

# National Environmental Public Health Performance Standards (EnvPHPS)

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# NACCHO Exchange

Promoting Effective Local Public Health Practice

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### Process Evaluation of PACE EH *Continued from page 19*

For many health agencies and communities, however, the journey has been much less profound. A dialogue has begun between agencies and the community but has not yet had a significant impact. The evaluation suggested that resources and the presence of a "champion" with political clout within the agency were key in determining outcomes. The sites in which the transformation was most pronounced have staff members who are passionate about the value of community involvement and about redefining the ways in which the agency works with the community. These sites also have resources that they can dedicate towards this end. Agencies with few resources are likely to be able to make only small steps. These agencies hope to have a blueprint for action—PACE EH action plans—should resources become available.

Small steps have potential long-term impact. PACE EH can be useful when resources and political support are scarce. PACE EH has three legs: (1) scientific assessment; (2) community change; and (3) agency capacity building. Advances in all three do not need to occur for the process to have value. Changes of the magnitude envisioned by the PACE EH

## The National Environmental Public Health Performance Standards and Their Implications for Environmental Health Infrastructure and Practice

By Sharunda Buchanan, MS, PhD, Director, Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services, National Center for Environmental Health; Sarah B. Kotchian, EdM, MPH, PhD, Associate Director, University of New Mexico Institute for Public Health; and Patrick O. Bohan, RS, MS, MSEH, Assistant Professor, East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma.

Recent threats from emerging and reemerging diseases, bioterrorism, global warming, and other environmental health issues, as well as increasing pressure at all governmental levels for proof of agency effectiveness, emphasize the need for the strong public health infrastructure called for in *Healthy People 2010*. It is not enough to provide excellence in such specific programs as food protection and liquid waste; there is also an urgent need to ensure that the public is getting healthier as a result of these programs.

