Partnerships and Programs for Addressing Children’s Environmental Health Issues

Rural SERA – 19 Health Conference
August 3, 2006
Memphis, Tennessee
Lisa Ann McKinley, USDA- CSREES / EPA Region 4 Liaison was responsible for establishing communication to enhance relations and help facilitate partnerships between USDA-CSREES, EPA the 8 - 1862 Land-grant Universities and 9 - 1890 Land-grants in this Region.
1862 Land-grant Institutions in EPA Region IV
1890 - Historically Black Land-grant Institutions

1) Alabama State
2) Florida A&M
3) Ft. Valley State
4) Kentucky State
5) Alcorn State
6) North Carolina A&T
7) South Carolina State
8) Tennessee State
9) Tuskegee
2000

Office of Children’s Health Protection – OCPH

- provided funds to begin building state capacity to address children’s environmental hazards
- Limited time to commit funding
- Establish the foundation for future efforts
THE MISSION

Build state capacity to address children’s environmental health hazards within the eight states in EPA Region 4
Approach

- Met with (EPA) Regional Children’s Environmental Health Team

Considerations

- CSREES already conducting Healthy Indoor for America’s Homes and Healthy Homes Education & Outreach
- Opportunity to leverage resources
- Existing expertise and presence

Reputation for doing a lot with a little!
Approach

- Management approval
- Fund through an Interagency Agreement (IAG)

CoPI’s
Lisa McKinley, EPA Extension Liaison
Wayne Garfinkel, EPA Region 4
CHILDREN’S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

THIS PROGRAM IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN

USDA - COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE (CSREES); EPA REGION 4; ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM - AUBURN UNIVERSITY; CLEMSON UNIVERSITY; UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA; UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA; UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY; MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY; UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE; NORTH CAROLINA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION: NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY/ NORTH CAROLINA A & T STATE UNIVERSITY and CHEROKEE INDIAN RESERVATION IN NC
Objectives

- Provide children’s environmental health programming to the public, focusing on underserved audiences.

- Develop capacity, enhance communication, and facilitate coordination of partnership states’ programs to reduce children’s exposures to environmental health hazards.
Work Plan

- State Children’s Environmental Health Contact
- State Work Group
- State Specific Resource List
- Special Project
- Regional Conference Calls
- End of Year Meeting and Trainings
- Quarterly Reports
Impacts

- All eight States have a Children’s Environmental Health Program & 75% of the counties in EPA Region 4 have programs “on the ground” relating to children’s environmental health issues.
Impacts

- All eight states have enhanced the outreach capabilities of their State Work Group by holding regular meetings, conference calls and correspondences via e-mail list serves and mailings.
All eight states have expanded their delivery efforts to multi-media, including radio and TV.

All eight states have one or more websites addressing state children’s environmental health concerns.
Impacts

- All eight states now partner with their 1890 Land-grant which multiples the number of Researchers and Extension Professionals available to address children environmental health concerns.
Impacts

- All states have continue to have programs that address the needs of under-served and limited resource audiences.
- All eight states have incorporated programs and materials for Latino Audiences.
Impacts

- Included in EPA National Children’s Environmental Health annual report: Years 2004 & 2005

- State partnerships recipients of state awards
Impacts – EPA Award

2006
Children’s Environmental Health Recognition Award
continued support ... 

2001-2006: $412,088

From EPA and additional support from USDA/HUD Healthy Homes Program
Future Projects

- eXension grant proposal
- Regional website
eXtension Grant Proposal

Youth Development:

Children’s Environmental Health and Youth Preparedness for Natural Disasters

The community of practice (CoP) is thirteen southern states: EPA Regions 4 & 6 and Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Dominican Republic and beyond.

The community of interest (CoI) to be served will be children/youth (0 - 18 years of age) and youth educators:

- Extension professionals,
- teachers, child care providers,
- parents and youth leaders.
Regional Website

http://www.cehpartnership.org/ncsu/

Hope Hunt, webmaster – NCSU
Welcome

About the CEH Partnership
Beginning in 2000, EPA Region 4 Children's Environmental Health Program established a partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) through regional land grant universities to develop a network of professionals in children's environmental health. Eight states are currently involved in the CEH Partnership: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

The principal objective of the CEH Partnership is to develop a network of local professionals, enhance communication, and facilitate collaboration within the partnership states to reduce children's exposures to environmental health hazards. Efforts to reduce children's exposure to environmental health hazards consist of a variety of educational outreach efforts focused on highlighting hazards, the effects of such hazards, and practical ways to protect children from exposure in home and school environments.

Purpose of this site
This site provides links to information, resources and research for the public on Children's Environmental Health issues. We offer additional educational resources for professionals with login access provided through Children's Environmental Health Partnership State Contacts.

About Children's Environmental Health
Protecting children from environmental risks is fundamental to making the world a healthier place now and for future generations. Children need clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, safe food to eat, and a healthy environment to learn, grow, and thrive. Yet every day, children are exposed to environmental risks that may stand in the way of these basic necessities. They may even be more vulnerable to some environmental risks than adults for several reasons:

- children's nervous, immune, digestive, and other systems are still developing;
- children eat more food, drink more fluids, and breathe more air in proportion to their body weight than adults; and
- children's behavior—such as crawling and placing objects in their mouths—may result in greater exposure to environmental contaminants.

Environmental risks to children include asthma-exacerbating air pollution, lead-based paint in older homes, and persistent chemicals resulting from multimedia exposures (air, soil, water) in a variety of settings. Environmental risks include cancer and reproductive and/or developmental changes.

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State Contacts

Children's Environmental Health Partnership
Research, Resources & Reports

Cooperative Extension State Contacts for CEH in EPA Region 4

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Lisa Ann Mckinley

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