

EPA – USMBHC

Collaboration

Border 2020 Environmental Education
and Health Task Forces
Texas-New Mexico – Chihuahua
Regional Workgroup
April 29, 2015



Outline of this presentation:

- I. Local people and projects
- II. USMBHC
 - A. Description
 - B. Three specific initiatives (already in the 2012 collaborative agreement)
- III. Environmental Protection Agency
 - A. Description of Border 2020 Program
 - B. Future general collaboration topics

I. Local People and Projects
Rev. Dr. Margaret Short, Cindy Kratzke, PhD



I. Local People and Projects

Border Environmental Health Coalition (BEHC)

- José Serna – President, PSL NMSU
- Barry Thatcher - Rhetoric
- Erin Ward - Water
- Jagan Butler – SoAHEC, Healthy Homes

BEHC local projects



Barry Thatcher Erin Ward Jagan Butler

BEHC local projects



Barry Thatcher

BEHC local projects



BEHC local projects

David DuBois – NM State Climatologist



Air pollution and hospital emergency room and admissions for cardiovascular and respiratory diseases in Doña Ana County, New Mexico

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II. US-Mexico Border Health Commission

A. Description



Border Buddies/Compadres



Freida Adams



Sue Forster-Cox



José Luis Velasco

USMBHC Membership

- 2 nations - USA & Mexico
- 10 border states (6 Mexican States, 4 U.S. States)
- 2 Sections: US (OGA) and México Sections
- 12 Individual Members each (24 total members)
 - Includes 10 State Health Officers of US and Mexico
 - US Community members 2 per state, President appoints
- Led by 2 Commissioners:
 - U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services
 - Secretary of Health of México

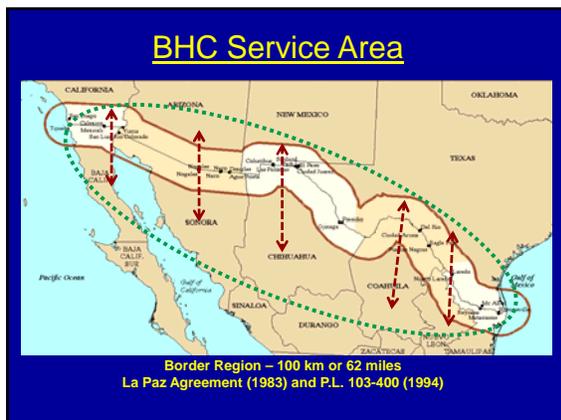
Mission and Goals

Mission

To provide international **leadership** to optimize health and quality of life along the United States – México border

Goals

- Institutionalize a domestic **focus** on border health that can transcend political changes
- Create an effective **venue** for bi-national discussion to address key public health issues at the border







II. B.
1. Healthy Border-2020

- Participated together in Border Bi-national Technical Workgroup x 3 years - to assist with developing environmental health language for HB2020
- Consistent with EPA's Border 2020 Fundamental Strategies on "Working to Improve Children's Health" and "Promoting Environmental Health"

II. B.
2. Líderes a través de Las Fronteras
(Leaders Across Borders)

- Bi-national advanced leadership development
- Self evaluation, build additional leadership skills, enhance cultural competency, meaningful team projects
- Strengthen and sustain bi-national professional networks
- Monterrey orientation, Tijuana retreat, Phoenix graduation
- Certificate - *Diplomado* – Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey courses in epidemiology, health diplomacy, health policy

II. B.
2. Líderes a través de Las Fronteras
(Leaders Across Borders)

EPA contributions to LAB Program:

- Curriculum development
- Team projects
- Environmental leadership

Líderes a través de Las Fronteras
(2015 winning candidates)



Elizabeth Kuchler Laura Henry Nohemi Rubio

PASO DEL NORTE HEALTH

II. B. 3.
12th Border Bi-national Health Week

- Week-long series of bi-national, border-wide events, begun in 2004
- Annual theme - "*Families in Action for Health*" – focus on healthy lifestyles
- Goal – to promote sustainable partnerships
- Major past events -Border Health Research Forum, TB Forum, Health Policy Forum, Tobacco Forum



II. B. 3.
Community-based Healthy Border Initiatives/BBWH ALL YEAR

- Monthly planning conferences
- Bi-national and regional workshops
- Environmental health fairs and expositions
- Regional stakeholder meetings

III.

