Florida Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE)

Phase Three

Florida Department of Health
Division of Disease Control and Health Protection
Bureau of Environmental Health
Public Health Toxicology

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Choose Safe Places
for Early Care and Education
Planning. Guidance. Protection.

ATSDR Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

"The early years of a child's life matter because it lays the foundation for lifelong success!"

-Unknown

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Abbreviations

APPLETREE	ATSDR Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
CCCRT	Creative Center for Childhood Research and Training
CDC	Center for Disease Control and Protection
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CHD	County Health Department
CSPECE	Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education
ECE	Early Care and Education
E.G.	For example
EH	Environmental Health
ELC	Early Learning Coalition
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
EPMP	Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan
FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
FDCF	Florida Department for Children and Families
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FDOH	Florida Department of Health
FEHA	Florida Environmental Health Association
FFCCHA	Florida Family Child Care Home Association
FLWMI	Florida Water Management Inventory
GIS	Geographic Information System
ITRC	Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council
NCCCQI	National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement
NCECQA	National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance
NPL	National Priorities List
NWFWMD	Northwest Florida Water Management District
PFAS	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
VPK	Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

Executive Summary

Children are the most sensitive populations when exposed to environmental hazards such as toxic substances. They are more vulnerable and sensitive towards toxic materials due to their small size and behavior, which places them in closer contact with contamination and make them more susceptible to exposure. Some chemicals are more poorly metabolized in developing children than in fully developed adults, and thus may accumulate to higher degree in children. Some of these chemicals such as lead can be harmful for the development of children (Meyer et al., 2003).

Children (below the age of 18) spend most of their time in a care setting outside their homes (Axelrad et al., 2013). Places, where young children may be cared for outside their homes are summed in the "Early Care and Education" (ECE) term. In the United States alone, more than eight million children less than five years of age are cared for in a licensed child care facility (NCCCQI, 2015).

Limited data are available to determine the number of ECE locations and children at risk of harmful exposures. Therefore, current estimates of possible risk for children in ECE programs are based on extrapolated data. Extrapolation methods have the advantage of requiring only relatively small observed datasets. An extrapolation may, for example, take data observed for one state and apply it to all other states, where data have not been observed. Thus, extrapolation methods, as they use less data, are associated with higher uncertainty.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) created the Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE) program to help protect children from health risks while in care. The program is increasing awareness of chemical and radiological hazards, how to reduce exposure to existing hazards and the considerations necessary to avoid placing new ECE facilities at hazardous locations. ATSDR created the Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE) Guidance Manual, which offers tools and resources to build programs to protect children in their communities (ATSDR, 2017). The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) has joined forces with the ATSDR "Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) Program" to execute its mission to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts. Due to previous experiences of FDOH with environmental hazards in or near ECE locations, FDOH efforts aim to achieve CSPECE program goals - to protect the health of children, especially at ECE locations. The goals include defining the selection process for ECE program locations, developing methods to help ensure ECE programs are placed on safe sites, and implementing a pilot Choose Safe Places Program.

This report presents Phase Three of four phases of CSPECE implementation in Florida: Pilot and Future Program Operation

1 Introduction

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) has had previous experiences with environmental hazards in Early Care and Education (ECE) locations. On November 12, 2015, the Florida Poison Information Center in Tampa notified FDOH in Hillsborough County of a three-year-old boy, who had a urine mercury level of 79 μg/L (normal <10 μg/L) (Tewell, Spoto, Wiese, Aleguas, & Peredy, 2017). In response, FDOH developed a factsheet warning about the dangers of liquid mercury to young children. The Florida Department of Children and Families (FDCF) distributed this warning to 9,200 child care operators.

Children in ECE programs that are operating on land or in buildings that could be or were impacted by hazardous chemicals could be at risk. Even if an ECE program meets current state licensing regulations, the children and staff could be exposed to environmental contamination due to its location and location history. Children and staff at such locations could be at health risk and it is crucial to identify chemically-impacted ECE locations as early as possible.

