

Department of Health

The Power of PACE - EH



The Power of PACE - EH

Julianne Price, RS
Statewide PACE Coordinator
Florida Department of Health
2021



The Power of PACE - EH

How to Build a Healthier Community Through Improved Infrastructure



Using the PACE - EH
experience to improve
quality of life issues



Definition of Health

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”

–World Health Organization



What is Environmental Health?

“In its broadest sense, environmental health comprises those aspects of human health, disease, and injury that are determined or influenced by factors in the environment. This includes not only the study of the direct pathological effects of various chemical, physical, and biological agents, ***but also the effects on health of the broad physical and social environment, which includes housing, urban development, land-use and transportation, industry, and agriculture.***”

-CDC Healthy People 2010



Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE - EH)

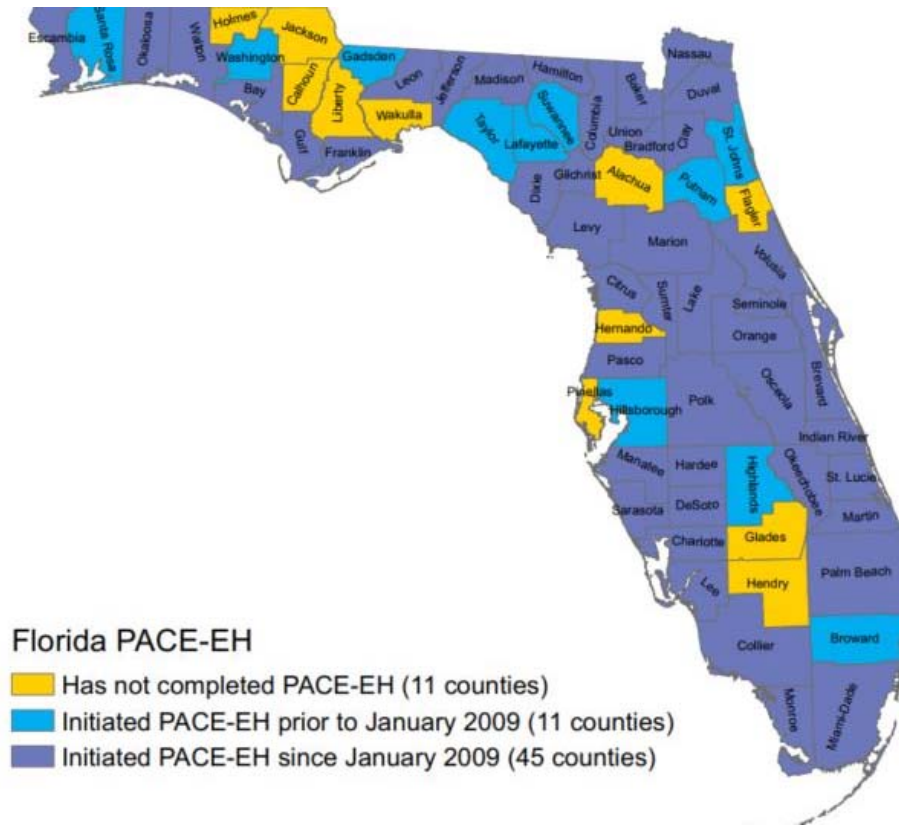


<http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/pace-eh/index.html>



This led us in Environmental Health to ask how do we see the big picture? How do we assess whether we are protecting a community's environmental health? The Division of Environmental Health decided to support a community assessment approach developed by the National Association of City County Health Officials (NACCHO) called the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH).

PACE – EH Florida Counties



This community assessment model has been instrumental in recognizing built environment problems as public health problems. Florida leads the nation in this endeavor and has completed over 75 community assessments across the state with its partner county health departments.

PACE-EH Most Common Health Issues

No sidewalks
No bike paths
Infant mortality
No streetlights/ insufficient lighting
No affordable housing
Dilapidated housing/uncared for property
Forgotten by leaders
Drinking water/well contamination
Cut off from other neighborhoods
No fire hydrants

Heavy traffic
Hazardous waste
Sanitary nuisances
Solid waste issues
Sewage/septic issues
Frequent flooding
Water quality
Drowning
Crime (drugs, safety)
Noise
Air contamination/pollution
Park improvements



The results of Florida's PACE EH project justify the need for planners and public health officials to work together. We found that if you let a community identify their issues, they will identify what is usually in the realm of urban planning and the built environment as a public health issue. For example, no sidewalks, no bike paths, heavy traffic, sewage, flooding and noise.

