

CalBRACE- Local Health Department Partnership  
Kick Off Meeting  
May 27, 2014

Three presentations followed this opening discussion session facilitated by California Department of Public Health CalBRACE Principal Investigator Neil Maizlish. Presenters included: Neil Maizlish, Kathy Dervin, and Paul English

Representatives from the following county Local Health Departments(LHD) participated: Imperial, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Merced, Sacramento, San Francisco, Contra Costa, Mono, Shasta, and Tulare.

Key Themes

1. LHDs plan to incorporate BRACE steps and products into a variety of local strategic/ preparedness plans and/or their public health accreditation work.
2. Most LHD climate change work operates through emergency preparedness, chronic disease, and air quality divisions. Most LHD do not have specific climate change funding. Many counties are working on projects and programs indirectly related to climate change such as Community Transformation projects and other activities related to active transportation or food insecurity.
3. LHDs desire a central repository of information related to the CalBRACE project be made available online
4. LHDs inquired about CalBRACE steps, process and timelines, amount of required communication between state and LHDs, and the mechanisms for communication.

Potential Follow-up Items:

1. Creating centralized archive for Climate Change papers/products, curriculums
2. Template curriculum for training internal and external audiences of LHD, such as
  - i. Climate Change 101
  - ii. Strategies to present climate/health relationship (health related illnesses that are population based) in non-technical language
3. Question about regional health risk assessment

Meeting Summary:

- Introductions and county themes:
  - Shasta (Dr. Deckert)
    - Concerned about climate impacts on heat waves, wildfires, snow, drought
    - County goal to create wildfire, drought and extreme heat preparedness plan
    - Expressed issues with the global warming and climate change terminology
    - No dedicated funding for climate work

- Mono (Dr. Johnson)
  - Tourism based economy (Summer and Winter)-
  - Drought, vector borne diseases (Lyme Disease, Hanta Virus), and snow packs are of concern
- San Francisco (Kristina Barerra)
  - Participating to identify tools to improve city/county climate plans and gather relevant information presented on unique vulnerable populations to better plan and prepare in San Francisco
- Contra Costa (Michael Kent)
  - No resources specifically allocated to address climate change in public health
  - Conducted heat co-benefit analysis of mitigation measures
  - A climate action plan has not been adopted by the county board
  - Will share vulnerability information with partners
- Sacramento (Karen Olsen)
  - Joined CalBRACE to learn about interventions that can potentially be integrated with work of Resilient Sacramento
  - Will use participation in BRACE to educate health department and Health and Human Services staff and integrate climate/health information in work
- Tulare (Jose Ruiz-Salas)
  - Using a Health in All Policies approach
  - CalBRACE as a means to access other sectors
- Merced (Rose Kelly)
  - New to climate change and becoming familiar with drought/wildfire issues
- San Luis Obispo (Kathleen Karli)
  - No dedicated resources for climate change in public health
  - Working on climate change communications project with CDPH
- Imperial (Paula Kriner)
  - Conducting heat surveillance, which is made accessible to partners on the web
  - Inter-agency partnership between air quality district and health agency to receive and publicize updates on air quality
- San Diego (Shelly Saitowitz)
  - Several climate mitigation projects occurring in the county, but public health not fully engaged (many projects are external to the Public Health department)
  - No direct climate funding, but CalBRACE seed money may help trigger conversation
  - San Diego County has adopted a county climate action plan
  - CalBRACE can help develop curriculum and action plan for the agency