To execute its mission to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts, FDOH joined a cooperative agreement with the APPLETREE Program of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The APPLETREE Program is the Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure. APPLETREE funds 25 state health departments to increase their capacity to advance ATSDR's goal of keeping communities safe from harmful chemical exposures and related diseases. Because ATSDR is committed to promoting the healthy development of children, ATSDR expanded the scope of this cooperative agreement to include Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE). The CSPECE is an initiative that, once implemented, protects the health of children in ECE programs by providing tools and resources to help public health professionals conduct early evaluations of these locations and their surroundings. These evaluations are tailored to reduce children's risk of being exposed to dangerous chemicals while at care. The CSPECE program emphasizes on identification of environmental hazards and environmental auditing as described by the National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (NCECQA). According to NCECQA, an environmental audit should be conducted before construction of a new building; renovation or occupation of an older building; or after a natural disaster, to properly evaluate and, where necessary, remediate ("clean up") or avoid sites where children's health could be compromised (EPA, 2011; Somers, Harvey, & Rusnak, 2011).

During the past year and as a continuous effort, FDOH is working to achieve the CSPECE program goals in Florida. The overall goal is to develop and implement methods that help ensure that ECE programs are placed on safe sites. The ATSDR provides technical support and guidance to APPLETREE states to help start individual state CSPECE programs. CSPECE in Florida will be implemented in four phases (Figure 1). Each phase will help to form partnerships, identify ways to strengthen licensing policies and build on existing resources. The program will include education and training of FDOH staff, ECE staff, staff from other agencies, as well as members of the community.

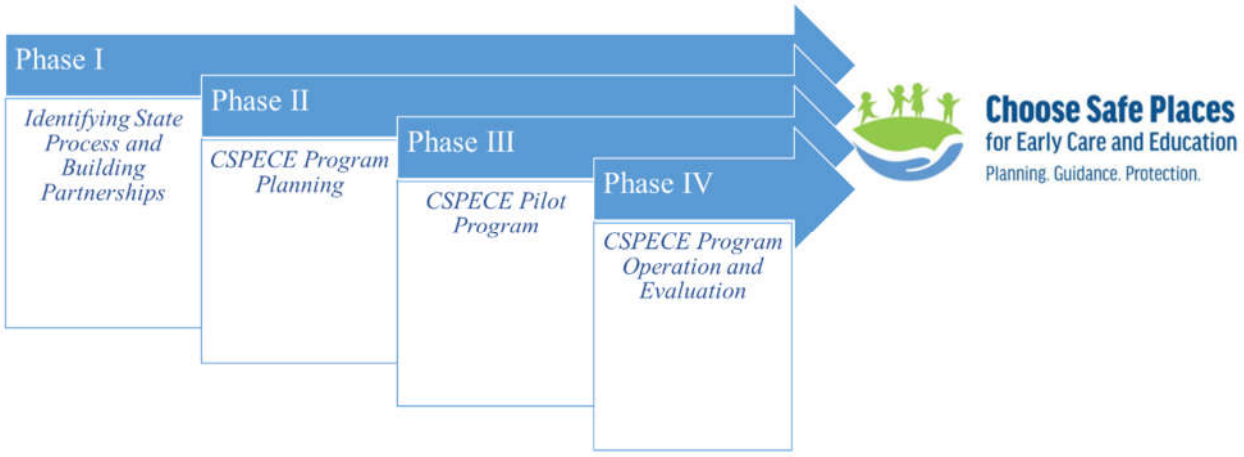

Figure 1: Overview of the Implementation of Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE) in Florida.

Phase One (Identifying State Process and Building Partnerships) was completed between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018. Phase One identified state processes and built partnerships. A desktop analysis was conducted to provide information for the following questions:

- How do early care and education licensing programs work within the State of Florida?
- Who are the stakeholders of ECE licensing programs and how are they/how could they be involved in ECE licensing?
- How have you built/will you build non-governmental partnerships with ECE decision makers?
- What data sources could be used to foster a CSPECE program?