Environmental health agencies have been concerned with measuring their

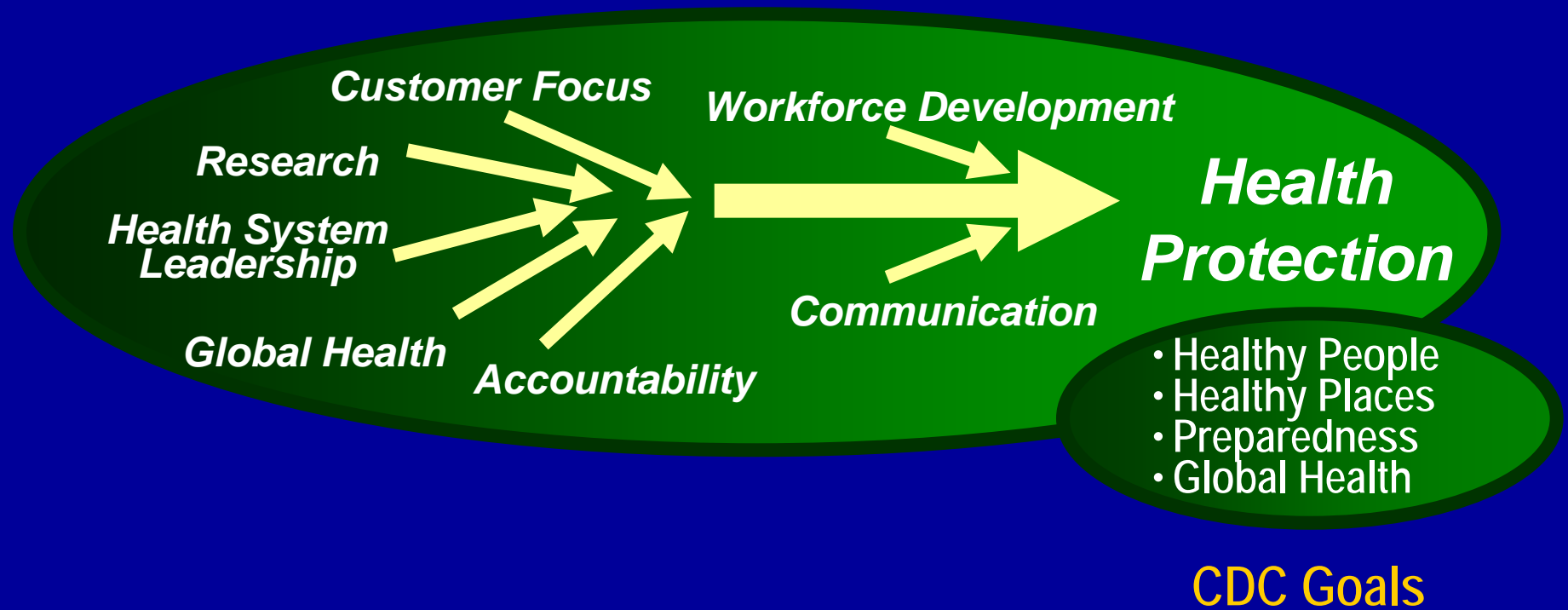


# History

- 2003: CDC strategic planning
- 2004: Environmental health think tank
- 2005: NPHPS coordination
- 2006: Piloting
- 2007: Partner/stakeholder input
- 2008: Discussion/review/clearance



# CDC Strategic Imperatives



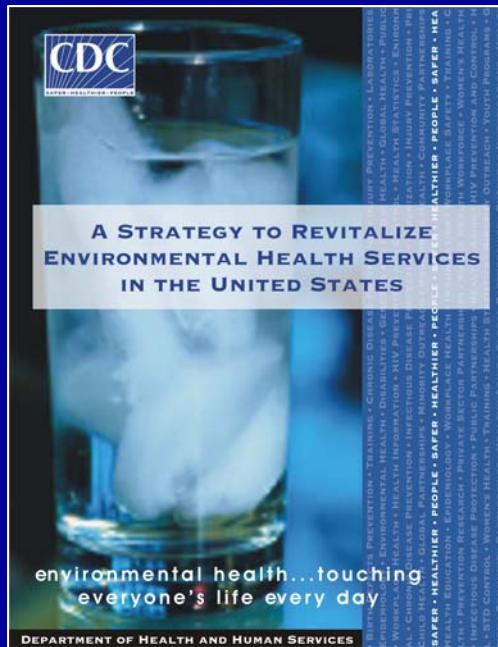
# Why?