A. Description of EPA's Border 2020 Program

El Programa Ambiental México-Estados Unidos: Frontera 2020



EPA Border 2020 Environmental Program – Five Goals

1. Reduce air pollution
2. Improve access to clean and safe water
3. Promote materials management, waste management and clean sites
4. Enhance joint preparedness for environmental response
5. Enhance compliance assurance and environmental stewardship

Las metas estratégicas del Programa Frontera 2020 son:

- Meta 1 - Reducir la Contaminación del Aire
- Meta 2 - Mejorar el Acceso a Agua Limpia y Segura
- Meta 3 - Promover el Manejo Integral de Materiales y Residuos, y Sitios Limpios
- Meta 4 - Mejorar la Preparación Conjunta de Respuesta Ambiental
- Meta 5 - Fortalecer el Cumplimiento de la Ley y la Promoción de una Gestión Ambiental Responsable

EPA - Border 2020
Fundamental Strategies

1. Working to Improve Children's Health
2. Building Capacity towards Climate Change Resiliency
3. Protecting Disadvantaged & Underserved Communities
4. Promoting Environmental Awareness
5. Promoting Environmental Health
6. Strengthening Tribal, State, Federal and International Partnerships

Estrategias Fundamentales Del
Programa Frontera 2020

1. Trabajar para mejorar la Salud Infantil
2. Desarrollar Capacidad para atender el Cambio Climático
3. Proteger a las Comunidades Marginadas
4. Fortalecer la Cultura Ambiental
5. Promover la Salud Ambiental
6. Fortalecimiento de la colaboración Estatal, Federal, Tribal y Internacional

III. B. Future general collaboration topics:

Border Promotores Initiative

Border Health Research

**Pediatric Environmental Health
Specialty Unit(s)**



Border Promotores Initiative

- Established by USMBHC 2014 to meet needs of promotores, serve to enhance communication
- October 2014 – executive meeting with 4 US border states, feds, private partners NM overview of legislation –
- How to learn from and incorporate Mexican promotores?

Border Promotores Initiative

- Mental health training **completed**:
 >200 promotores in 10 US border cities
 (including Columbus, Las Cruces)
- Partners:
 Paso del Norte Health Foundation,
 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
 Administration,
 PAHO

Border Promotores Initiative

- **BBHW 2015**: air quality and asthma
 “train the trainer”
Collaboration: EPA regions VI&IX, USMBHC
 Paso del Norte Health Foundation-fiscal agent
 El Paso, Laredo, Brownsville, Mc Allen
 (Texas); Douglas, Nogales (Arizona); San
 Diego, Imperial County (California)
- **Future** training: HIV prevention,
 pesticides (with EPA as primary partner)

Border Health Research Forum

- Initial Forum Monterrey, Nuevo León, October 2006
- Biennial
- Border Health Research Advisory Council
- Focus on development of a long-term border health research agenda

EPA and Border Health Research Forum

- EPA participation - share findings linking natural and built environment to health outcomes – obesity, cancer, asthma, diabetes
- Share epidemiological/surveillance and indicator data for agreed upon priorities – water, indoor and outdoor air quality, pesticides, heavy metals other chemicals, public health concerns
- Compile existing, credible data to share and to better document border environmental health conditions, identify vulnerable communities and to target collaborative efforts

Other EPA & USMBHC Collaborations

- EPA and USMBHC Task forces and COBINAS
- Border Bi-national Infectious Disease Conferences – climate change and incidence of Dengue Fever, West Nile, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Chikungunya
- USMBHC Border Obesity Prevention Summit – environmental factors influencing obesity, diabetes, breast feeding, physical activity, other social determinants of obesity
- Identify project funding and leveraging opportunities; share resources and expertise, consider composition of border environmental health status report

Other potential topics for collaborative action

- worker safety
- integrated pest management (schools)
- agricultural worker “take home” pesticide and chemical exposure and personal safety in the family and home
- training promotores/CHWs (underway) and other practitioners, too

Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU)

- Enhance educational and consultation services to health professionals and the community
- Provide evidence based information from a network of experts in environmental health
- Focus on specific border area needs (hepatitis, diabetes, asthma, pesticides, air quality, etc.) and on vulnerable populations (poverty, access, cultural and language barriers)

Opportunities

- Unique bi-national, vertical and horizontal framework of two federal governments, 10 states, a multitude of other public and private partners to address border and bi-national environmental health issues.
- Catalyst to identify, convene, and encourage action on key strategic bi-national issues, including environmental issues, with a focus on diverse populations.
- Focal point to assist federal and state agencies in both countries in addressing specific border health related issues, such as environmental health.

"The human race is challenged more than ever before to demonstrate our mastery, not over nature but of ourselves". – Rachel Carson



"La raza humana se enfrenta al reto más que nunca para demostrar nuestro dominio, no sobre la naturaleza, sino sobre nosotros mismos". - Rachel Carson

Thank You!

Carlos Rincón

Tomas Torres

Gina Weber

Alheli Baños

Patrick Huber

Lisa Almodóvar

<http://www.borderhealth.org>
