Border 2012 Environmental Health Work Group Meeting

National Coordinators Meeting

May 23nd 2007

San Antonio, TX

Agenda

- Status:Border 2012/EHWG Goals and Objectives (H. Zenick)
- Operational Structure – A New Approach (R. Alatorre)
- EHWG- Border Indicators Task Force Interaction
- Open Discussion

EHWG Border 2012 Goals/Objectives

1. **AIR:** evaluate **respiratory health indicators** in children to assess air quality improvements in border communities.

   Status: Underway

2. **WATER:** evaluate **gastrointestinal illness indicators** to assess water quality improvements in border communities.

   Status: Underway

3. **PESTICIDES:**

   - complete an assessment and pilot program to determine the feasibility of a binational system for reporting acute pesticide poisonings

   Status: To begin 2007

   - reduce pesticide exposure by educating farm workers on pesticide risks and safe handling, including ways to reduce home exposure

   Status: Ongoing

4. **CAPACITY BUILDING:**

   - establish a "distance-learning", post-graduate degree program to support advanced training on environmental health

   Status: Ongoing

   - extend current efforts in binational **environmental health training** for 100 health care providers each for pesticides and water.

   Status: Completed through Health Resources Service Administration agreement

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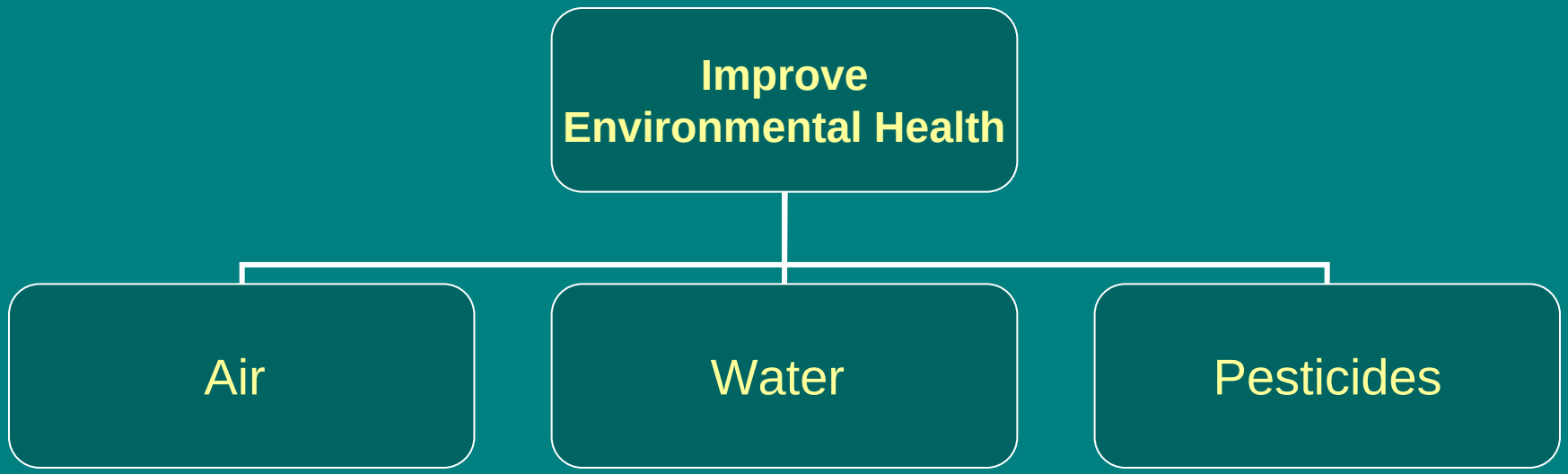
EHWG Traditional Working Model

- Focus on primarily supporting the other border-wide work groups
- Initially State health and environmental representatives, and now Regional task forces, present priorities
- Through multi-vote process, identify a subset that have binational, and border-wide, applications and implications
- 2005-2006 emphasis:

  - indicators (RFA through PAHO)

  - white papers on air, water and pesticides

2007 and Beyond- Focus Areas



- Environmental Monitoring
- Health Surveillance
- Capacity Building
- Communication
- Policy Development

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Working Groups Recommendations

- Water:
  - Collaboration opportunities with Water Policy Forum
  - To collaborate in the Rio Gr ande project (Coliforms measurements) and can be correlated with health outcomes (GI)
  - CNA will gave us access to their GIS which is going to be ready at medium term (2 years)
- Air:
  - Need air measurements in those cities where we do not have monitoring yet
  - Toxics air monitoring (using mobile unit)
  - Technical capacity (air measurements)
  - Develop a communication program focused in vulnerable population (schools)
  - Conduct a workshop with academia (results of different studies)
- Pesticides:
  - Bi-national surveillance system for acute poisons
  - Communication courses related with risks for pesticides exposure
  - Lab capacity for pesticides biomonitoring (urine)