





Board of Public Health Meeting

November 8, 2011

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM



Board Member Introduction



James M. Smith, Ph.D.

Dr. Smith is an adjunct professor of environmental health at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. He worked for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for 22 years and retired in 2006 as associate director for radiation in CDC's Center for Environmental Health. Prior to CDC, Dr. Smith was an associate research professor at the University of Utah School of Medicine. He is a past recipient of several federal career awards such as the U.S. Public Health Service Superior Service Award. Dr. Smith is a graduate of West Virginia University, where he also earned master's and doctorate degrees in physics. He and his wife, June, reside in Braselton and have three children and five grandchildren.

Georgia Department of Public Health Division of Operations Office of Facilities and Support Services



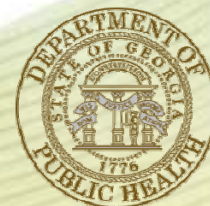
Presentation to PH Board

Presented by: Janie Brodnax, Chief Operations Officer

Date: November 8, 2011

Introduction

Outline and describe public health facilities that are maintained by the Department of Public Health, Operations Division, Office of Facilities and Support Services



Considerations

- Two of three Public Health Laboratories will require funds not currently budgeted to maintain and upgrade and the third will need to be replaced.
- Four owned regional health facilities require significant maintenance in order to remain usable. The Department ultimately desires to obtain alternative leased space for four public health facilities and will be pursuing additional funding to supplement the amounts required.



Considerations...(continued)

- The ideal situation for the main offices located at 2 Peachtree, 40 Pryor and Skyland would be to re-locate to a new space or move staff from Skyland and 40 Pryor to 2 Peachtree if space becomes available. The Office of Vital Records is not easily accessible to public transportation which makes it inconvenient for both employees and clients.



Public Health Owned Facilities

- Skyland Facility
- Waycross Regional Public Health Facility
- Albany Regional Health Facility
- Macon Regional Health Building
- Rome District Health Building
- Central Laboratory Facility in Decatur
- Waycross Regional Laboratory
- Albany Regional Laboratory



Skyland Facility

- Constructed in 1956 - 44,000 square feet
- 91 Employees in four programs – Vital Records, EMS Region 3, EMS Trauma, Facilities Unit
- Originally constructed as a school, but was converted to state office space in the 1980s
- Generally in good repair considering its age, but does have age related maintenance issues
 - A newer, purpose built, leased facility would be more efficient and cost effective and would eliminate other issues simultaneously, primarily with the IT infrastructure.



Skyland Facility... (continued)

- A physical move of paper vital records was negotiated with the State Archives in Morrow, Georgia reducing demand for storage at this facility.
- Experiencing debilitating connectivity issues - fundamental cause is the age of the network wiring and other associated hardware. An assessment of the system estimated the replacement cost to be approximately \$150,000. This is an option that must be considered in parallel to a potential move to another location.



Skyland Facility... (continued)

- On October 25th, 2011 in a special meeting the Public Health Board passed a resolution to replace the old windows with energy efficient windows for a cost of \$220,000. This will make the facility more environmentally sound and energy efficient.



Waycross Regional Public Health Facility

- Constructed in 1946 - 17,736 square feet
- Houses the 9-2 Southeast Health District Office consisting of 35 Administrative employees
- Due to the age and the number of requirements to bring the facility up to modern code, it would be more advantageous to the Department to move than to renovate and modernize the building or to continue to repair and maintain the facility.



Waycross Regional Public Health Facility...(cont)

- DPH, in conjunction with the district and the State Properties Commission has completed a space survey and will be evaluating the market for available state owned space and vacant leasable space. A precise location has not been identified at this time.
- The State Properties Commission estimates that it would require at a minimum 6 months to finalize the program needs assessments, conduct the market research, evaluate all potential locations, complete any necessary build-out and move the facility. This move would require new funds.



Waycross Regional Public Health Facility...(cont)

- On October 25th, 2011 in a special meeting the Public Health Board passed a resolution to renovate the exterior of the building, including:
 - Replace broken and rusted basement access door
 - Replace handicap and entrance way handrails
 - Seal exterior of building envelope
 - Replace gutters
 - Install needed French drains
 - Replace cracked windows and all screens
 - Replace tile in lower level restrooms and install new toilets



Albany Regional Public Health Facility

- Constructed in 1946 – 17,736 square feet
- Houses the 8-2 Southwest District Office consisting of 25 Administrative employees and the Albany Lab
- Due to the age and the number of requirements to bring the facility up to modern code, it would be more advantageous to the Department to move than to renovate and modernize the building or to continue to repair and maintain the facility.



