

Adams County Health Department Strategic Plan

Goal: Environmental Justice and Climate-Related Health Impacts

Board of Health Update
April 18, 2024

EJ Core Team Members:

Ray Soto - EDS

Drew Dycus - EDS

Renata Trisilawati - EH

Joseph Chisholm - EH

Ferah Jaura - EH

Michael Ruddock - HESI

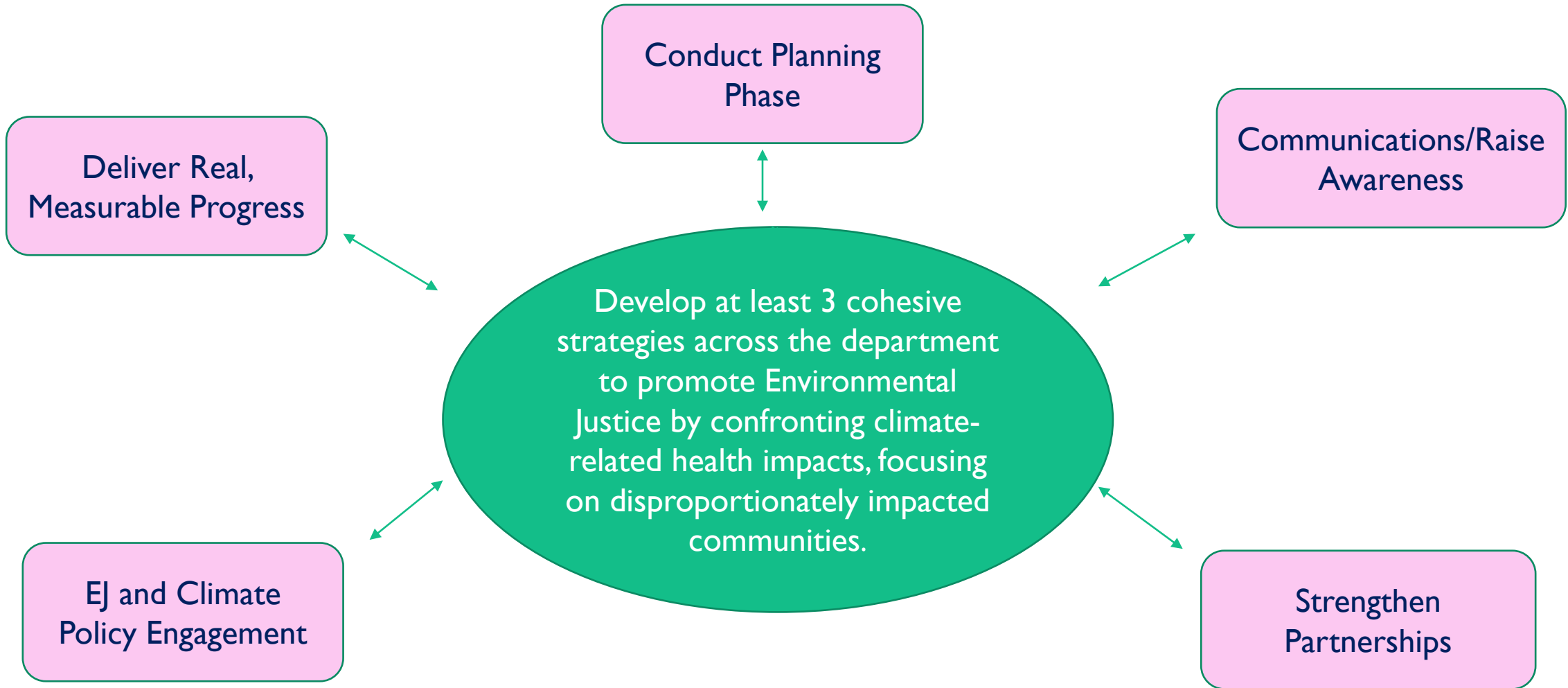
Darci Martinez - Nursing (Co-Sponsor)

Brian Hlavacek - EH (Sponsor)



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Objective I – By the end of 2024, conduct a planning phase to develop division specific environmental justice and climate-related projects that build upon existing programming and address health inequities

• Summary of Actions and Tactics

- Identify division reps to serve as a roundtable to support development of division specific health impacts and data/literature needs
- Develop process for assessing departmental and county-wide efforts; identify connections across departments
- Assess/understand themes from other processes (CHIP); consider additional means to gather resident voice

• Initial accomplishments/things in motion

- Submitted project idea for intern via National Environmental Health Association to assist with assessment work
- Started reaching out to divisions to ID contacts for roundtable group
- Started attending county Green Team meetings; understanding what projects/initiatives are happening
- Started reviewing CHIP feedback for EJ/Climate related feedback

• Next 6 months

- Solidify makeup of division roundtable and key division topics
- Bring on intern and begin comprehensive assessment/develop assessment process/tool
- Collate themes from CHIP and consider additional means to gather feedback
- Connect with new ADCO Sustainability Coordinator and ADCO Sustainability 2030 Plan



Objective 2 – By the end of 2024, to raise awareness of impacts of climate change, increase external communications to minimum one per month utilizing climate and local health data in coordination with Epidemiology and Data Science.

