

WRHA Population & Public Health Environmental Health Strategic Planning Conceptual Framework (June 10, 2013)

PPH ROLE STATEMENT: Population and Public Health works collaboratively with individuals, families, communities and partners to create health-promoting built and social environments within the Region using health promotion, disease and injury prevention, and health protection strategies. These strategies are implemented using a variety of approaches including public health services to individuals and families, education, advocacy, enforcement, and community development with the goal of improving the health of the entire population. A particular focus, grounded in the principles of social justice and fairness, is to promote health equity requiring additional emphasis and resources to work with communities, individuals, and families who are most vulnerable.

Vision: "Healthy People, Vibrant Communities, Care for All"

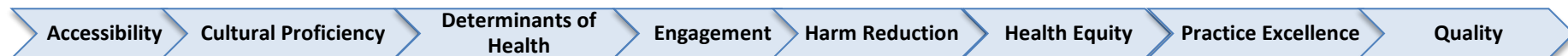
The WRHA Population and Public Health Environmental Health Services works in partnership with others to protect and promote the health of residents of the Winnipeg Health Region through assessing and controlling factors in the environment that can potentially affect health.

10 Key PPH Strategic Approaches
Applied Public Health Research
Collaboration & Partnership
Community Development
Health Assessment
Health Communication
Healthy Built & Social Environments
Healthy Public Policy
Outreach
Public Health Clinical Practice
Surveillance



Key PPH Strategic Priorities (2012 – 2017)
Applied Public Health Research
Health Equity Promotion
Health Communication
Healthy Built & Social Environment
Healthy Public Policy
Public Health Information Systems
Program Monitoring

Guiding Principles:



Introduction

Environmental health addresses all the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and all the related factors impacting behaviours. It encompasses the assessment and control of those environmental factors that can potentially affect health. It is targeted towards preventing disease and creating health-supportive environments. Core areas that need to be delivered within an environmental health program must include water quality, air quality, safe food, and community sanitation and environmental health. In the latter category, of particular concern are:

- ensuring that both solid and liquid (sewage) waste is properly managed and does not present a threat to human health;
- controlling disease vectors such as mosquitoes, flies, rodents, and other animals that may carry or transmit infectious diseases to humans;
- identifying actual or potential public exposure to chemicals or radiation that presents a threat to human health, and preventing, reducing, or eliminating such threats;
- responding to complaints, assessing whether they represent a health hazard, and responding appropriately; and
- providing input on land-use and environmental planning so that potential environmental and social threats to human health are prevented, and that community planning and design contribute to the creation of healthy communities.

The WRHA is responsible for conducting risk assessments to identify, assess and address environmental health threats to the public, and respond to questions from the public, media and other organizations. Manitoba Health sets policy related to environmental health issues, including radon, lead and vector-borne infectious diseases, including most risk communication. Public Health Inspectors within the WHR are currently employed by Manitoba Health, and housed within WRHA Community Area offices. We work closely with Manitoba Health to contribute to policy decisions, and ensure our practice is consistent with current policies and direction.

Our goal: To protect the health of Winnipeg Health Region residents by partnering with others to influence environmental factors that impact health.

Collaboration and Partnerships

Goal #1: Develop a collaborative planning framework for the Winnipeg Health Region with all Environmental Health service providers.

1. Identify practice and program issues, concerns and initiatives that overlap with others.
2. Identify the key partners and set up a time to discuss how we can work together to maximize the limited resources available.
3. Meet with the partners to identify priorities that we can jointly work on together.
4. Develop a framework that includes terms of reference and decision algorithms to guide the work we do in partnership with other
5. Develop a plan with specific deliverables for each of the issues, concerns and/or initiatives.

Goal #2: Continue to develop, strengthen and maintain relationships with all Environmental Health service providers.

1. Establish a regular meeting structures that is appropriate for the WRHA and each of its partner Environmental Health service providers (City of Winnipeg, PHI's, Manitoba Health etc.) to discuss environmental health practice and program issues and discussions for collaboration on common issues (e.g. Boil Water Advisories)
2. Increased understanding by all stakeholders of the benefits of partnering and working together to address environmental health issues
3. Increased understanding by partners of each others' roles in relation to environmental health issues affecting the Winnipeg Health Region

Evaluation

Goal #1: Develop an environmental health services evaluation framework

1. Brainstorm a list of the services/initiatives /activities that should be evaluated.
2. Develop prioritization criteria and prioritize the list.
3. Develop an evaluation plan for the prioritized services/initiatives/activities.

Increase Capacity

Goal #1: Obtain dedicated environmental health services resources to address environmental health issues that affect the Winnipeg Health Region.

1. Continue to recommend for dedicated environmental health resources (Environmental Health Program Specialist).
2. Increase MOH EFT devoted to environmental health services.

Goal #2: Develop proposal for transfer of the Winnipeg Health Region PHIs to the WRHA.

1. Analyze options for the optimum placement of PHIs to enhance public health practice.
2. Determine the barriers that exist for transfer, and evaluate options to address these.

Practice

Goal #1: Provide leadership to identify, assess and address key environmental health issues.

1. Respond to key environmental health issues as they arise.
2. Establish standards, protocols, or operations that make partnerships with other Environmental Health service providers more effective
3. Standardize an environmental impact assessment framework.
4. Promote the routine use of health impact assessments.
5. Health impact assessments are being done routinely for environmental impact assessment proposals
6. Develop an inventory of environmental health issues that we would like to be proactive on, and prioritize these.
7. Develop work plans for prioritized environmental health issues.

Program Monitoring

Goal #1: Develop an environmental health services program monitoring framework.

1. Identify program monitoring indicators.
2. Develop a database system.
3. Establish a reporting schedule.

Role and Scope

Goal #1: : Identify MOH roles, responsibilities and scope of practice related to key environmental health issues.

1. WRHA provides leadership in assessment of the health risks of key environmental health threats to the public and other stakeholders
2. Develop a roles and responsibilities document for each of the prioritized environmental health issues.
3. Continue to develop relationships with external partners to communicate and discuss the role of the MOH lead for environmental health.

Goal #2: Clarify MOH's role related to housing issues.

1. Meet with key stakeholders who work in housing to identify the role of the MOH as it relates to housing issues.
2. Continue to develop and enhance relationships with PHIs and other housing stakeholders.
3. Work with partners and community stakeholders towards a comprehensive approach to complex housing situations.

Surveillance

Goal #1: Develop an environmental health surveillance framework.

1. Identify surveillance indicators.
2. Produce an environmental health surveillance report.
3. Develop public friendly messages based on the findings within the report.