Albany Regional Public Health Facility...(cont)

- DPH, in conjunction with the district and the State Properties Commission has completed a space survey and will be evaluating the market for available state owned space and vacant leasable space. A precise location has not been identified at this time.
- The State Properties Commission estimates that it would require at a minimum 6 months to finalize the program needs assessments, conduct the market research, evaluate all potential locations, complete any necessary build-out and move the facility. This move would require new funds.



Macon Regional Public Health Facility

- Constructed in 1946 – 18,708 square feet
- Houses the 5-2 North Central Health District consisting of 65 Administrative employees
- This facility is located on the Medical Center of Central Georgia complex. We have reinitiated the sale of this facility with the Hospital Authority and are working with State Properties on the execution of the sale and relocation of this office to leased space.



Rome District Health Facility

- Constructed in 2007– 26,600 square feet
- Houses the 1-1 Northwest District consisting of 75 Administrative employees
- There is a 20 year General Obligation Bond on this facility which matures in 2027.
- Built at a cost of 3 million dollars, single story is on land donated by Mental Health, on what was part of the now closing Northwest Regional Hospital in Rome.



Central Laboratory Facility in Decatur

- Constructed in 1997– the main building is 66,030 square feet, a freestanding ancillary laboratory building for testing chemical threats is 1,320 square feet and an ancillary building for scanning incoming mail and deliveries is 448 square feet
- This facility houses 127 laboratory technologists and administrators, 4 BioWatch specialists, and armed security guards



Central Laboratory Facility in Decatur...(cont)

- The building's air exchange system needs to be updated. The maintenance of this building is increasing with age.
- Houses bioterrorism and chemical terrorism laboratory functions in support of Georgia's emergency preparedness and response effort. The Decatur Laboratory has Biological Safety Levels 2 and 3 (BSL-2 and BSL-3).
- In FY2011 the Decatur facility received 476,831 specimens and performed a total of 7,476,007 examinations.



Waycross Regional Laboratory

- Constructed in 2007– 23,840 square feet
- This facility houses 11 laboratory technologists and administrators
- The Waycross Laboratory has Biological Safety Levels 2 and 3 (BSL-2 and BSL-3).
- In FY2011 the Waycross Laboratory received 32,845 specimens and performed 56,783 examinations.



Albany Regional Laboratory

- Constructed in 1946 – 1,200 square feet located within the Albany Regional Public Health Facility
- This facility houses 12 laboratory technologists and administrators
- In FY2011 the Albany Laboratory received 75,544 specimens and performed 120,075 examinations.



Albany Regional Laboratory...(cont)

- It is the desire of DPH to replace this facility which would require new dollars; bond funds have been requested.
- The Albany Lab has had recurring issues with dampness and mold in the lower level of the building. On October 25th, 2011 in a special meeting the Public Health Board passed a resolution to waterproof the exterior of the basement wall below grade level only.



Public Health Capital Hill Leased Facilities

- 2 Peachtree 9th through 16th floors – houses:
 - DPH Staff (638 staff)
 - Trauma Commission Attached Agency (1 staff)
- 2 Peachtree 26th floor – houses Brain and Spinal Attached Agency (4 staff)
- 2 Peachtree 3rd floor – houses Division of Health Protection's Emergency Operations Center (2 staff)



2 Peachtree Street – Leased Space

- Houses 643 staff
- 9th through 16th floors – 155,025 square feet
– 636 staff and 1 Trauma Commission staff
- 3rd floor Emergency Operations Center –
4,213 square feet – 2 staff
- 26th floor Brain and Spinal Agency – 3,813
square feet – 4 staff



2 Peachtree Street Facility...(continued)

- Parking at this facility is an issue; employees can either sign up or be put on a waiting list to park at 90 Central which is the closest State Parking. 90 Central is 2 blocks from the building. There is a charge of \$20 per month for employees to park and the assignment of parking is based on seniority. There is closer public parking across the street for \$6 per day.