Communities Lost in Time



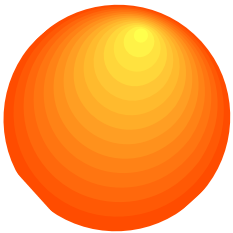
- What do you do when there is virtually no infrastructure in a community?
- Where do you start in terms of addressing the problems?
- How does PACE EH achieve this?
- How can you prevent this from happening in the future?



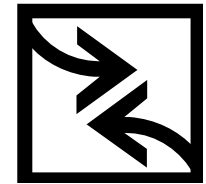
These are critical findings. Private health care primarily focuses on the individual. Public health and urban planning focus on the community, the public and thereby the social aspects of health. We spend a lot of time as public health officials discussing obesity, getting fit and using alternative transportation such as a bike. We don't spend a lot of time discussing whether one's community has sidewalks to walk to school or whether residents are fearful of sending their children out into their neighborhood. It is as if we offer a prescription and only fill half the bottle. For urban planning, this begs the question: What has happened in these communities? What has comprehensive planning and growth management missed?

The Present Situation

Communities

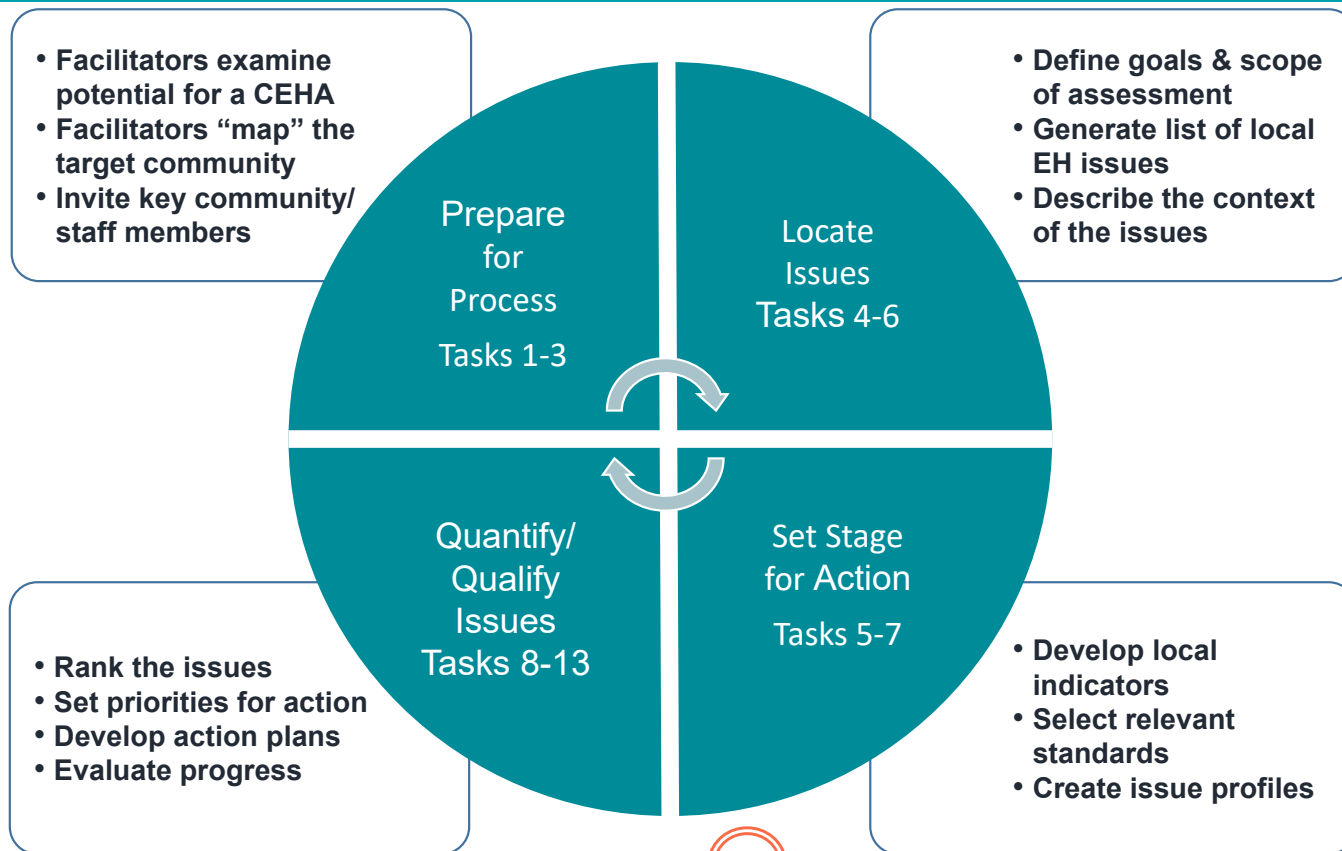


Regulation



Traditionally, the role of local government and health officials has been that of enforcement, or regulation. As you can see in the diagram, enforcement does have a role in communities and is necessary, but there are other important issues in communities that regulation cannot address.

