



# Legislative Oversight Committee

February 9, 2017





## **Vision:**

Healthy people living in healthy communities.

## **Mission:**

To improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians by protecting and promoting the health of the public and the environment.



# DHEC by the Numbers

## DHEC Team

- Currently **over 3,300 employees strong**
- Operating 99 locations in **46 counties** across the state

## Legal Responsibilities

- DHEC legal responsibilities currently touch on **more than 360** state and federal statutes and regulations, and state provisos.



# Day-to-Day Operations

Snapshot of what "business as usual" looks like for DHEC in an average year:

- **777,781** clinical client encounters
- **363** acute disease outbreak investigations
- **55,254** reports of acute diseases reviewed
- **593** patients followed for tuberculosis infection or disease
- **Over 30,000** active environmental permits
- **Over 90,000** environmental inspections
- **46,188** environmental health complaints investigated
- **8,020** Health Regulation inspections

# Special Operations

## Hurricane Matthew

- DHEC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers **assessed** the condition of **469 dams** in areas impacted by the storm.
  - **25 dams** were found to have **breached** (20 regulated, 5 un-regulated).
  - **21 Emergency Orders** were issued to owners of regulated dams.
  - **115 Directive Letters** were issued to owners of regulated dams.
- **27 Boil Water Advisories** were issued.
- **9 Special Medical Needs Shelters** opened for a total of **130** shelterees.
- **114 inpatient health care facilities**, including four hospitals, **evacuated** from the medical evacuation zones; over **1,700 patients** were transported.



# DHEC in Transformation

**People**

**Process**

**Technology**

**\* Modernizing what we do and how we do it to better serve South Carolina.**

# Transformational Change

## Last 18 months

- **Developed first agency strategic plan since 2005**
- **Privatized the agency's home health business**
  - Continuing care for the agency's clients
  - Preserving employment for more than 100 agency employees
  - Netting \$17.5 million in proceeds
- **Created a Project Management Office**
- **Established an agency operating budget**
- **Created an employee intranet website**

# Transformational Change

## Last 18 months (continued)

- **Initiated major investments in information systems and technology**
  - Data center move
  - Electronic health records
  - E-permitting
  - HRIS system
  - Network upgrades
- **Rebranded the agency with a new logo and tag line**
- **Implemented a high potential leadership development program**



# Transformational Change

## Last 18 months (continued)

- **Established a new dam safety program**
- **Created an Office of Rural Water to assist small water systems**
- **Adopted use of drones to enhance regulatory oversight**
- **Initiated the public health accreditation process**
- **Instituted key governance processes**
  - Policy Review Committee
  - Safety Committee



# Transformational Change

## Last 18 months (continued)

- **Cleared CON backlog**
  - Rendered decisions on 212 applications since Aug. 2015
- **Increased drug control inspections by 67%**
  - 2,851 inspections in FY16 vs. 1,704 inspections in FY15
- **Grew our prescription monitoring program by 84%**
  - 14,940 registered users in June 2016 vs. 8,139 users in June 2015
- **Reduced environmental permit processing times**
  - 100 days for most common permits in 2015 vs. 120 days in 2014
- **Reached a settlement agreement with DOE on SRS**



# Transformational Change

## On the Horizon

- **Website redesign and new content management system**
- **Implementation of SC Adopt-a-Stream program**
- **Health improvement plan**



# Building a Culture of Continuous Improvement

## Our Three Aspirations

- 1) To be recognized as a **leading public health and environmental protection agency** in the nation.
- 2) To be a **model of operational excellence** in state government.
- 3) To be the **preferred public sector employer in public health and environmental protection** in the Southeast.



# Addressing Challenges

## Emerging Issues

- **Facilities**

- Degrading, functionally obsolete, present safety concerns, and do not meet the needs of our staff and customers.
- Will need to pursue redevelopment of our current facilities or consider alternative facilities for central office, state laboratory and some of our regional offices.
- Continue to partner with Dept. of Administration to address.

- **Employee Retention and Succession Planning**

- More than 1/3 of workforce is nearing retirement.
- 42% of employees have been with the agency less than 5 years.



# Requested Statutory Changes

## Priorities

- **SC Prescription Monitoring Act**
  - Add Schedule V drugs like 35 other states have done.
  - Add civil fines of up to \$2,500 per occurrence of violations.
  - Add penalties for individuals who improperly access PMP.
  - Clarify the “good faith” provision.



# Requested Statutory Changes

## Priorities

- **Solid Waste Policy and Management Act**

- Worked collaboratively with more than 220 permittees, 61 county officials, 54 local governments, and 76 interested parties.
- Consensus recommend 4 changes to the Act:
  - Establish a Solid Waste Emergency Fund.
  - Require a facility that accepts construction and demolition debris to register with DHEC and obtain a solid waste processing permit.
  - Require facilities seeking a permit to provide proof to DHEC of compliance with local zoning and land-use ordinances with their permit application.
  - Clarify that “need” be demonstrated as required by existing regulation only.



## Contact Us

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