2 Peachtree Street Facility...(continued)

- 2 Peachtree is maxed out and there is no more space available for growth.
- There is convenient public transportation with the Five Points Marta Station located on the same block.
- The cost of construction to change the space we currently occupy is very expensive and we are required to use the Georgia Building Authority.



40 Pryor Street

- 8,138 leased square feet and houses 38 staff
- 40 Pryor – houses programs within the Division of Health Protection including Emergency Preparedness, Refugee Health, and Pharmacy Programs
- DPH's desire is to move this staff to 2 Peachtree, but space is not currently available.



Other Leased Facilities

- Athens – Clark County - 6,000 square feet
- Augusta – Richmond County – 3,394 square feet
- Columbus – Muscogee County – 22,494 square feet
- Decatur – DeKalb County – 3,635 square feet
- Dublin – Laurens County – 392 square feet and 6,500 square feet
- Gainesville – Hall County – 16,576 square feet
- Jesup – Wayne County – 470 square feet
- Savannah – Chatham County – 3,310 square feet



Georgia Public Health Laboratory



Presentation to PH Board

Presented by: Janie Brodnax, Chief Operations Officer and

Elizabeth A. Franko, DrPH, HCLD, Laboratory Director

Date: November 8, 2011

Introduction – GPHL Mission Statement

To provide accurate, timely and confidential clinical and emergency response laboratory testing in support of Department of Public Health programs and initiatives.



Introduction - Mission

To accomplish the role of providing support for public health programs, the Lab provides screening, diagnostic and reference laboratory services to the citizens of Georgia through county health departments, public health clinics, physicians, other clinical laboratories, hospitals and state agencies.



Introduction - Division of Operations

GPHL has three Locations:

- Central Facility in Decatur
- Waycross Public Health Laboratory
- Albany Regional PH Laboratory





**Georgia Public Health
Laboratory – Decatur Facility**



**Georgia Public Health Laboratory
– Waycross Facility**



**Georgia Public Health Laboratory
– Albany Facility**

Lab Administration

Elizabeth A. Franko, DrPH, HCLD, Laboratory Director provides oversight to all 3 laboratories.

All three facilities comply with both the State Clinical Laboratory Licensure Law (DCH) and Federal Clinical Laboratory Certification (CLIA'88/CMS) requirements.



Lab Administration

- Arthur Hagar, PhD - Supervisor for Chemistry/Hematology
- Michelle E. Kirk - Facilities Director
- Mahin M. Park, PhD - Supervisor for Microbiology/Immunology
- Vacant – Emergency Response Coordinator
- William L. Shea - Administrative Operations Director



Laboratory History

- Established by the Legislature in 1905
- First annual budget - \$2,500.
- Located in storage rooms in the basement of the Capitol Building
- Hired a Civil War veteran to help
- Added Albany, Macon and Waycross Regional Labs in the 40s
- Moved to 47 Trinity Ave. in the early 50s
- Moved to new Decatur facility in 1997





GPHL Units

- Administration
- Bacteriology
- Billing
- Central Accessioning
- Data Transcription
- Chemical Threat
- Computer Services
- Immunology
- Emergency Response
- Molecular Biology
- Mycobacteriology
- Newborn Screening
- Parasitology
- Reports & Records
- Scientific Services
- Services & Supply
- Training
- Virology



Statistics

- 148 FTEs including administrative, technical, clerical and support positions
- 31 current vacancies
- In FY2011:
 - 585,220 specimens received
 - 7,652,865 tests, examinations or determinations performed
 - 289,923 quality control (QC) procedures



Different Types of Services Provided

- Perform functions that are essential for development of population-based public health policies
- Provide laboratory support for primary health care services



Services – Performed

- Routine testing: for county health departments, support Department of Public Health Programs/Initiatives, physicians
- Reference testing: for hospitals, private labs
- Outbreaks: support for Epidemiology investigations, county health departments



Services – Performed (continued)

- Lab Training: CDC, National Laboratory Training Network (NLTN), Department of Public Health (DPH), MCG, Emory University and other educational institutions
- CDC Access: mandatory route through GPHL for specimens from Georgia sent to CDC for testing





Eleven Core Functions

- Disease Prevention, Control and Surveillance
- Reference and Specialized Testing
- Food Safety
- Emergency Response
- Integrated Data Management
- Environmental Health and Protection
- Laboratory Improvement and Regulation
- Policy Development
- Public Health Related Research
- Training and Education
- Partnerships and Communication

