CT CHILD DAYCARE SAFER PROGRAM

Screening Assessment for Environmental Risk



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OVERVIEW OF TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- Rational for child care siting program
- CT SAFER program summary
- Local health department role
- Case examples
- Positive impacts/lessons learned

WHY THE CONCERN?

Children at greater risk from exposure to contaminants:

- -physiology
- -rapidly developing bodies
- -behaviors (such as mouthing objects)



WHY DID WE START A DAYCARE SITING PROGRAM?

- Highly publicized daycare closures-NY & NJ
- Do not want new regulations
- Desire to control program design



WHAT IS THE CHILD DAYCARE SAFER PROGRAM?

Process that identifies licensed daycares where residual chemicals from past or current operations could pose an exposure concern.

Safer siting of new daycares

CONNNECTICUT APPROACH

- Proactive, nonregulatory
- Finds daycares on/near waste sites
- Raises awareness about safe child care siting
- Collaborative



OUTREACH AND TRAINING

Training

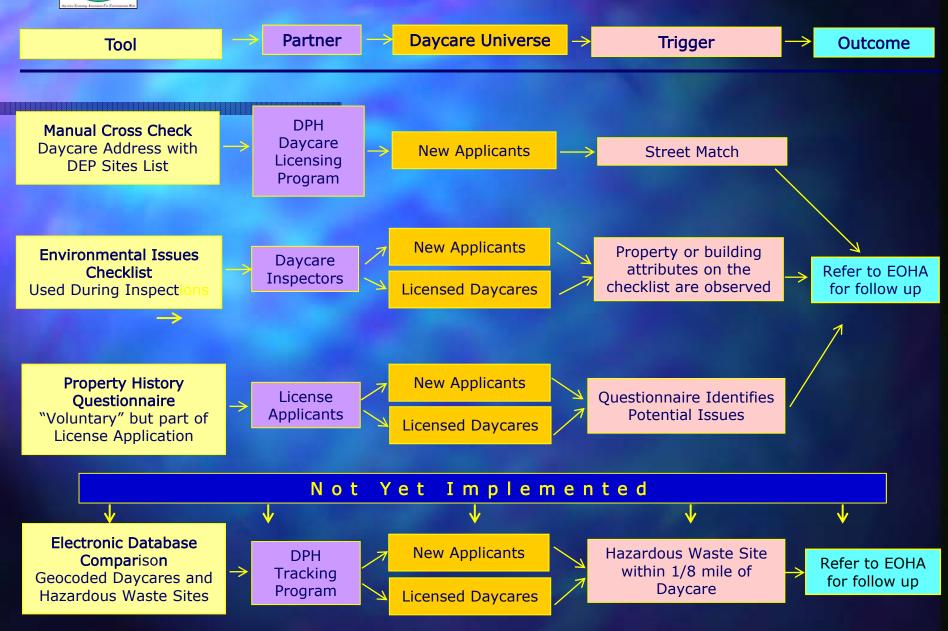
- Daycare licensing inspectors-annual
- Town planner association, presentation
- Daycare nursing consultants training

Outreach

- Local health departments mailing
- SAFER brochure
- SAFER article in childcare provider newsletter



HOW DO WE IDENTIFY POTENTIAL PROBLEM DAYCARES?



MANUAL CROSSCHECK- NEW DAYCARES

 Daycare licensing program notifies
 EOHA if daycare is on same street or address as waste site

EOHA followup as needed

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CHECKLIST

Characteristics to look for:

- Outdoor property attributes
- Building attributes
- Adjacent business

EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO LOOK FOR DURING INSPECTIONS

DISCARDED DRUMS OR BARRELS



OLD CAR/VEHICLE PARTS



BARN (FARM MACHINERY / EQUIPMENT)



ADJACENT BUSINESSES



OLD GATES RUBBER FACTORY DENVER, COLORADO



PROPERTY HISTORY QUESTIONAIRE

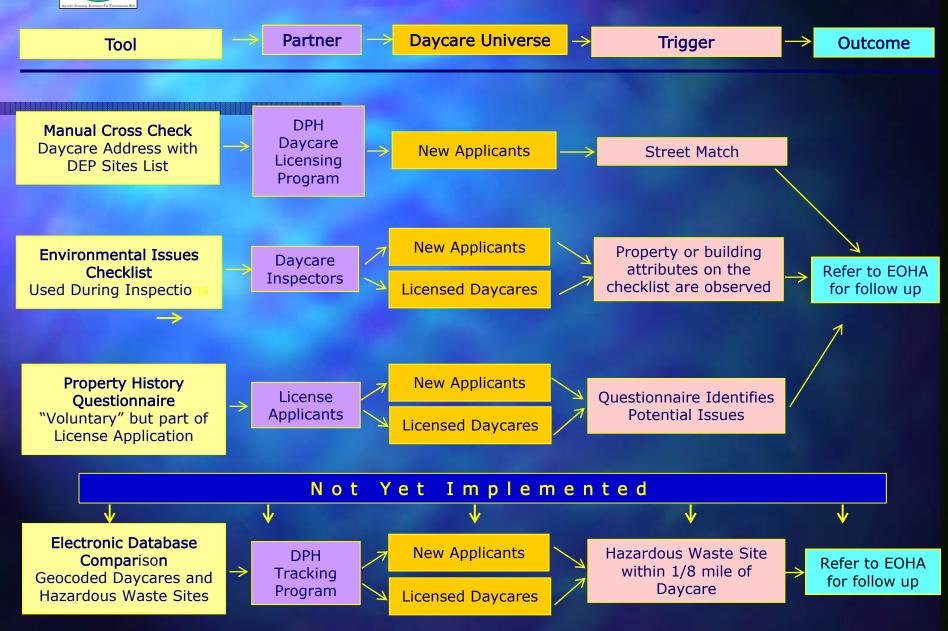
- Voluntary but part of license application
- Past use checklist
- Site assessment docs
- Visual clues