The Phase One report is available on the FDOH website: http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/hazardous-waste-sites/_documents/choose-safe-places-phase1-final.pdf.

Phase Two (Program Planning) was completed between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019 and involved the development of a protocol package including program flowcharts and checklists (Updated, Appendix 1, Attachment B and C). Phase Two focused on:

- Planning and Development Considerations: Understanding the Needs for Successful CSPECE Program Implementation
- How the Florida Choose Safe Places Program Will Operate
- Program Strengths, Weaknesses, Challenges, Limitations and Gaps in Data Collection
- Florida CSPECE Protocol
- Florida GIS Mapping Tool

The Phase Two report is available on the FDOH website: http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/hazardous-waste-sites/_documents/cspece-phase-2-annual-report.pdf

The current report concludes Phase Three of the Florida CSPECE including an evaluation and discussion of the CSPECE process and progress of its implementation.

2 Phase Three: Pilot Program

2.1 Pilot Planning, Development, and Operation

2.1.1 Lessons Learned

The Florida Department of Health has updated and revised the operation procedures for its CSPECE initiative based on following lessons learned (Tables 1A and 1B):

Lesson #1: Information obtained by the Florida Department of Health are subject to Florida's Public Records Law.

Problem 1: Existing ECE providers may have concerns of possible negative outcomes to reputation and mitigation costs that could arise from the CSPECE assessment.

Solution 1: Prior to pilot testing, FDOH is working to ensure that ECE providers and other stakeholders (*e.g.*, parents) are well informed and educated about the importance of environmental health and keeping children safe while in their care. This approach has also allowed the program to optimize the pilot testing design to ensure that the compiled data and results will be complementary to all aspects of program implementation, including training. While this approach has delayed Florida CSPECE pilot testing and implementation, it ensures that all state-specific policy, licensing and other challenges have been considered prior implementation.

FDOH will continue to build new partnerships while nourishing existing collaborations. It is anticipated that extensive education and outreach will overcome existing barriers and possible resistance, open communication, strengthen relationships, and create a movement promoting child care safety.

Lesson #2: Florida has over 10,000 licensed ECE providers (as of February 2020) including over 900 new licenses given in 2019. Further, a second statewide GIS analysis identified more than 5,000 ECE program parcels located within 500 to 600 feet of one or more Cleanup-Sites listed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Problem 2a: The current program resources do not allow comprehensive evaluation and outreach/education efforts to all 10,000 existing ECE locations.

Solution 2a: Comprehensive evaluations will focus on ECE locations for which an assessment is requested by the respective provider. Continuing effort focuses on the statewide promotion of the CSPECE initiative and its services. Post-assessment outreach activities will be limited to locations of possible concern on a case-by-case basis.

Problem 2b: The current program resources will not allow comprehensive evaluation of all 5,000 ECE program parcels located within 600 feet of one or more of FDEP's Cleanup-Sites.

Solution 2b: Following consultation with our FDEP partner, the GIS screening procedure was refined. The maximum buffer distance was reduced to 500 feet and limited to exclude properties on public water supply, which is not considered of direct exposure risk.

Table 1A. Overview of lessons learned during Florida Choose Safe Places Phase Three. [Lesson #1 to #4]