Disease Prevention, Control & Surveillance

- Provide accurate, timely and confidential analytical results for the assessment and surveillance of infectious, genetic and chronic diseases
- Provide specialized tests for low-incidence, high-risk diseases such as tuberculosis, rabies, botulism and plague
- Serve as a center of expertise for the detection and identification of biologic agents of importance in human disease



Reference and Specialized Testing

Serve as the state's primary reference laboratory to:

- Confirm atypical lab test results
- Test for and aid in the diagnosis of unusual pathogens
- Test epidemiologically-significant specimens
- Provide esoteric assays otherwise unavailable



Food Safety

- Test specimens from person, food and beverages to identify causes and sources of foodborne illness. Testing may include assays to detect organisms such as *E.coli* 0157, *staphylococcus*, *bacillus*, *salmonella*, *shigella*, *vibrio*, *listeria* and *clostridium*.
- Detect foodborne outbreaks



Newborn Screening

- About 145,000 live births annually in Georgia
- Effective 01/01/2007, GPHL/Genetics Program implemented expanded NBS for each child from 11 to 29 diseases (includes testing for additional metabolic diseases, hemoglobinopathies and Cystic Fibrosis)
- Implemented 6 day/week testing that was discontinued due to budget cuts



Emergency Response

- Provide lab support as part of state and national disaster preparedness plans for:
 - Terrorism response
 - Natural disasters (floods, hurricanes)
 - Emergency foodborne outbreaks
 - Infectious disease emergencies
 - Environmental hazards



Emergency Response - New Responsibilities

- Support for State and Federal BT and CT national security initiatives
- Compliance with Federal Select Agent Rule including FBI background checks on laboratory staff
- Compliance with USA Patriot Act
- Lab testing in support of BioWatch
- Lab testing in support of USPS Biological Detection System (BDS)



Terrorism - GPHL Involvement

- Mandate by Congress for public health involvement
- Experience with biological agents of concern and outbreak investigation
- Link between local laboratories and CDC/federal agencies



Interaction with FBI/Atlanta Field Office

- 1996 Summer Olympic Games
- First BT meeting between FBI and GPHL in January, 1999 (Medical Officer, WMD, HazMat)
- Meetings for update on personnel changes, phone/pager numbers, public safety/public health emergency response planning, etc.
- Established the Anthrax Response Team (ART) in October, 2001

