

Environmental exposures across urban and rural communities in the Deep South

Wilcox County CAB Meeting

Oct 25 2016 1-2pm Central  
Phone Call

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Mary Evans, Julia Gohlke, Ethel Johnson, Willie Lampley, Molly Richardson, Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews, Steve Wood, and Connor Wu

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Review of September 2016 Focus Group Survey Results and Evaluation. We followed the handouts listed as *2016 Focus Group Results\_Basecamp* and *2016 Focus Group Evaluation*. Overall, participants found the focus groups interesting and useful. An idea that came out of this discussion was to focus on a specific health issue (like cancer, diabetes, strokes, among others). Sheryl mentioned that people don't relate how the environment affects their health. Perhaps taking a step back and working to connect the health issues to environmental exposures in a more general sense would be helpful. They've had talks in the past about how heat affects their medications for blood pressure. Another idea is wearing sunglasses for eye health (prevention of cataracts) or wearing sunscreen to prevent burns or skin cancer. Another topic from the discussion was the importance of programs for youths since kids are getting in fights (AL A&M shootout).

Introduction to the Logic Model: This discussion followed the *Logic Model Template handout*. We discussed that we would like to create a plan for the next three years of the grant. This plan will work towards the ultimate long-term impact of improving the health of the community. We'll work together to identify activities that we can do within a reasonable timeframe to have short-term measurable impacts. We looked to the model developed out of discussions with Birmingham CAB Members called *Draft Logic Model\_Birmingham*.

Brainstorming Session for Wilcox County Logic Model: It would be great to continue this discussion and have a logic model by Spring 2017 and it may be appropriate to incorporate into the *Draft Logic Model\_Birmingham*. Two main topics were identified (increasing physical activity and water and sanitation) and several ideas under each were generated.

Increase Physical Activity in the Teens/ Young Adults

Ethel would like to see the community (particularly people aged 15-30 years old) to put away the electronics and be more physically active. One deterrent is the heat in the summer—no one wants to go outside. There aren't facilities that are cool enough to have a walking track or offer indoor climate controlled space for activities. Willie suggested the Scale Back Alabama Program that's already in place. This is a 10-week program to get people more physically active already being conducted in late Spring/ early Summer at the Health Department, DHR, and through USDA extension offices. Sheryl suggested that the BAMA Kids location could become a program site. Carolyn Rothchild could be a potential contact. A goal could be to get \_\_\_# of people aged (15-30 years old) involved in the program.

Sheryl has a meeting with the chair of the county commission to present the temperature monitor results from BAMA Kids facility to discuss funding for air conditioning the building.

Another suggestion is that some adults may just need encouragement on the time of day that is best to get outdoors. Perhaps targeting promotion of physical activity in early morning or late evening when it is coolest would increase success.

#### Water Issues: Water Quality/ Sewage and Septic

There were questions of follow-up from Amy Badham and Joe Brown on a health study. They initially provided a letter of invitation to gather stool samples from children to identify infections. The idea is that the infections could be associated with the septic issues. Sheryl will email Joe Brown to remind him that she and Ethel are in support of this and to check on the status. They may have been waiting on a meeting with the local doctors—Drs. Child and White.

Willie suggested that we look into opportunities for USDA Rural Development. Sumter County has been successful in working with them.

Sheryl and Steve both agreed that the cost of the septic and the maintenance of the system is roughly \$10,000 per household and just too much for most families to afford. The County Health Department is limited in what they are able to do and their available resources. They are limited in that if they know about an issue, they have to act (and potentially arrest noncompliant households). One idea is to enter into discussions at the state (or regional) level to establish funds to be available for those who can't afford it. We will follow-up by looking into other places that have developed funds for this. For example the Kentucky PRIDE Homeowner Septic System Grant program that provides support for low-income homeowners to replace straight pipes, outhouses, or failing septic systems with sanitary wastewater treatment systems (<http://kypride.org/programs/>). Other federal and state programs that may be useful to examine can be found on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/septic/funding-septic-systems>. Another avenue is building a community sewer system, which has been successful in Clark County. Steve's supervisor may be more knowledgeable on the specifics of this and would likely be open to discussing it. Steve will update us at the next meeting what he finds out.

Summary: We will post meeting minutes and draft a working version of a logic model based on these ideas. We hope to hear back and continue to shape the logic model as we move forward. We will also email to set up the next meeting. The first week of December may work well to avoid the holidays.