Using the National Environmental Public Health Performance Standards to Improve Services in Four Florida Counties

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Problem Statement

- The unintended consequence of a classic regulatory approach to Environmental Health issues in Florida is that citizens do not receive the full complement of services needed to protect their health and safety.
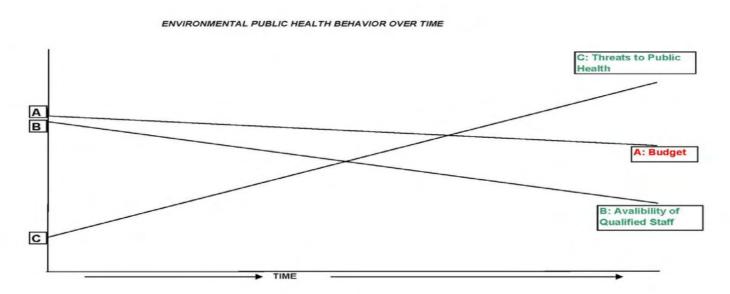
Background

- Florida is a global destination

- Primarily focused on regulatory functions

- Reactive to new and emerging threats.

Behavior over time graph

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH BEHAVIOR OVER TIME

C: Threats to Public Health

A: Budget

B: Avalibility of Qualified Staff

TIME

Over time Environmental Health programs have been under funded and most recently they have been subjected to budget reduction. This budget reduction has also impacted the ability to hire qualified staff to manage the core program functions. While the programs are operating at zero base budget we have seen new and emerging threats to the public health.
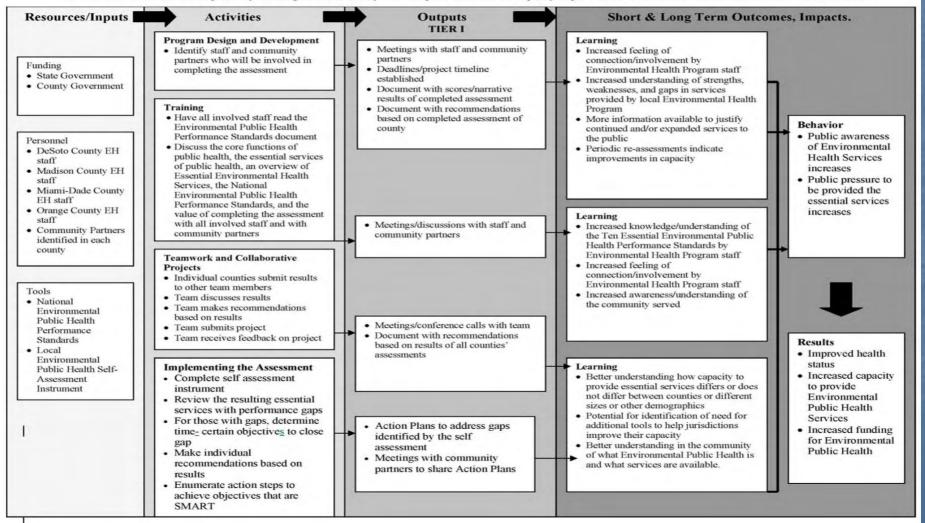
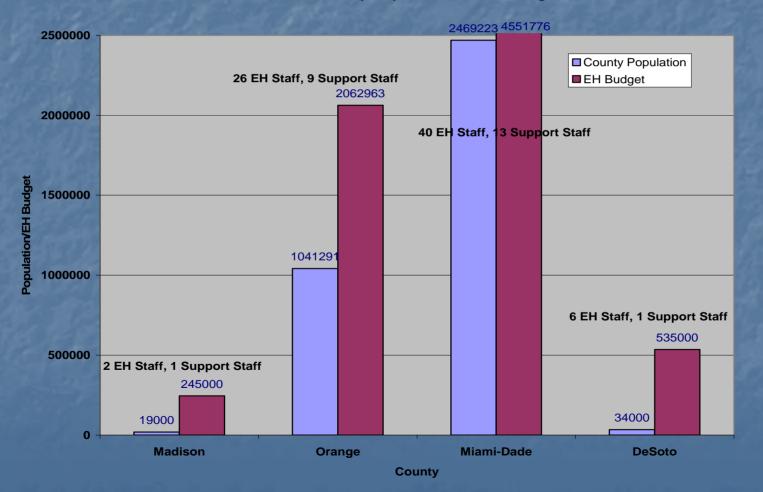## Causal Loop Diagrams and applicable archetypes