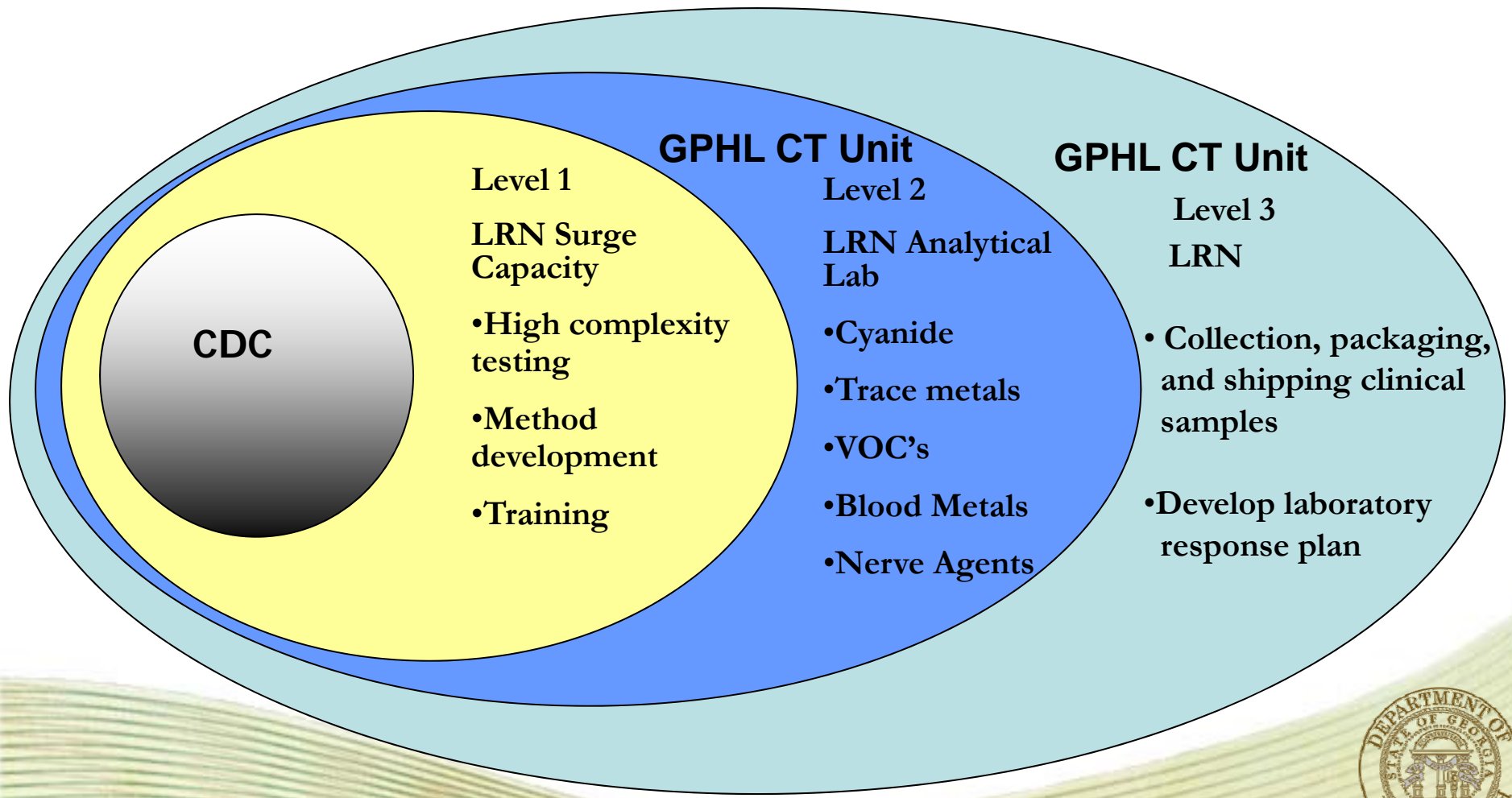


GPHL Workload (10/10-12/14/01)

- Worked with constant flow of specimens/ law enforcement personnel and FBI
- Accepted and triaged 500+ specimens/items
- Tested - 604 Environmental Specimens
39 Clinical Specimens
- Executed chain of custody on all specimens
- Handled, sorted and stored evidence



LRN-C Structure (Chemical Threat)



Level 3 Activities

- Specimen collection, packaging, and shipping
 - Trained several hospitals on CDC collection guidelines
 - Developing reference materials for laboratories in the state



Level 3 Activities

- Develop laboratory response plan
 - Internal response
 - Developed CT emergency response protocols within GPLH.
 - Created specimen tracking database
 - External Response-Specimen collection
 - On scene collection kit
 - Phlebotomy supplies to collect the first 40 patients for the CDC rapid toxic screen



Level 2 Activities

- Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS)
 - Current Use
 - Trace elements analysis (Pb, Hg, As, etc.) in Blood or Urine
 - Future Considerations
 - Combine ICP-MS with HPLC to speciate elements such as As
 - Identify Normative values from de-identified blood spots
 - Geographical distribution of exposure
 - Identify at-risk populations



Level 2 Activities

- Gas Chromatograph-Mass Selective Detector (GC-MSD)
 - Headspace analysis of Cyanide
 - SPME for volatile organic compounds (Benzene, Styrene, Carbon Tetrachloride, etc.)
 - Organophosphate metabolite analysis. Requires complex sample preparation





Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG)