Lesson Learned	Problem	Solution	Status
#1. Information obtained by FDOH are subject to Florida's Public Records Law	Existing providers may be concerned about reputation and mitigation costs	-Inform providers prior to pilot tests and implementation. -Design comprehensive pilot testing to produce data that consider all aspects needed for implementation	-FDCF distributed the Florida CSPECE factsheet to providers statewide, Oct 2019 -Completed outreach: o Presented at four FDCF provider meetings and one webinar (for homes) in the northwest region, Oct 2019 o Exhibit at the VPK conference by the Hillsborough County ELC, Feb 2020 o TMH Family and Baby Fair, Feb 2020 -Planned outreach: o Martin County workshop for ECE programs and schools, April 2020 o FFCCHA's annual conference for family child care home providers, June 2020 -Pilot testing materials are being reviewed
#2. Florida has over 10,000 licensed ECE providers. GIS analysis found over 5,000 locations located within 600 feet of cleanup site	Not feasible to conduct in-depth evaluation of 10,000/5,000 ECE locations	-Limit in-depth assessment to: o Requested assessments o ECE locations of concern as defined by GIS analysis -Limit post-assessment outreach to locations with concerns -Refine GIS analysis to better identify locations of concern	-The program will be request-based and on a first-come-first-serve basis -The need for post-assessment outreach will be determined on a case-by-case basis -GIS maximum buffer distance reduced to 500 feet o 500 feet buffer analysis excludes ECE locations on public water supply to focus on direct exposure to contaminated groundwater -The revised screening found 258 ECE locations within 500 feet of cleanup site (as of Jan 2020)
#3. Over 900 new licenses in 2019; FDCF manually updates new provider data, which are not publicly listed until after licenses are finalized	-Not feasible to conduct prior evaluation of all prospective locations -Pre-license data sharing is not possible -May be too late to choose a safer location	-Work by request -Inform widely and include CSPECE language and training in materials for prospective providers -In the future, add EH considerations to rule	-FDCF has added CSPECE language to their recommended considerations for prospective providers -FDCF will offer Florida CSPECE training for providers to prospective providers -FDCF will consider future rule changes
#4. CHD Inspectors are not able to meet the proposed time frame for EH inspection	Not feasible to perform EH inspection of all ECE locations with pending applications	Produce an EH self-assessment survey to distribute to new and existing providers	-An EH self-assessment survey is in review -Providers who submit their survey will receive applicable recommendations and will be able to request a comprehensive evaluation

CHD = County Health Department, CSPECE = Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education, ECE = Early Care and Education, EH = Environmental Health, ELC = Early Learning Coalition, FDCF = Florida Department of Children and Families, FFCCHA = Florida Family Child Care Home Association, GIS = Geographic Information System, VPK = voluntary pre-kindergarten.

Table 1B. Continued overview of lessons learned during Florida Choose Safe Places Phase Three. [Lesson #5 to #7]

Lesson Learned	Problem	Solution	Status
#5. Five of 67 counties have local licensing authority	Licensing regulations in locally licensed counties differ from each other and from FDCF's regulations	-Make contact with/inform the locally licensed counties -Learn about the local licensing processes and how the counties can support Florida CSPECE	-All local licensing managers have responded to FDOH in support of CSPECE -FDOH has met in-person with the Hillsborough County licensing manager -FDOH has partnered with the ELC of Hillsborough County -FDOH is planning to visit the other four counties over the coming year -Hillsborough County: o New providers conduct training before buying/leasing property o The ELC is involved with compliance/inspections -Palm Beach County: o Working to change rule to include environmental health considerations o Offered to include Florida CSPECE in the rule
#6. The Florida CSPECE internal checklist is too complicated and rigid	-Not flexible to accommodate the different features of different properties and parcels -Does not provide reviewers and easy overview	Develop a simple overview checklist and a report template for details	-The new checklist has been revised to a flexible form that also serves to give reviewers a brief overview for each evaluated site -Two report templates are being developed to help assessors provide detail and make consistent recommendations
#7. Ongoing data gaps for the GIS Interactive tool	-Uncertainty in well-use data -ECE provider well-use information is not filed in easily obtained records	Make well-use data available in the public database	-FDCF is moving their data to an electronic database -Well-use information will be included in the public database in the future

CSPECE = Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education, ECE = Early Care and Education, EH = Environmental Health, ELC = Early Learning Coalition, FDCF = Florida Department of Children and Families, GIS = Geographic Information System.

Lesson #3: Five counties of 67 in Florida are not regulated by FDCF: Broward, Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Sarasota.

Problem 3: Licensing regulations in five locally licensed counties differ from each other and from FDCF.

Solution 3: Communication has been initiated with the local licensing managers to inform about the Florida CSPECE initiative, learn about the local processes and how these can support the initiative.