ELECTRONIC DATABASE COMPARISON

- Geocode waste sites and daycares
- Comparison based on distance
- Will occur at least annually
- EOHA followup on daycares located
 <1/8 mile from a site



HOW DO WE IDENTIFY POTENTIAL PROBLEM DAYCARES?



EOHA FOLLOWUP

- Gather information
 - state and local agencies, consultants, property owner
- Site file review
- Site visit

EOHA ROLE

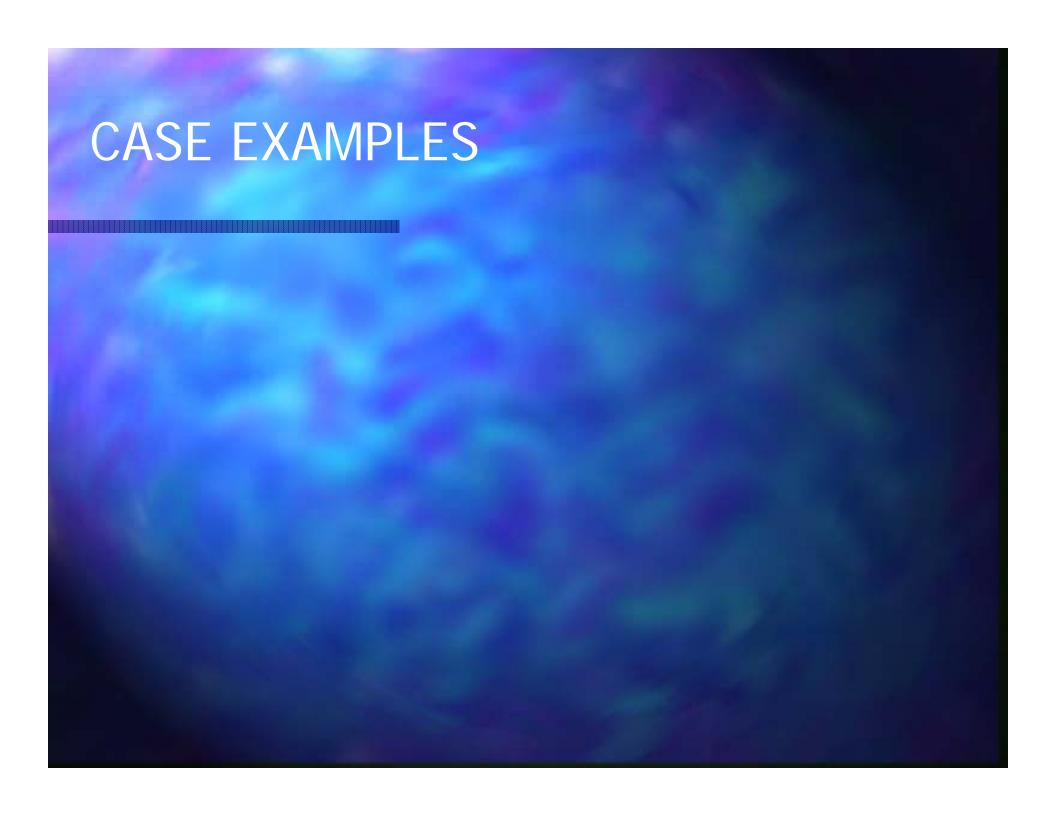
- Coordination
- Communication with daycare inspectors
- Exposure/risk assessment
- Data review
- Risk communication
- Recommendations
- Documentation

SINCE 2007 ROLLOUT

38 Referrals

Environmental Issues

- Leaking UST
- Groundwater issue
- Soil (former pesticide factory)
- Indoor air quality (former funeral home, nail salon, auto paint store)



MANUAL CROSS CHECK: FORMER NET MANUFACTURER

- Playground arsenic in soil > state standards
- Cleaned up
- Risk communication to parents and teachers



DAYCARE INSPECTOR FORM: ADJACENT TO NAIL SALON

- Performed site visit
- Local health dept.recently inspected nail salon
- Nail salon confirmed floor treatment system and a separate venting



POSITIVE HEALTH IMPACTS

- Raised awareness of daycare siting exposure issues
- Our recommendations were implemented
- Issues are successfully addressed
- Improved environmental health practices in daycares, (e.g. Green cleaning)
- Model for other state and federal programs

LESSONS LEARNED

- Possible to do with existing staff
- Not a burden on inspectors
- Stress that work isn't time consuming
- Hasn't slowed licensing



QUESTIONS?