Presentation to: DPH Board

Presented by: Kate Pfirman, Chief Financial Officer

Date: November 8, 2011

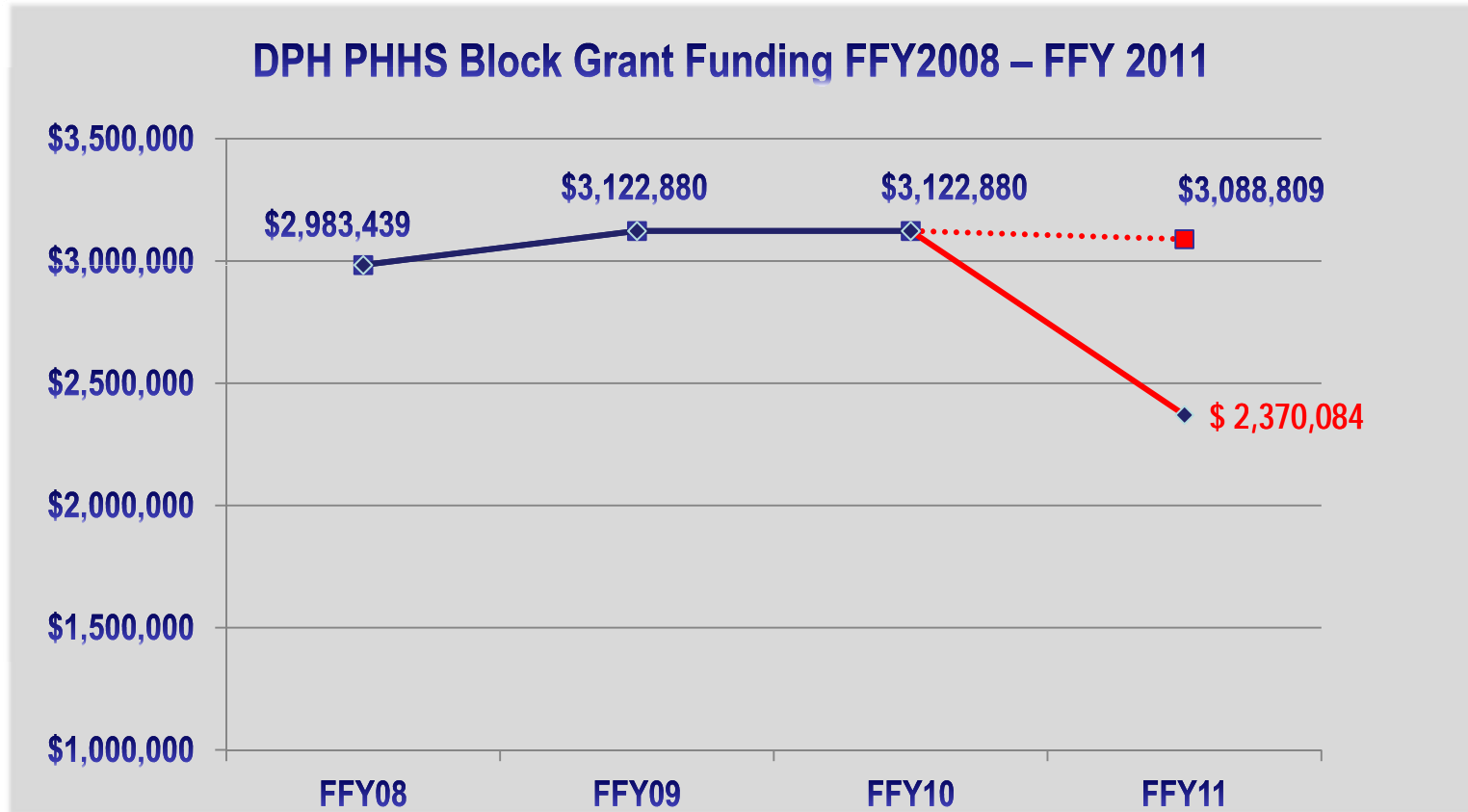
PHHS Block Grant Overview

PHHS Block Grant is a flexible funding source enabling grantees to..

- Address emerging health issues and gaps.
- Decrease premature death and disabilities by focusing on the leading preventable risk factors.
- Work to achieve health equity and eliminate health disparities by addressing the social determinants of health.
- Support local programs to achieve healthy communities.
- Monitor health status of the programs supported by block grant.