Lesson #4: FDCF handles applications of prospective providers manually, and providers are not listed in the public database until licenses are final.

Problem 4: As data sharing is not occurring automatically, application data are not updated in the electronic database until a license has been given. Thus, providers are not listed before they have already committed to a property.

Solution 4: Florida CSPECE will be a "request-based" program also for prospective providers. Increasing awareness and interest in the initiative will be achieved by continuing state-wide education, as well as working with partners to include CSPECE information and training for new providers in their mandatory requirements. FDCF has already included information regarding Florida CSPECE in their considerations for new providers available online. FDCF will also consider future rule changes.

Lesson # 5: The environmental health (EH) inspection of all ECE locations with incoming license applications (including first time and renewals) were to be completed by the County Health Departments (CHDs). It is not feasible to perform CHD-inspections of every provider location with pending license.

Problem 5: CHD inspectors do not have flexibility in their schedules to meet a 1 to 2-week inspection deadline for new and renewal license applications.

Solution 5: Providers will be given the opportunity to perform their own EH assessment. An EH Self-Assessment Survey has been developed and is currently being tested as part of Florida's Pilot activities. In the future, the EH Self-Assessment Survey will be accessible for all providers, who will be able to submit the form to FDOH to request one or both of the following services:

- Receive recommendations by FDOH based on the submitted EH Self-Assessment Survey, and/or,
- upon request by the provider, receive a report summarizing a comprehensive evaluation conducted by FDOH.

Lesson # 6: FDOH's internal CSPECE evaluation checklist developed in Phase Two does not allow flexibility in the evaluation process.

Problem 6: The original checklist allowed little flexibility. The original format was developed to ensure that all considerations and evaluations would be made consistently. During a pre-pilot test of the checklist, FDOH's assessors discovered that a strict sequence of steps limits the outcome of the evaluation and potentially interferes with consistency of the process.

Solution 6: The checklist has been revised to a shorter, simpler format, which will quickly brief the reviewer on possible concerns for a location. In addition, two report templates are currently being developed to help assessors report significant information and make consistent recommendations.

Lesson #7: Ongoing communication with partners regarding the GIS Interactive Tool regarding geographic data points needed for initial screening purposes.

Problem 7: Potable drinking water well-use information is not readily available for all properties. While some data are available on the Florida Water Management Inventory Map, uncertainties remain.

Solution 7: In the future, FDCF will record potable drinking water well-use data electronically and include all public data in the public database, which is used to feed the Florida Choose Safe Places GIS Interactive Tool.

2.1.2 Updated Program Services

As a result of the Lessons Learned, FDOH has updated and/or newly developed the following Program Services:

- Florida ECE Location GIS Screening Process
- Florida CSPECE Program Protocol including flowcharts
- EH Self-Assessment Survey
- Comprehensive EH Evaluation
- Florida CSPECE Completion Certificates
- Florida CSPECE Limitation and Participation Disclaimer Consent
- Response activities for ECE locations of possible concern

2.1.2.1 Florida ECE Location GIS Screening Process

All ECE programs including potential locations will be evaluated per request. Requests made by prospective providers will be prioritized over existing license-holders. This prioritization is made to increase likelihood of choosing safe locations for new ECE programs. Once the program is fully implemented and integrated within the regulatory agencies, FDOH will perform quarterly GIS screenings of existing ECE locations and use the results in the GIS Interactive Tool. FDOH has conducted some initial screening to achieve a general understanding of the current status of ECE locations in Florida. FDEP data used as indicators of concern in the screening are listed in Section 7.

Parcels are screened for proximity to FDEP Cleanup-Sites using three buffer distances (10, 100, and 500 feet; Figure 2). These distances are measured from the edges of the parcel to be inclusive of the entire area that children and staff may occupy. After initial identification of locations with FDEP Cleanup-Sites within the three buffers, two tiers are used to narrow down possible concern (Figure 2).

