LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS WORK WITH PLANNERS FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITY DESIGN IN CALIFORNIA

Presentation to Planning for a Healthy Sacramento Region
CCLHO–CHEAC Chronic Disease Prevention Leadership Project

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Why a survey?

- Who is already doing this work?
- Where are the opportunities?
- What support is needed to engage more?
Responding LHDs

- 52 Jurisdictions
- 10 Bay Area Region
- 7 Southern Cal Alliance
- 7 San Joaquin Valley
- 11 Gold Country/Sierra
- 5 in Sacto region
5. How familiar are you with the relationship between the built environment and health? Select only one

- Not at all
- A little
- Pretty familiar
- Very familiar
Which issues are LHDs most involved in?

The majority were “some” to “very” involved in:

- Food systems/access to healthy retail (68%)
- Transportation planning/SRTS (56%)
- Community design and planning (39%)
Who are their local partners?

- Environmental Health*
- School Districts*
- Planning Departments
- Parks & Recreation Departments
- Transportation Agencies
- Local Government Commission
How work with planners is funded

- Local county General funds (nearly 80%)
- Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention (approx. 45%)
- Other funding (grants, etc...)
- Caltrans
- No funding
What role do LHDs play?

- Convener—agencies, organizations, communities (66%)
- Provide input on health issues in planning (59%)
- Contribute to grant proposals that demonstrate PH can help get funding (57%)
- Prepare customized health data (54%)
Biggest challenges

#1 Lack of dedicated staff to work with planners

#2 LHD participation is not mandated or authorized

#3 Taking the time to understand the planning sector

#4 Not aware when planning processes are undertaken
What will help build LHD capacity to work with planners?

- Learning what funding is available & where collaborative opportunities are
- Creating opportunities to network together
- Models & approaches for inserting health in planning
- Understanding planner language, mandates, processes, etc.
What new issues can LHDs & planners work on together?

- School Siting/Master Plans
- Affordable Housing/Siting
- Climate Change Planning
- Economic Development
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