PHHS Block Grant: DPH Funding

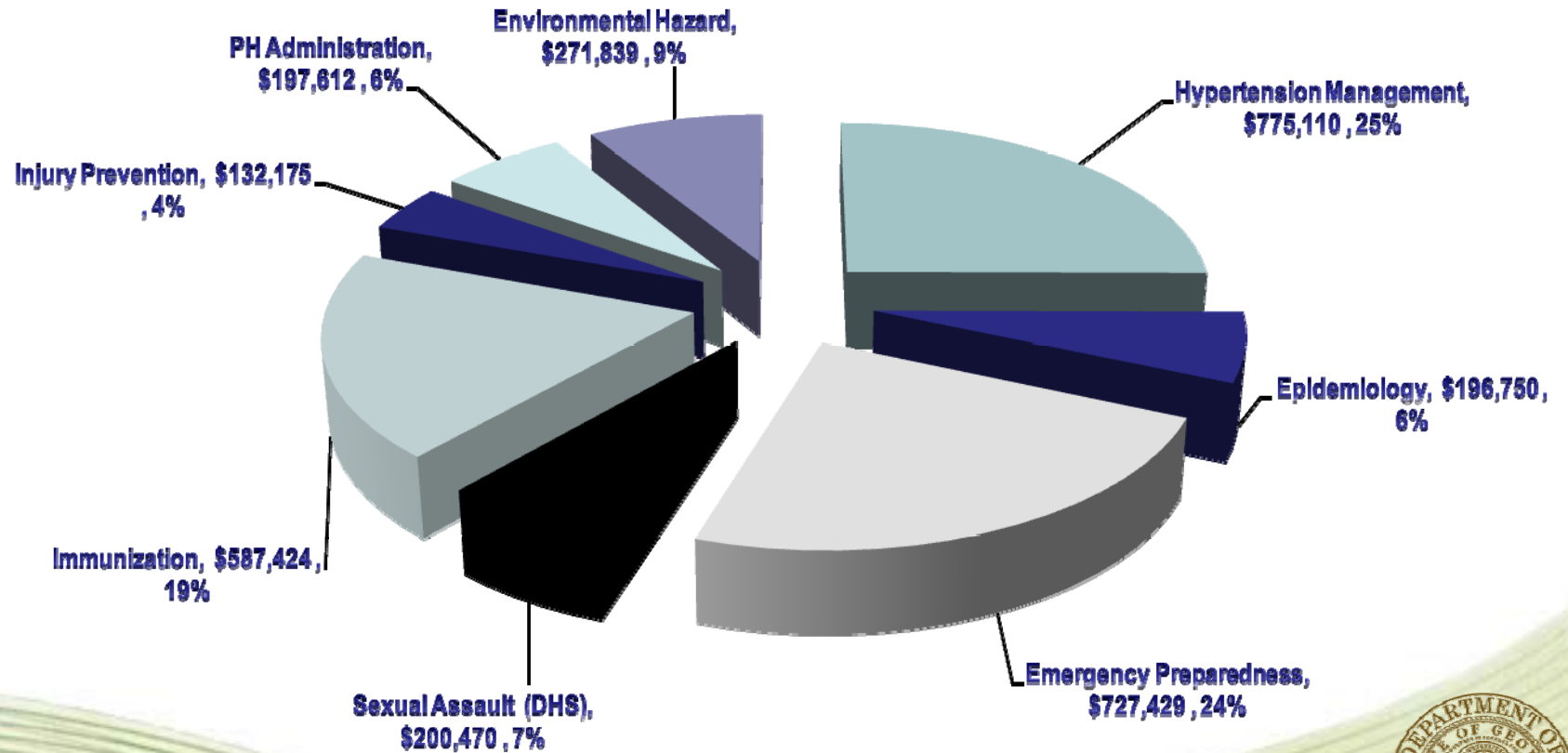


In FFY11, 4th Quarter funding was reduced.
The Department had to reduce spending by 23% or \$718,725.