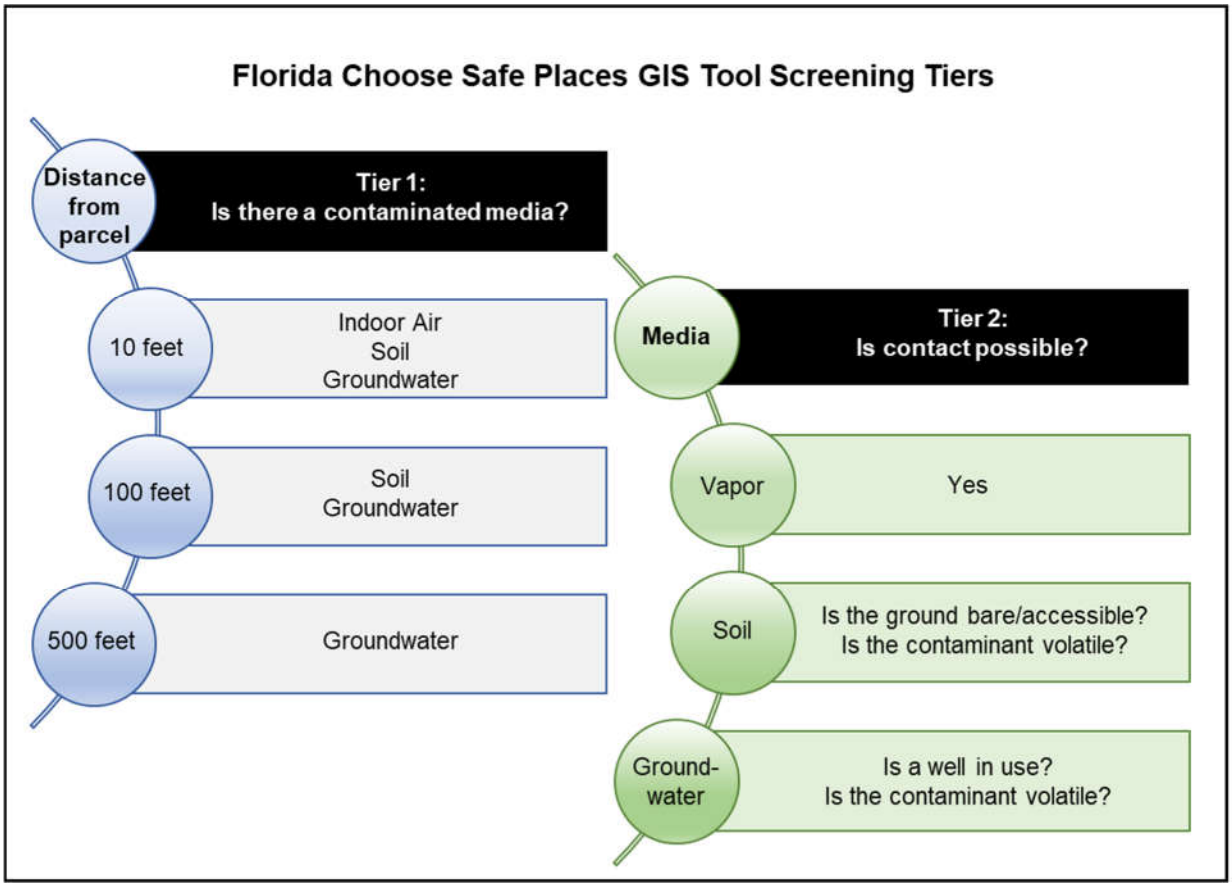

Figure 2: Florida Choose Safe Places GIS Mapping Tool Screening Tiers.

Tier 1 considers the media of possible concern (i.e., indoor air/vapors, groundwater, soil). Within 10 feet of a cleanup site, children and staff could be exposed to contamination via indoor air/vapors, soil, and groundwater (if these media are contaminated). In-depth evaluation will include screening for neighboring businesses such as dry cleaners and nail salons that use potentially harmful chemicals. At a distance of 100 feet of a FDEP Cleanup-Site, the main media of concern are soil and groundwater. At a distance of 500 feet of a cleanup site, only groundwater is considered a possible exposure media.