- **Summary of Actions and Tasks**

- Meet with the Epidemiology and Data Science division to assess what data is existing/available and what data will be needed.
- Identify topic related champions to assist in developing seasonal messages and programmatic themes.
- Coordinate with Public Health Communications Manager in developing communication strategies; develop communications plan
- Coordinate with EDS to strategize about building out climate-related public facing data/information on the ACHD website; use in communications

- **Initial accomplishments/things in motion**

- Assessment and catalogue of available datasets through the Data Science program that can be utilized for EH/Climate Health focused projects
- Initiated development of roundtable group, will assist in identifying various topics to develop seasonal messages and themes
- Initiated conversation with Public Health Communications Manager for development of an E/Climate and Health communications plan
- Ongoing collaboration with MDPH Climate and Health workgroup.

- **Next 6 months**

- Work with roundtable group to develop season messages and themes
- Develop EH/Climate Health communications plan in coordination with PH Comms Manager
- Established monthly external communications



Objective 3 - By the end of 2025, identify and strengthen at least 3 new partnerships with municipalities, community-based organizations, and other entities working on Environmental Justice and climate related issues to support advancement of Environmental Justice and climate work.

- Summary of Actions and Tasks
 - Work with Partnerships in support of partner tracking tool development
 - Scan of CBO's, Faith-based community and residents working on EJ and climate
 - Continuously assess funding opportunities and potential partnerships
 - Increase participation in Metro Denver Partnership for Health (MDPH) Climate Workgroup
- Initial accomplishments/things in motion
 - Developing plan for EJ Partner Forum & Community Change Grants – May/June
 - Participating in EPA led Commerce City-North Denver (CC-ND) EJ Forum & Steering Committee
 - Received CDPHE EJ Grant; finalizing Scope of Work w/CDPHE, begin work in July
 - Renata Trisilawati joined MDPH Climate Group
- Next 6 months
 - Hold EJ Partner Forum with CBO's; identify nexus of work and potential grant application
 - Funding opportunities continuously being evaluated
 - Increase collaboration with internal partnership group
 - Implementation of CDPHE EJ Grant



Objective 4 – By the end of 2026, ACHD will be the premiere public health voice for environmental justice and climate policy engagement by organizing and power-sharing with local advocates and community-based organizations on policy solutions.

- **Summary of Actions and Tasks**

- Exert influence with Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO) and Colorado Public Health Association (CPHA) to adopt environmental justice/climate action as a priority
- Conduct an Adams County municipal scan to assess what actions have been taken locally.
- Organize and facilitate a one-time summit of Adams County residents, CBOs, and partners to assess county priorities, opportunities, willingness to engage with ACHD on climate/EJ issues
- Facilitate group lobbying days to increase community access to policy change and develop power-sharing capacity between community and legislators
- Increase coordination and alignment on state rulemakings with CED related to public health impacts

- **Initial accomplishments/things in motion**

- Processes started and ended in late 2023 for CALPHO and CPHA, will work in 2024 through this process
- Began planning of one-time summit. Summit will result in a defined role for ACHD to engage community.

- **Next 6 months**

- Begin municipal scan to identify policies, actions, and strategies implemented (or in the process of implementing) locally
- Begin conversations with Community and Economic Development (CED) to increase alignment on state rulemakings
- Set groundwork for community/CBO summit in 2025 by meeting with community partners. Begin power mapping and gathering feedback on how ACHD can be most effective/useful partners.



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Objective 5 – By the end of 2025, improve ACHD's ability to systematically deliver real, measurable progress on environmental justice in the Adams County Community by incorporating Environmental Justice principles and policy into programmatic work for all divisions.

- **Summary of Actions and Tasks**

- Conduct assessment of model frameworks for the development of environmental justice into programmatic work.
- Develop ACHD policy for the implementation of EJ and climate related work.
- Assess how forming cross-divisional and/or cross-department EJ workgroup to coordinate and implement activities can help move this work forward, including where the workgroup would be managed.
- Evaluate need and feasibility of a budget request in 2026 for an EJ/Climate and Health FTE to lead these efforts.

- **Initial accomplishments/things in motion**

- Working towards assembling internal roundtable that will aid in development of ACHD policy for the implementation of EH and climate-related work.
- NACCHO Climate for Health Ambassador Training Pledge

- **Next 6 months**

- Start collating other plans/frameworks to inform our work (CDPHE Climate & Equity Framework, Community Engagement Plan, Racial Equity Toolkit, etc.)
- Begin considering structure/model and means to garner external feedback, e.g., Advisory Board
- Coordinate closely with Workforce Development for staff capacity building



Key Steps for the Next 6 Months

- Division roundtable solidification
- Internship for the comprehensive assessment
- Resident voice gathering by collating themes from CHIP
- Consider Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan
- Develop seasonal messages and themes with roundtable group
- Develop communications plan with PH Communications Manager
- Continue collaboration with MDPH group
- Hold EJ Partner Forum
- Cultivate citizen power and knowledge
- Initiate power mapping
- Conversation with CED
- Consider similar existing or ongoing plans
- Consider model for external feedback/guidance
- Work with WFD to build staff capacity

