

The Community PACE-Setter

The Official Newsletter of the Multnomah County PACE-EH Coalition

July 2003

CDC ON HAND TO WITNESS COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SELECTION

COMMUNITY PRIORITIZES INNER NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND FOR ASSESSMENT

A well-received visit from The Center for Disease Control (CDC) out of Atlanta, GA. highlighted the April PACE Community Coalition meeting at Kaiser Town Hall in North Portland. Brian Hubbard and Jonathan Drewary from the CDC were introduced to a unique form of coalition building and witnessed the momentum and enthusiasm displayed by eager community participants, where selection of a target area for assessment was the focus. Over 47 people from diverse backgrounds and interests packed the town hall forum and participated in a series of interactive exercises and discussions on environmental health issues and the areas they impact the most. With maps from all over the county and city adorning the room, the coalition overwhelmingly chose to focus energies on an assessment in affected geographic areas of inner North and Northeast Portland.

Through a series of maps and overlays, attendees were informed of key environmental health indicators such as diesel and benzene particulates, lead levels, and asthma rates. Individuals were then asked to choose their top three geographic areas of concern for potential assessment, which included; Inner North, Inner Northeast, St. Johns Neighborhood, Cully Neighborhood and East County. "It's exciting to see the level of community engagement at each meeting," stated PACE Community Connector Kevin Raymond Odell. "The energy and willing participation is amazing and inspiring."

Earlier in the day, The MC PACE Steering Committee escorted the CDC to local activities with local community leaders including a lunch at Queen of Sheba, a van tour of environmental health indicators throughout North and Northeast Portland, and a tour of downtown and the Multnomah County Health Department (MCHD).

The Multnomah County PACE-EH Coalition, with representation from more than 35 community organizations, local government entities, and concerned community members, is a community-based vehicle focused on the prioritizing of environmental health issues in Multnomah County via a community-led and community-initiated participatory process. The CDC and NACCHO (National Association of City and County Health Officials) conceptualized PACE-EH as a way to integrate the needs and voices of the common citizen with the local government departments working to address environmental health issues affecting the community. Multnomah County and the local health department (MCHD) were chosen as one of 10 pilot sites in 2002 to initiate PACE-EH.



The Historic King Food Mart on MLK and NE Fremont stands as a gateway to the Inner Northeast area of Portland

Inner N/NE
Neighborhoods
include:

Boise
Piedmont
Vernon
Kenton
Arbor Lodge
Eliot
Concordia
Overlook
King
Alameda
Sabin
Humboldt
Woodlawn

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AWARDED TO CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

The PACE Community Assessment Coordinator position was awarded to The Center for Environmental Equity (CEE) of Portland, Oregon. CEE, founded in 1994, is an advocate for people, communities, and natural resources burdened by environmental hazards and degradation.

"CEE is excited and pleased to accept the Assessment Coordinator role with PACE-EH," commented Larry Tuttle, Executive Director of CEE. "We look forward to the challenges and work in the community."



Larry Tuttle of the Center for Environmental Equity

The PACE-EH Community Assessment Coordinator grant was provided by the National Association of City County Health Officials (NACCHO) and awarded through the Multnomah County Health Department (MCHD) as an opportunity to collaborate with community-based organizations and partners involved in environmental health issues in the County.

PACE Community Coalition Members

- Multnomah County Health Department (MCHD)
- The Environmental Justice Action Group (EJAG)
- Portland State Univ.--School of Community Health
- Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)-Oregon
- Community Energy Project
- American Lung Association of Oregon
- Environmental Justice Advocates
- OHSU
- Urban League of Portland
- Physicians for Social Responsibility
- City of Portland--BHCD/Brownfields
- AEHAP (Assoc. of EH Academic. Programs)
- Concordia Neighborhood Association
- Environmental Protection Agency (Region 10)
- Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Coalition (SEUL)
- Center for Environmental Equity
- State of Oregon - Lead Based Paint Abatement Dept.
- Northwest Service Academy-AmeriCorps Program
- Oregon Toxics Alliance
- Rose Community Services
- Independent Living Resources
- Coalition for A Livable Future
- Josiah Hill III Clinic
- Oregon Health Career Center
- HOST Development Inc.
- Oregon Department of Human Services
- Tri-Met
- Upstream Public Health
- Concerned Miscellaneous Citizens

any many more.....