Tier 2 considers the potential for contact in more detail (Figure 2). If contaminated vapor or indoor air is present, there is potential for contact. If soil is contaminated, it must be evaluated if children and staff can come in contact with the soil. If the parcel is covered by cement or asphalt, for example, there is limited risk of exposure, whereas open gravel could lead to contact. At a 100-feet distance, contaminated soil may be present and could be a concern, if a barrier such as a fence lacks to prevent movement of soil/dust onto the ECE facility parcel.

Florida's public water supply is regulated and considered free of contamination. Thus, if groundwater is contaminated, children and staff may come in contact with the contamination only if the facility/home uses a private well for drinking or irrigation. To avoid redundant evaluation of ECE locations on public water supply, the GIS Mapping

Tool includes available well-use information. To be protective of volatile chemicals in soil or groundwater that can enter buildings from below via a process called vapor intrusion, all in-depth evaluation of soil and water contamination will also consider these volatiles.

2.1.2.2 Florida CSPECE Program Protocol including Flowcharts

The protocol had to be optimized throughout the Pilot Program in accordance with the lessons learned (Section 2.1, Tables 1A and 1B). As discussed in ***Solutions 2a and 3***, the Florida CSPECE will be a "request-based" program. Providers will be able to participate in one or all of the following services:

- **Florida CSPECE Training for Providers:**

  Providers will be able to complete Florida CSPECE's training for providers as part of FDCF's mandatory provider training (detailed further in Section 3). The training will educate providers on considerations regarding environmental health as well as the additional evaluation services offered through the initiative. Trainees will receive a certificate of participation.

- **Florida CSPECE EH Self-Assessment Survey (Appendix A, Attachment D):**

  Once the Florida CSPECE initiative is implemented, the EH-Self-Assessment Survey will be made available through FDOH, FDCF's and/or other stakeholders' websites. The form will also be distributed to providers statewide via mail-out. The self-assessment can be submitted to FDOH to receive written recommendations. Furthermore, providers will be able to use the form to request a Comprehensive EH evaluation conducted by FDOH. Self-assessors will receive a certificate of participation and a report summarizing FDOH's findings including any relevant recommendations.

- **Florida CSPECE Comprehensive EH Evaluation (Appendix A, Attachment C):**

  Providers will be able to request a comprehensive evaluation by contacting the program or through submission of the EH Self-Assessment Survey. Regardless of method of request, providers will need to complete a self-assessment in order to receive a comprehensive evaluation. The evaluation will be completed by a FDOH health assessor, who will use information from the self-audit, county appraisers, Google Earth, and more to evaluate the building and site, including site history. The health assessor will also conduct a geographical screening of the site using the GIS Interactive Tool. Participants will receive a certificate of participation and a report summarizing FDOH's findings including any relevant recommendations.

2.1.2.3 EH Self-Assessment Survey

EH Self-Assessment Surveys (Appendix A, Attachment D) without request of comprehensive evaluation will be evaluated by the program's health educator, only by the answers provided in the

self-assessment survey. A response template is being developed to ensure consistent recommendations. All recommendations will encourage comprehensive evaluation.

2.1.2.4 Comprehensive Environmental Health Evaluation

Comprehensive evaluation will be conducted by a program health assessor through detailed investigation of site and building history. The health assessor will include responses from the self-audit form to evaluate the site, but will also analyze information available via appraiser tools, Google Earth, and other online databases. Each location will also be geographically screened by the GIS Interactive Tool as discussed in Section 2.1.2.1. The health assessor will analyze available data to determine if there is a contaminated media, and if children and staff can come in contact with the media (Figure 2). The health assessor will also assess if data gaps exist and recommend relevant testing. Finally, the health assessor will compile a report with any relevant recommendations, which will be communicated to the provider.

2.1.2.5 Florida CSPECE Certificates

Providers will receive a **Certificate of Participation** upon completion of each service described above (Appendix 1, Attachment E). Participation in one service does not require participation in another, with the exemption of the Comprehensive EH Evaluation, which will require completion of the EH Self-Assessment Survey.

