



## Business Plan 2007 – Division of Environmental Health - Florida Department of Health

Vision: “Healthier Floridians”  
Mission: “Promote and Protect Health”  
Vision: “Healthier Floridians”

**Goal: To prevent disease of environmental origin  
Environmental Public Health Tracking**

### Trend and condition statements for Environmental Public Health Tracking:

In August 2006, the Florida Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health was one of 16 states awarded a five year grant by the CDC to continue its efforts to develop and maintain a national Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) network. The vision of the Tracking Program is to translate environmental and public health data into meaningful information on the association between the environment and disease outcomes that could help identify environmental hazards that need to be remediated to improve health and wellness in communities around our state. The goal of EPHT is to identify the relationship of environmental hazards with selected health outcomes including childhood lead poisoning, asthma, myocardial infarction, cancers, birth defects and developmental disabilities. To accomplish this, one of the most important steps is the linking of health and environmental data. This requires a mutual agreement between agencies to share data (which is sometimes confidential), in a secure and effective manner.

Over the past three years, the Division of Environmental Health EPHT Program has been collaborating and formulating partnerships with universities, not-for profits, and federal, state, and local agencies to lay the foundation for data sharing and move the Tracking Program to the network implementation level. For the program to continue its success, it is important to build upon its existing work and continue to collaborate with its partners, including: the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), University of Miami, University of Florida, University of South Florida, Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS) and the Florida Birth Defects Registry (FBDR). These agencies and universities are key partners for network implementation and are committed to working with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) on these projects to enhance a better understanding of how environmental exposures may be associated with adverse health effects.

In 2007-2008, the FDOH will continue its initiatives to 1) obtain quarterly asthma and myocardial infarction hospitalization data from the Agency for Health Care Administration via a secure file transfer protocol (SFTP), 2) exchange childhood lead poisoning prevention program (CLPPP) data via a SFTP with the University of Miami to explore the relationship between children that tested positive for lead and children with selected developmental disabilities, 3) electronically receive outdoor air monitoring data from the FDEP and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to evaluate the delayed effects of ozone, PM 2.5 with asthma and myocardial infarction hospitalization data, and 4) identify selected birth defects from the FBDR to explore increased prevalence rates near environmental hazards, such as hazardous waste sites.

In addition to its Florida stakeholders, the Florida Tracking Program is committed to working with 15 other grant funded states and the CDC to collectively develop and implement the Tracking Program at the National level. Developing the National Tracking program will be a huge undertaking and will require extensive information technology (IT) knowledge and resources. This is being accomplished by participating in the CDC's Health Tracking workgroups including the Content Workgroup (CWG), Standards Network and Development (SND) Workgroup, Program Marketing and Outreach (PMO) Workgroup, and many sub-workgroups of each.



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Developing environmental health tracking capabilities addresses several focus areas within the Division's Strategic Plan and Healthy People 2010, including Environmental Health, Public Health Infrastructure, Educational and Community-Based Programs, and Health Communication. The Tracking Program will continue to utilize the Department's extensive expertise in developing, implementing, and evaluating broad-based health promotion and prevention initiatives that can be adapted for environmental and health effect tracking and surveillance. As EPHT Program matures and the relationship between environmental hazards and health outcomes becomes clearer, effective interventions can be designed to meet the needs of the population.

#### Short Term Objectives

By December 31, 2007:

- Continue participating in the CDC's health effects, environmental, information technology and indicators workgroups to further the implementation of the state and national EPHT programs.
- Initiate a Web server for ArcIMS and develop a web portal to spatially evaluate selected health trends.
- Establish a SQL server database that will store and maintain environmental and health data from various agencies.
- Increase FDOH capacity to recognize and link other selected environmental hazards and health outcomes.
- Complete the Rapid Inquiry Facility (RIF) project for examining birth defects and selected cancers near environmental health hazards.

#### Long Term Goals

By December 31, 2008:

- Continue to partner with other agencies and universities to identify and share environmental and health outcome data.
- Deploy state gateway to support secure data exchanges with the Tracking Network national gateway, other state gateways, and partner interfaces.
- Develop methods and analytical tools that are capable of spatially analyzing disease trends for associations between environmental hazards and adverse health effects.
- Increase CHD participation in utilizing surveillance tools developed by EPHT.
- Establish mechanism to make EPHT data accessible to CHDs and general public.
- Build a Sustainable EPHT Network in Florida.
- Enhance EPHT workforce infrastructure in Florida.
- Disseminate Information to guide policy, practice, and other actions to improve the nation's health.
- Advance environmental public health science and research.
- Foster collaboration among health and environmental programs.



