Local Health Department Involvement in State Climate Planning & Activities

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California Department of Public Health

Climate Action Team – Public Health Work Group
Quarterly Meeting
January 19, 2016
## Barriers to LHD Involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At State Level</th>
<th>At Local Level</th>
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<td>• Lack of capacity/time/staff</td>
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<td>• Opportunities unclear, don’t know the players</td>
<td>• No clear mandate</td>
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<td>• Concern about limits of authority – don’t want to be seen as lobbying</td>
<td>• Seen as too political</td>
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<td>• Believe impact greater at local or regional level</td>
<td>• Seen as too distant – need evidence of current local impacts</td>
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<td>• Lack of support from local leadership</td>
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Local health department work to improve climate change and health at local and regional level:

- Involvement in SCS/RTP under SB 375
- Climate Action Plans
- Environmental Impact Reports
- General Plans, Bike and Pedestrian Plans, Health element, etc.
- Active transportation, Safe Routes to Schools, etc.
Where Can Climate Change Fit in LHDs

Not limited to a single program area

- Public health preparedness (LA, Tulare, Merced)
- Built environment/healthy planning (Alameda County)
- Health equity (BARHII, San Diego)
- Environmental health (LA, Kings, Mendocino)
- Epidemiology/health policy (San Mateo, Contra Costa)
- Health promotion/chronic disease (SLO county)
- Nutrition, local food security, urban ag, farmers’ markets
- Health education, community education/engagement
- Infectious disease/vector borne disease
- Public health nursing
Actions taken:

• Input on guidelines (e.g., Safeguarding CA Implementation Plan, OPR General Plan Guideline Updates)
• Informational testimony at Senate Committees when asked
• Participation in meetings hosted by assembly members (e.g., Sea Level Rise Summit at NASA)
LHD Suggestions for the Climate Change & Health Team

• Support dedicated funding for LHDs to work on climate change
• Encourage CDPH to issue a mandate for LHDs to do climate work
• Encourage LHDs to support the local agencies in applying for GGRF funding (i.e., Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Grants)
• Alert LHDs about guidelines and plans needing comments
• Share CDPH Office of Legislative Affairs final list of bills
LHD Suggestions for the Climate Change & Health Team

- Provide technical assistance
- Provide communications materials that can be tailored to county
- Provide research, tools, and local data, e.g.:
  - Template for local vulnerability assessment
  - Quantify cost savings of climate action at local level
  - Attributable risk of local harms due to climate change
- Model strong leadership for public health involvement
What do you say, Local Health Depts?

- Shireen Malekafzali, MPH, San Mateo County
- Elizabeth Rhoades, PhD, Los Angeles County
- Others – please join the conversation:
  Call-In #: 888-566-6180
  Passcode: 23151
  Email: sierrarm@calepa.ca.gov
Wrap Up

• Updates and Announcements
  • John Faust, CalEPA
  • CalBRACE Program
  • More…

• Feedback/Suggested topics for future meetings
Thank you!

Networking in the room for 30 minutes

Next meeting: April 19, 2016 1–3:30pm