



Southeast Regional Academic Center for
Environmental Public Health

(SE-RAC)

School of Public Health
University of Alabama at Birmingham

www.se-rac.uab.edu

The SE-RAC Region





Principal Investigators:

H. Kenneth Dillon, CIH, Ph.D.

2001 – 2004; Dr. Dillon died in May, 2004

Reidar K. Oestenstad, Ph.D., CIH, CSP

2004 – Present

Project Director:


Tom Struzick, MSW/ACSW, LCSW; M.Ed

2001 – Present






Why we're involved

- Dr. Dillon's interest in working outside the bench science arena and being involved with environmental public health practitioners at the community level
 - Dr. Dillon's work with in the UAB Center for the Study of Community Health and its community-based public health outreach mission (Mr. Struzick's primary appointment)
 - Desire to partner with the Bureau of Environmental Services in the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
 - Desire to partner with other state/territorial environmental public health leaders and practitioners
 - Desire to partner with the National Center for Environmental Health
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What we accomplished in Round One

- Formed new partnerships between UAB and ADPH at the state, area, and county levels
 - Created Alabama EHPG
 - Conducted first comprehensive needs assessment and enumeration of Alabama's EPH workforce
 - Developed and field tested new curriculum emphasizing EPH practitioner skills to work with community members in non-regulatory activities
 - Launched PACE EH projects
 - Successful application for Round Two
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What we hoped to accomplish in Round Two

- Continue partnership with ADPH and NCEH
 - Continue working with and expand involvement with PACE EH
 - Create new partnerships with other states and territories, based on ADPH experiences
 - Describe EPH Practice throughout the region
 - Identify EPH workforce development training, consultation, and technical assistance needs
 - Initiate new EPH projects with state and territorial partners
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What we have accomplished to date

- Completed EPH Practice Profiles for the 10 states in our region; as well as a profile for the region.
 - Delivered presentations on our “Core” Elements across the region.
 - Expanded expertise with the PACE EH methodology, e.g., projects and major presentation at first national PACE EH Summit
 - Revised initial training curriculum and field tested with IHS officers and tribal environmentalists.
 - Developed Hurricane Dialogues and special focus on EPH and Natural Disasters
 - Launched new core in the UABC SCH, Community Resilience and Disaster Preparedness; crafting new research agenda on personal emergency preparedness as a health disparity issue
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Where we hope to go from here

- Continue working with current partners, including NCEH
 - Package and distribute curriculum across U.S. and train trainers
 - Expand engagement in area of EPH and natural disasters
 - Expand Community Resilience work
 - Explore partnership possibilities in emerging EPH emphasis areas, e.g., built environment and climate change
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