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**Measure #1: Facilitate and promote collaboration among state, health agencies and partners about content for the State Tracking Network, and establish methodologies for collecting and analyzing the data.**

Division Strategic Plan/HP 2010	Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
	Develop the infrastructure to link Florida specific health and environmental datasets.	State proposals to CDC for linkage and analyses of various health and environmental data sets.	EPHT team	September 2008	Ongoing
Track and make available core environmental health tracking measures for drinking water on the state and National EPHT network	Identify data and information on establishing key harmful drinking water contaminants and associated adverse health outcomes.	A list of key drinking water contaminants and harmful health effects will be compiled.	John Folsom, Greg Kearney	December, 2007	Ongoing. The CDC/state water CWG and SEHC continue to work towards developing indicators for drinking water.
Track and make available core environmental health tracking measures on the state and National EPHT network for the hospitalizations of asthma and myocardial infarctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a state and National EPHT surveillance system that will evaluate the impacts of outdoor air pollutants (ozone and PM2.5) with asthma and myocardial infa</li> </ul>	<p>Meeting minutes from FDEP air quality division, EPA, AHCA and EPHT workgroups.</p> <p>Submit state proposal for linkage and analysis of outdoor air, asthma and myocardial infarctions.</p>	Greg Kearney, Chris DuClos. John Folsom, Linda Young (University of Florida)	<p>Quarterly</p> <p>September, 2008</p>	Ongoing. Data sets from AHCA and FDEP have been secured and linked. Spatial modeling techniques are being developed by UF to evaluate trends of poor air and health effects. State and EPA (PHASE) air quality data sets are being secured for analysis at the regional level.



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<p>Track and make available core environmental health tracking measures on the state and National EPHT network for selected cancers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain collaborations and participation with FDEP CHD’s, Florida Cancer Data System and Division of Disease Control, and CWG cancer workgroup.</li> </ul>	<p>Workgroup meeting minutes</p> <p>Submit state proposal for linkage and analysis of drinking water and selected cancers</p>	<p>Greg Kearney, Prakash Patel, Chris DuClos, Youjie Huang, Laurel Harduar-Morano, John Folsom</p>	<p>Quarterly</p> <p>September, 2008</p>	<p>Ongoing. Members from the CDC cancer CWG continue to meet monthly to develop indicators and identify selected cancers to track for EPHT. Collaborations continue with the Division of Disease Control and FCDS to use the RIF for spatial analysis of selected cancers and environmental hazards.</p>
<p>Track and make available core environmental health tracking measures on the state and National EPHT network for selected birth defects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain collaborations and participation from USF, FBDR and Birth Defects CWG. Maintain and secure contract with USF/FBDR for case ascertainment of selected congenital malformations.</li> </ul>	<p>Meeting minutes</p> <p>Submit state proposal for linkage and analysis of National Priority List Hazardous Waste Sites and selected birth defects.</p>	<p>Greg Kearney, Chris DuClos, John Folsom, Jane Correia Prakash Patel, Josefa Schlottman,</p>	<p>Quarterly</p> <p>July, 2008</p>	<p>Ongoing. Members from the CDC Birth Defects CWG continue to meet monthly to develop indicators and identify selected birth defects to track for EPHT. The RIF will be expanded to include a group of selected birth defects as directed by CWG.</p>
<p>Track and make available core environmental health tracking measures on the state and National EPHT network for childhood lead and selected developmental disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain collaborations and participation from UM, the Childhood Lead Program, and EPHT Lead CWG. Maintain and secure contract with UM to evaluate linkage between school children that test positive for lead and</li> </ul>	<p>Meeting minutes</p> <p>Submit state proposal for linkage and analysis of blood lead levels in children and selected developmental disabilities</p>	<p>Greg Kearney, Chris DuClos, Julie Kurlfink, Marygrace Kaiser (UM)</p>	<p>Quarterly</p> <p>July, 2008</p>	<p>Ongoing. Members from the CDC Lead CWG continue to meet monthly to develop appropriate indicators to track for EPHT. Working with Lead Program and UM to target geographical areas of children with a high Blood Lead Level (BLL) and a developmental disability.</p>



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	with a selected developmental disability.				
Track and make available core environmental health tracking measures on the state and National EPHT network for other selected health outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with not-for-profits, universities and other private/public agencies and seek input for targeting other adverse health outcomes to track. Exchange and share data with other agencies related to environmental hazards and health outcomes.</li> </ul>	Secure an EPHT GIS portal.	Greg Kearney, Chris DuClos, CDC, Key Partners	June, 2007	Ongoing progress towards creating data sharing agreements and partnering with other federal, state and local agencies.