Project Logic Model

Project Logic Model r. 06/20/07

Goal: Increase the health of the public by ensuring that local county health departments have the capacity to provide the Ten Essential Environmental Public Health Services
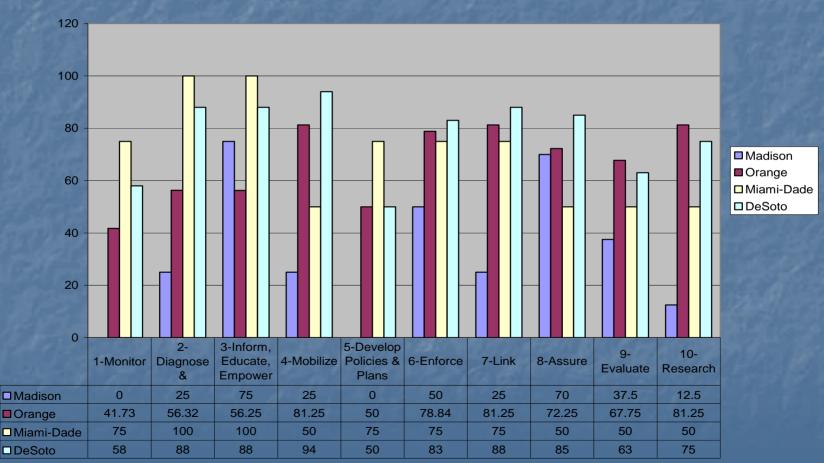
Resources/Inputs	**Activities**	**Outputs** **TIER I**	**Short & Long Term Outcomes, Impacts.**
Funding • State Government • County Government **Personnel** • DeSoto County EH staff • Madison County EH staff • Miami-Dade County EH staff • Orange County EH staff • Community Partners identified in each county **Tools** • National Environmental Public Health Performance Standards • Local Environmental Public Health Self-Assessment Instrument	**Program Design and Development** • Identify staff and community partners who will be involved in completing the assessment **Training** • Have all involved staff read the Environmental Public Health Performance Standards document • Discuss the core functions of public health, the essential services of public health, an overview of Essential Environmental Health Services, the National Environmental Public Health Performance Standards, and the value of completing the assessment with all involved staff and with community partners **Teamwork and Collaborative Projects** • Individual counties submit results to other team members • Team discusses results • Team makes recommendations based on results • Team submits project • Team receives feedback on project **Implementing the Assessment** • Complete self assessment instrument • Review the resulting essential services with performance gaps • For those with gaps, determine time- certain objectives to close gap • Make individual recommendations based on results • Enumerate action steps to achieve objectives that are SMART	• Meetings with staff and community partners • Deadlines/project timeline established • Document with scores/narrative results of completed assessment • Document with recommendations based on completed assessment of county • Meetings/discussions with staff and community partners • Meetings/conference calls with team • Document with recommendations based on results of all counties' assessments • Action Plans to address gaps identified by the self assessment • Meetings with community partners to share Action Plans	**Learning** • Increased feeling of connection/involvement by Environmental Health Program staff • Increased understanding of strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in services provided by local Environmental Health Program • More information available to justify continued and/or expanded services to the public • Periodic re-assessments indicate improvements in capacity **Learning** • Increased knowledge/understanding of the Ten Essential Environmental Public Health Performance Standards by Environmental Health Program staff • Increased feeling of connection/involvement by Environmental Health Program staff • Increased awareness/understanding of the community served **Learning** • Better understanding how capacity to provide essential services differs or does not differ between counties or different sizes or other demographics • Potential for identification of need for additional tools to help jurisdictions improve their capacity • Better understanding in the community of what Environmental Public Health is and what services are available. **Behavior** • Public awareness of Environmental Health Services increases • Public pressure to be provided the essential services increases **Results** • Improved health status • Increased capacity to provide Environmental Public Health Services • Increased funding for Environmental Public Health

County population vs. EH Budget

Percent of Essential Service met by County

Percent Essential Service Met by County

Essential Service	1-Monitor	2-Diagnose &	3-Inform, Educate, Empower	4-Mobilize	5-Develop Policies & Plans	6-Enforce	7-Link	8-Assure	9-Evaluate	10-Research
Madison	0	25	75	25	0	50	25	70	37.5	12.5
Orange	41.73	56.32	56.25	81.25	50	78.84	81.25	72.25	67.75	81.25
Miami-Dade	75	100	100	50	75	75	75	50	50	50
DeSoto	58	88	88	94	50	83	88	85	63	75

Contributing Factors

1. Lack of public awareness of available EH Services.

2. Lack of CHD staff awareness of the level of services being provided.

3. Program evaluation are not based on delivery of the 10 Essential Services.

Conclusions

- Tool scoring could be based on perception.
- Involve stakeholders to raise community awareness and measure perceptions.
- Budget constraints are a barrier to demand for increased services.
- Identified concern of increased staff work load

Benefits/Next Steps

- Stakeholder satisfaction process for one program. Will use results for ongoing improvement.

- Encourage use of tool to evaluate performance related to outcomes rather than outputs.

- Seek or recommend changes to evaluation process to reward local CHD's for looking at the bigger picture of Environmental Health.

Recommendations

- Encourage Local EH programs to apply the tool to gain valuable insight from capacity gap analysis and the resulting action plans.

- Involve community partners and stakeholders for raised awareness.