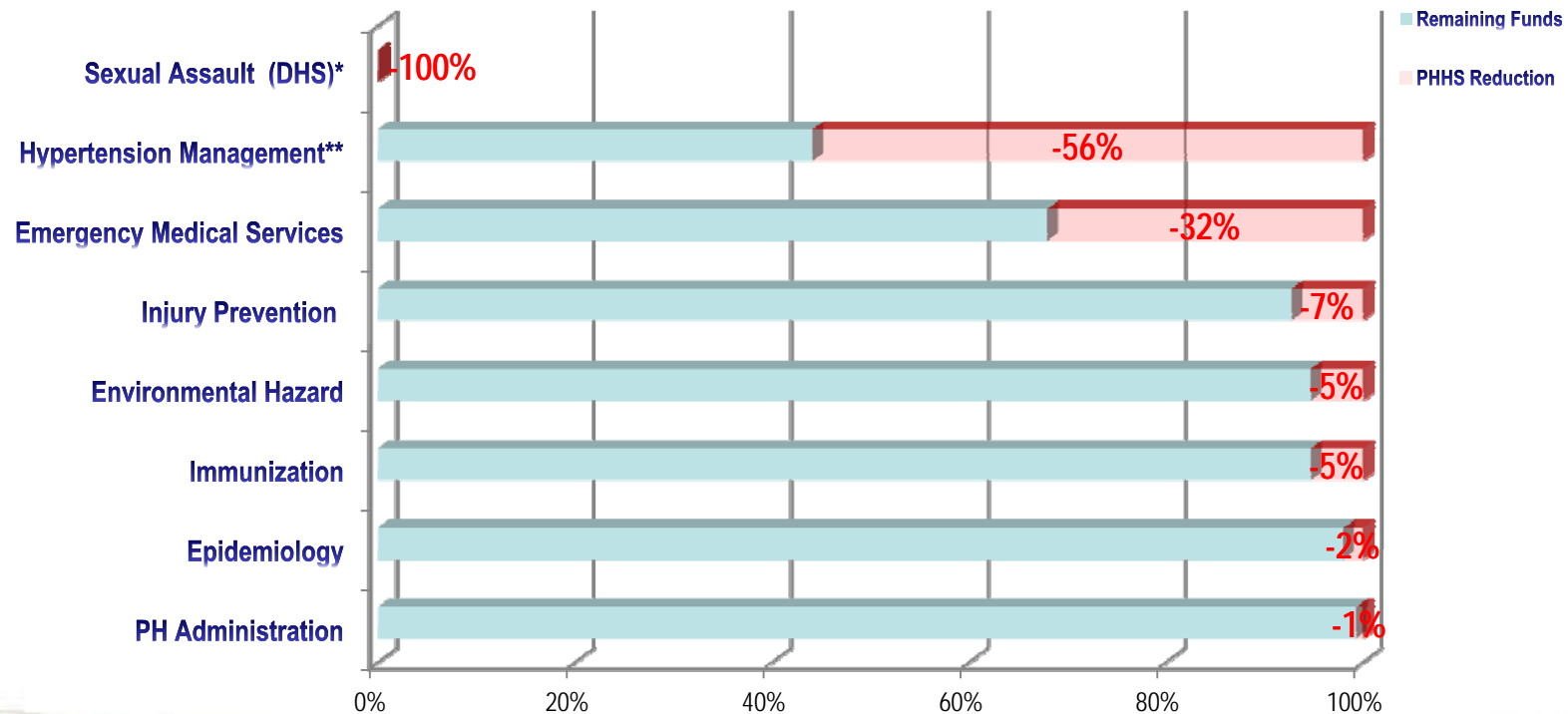
PHHS Grant Allocation-FFY11

Total PHHS Block Grant Funds \$3,088,809



PHHS Grant Reductions

PHHS Block Grant Reductions-% by Program FFY2012



* Pass Through funding to DHS

**AFY12 and FY2013 request included a reduction to remaining State General funds in the program



PHHS Reduction Impacts

- **SHAPP (\$775,110)**
 - Eliminated the prevention and education components for the State of Georgia Stroke & Heart Attack Prevention Program.
 - Program screens approximately 13,000 uninsured and underinsured adults age 30-59 and provides treatment and case management services for uncontrolled hypertension for 4000+ clients.
- **Emergency Medical Services (\$727,429)**
 - Elimination of 6 filled positions, closure of the Regional EMS offices
- **Injury Prevention (\$132,175)**
 - Older Adult Maltreatment- unable to support case identification and data analysis efforts, and implement evidence based interventions.
 - Fire Related Injury Prevention- Less equipment to distribute to local fire departments.
 - Older Adult Fall Prevention-Halts all state level efforts to conduct intervention to support Area Aging Networks.
- **Environmental Hazard (\$271,839)**
 - Reduces services provided to populations at-risk of environmental contamination.



PHHS Reduction Impacts

- **Immunization (\$587,424)**
 - Reduce immunization assessment of children attending childcare facilities in Georgia to ensure children are protected from VPDs.
- **Epidemiology-Chronic Disease (\$196,750)**
 - Eliminated 2 Epidemiologist positions which are critical to analyzing existing data for implementing interventions.
- **Sexual Assault Services (\$200,470)**
 - *Pass through funding to DHS*
 - Possible closure of some Sexual Assault Centers which will result in victims not receiving immediate assistance, and lessening the instances of reporting or victims seeking assistance.
- **DPH Administration (\$197,612)**
 - Elimination of pilot projects with DNR to address obesity in children and families.