- Capacity
- Consistency
- Accountability

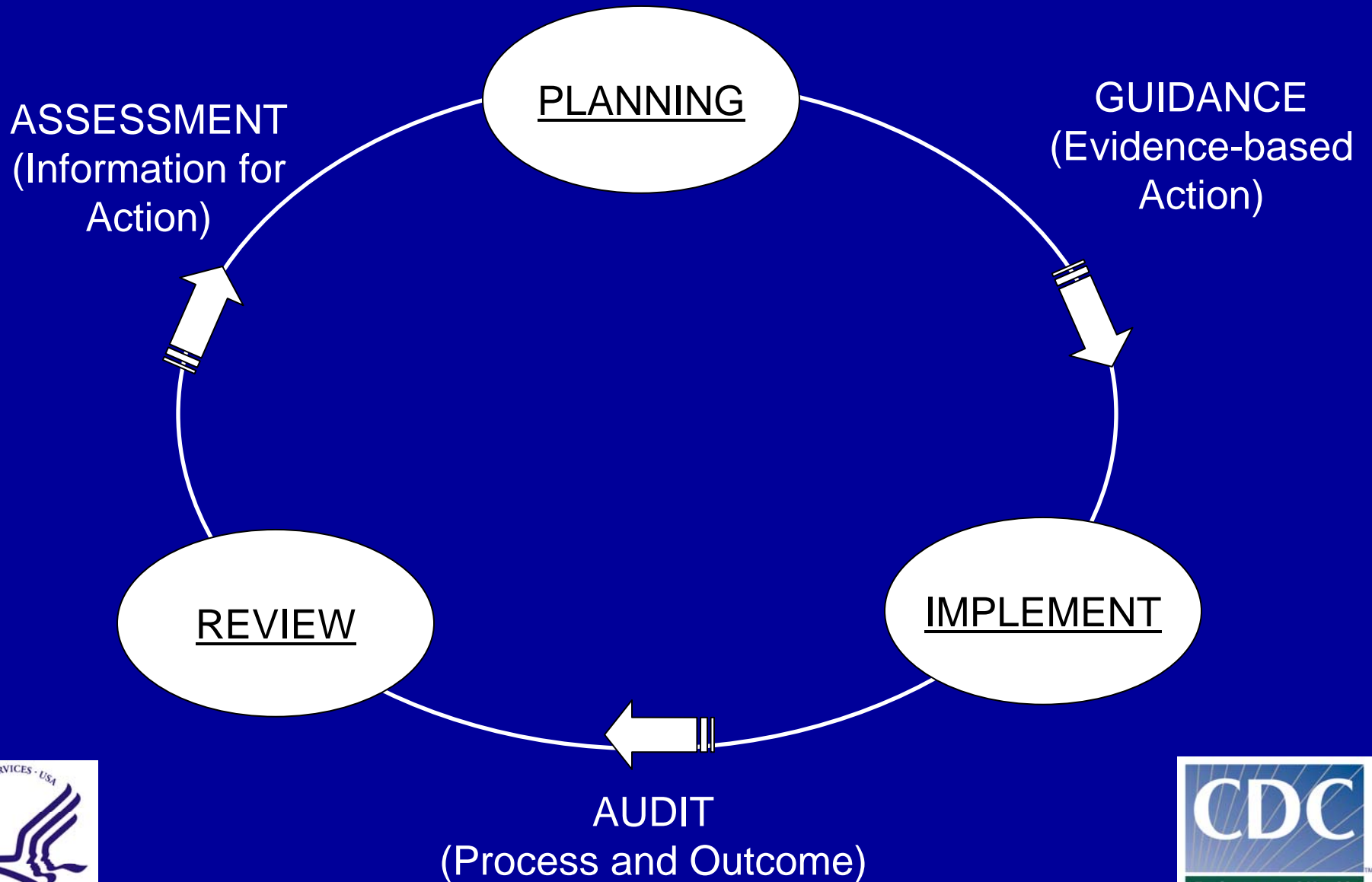


# Vision

—Strengthen Public Health Infrastructure—  
*(“Revitalized EPH System”)*



# Continuous Assessment



# Rationale

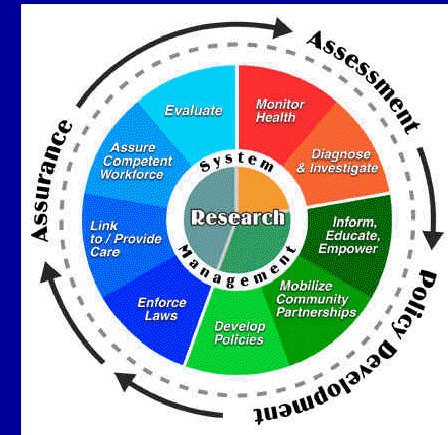
- EH makes up >20% of local public health programs
- EH workforce desires standards that are focused yet simple
- Time is right
  - Complement current NPHPS efforts
  - Move toward accreditation





# Benefits

- Strengthen link: EH and public health
- Assess capacity to perform 10 ES
- Identify and prioritize gaps in EH systems
- Develop an action plan to address gaps
- Educate and train staff about EH's role in prevention
- Justify support of local programs



# CDC's Role

- Technical assistance/training
  - EH indicators
- Action planning
  - Acting as liaison
  - Networking
  - Raising awareness
  - Identifying innovative/best practices
  - Gaining resources



# Next Steps

- Gain additional stakeholder support (March 2008)
- Build consensus (April 2008)
- Pilot revised draft instrument (June 2008)
- Finalize/clear draft standards (Jan 2009)
- Develop user tool kit (in progress)
- Include evaluation component (in progress)

Version 5/22/07

Monitor environmental and health status to identify and solve community environmental health problems					
	Fully Met 100%	Substantially Met 50% - 100%	Partially Met 25% - 50%	Minimal Activity 0% - 25%	No Activity 0%
1.1.1	<i>Have environmental health data reflecting the community status of environmentally-related illness, disease, injury, and environmental factors been collected?</i>				
1.1.2	<i>Are environmental health data analyzed?</i>				
1.1.3	<i>Are environmental health data prepared in a format that allows for the clear communication and interpretation by the public and policy makers?</i>				
1.1.4	<i>Has a community environmental health profile using the collected data been completed?</i>				
1.2.1	<i>Are existing and potential environmental health problems and trends in status identified by comparing analysis results to relevant benchmarks?</i>				



# Progress and Partnership

- Partners on board
- Initiative gaining momentum
- NEHA preconference workshop (June 2008)
- NEHA online workshop (ongoing)
- NEW: EnvPHPS toolkit (e.g., PACE EH)
- *NACCHO Exchange* article



# Tell Us What You Think

