health Agencies
 - Non Governmental Organizations
 - Emergency Responders
 - County Agencies
 - State Agencies
 - Local Representatives
 - Planning and Zoning
 - Others
 - Federal Agencies
- Identify Common Issues
 - Frequently asked questions



IE-CAN – Where do we take this?

- Tracking
- Response
- Follow-up
- Resources
 - Funding
 - Staffing
 - Champion
- Maintain
- Sustain



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Community Engagement

– Where do we take this?

- Legislative system support
- Customer Relation Management (CRM)
- Local county pilot project

Iowa Environmental Community Action Network

- IE-CAN
 - Discussion
 - Thoughts
 - Good idea?
 - Stories
 - Suggestions

Iowa Environmental Community Action Network

IE-CAN

Working together
to meet the
environmental
health needs of
Iowa communities

In the environmental health arena, we frequently hear stories about citizens with environmental health issues who do not know where to turn for help. Whether their questions are about the quality of water from private wells, food contamination or chemical exposures, the public deserves easy access to environmental health professionals who can answer these questions.

In a project supported by the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) at the University of Iowa is working to connect environmental health partners across the state in order to further develop and enhance communication about issues that impact communities in Iowa. **IE-CAN** establishes such a communication platform.

Together, we can better understand and meet the environmental health needs of Iowa communities.





Thank you!

- Questions/suggestions?
- Contact information
- **Michael Wichman, PhD**
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