



State Environmental Health Directors (SEHD)

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) Environmental Health Policy Committee identified a need to convene state-level environmental health directors to improve relationships and promote information exchange in 2002. With support from the National Center for Environmental Health, ASTHO convened a group of State Environmental Health Directors (SEHD), which is organized as an informal peer group within ASTHO and, as such, receives staff support and connectivity with state and territorial health officials. The SEHD meets by monthly conference call and during an annual meeting.

Purpose

- Develop a national identity and unified voice for state environmental public health practice
- Enhance relationships and communication among states and partners
- Provide a forum for discussion of key issues and the sharing of best practices

Membership

- ASTHO expanded the SEHD in 2006 to include all states and territories. Currently, there are 47 SEHDs as designated by state health officials.
- Lisa Conti (FL) and John Linc Stine (MN) serve as Chair and Co-Chair
- Kevin Doering (VT), Jack Daniel (NE), Gregg Grunenfelder (WA), Cliff Mitchell (MD), Lesa Roberts (KS), and Loren Robertson (IN) serve as the Steering Team.

Key Environmental Health Issues

- **Children's Environmental Health** – indoor air quality, school drinking water, lead exposure and asthma management are high state priorities
- **Indoor Environments** – states are addressing areas without federal standards or oversight, such as molds, carbon monoxide, and radon gas
- **Marketing Environmental Health** – the value of environmental health services should be conveyed to the public and policymakers
- **Water Quality** – ensuring safe drinking water for all communities
- **Regulatory vs. Public Health Agency** – states would like to see a shift from being identified as enforcement agencies to public health agencies.

Workgroups and Current Initiatives

- **State Environmental Public Health Services Survey** A subset of SEHD members developed a survey that solicited information about core programs such as food and water safety; the primary responsible agencies (state, local, health, environment, etc.); and the evolution of environmental programs, such as new or discontinued programs. The survey responses will provide a snapshot of state environmental health programs, facilitate enhanced collaboration and communication among partners, and aid in marketing state-based environmental public health programs.
- **Marketing** Recognizing a need to educate and persuade the public and policymakers of the value of environmental health services, a marketing workgroup has been formed with key partner organizations. The workgroup is collecting available marketing materials and will perform a gap analysis with respect to audience, market research and materials. They will also develop an

implementation plan and a white paper based on the results. Finally, they will coordinate the development of a “brand” for environmental health, integrated with national efforts to market public health at ASTHO and NACCHO.

- **Regulatory Environmental Health** A need for improved methods, processes and outcomes for environmental health standards and regulatory programs has been identified. A workgroup is examining how to improve the coordination of federal guidance and standard setting within the framework of state decision-making and improve communication between the states and their federal counterparts.
- **Community Environmental Health Indicators** States are working to develop a set of community environmental health indicators and recommendations for data collection that are useful for state environmental health programs in collaboration with other ongoing initiatives.

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