



Business Plan 2007 – Division of Environmental Health - Florida Department of Health

Mission: “Promote and Protect Health”

Vision: “Healthier Floridians”

Goal: To prevent disease of environmental origin

Bureau of Community Environmental Health – EH PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Trends and Conditions:

The Environmental Health Professional Certification Program evolved from concerns by the Florida Environmental Health Association (FEHA) and the Florida Septic Tank Association (FSTA), now the Florida Onsite Wastewater Association (FOWA). FEHA perceived the need for the environmental health professionals of the future to be properly trained to handle the new challenges of public health in general and within environmental health specifically. FSTA wanted a certain level of competency to be exhibited by the CHD's. FSTA perceived the educational and continuing education requirements of their constituency were higher than those of the regulatory community. As a result of these concerns, Section 381.0101, Florida Statutes, became effective in 1991 and Chapter 64E-18, Florida Administrative Code, became effective in 1994.

Division Cost: \$approx. \$16,046

Division Positions: 0.35

County Program Cost: *

County Positions: 849

* This is not currently tracked by the county or CENTRAX.

The statute provides that the Food Protection and Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal programs would become primary programmatic areas in which certification, by examination, is required. The Food Protection and Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal programs require a minimum of 24 hours of pre-certification coursework to be eligible to sit for the certification examination. Currently, there are 995 certified environmental health professionals in the county health departments (851), private sector (101) and others (42). Many of these individuals are certified in both primary programmatic areas. In order for an individual to qualify for certification, he or she must possess a minimum of a bachelor's degree from an accredited university and have successfully completed a minimum of 30 semester or 40 quarter hours in environmental health, environmental science, a physical or a biological science or public health. Certified individuals must attend 24 hours of continuing education biennially for each program area in which they are certified. Individuals who are Registered Sanitarians or Registered Environmental Health Professionals with the Florida Environmental Health Association or the National Environmental Health Association are exempted from the requirements of the statute.

In 2006, the program coordinator planned to provide training on the EH Professional Certification Code (Chapter 64E-18, F.A.C.), which was revised in 2005. This training was not provided for the following reasons: (1) the program coordinator developed and presented the statewide Basic Environmental Health Orientation program; (2) participated in a statewide Accountability/Cost Per Service Workgroup; (3) received and processed 10 variances for the MHP/RV program which he also coordinates; (4) conducted four CHD onsite program evaluations; and (5) conducted an investigation of whether department retirees might be a resource to assist CHDs with a backlog of septic tank soil evaluations. Therefore, the training will become Measure #1 for 2007. This measure is consistent with the division's Objective #1, Be the best communicators and educators and Objective #3, Promote and support training and innovation.

Measure #2 for 2007 is to complete the certification renewal process for 995 Certified EH Professionals, consistent with the division's Objective #2, Use our Data.



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Measure #3 is to educate CHD staff on correct coding using Daily Activity Records (DARs). Measure #4 is to provide data to update the Food Hygiene Certification Examination. The 2006 analysis revealed 13 questions which were missed more than 50% of the time. In addition, 10 of the questions were the same questions which were missed the most often in the 2002 analysis. The information will be given to Ric Mathis, Food Hygiene Program Coordinator. This measure is consistent with the Division Strategic plan Objective #2, "use our data".

Short Term Objectives

August 2007:

- Plan and provide training on the new rule and coding to ensure data consistency throughout the State.

December 2008:

- Begin to write changes to the certification statute for the 2008 Legislative Session.

December 2007:

Perform another Food Hygiene statistical analysis to determine if the questions missed previously are still causing issues.

Long Term Objectives

By December 2008:

- Begin a process to encourage employees to become an RS. To network with other states, with mandatory RS programs, to determine their issues regarding hiring of credentialed employees, various pay scales including urban vs. rural environments, employee retention and marketing of environmental health as a potential career path.

By January 1, 2010:

- Reopen the certification rule to change the disciplinary guidelines and other parts as necessary.



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Measure #1: Educate CHDs on Chapter 64E-18, Environmental Health Professional Certification by October, 2007

Division Objectives		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Objective #1	Be the Best Communicators and Educators	Present a training program to CHDs on the revisions to Chapter 64E-18, F.A.C.	Statewide training has been performed.	David B. Wolfe	August 2007	New measure not begun.
Objective #3	Promote and support Training and Innovation.	• Develop a training travel schedule	Schedule completed.	David Wolfe	March 2007	Not yet developed.
		• Develop a Power Point presentation	Presentation completed.	David Wolfe	April 2007	Not yet developed.
		• Conduct a trial training session.	Trial presentation completed	David Wolfe	May 2007	Pending
		• Analyze evaluations and make adjustments	Evaluations reviewed and evaluated.	David Wolfe	May 2007	Pending
		• Complete training schedule.	Training scheduled completed	David Wolfe	August 2007	Pending



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Measure #2: Renew Environmental Health Professional Certification for 900+ individuals by December, 2007							
Division Objectives		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date		Status
Objective #2	Use our data	Complete the renewal process for all Certified EH Professionals.	Renewal process is completed for 2007.	David B. Wolfe	May 2007	Pending	
Objective #3	Promote and support training and innovation	• Mail out renewal packages for RSs and PEs.	Packages have been mailed.	David Wolfe	January 12, 2007	Completed	
		• Process RS and PE application renewals.	Processing completed.	David Wolfe	February 28, 2007	in process	
		• Issue Certificates.	Certificates have been issued.	David Wolfe	February 28, 2007	In process	
		• Mail out renewal packages for all Certified EH Professionals.	Packages have been mailed.	David Wolfe	July 2, 2007	Pending	
		• Process renewal applications.	Processing completed.	David Wolfe	October 31, 2007	Pending	
		• Issue Certificates.	Certificates have been issued.	David Wolfe	October 31, 2007	Pending	



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Measure #3: Educate CHDs on correct coding using the Daily Activity Record (DAR) form by October 2007

Division Objectives		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Objective #1	Be the best communicators and educators	Provide training to all CHD staff that are required to complete a DAR.	Training has been provided to all CHDs.	David B. Wolfe	August 2007	Pending
Objective #3	Support training and innovation	• Obtain coding updates from Cathy Jackson.	Updates have been obtained.	David Wolfe	March 2007	Pending
		• Develop PowerPoint presentation.	Presentation has been developed.	David Wolfe	May 2007	Pending
		• Conduct trial training session.	Trial session completed.	David Wolfe	May 2007	Pending
		• Analyze evaluations and make adjustments.	Adjustments completed.	David Wolfe	May 2007	Pending
		• Complete training schedule.	Training schedule completed.	David Wolfe	August 2007	Pending



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Measure #4: Complete Food Hygiene Examination Update Process by January, 2008

Division Objectives		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Objective #1	Be the best communicators and educators	Provide statistical analysis of food examination test questions to Food Hygiene Coordinator.	Analysis has been provided to Food Hygiene Coordinator.	David B. Wolfe	December 31, 2007	Pending
Objective #2	Use our data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze food examinations for 2007 and identify questions most often missed. 	2007 examinations have been reviewed.	David Wolfe	December 27-28, 2007	Pending
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculate percentages for missed questions. 	Percentages have been calculated.	David Wolfe	December 27-28, 2007	Pending
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop formal report and submit to Food Hygiene Coordinator 	Report completed and submitted to Food Hygiene Coordinator.	David Wolfe	December 31, 2007	Pending