PACE-EH Methodology



This is where the 13 tasks and methodology of PACE EH are particularly effective. PACE EH is a vehicle to "think outside of the box" and work with community members, stakeholders and local government to find solutions. It should be noted that regulation is not always the best answer for solving an environmental health issue. There may be a better solution in some cases that the community would prefer, yet the end result of solving the issue is ultimately the same as a solution is evident.

Tragedy of the Commons

- Each agency is task driven.
- Each agency has their own goals.
- Who takes into consideration what the community thinks they need?
- Why aren't we asking them? - after all it's their community and they should know better than any regulatory agency.



In case you're not already familiar with the Tragedy of the Commons, it's a parable that involves a village where residents keep buying more and more livestock to suit their needs, not realizing that the livestock's inevitable grazing eventually decimates the available pasture land. This leads to the tragic loss of the livestock ultimately, due to lack of grazing area.

PACE-EH Wabasso (Indian River County)

- Demographics
- Lack of infrastructure
- Mistrust of government
- “Island of poverty in an affluent county”



...off the beaten path, where the roads are not paved, don't even follow grids, and instead meander among the houses. There are no sidewalks or streetlights. There are no county water connections, so residents have wells, many of which flow with rust-colored water”



One of the most successful PACE EH projects in Florida is in an Indian River county community named Wabasso. When the local PACE coordinator began implementing PACE EH in Wabasso, there was relatively no infrastructure and the community visually appeared to be lost in time. PACE EH helped provide structure to a community who knows what their issues are but needs a process to solve them. It also provides a vehicle for the public health professionals and local government to work efficiently and effectively with the community to accomplish solutions.

Streetlighting



The number one issue identified by residents in Wabasso was a need for streetlights. They told the PACE Coordinator that this was so important to them because they did not feel safe in their own community.

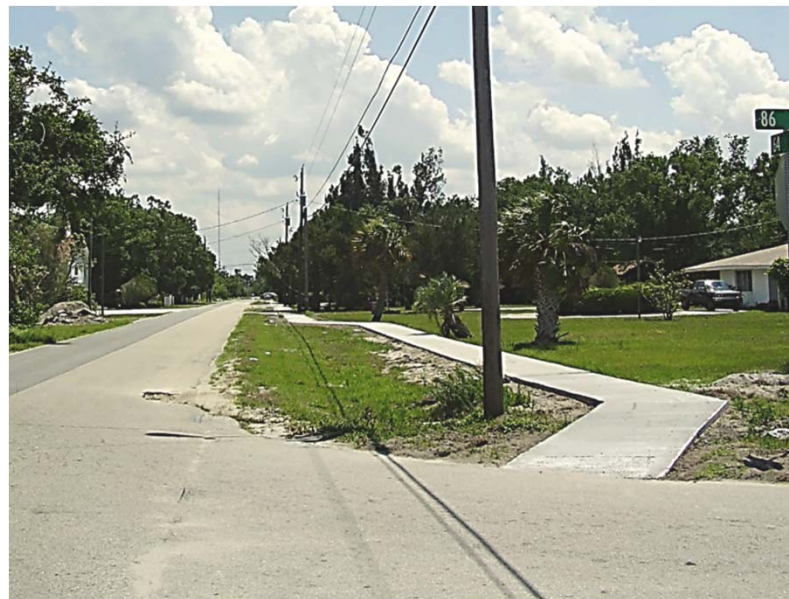
Sidewalks



15

Sidewalks were another top identified community issue in Wabasso as residents did not feel inclined to go outside and exercise, or really even feel safe walking to visit a neighbor, or the community park.

Streetlights and Sidewalks Installed



Feelings of safety increased in Wabasso drastically after streetlights and sidewalks were installed.

Installation of Water Lines



Residents of Wabasso literally had brown water. With help from the local utility department, a \$825,000 water project was developed to run county water lines through the community.

Fire Hydrants Installed



Fire hydrants were included in the water project, but also reassured residents that if there was a fire, there was a way to put it out!

Wabasso Park Walking Trail



Park improvements were a top identified issue in Wabasso and so grants were secured to install a walking trail and exercise equipment.

Demolished Abandoned Housing



Demolishing crack houses improved safety and removed dangerous hazards. The county allocated landfill fees to cover disposal costs and local businesses donated time and equipment to demolish eight abandoned homes in the community.

The Impact....