PACE Community Coalition

Steering Committee

Monica Russell	DEQ Air Quality Planning
Erin McNally	Community Energy Project
Margaret McConnell	American Lung Association of Oregon
Jonathan Ostar	Environmental Justice Advocates
Richard Loudd	OHSU/Urban League of Portland
Xander Patterson	Physicians for Social Responsibility
Clark Henry	City of Portland-BHCD/Brownfields
Tricia Tillman	MCHD--Office of the Director
Alejandra Tres	AEHAP (Assoc. of EH Academic. Programs)
Lila Wickham	MCHD--Environmental Health Dept.
Josh Alsberg	Concordia Neighborhood Association
Deb Espesete	Community Member
Kevin Raymond Odell	PACE-EH Community Connector

What is PACE

Portland PACE-EH (*Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health -PACE-EH*) is a coalition of community organizations, local residents, academic institutions, and government agencies (**see *Community Coalition Members***). Our goal is to raise awareness and eventually improve environmental health and environmental justice in local communities through collaborative, community-based processes. Recognizing the need to address environmental health issues via community participation, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) initiated the *Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE-EH)* project in 1995. The project was funded by the National Center for Environmental Health, CDC. The goal of the project was to develop a nationally valid tool and process for local health officials to work with the public to assess and improve the environmental health status of their communities. Portland has been a PACE-EH site since February 2002.

In the last year, Community Connectors have organized and engaged diverse groups of Portland residents into discussions about how environmental health and environmental justice affect their lives and the community they live in. Spirited meetings at KaiserTown Hall and OAME have allowed coalition members and partners to share experiences, build community, and develop plans for future activities. Individual committees meet more regularly to recruit new members, seek funding for environmental health and environmental justice projects, gather information on community perceptions and environmental health concerns, and ensure the success of a thriving, sustainable coalition. This network of dedicated groups and individuals are building a network of support for improved health and justice in Portland and Multnomah County.

**To Learn more about PACE-EH in
Portland and Multnomah County,
call Kevin Raymond Odell
at 799-4404**

Community Coalition UPDATE

MEMBERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

The organizing and outreach arm of the coalition, the PACE-EH Membership Team continues to recruit groups, organizations and concerned community members into the blossoming coalition. With a more specific target area defined (see Inner N/NE Neighborhood graph on PAGE 1), the membership team has created an outreach plan specific to increasing capacity in the Assessment Team as well as the coalition at large. New members recently recruited include The Oregon Center for Health Careers and the Tri-Met Diversity and Equity Department. To get involved with the "Movers and Shakers of the Community Coalition" call Kevin Raymond Odell and get your community and neighbors involved!

ASSESSMENT TEAM UPDATE

Along with the appointment of a new Assessment Coordinator (see PAGE 1), the PACE-EH Assessment Team activities are moving into high gear now that the PACE-EH Coalition has identified the Inner North and Inner Northeast neighborhoods as priority geographic areas. The Assessment and Membership Teams are recruiting community partners in the selected areas to assist in the identification of the greatest environmental concerns. The Assessment Team will then begin nuts-and-bolts assessment work: 1) define the goals and scope of assessing identified concerns; and, 2) select methods and tools of assessment (i.e. surveys, interviews, forums). The Assessment team will present assessment goals and scope to the PACE-EH Coalition Meeting on July 29.

PACE-EH TIMELINE 2003-2004



Summer 2003

- Develop Assessment Plan Scope:
 - Size of community
 - Method
 - Research Questions
 - Implementation
- Assessment Performed

Fall 2003

- Assessment Completed
- Analysis Performed
- Contributing Factor
- Consequences

Winter 2003-2004

- Fleshing out issues including prioritization

Summer/Fall 2004

- Community Action Plan

STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The PACE-EH Steering Committee (SC) has been very busy since the April meeting looking at the different issues and events that shape the community coalition for 2003-2004. Besides the appointment of a new Assessment Coordinator, a strategic move was made in June to change the community meetings from every other month to quarterly with a goal of accommodating the work of the assessment and membership teams as well as supporting work and progress that can be substantiated to the community and larger coalition. The SC also has inserted an "All-Teams Meeting", a meeting of all the working teams and committees in the PACE-EH Coalition, to be held the month preceding the Community Meetings. The first "All-Teams" meeting was held at the end of June. The SC has also looked at future funding opportunities from public and private foundations to hopefully increase capacity with the member partners and organizations involved as well as justify the success and outcome of our work and action plans for the summer/fall of 2004. Funding opportunities with the EPA, NIEHS, small community block grants and private foundations in the Northwest have been targeted.

RUT-RO-RAGGY! CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY MEETING SCHEDULE!!

The Community Coalition meetings will run quarterly for the rest of 2003-2004. Look for updated information on this and other events in the next "Community PACE-Setter"

**PACE Environmental Health
Community Coalition Meeting**



**When: Tuesday, July 29, 2003
6:00pm-8:00pm**

**Where: Liberty Hall
311 North Ivy (off of N. Vancouver)
Portland, Oregon (Bus #4, #33)**

****Dinner/Coffee will be served from 5:30-6:00PM*

Multnomah County PACE-EH

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