

The Built Environment and Health

Using the PACE EH
experience to improve
quality of life issues

Presented by:

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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?

“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



Connections Between Planning and Health

Planning Issues:

Drainage

Street lay-out/connections

Sidewalks/bike lanes

Lot size

Mixed use

Parks and open space

Lighting

EH Issues:

Standing water

Auto-dependency

Exercise and safety

Water and Sewer

Social capital

Mental health

Safety

Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence In Environmental Health (PACE EH)



<http://www.myfloridaeh.com/programs/PACE-EH/PACE-EH.htm>

**“When you argue with reality,
you lose - but only 100% of the
time.” –Byron Katie**

- What we, as health (or local govt., etc) professionals, perceive to be an issue may NOT be what the community identifies as an issue.
- Is there any agency that enters into neighborhoods and asks what they think needs to be improved, and then works along with them to improve the community identified issue?



Common Issues Identified by Residents:

- No sidewalks
- No bike paths
- No street lights/Insufficient lighting
- Speeding
- Dilapidated and abandoned houses
- Lack of community
- Drinking water/ well contamination
- Neighborhood isolation
- Lack of fire hydrants
- Animal nuisances
- Heavy Traffic
- Hazardous waste
- Sanitary nuisances
- Solid waste issues
- Sewage/septic issues
- Flooding
- Water Quality
- Drowning
- Crime
- Noise
- Air quality issues





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Possible Community Partners:

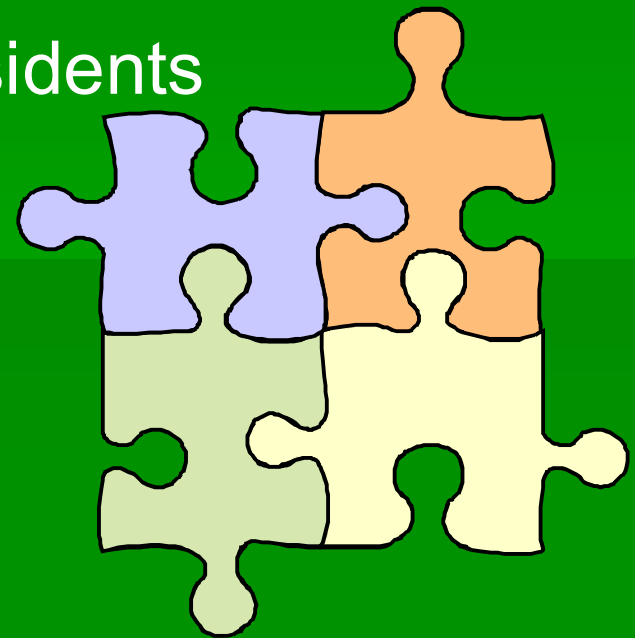


- Religious organizations
- Social programs
- Schools
- Elected officials
- Local government personnel
- Community development corporations
- Other health department personnel



Encouraging Collaboration

- Share a common vision
- Engender a sense of place and community
- Regular meetings
- Walk the community with residents
- Keep the momentum going
- Do the “easy” things first
- Advertise success
- Share information



Infrastructure Can Improve Health and Quality of Life for Residents

- Providing a sense of safety
- Increasing opportunities for physical activity
- Eliminating health hazards
- Improving property values





PACE Impacts Communities

- Brings attention to “forgotten communities”
- Improves quality of life and health
- Identifies and pools resources already available and leverages others
- Empowers residents to change their world



The Results ARE REAL





Fire Hydrants Installed



Installation of a Walking Trail in Wabasso Park

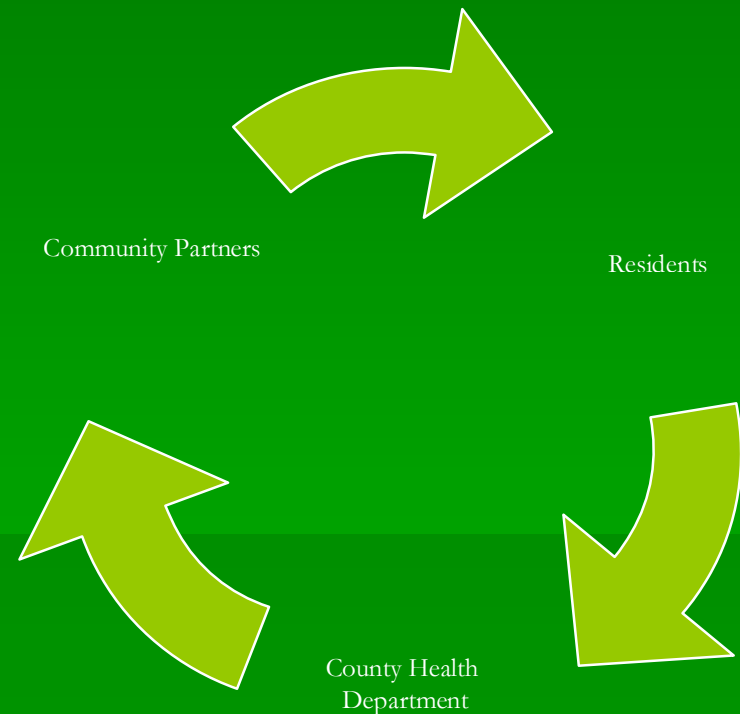
The Return...

- OVER \$1.5 MILLION DOLLARS in improvements in Wabasso
- \$1 million investment in drainage in Kupfrian Park
- Charcoal Plant Shutdown



How to Maximize the Effectiveness of the PACE Process:

- Use the feedback loop to increase communication among residents and other community stakeholders
- Increase assessment validity through “reality checks”
- Celebrate small successes: Go for the “low-hanging fruit” first



What else can PACERs do to improve the community?



- Learn about the planning process in your county
- Review your land development regulations
- Attend planning and zoning meetings
- Use the “public health development checklist” to review planning documents and make health-related recommendations
- Attend neighborhood public hearings

Contact Information

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