“Teamwork Makes the Dream Work: Partnering to Assess Environmental Health and Plan for the Future”

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In 2018, Chaffee County passed a local ordinance to increase sales tax by 0.25 percent, which is estimated to generate $1.16M per year.

The County Commissioners are planning to disseminate a request for applications (RFA) to determine how they will spend the generated revenue, reinvesting it in community projects and local agencies.
Background

- Chaffee County Public Health Department (CCPHD) requested technical assistance from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).
- CO Tracking program was asked to help in the environmental health assessment process.
Methods

• Guided by the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH) process, we developed a condensed process to fulfill local needs.
• The PACE EH process is designed to be iterative, revisiting steps as needed through the process.
• CDPHE EPHT team members facilitated the four meetings, which enabled CCPHD personnel to participate in the sessions as community stakeholders and partners.
Methods

• The PACE EH methodology entails 13 steps to answer the necessary questions in determining community priorities for action:

1. Determine community capacity to undertake the assessment
2. Define and characterize the community
3. Assemble community environmental health assessment team
4. Define the goals of the assessment
5. Generate the environmental health issue list
6. Analyze issues with a systems framework
7. Develop appropriate community environmental health indicators
8. Select standards
9. Create environmental health issue profiles
10. Rank the environmental health issues
11. Set priorities for action
12. Develop an action plan
13. Evaluate progress and plan for the future
Session 1

- Introductions
- Guidelines
- Discussion questions aligned with defining the goals, objectives, and scope of the assessment (step 4)
  - What does environmental health mean to us?
  - What are some environmental health issues in Chaffee County?
  - What do we need to address these issues? (data, partners, resources, etc.)
- CDPHE summarized meeting notes

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Session 2

- Introductions
- Session 1 review
- Generated environmental health issue list (step 5)
- Analyze issues with a systems framework (step 6)
  - Divided into small group to complete systems framework
- CDPHE summarized meeting notes

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Session 3

- Introductions
- Locally appropriate indicators (step 7)
  - Designated top 3 indicators per issue
- Select standards (step 8)
- Create environmental health issue profiles (step 9)
  - Air quality
  - Surface water
  - Waste management
Session 4

- Introductions
- Developed scoring sheet to rank issues (step 10)
- Completed priority setting (step 11)
- CDPHE wrapped up PACE EH process
Preliminary Results

• After 4 meetings, the group settled on a set of three priorities:
  • Air quality
  • Surface water quality
  • Waste management
  • Surface water quality and waste management were ranked slightly higher than air quality by group members.
Next Steps

• The team planned to host two community meetings
• Engage in dialog with community members
Resources

• PACE EH guidebook: https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/docs/pace-eh-guidebook.pdf


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