

Wingate

Community

News

February 2003 Wingate Newsletter from the Florida Department of Health

State and County Health Departments Address Federal and Independent Expert Comments on Survey Plan

Federal/Independent Review Experts at the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have reviewed the planned disease and symptom prevalence survey. Three independent epidemiological experts have also reviewed the survey plan. Their review insures the survey meets federal and scientific requirements. The Florida Department of Health (DOH) and Broward County Health Department (CHD) are making necessary modifications.

Survey Plans This Spring/Summer, trained interviewers working with the Broward CHD will call a random sample of about 2,100 nearby residents. They will also interview about 200 people in person. Not all nearby residents will be interviewed. The interviewers will ask questions about illnesses and symptoms. They will also ask about length of residence. The survey will take about 30 minutes. Each participant will receive a \$10 gift certificate. Florida DOH will then look for patterns of illness and symptoms.

Survey Limits This survey is a necessary first step in looking at possible illnesses from past exposures. By itself, this survey will not be able to prove past exposures caused illness. The results of this survey, however, may lead to additional studies.

Community Support Continued community support is essential for a successful survey. Last summer, homeowner

association presidents voted for a survey. Since then, FL DOH/Broward CHD have worked with the community's consultant. Before they begin the survey, Florida DOH/Broward CHD will meet with community leaders, mail flyers to nearby residents, issue a press release, and hold a public meeting.

Incinerator History The Wingate incinerator operated between 1954 and 1978 at 1300 NW 31st Avenue (Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard). Nearby residents reported ash fallout from the incinerator smokestacks and increases in illnesses.