**Measure #2: Improving EPHT data management and information technology capacity.**

Division Strategic Plan/HP 2010	Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
	Centralize data collection compatible with PHIN standards	Upload and share data with national partner	EPHT team	June 2008	Ongoing
Improve the quality, utility, awareness, and use of existing information systems for environmental health.	Complete web server construction for ArcIMS and develop a web portal to spatially evaluate selected health trends. Design portal to provide role-based access.	Develop EPHT web portal.	Chris DuClos, John Folsom	December, 2007	Ongoing. CDC, SND and workgroups are developing web based portal tools, and security measures for web based analysis and access.



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<p>Improve the quality, utility, awareness, and use of existing information systems for environmental health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish the ability to broker electronic data queries/exchanges between data sources and the grantee’s web-based portal and between CDC and the FDOH.</li> </ul>	<p>Increase the number of either health or environmental databases by 10% including emergency room hospitalization data from AHCA.</p>	<p>Chris DuClos, John Folsom</p>	<p>July 2007</p>	<p>Ongoing. The Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) site and data integration broker are up and running. Emergency room data from AHCA is being received on a quarterly basis.</p>
<p>Increase the proportion of all major national, state, and local health data systems that use geocoding to promote national use of geographic information systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate the use of GIS tools for examining incidence and prevalence rates of health outcomes near environmental health hazards (e.g., RIF, SaTScan).</li> </ul>	<p>Geocode all environmental and health outcome data to individual or group level.</p>	<p>Chris DuClos, John Folsom, Vital Statistics, Greg Kearney,</p>	<p>December, 2007</p>	<p>On-going. Geocode all new health and environmental data sets at either the individual or group level.</p>
<p>Improve the quality, utility, awareness, and use of existing information systems for environmental health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement a role-based access directory system, compatible with PHIN/EPHT standards, policies and procedures.</li> </ul>	<p>Develop a protocol for stakeholders for data dissemination assessment, prevention and policy. Establish SQL server database to store and maintain health and environmental data from various agencies.</p>	<p>Chris DuClos, John Folsom.</p>	<p>December, 2007</p>	<p>Ongoing. CDC, SND and workgroups are developing metadata and other standards that are PHIN compatible.</p>



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**Measure #3: Develop training opportunities for state EPHT Network**

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	Provide EPHT training to state and local partners.	2 trainings with CE credits	Chris Duclos, Greg Kearney, John Folsom	December 2007	
Promote and support training and innovation.	Create access to national environmental health training modules for CHD's to obtain continuing education credit.	Purchase National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) training modules and provide continuing education (CE) credits through Sharepoint.	Greg Kearney, Joseph Mucha	February 2007	NEHA training modules have been purchased and are currently being beta tested to counties through Sharepoint.
Promote and support training and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate state and local EPHT training. At a minimum, introduce EPHT 101 training at state health conferences.</li> </ul>	Conduct 2 trainings	Chris DuClos, John Folsom, Greg Kearney	December 2007	Ongoing. EPHT 101 will be released by CDC by summer 2007.

**Measure #4: Professional Development: Increase staff's knowledge of Environmental Public Health Leadership, GIS, Contract Management and Public Health Data Infrastructure.**

Division Strategic Plan/HP 2010	Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
	Enhance the skills of EPHT team	Annual training for all staff	EPHT team	December 2007	
Promote and support training and innovation.	Strengthen Environmental Public Health Leadership (EPHLI) skills.	Apply for CDC EPHLI candidacy, complete required coursework	Greg Kearney	February, 2008	On going. Accepted into CDC EPHLI as candidate,



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		and individual project.			
Promote and support training and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen Geographic Information System credentials as GIS professional.</li> </ul>	Obtain GIS certification from the GIS Certification Institute	Chris Duclos	December 31, 2007	On going.
Promote and support training and innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen Information Technology skills</li> </ul>	Complete Web Portal training and ArcIMS training.	John Folsom	December 31, 2007	On going.
Promote and support training and innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen Administrative and contract management skills</li> </ul>	Complete ACCESS database courses and contract management courses. Attend USF Social Marketing Training.	Rebecca Thomas	December 31, 2007	On going. 1 Access course completed.

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