

Month of Reported Progress:

April

PACE EH Coordinator/Contact Name:

Herman Hale, RN

CHD Name:

Marion County Health Department

EH Manager/ Administrator:

Dan Dooley

Has EH Manager/Administrator reviewed and approved this report?:

Yes

Is your PACE EH survey complete?:

Yes

If your PACE EH survey is complete, list your PACE EH community's top identified issues.:

Concisely summarize this month's activities.:

On April 6th, Marion County Health Department's PACE-EH coordinator, Herman Hale, RN, presented the results of a traffic study, to the Poinciana Heights Homeowners Taskforce. As conveyed in last month's report, this study was conducted in two parts and it involved gathering data about the traffic patterns around the magnet school, Dr. N. H. Jones Elementary. At their monthly meetings, the group has shared that traffic is a concern before school and at the end of the day, prior to school dismissal. Hale presented his findings to the group, as well as local officials, and a dialogue has begun to address this issue. While traffic studies have been conducted in the past, group members voiced their appreciation that the actual numbers were being shared with them (per multiple members, that had never been done before). In addition, school officials shared that the seven school buses that service the school, would no longer do so starting the next school year. These buses transport 150 children to and from the school each day. Residents find this news of concern, because the study revealed 84% of the vehicles currently picking up children; pick up only one child. This could mean a daily increase of 126 vehicles, which could overwhelm the community. Multiple recommendations were discussed and it was determined that Hale would continue to gather information and follow-up with the group at a future meeting. A similar magnet school is located in an adjacent neighborhood; however, the traffic concerns are not as much of an issue. The PACE-EH team will evaluate the traffic around this school and pursue other options discussed in the meeting (one of which was the possible donation of land close to the school that could be used as a centralized drop-off point). Also in an attempt to assist with this issue, Hale met with the Marion County Health Department's Smart Growth Committee, which is comprised of David Payne and Mike Mitchell (Environmental Health), Donna McCroan and Evelyn J. James (Health Education), and Debbie Strausser, RN, (Health Education Reviewing Supervisor). This group met to discuss the situation and offer suggestions. During the discussion, funding opportunities were identified and it was

determined that Hale would share these opportunities with the Taskforce president, Faye Goring. In northwest Ocala, the PACE-EH coordinator continues to review materials provided by DEP officials, related to bioremediation. Once this material is reviewed, a meeting will be scheduled with Neighborhood Citizens of North West Ocala (NCNWO) president, Ruth Reed. At this meeting, the feasibility of this project will be discussed. Bioremediation is a method of removing substances from the ground, by using the natural growing process of certain plants. The PACE-EH team would also like to share that Dan Dooley is the new Environmental Health Administrator for the Marion County Health Department. While Dan is no stranger to the department's Environmental Health program, his new role is sure to be filled with many challenges and opportunities. He has already exhibited an interest in assisting the PACE-EH program and we look forward to his guidance, ideas, and thoughtful insight.