- Mrs. Black- new home, water, paved road, streetlight, new septic system, sidewalk Increases level and sense of safety
- PACE Process = Drastic improvement of the health for the community of Wabasso



Infrastructure Improves Quality of Life

- Gives better connectivity
- Increases level and sense of safety
- Increases opportunity for physical activity which leads to better health
- When using an assessment like PACE-EH, you are putting in the right infrastructure



The Results are Real



Interactions between agencies and/or private entities and communities CAN help improve infrastructure. This leads to an improved quality of life.



A \$30,000 Investment Yielded:

Water Project= \$825,000

Park Improvements=\$81,750

Sidewalks=\$43,500

Streetlights=\$7,281

Septic Grant=\$40,000

Demolishing Abandoned Homes=\$6,000

World Changers and Project Hope=2 New Houses and 26 Homes Improved

Walking Trail in Wabasso Park=\$10,000

24 Hour House Build=\$130,000



The Return.....

OVER \$1.5 MILLION DOLLARS and counting of
Improvements to the Wabasso Community!!!!



PACE-EH Wabasso Survey

WABASSO PACE
SURVEY ISSUES

Monday, October 02, 2006

	Improved %	Same %	Worse %	Unsure %	No Response %	
1. Demolishing abandoned houses and/or removing abandoned cars	196 78.0%	35 13.6%	5 1.9%	21 8.1%	1 0.4%	
2. Providing a bus route for transportation	208 80.6%	31 12.0%	3 1.2%	13 5.0%	3 1.2%	
3. Having Access to improved drinking water	194 75.2%	39 15.1%	14 5.4%	10 3.9%	1 0.4%	
4. Providing high-quality police service	148 57.4%	66 25.6%	17 6.6%	21 8.1%	6 2.3%	
5. Having streetlights installed	197 76.4%	36 14.0%	13 5.0%	7 2.7%	5 1.9%	
6. Providing septic system improvements	165 64.0%	53 20.5%	7 2.7%	26 10.1%	7 2.7%	
7. Creating safe places to walk and exercise outdoors	179 69.4%	47 18.2%	9 3.5%	12 4.7%	11 4.3%	
8. Because of improvements to my community such as streetlights and demolished abandoned homes, I feel safer now than I did 2 years ago	153 59.3%	73 28.3%	23 8.9%	8 3.1%	1 0.4%	
9. Because of newly installed streetlights, park exercise equipment, and sidewalks I spend more time exercising outside than I did 2 years ago	139 53.9%	67 26.0%	19 7.4%	25 9.7%	8 3.1%	
10. My children miss fewer school days due to illness than 2 years ago	94 36.4%	44 17.1%	19 7.4%	87 33.7%	14 5.4%	
11. I believe better water quality and new or repaired septic systems have the potential to improve my family's health	182 70.5%	55 21.3%	4 1.6%	9 3.5%	8 3.1%	
12. The improved appearance of my community such as demolished homes, streetlights, sidewalks, park improvements and having 24 homes repaired by World Changers gives me a greater sense of well-being	178 69.0%	64 24.8%	8 3.1%	4 1.6%	4 1.6%	
13. The improvements to my community have positively affected my mental and physical health	146 56.6%	77 29.8%	13 5.0%	15 5.8%	7 2.7%	
14. I feel that government agencies are better able to respond to my community's issues today as compared to 2 years ago	149 57.8%	84 32.5%	14 5.4%	9 3.5%	2 0.8%	
15. My community has experienced an improvement in the quality of life for the residents who live there over the past two years	154 59.7%	74 28.7%	9 3.5%	8 3.1%	13 5.0%	
16. How long have you lived in Wabasso?						
<u>0-5 years</u> %	<u>5-10 years</u> %	<u>10-15 years</u> %	<u>15-20 years</u> %	<u>20-25 years</u> %	<u>Over 25 years</u> %	<u>No Response</u> %
29 11.2%	11 4.3%	22 8.5%	13 5.0%	16 6.2%	149 57.8%	18 7.0%
17. What is your age range?						
<u>0-17</u> %	<u>18-24</u> %	<u>25-44</u> %	<u>45-64</u> %	<u>65-84</u> %	<u>85 or older</u> %	<u>No Response</u> %
15 5.8%	15 5.8%	65 25.2%	97 37.6%	37 14.3%	3 1.2%	26 10.1%
18. What is your gender?						
<u>Male</u> %	<u>Female</u> %	<u>No Response</u> %				
92 35.7%	150 58.1%	16 6.2%				



A post PACE EH Survey was completed in the community and the results were overwhelmingly positive.

Maximizing Interdepartmental Partnerships Leads to Increased Communication and Results

- Increase communication
- Review proposed surveys
- Review input to community
- Increase pre and post assessment validity by and increase in collaboration
- See and understand the connection



Questions?

Julianne Price, RS

Statewide PACE Coordinator

Julianne.Price@flhealth.gov