All participation in Florida Choose Safe Places will require written consent by the ECE program owner. The consent form clearly describes Florida's Public Records Law and a disclaimer that FDOH does not offer financial support for locations that need mitigation.

2.1.2.6 Florida CSPECE Limitation and Participation Disclaimer Consent Form

All participation in Florida Choose Safe Places will require written consent by the ECE program owner. The disclaimer consent form clearly describes Florida's Public Records Law and the Program Limitation and Participation Responsibilities.

2.1.2.7 Outreach activities for ECE locations of possible concern

The program will assist ECE locations with identified concerns to initiate contact with contractors and agencies, who can help with the mitigation process. The program will also perform outreach at locations with concern to help educate providers, teachers, parents, and children on how to eliminate or reduce exposure.

2.1.3 Florida CSPECE Referral Process

Florida Choose Safe Places will be open to referrals from all stakeholders. As highlighted under Lesson Learned #1, the pilot program has focused on a state-wide promotion of CSPECE as well as educational outreach and training for providers. The program encourages provider participation and allows them a proactive head start.

In the future, safe siting evaluation requests will be accepted from parents and other stakeholders. However, all participation in Florida CSPECE must receive consent from the owner of the ECE program.

2.2 Training and Community Workshops

Training and communication/workshops are essential tools for a program's success. Proper training will ensure enhancement of knowledge, skills and experiences leading to improved performance in the trainees' current roles, and ultimately increase their competence, ability and success (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Schematic overview of the advantages of frequent training and workshops.

2.2.1 Training Topics Received

Training received to accommodate the program's and CSPECE's needs are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Training and workshops received.

Topic	Provider
PFAS	ITRC
HazTox responder training	Local Environmental Planning Council
Environmental Health	National Environmental Health Association and Florida affiliate
ATSDR's Public Health Assessment Training: Modules 1 – 4	ATSDR
ATSDR's Public Health Assessment Training: Pilot-Tested Modules 5 and 6.	ATSDR
ATSDR's Public Health Assessment Tool (PHAST) and Shower Model	ATSDR
ATSDR's Choose Safe Places	ATSDR
ATSDR Regional Training	ATSDR
Distant Education and Learning Course	Region IV Public Health Training Center
GIS – Going Places with Spatial Analysis	Esri
CPR/First Aid class	Red Cross
HazMat Symposium	
Early Learning Coalition Training	VPK/ELC Hillsborough County
Level 1 of Certified Public Manager Training	Florida State University
Chemical characteristics including Fate and Transport, History of Use, Pathways, Risk Communication	EPA, ITRC, ATSDR, FDOH, Private Sector
FDCF Licensing Process	FDCF

ATSDR = Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry; ELC = Early Learning Coalition; EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency; FDCF = Florida Department of Children and Families; GIS = Geographic Information System; ITRC = Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council; PFAS = per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances; VPK = Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten.

2.2.2 Trainings Conducted by FDOH within Florida CSPECE's Outreach

Based on Phase Three's outreach activities, the program learned that training needs to be made available for the following stakeholders:

- ✓ County Health Departments
- ✓ Owners and staff of the ECE programs
- ✓ Other staff and agencies involved in the Florida CSPECE program
- ✓ Parents
- ✓ Children

FDOH has and will continue to develop training. An overview of trainings and workshops the program provided or contributed to is given in Table 3. Training topics have included:

- ✓ What is the Florida CSPECE?

- ✓ What are environmental hazards?
- ✓ How to use the Florida CSPECE Environmental Health Self-Assessment Survey
- ✓ How to use the Florida CSPECE checklist
- ✓ Understanding the Florida CSPECE protocol
- ✓ Education regarding exposure to chemicals and associated health effects
- ✓ Education regarding how to protect yourself and your family from exposure
- ✓ Education regarding chemicals such as: radon, arsenic, mercury, lead, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and more
- ✓ What are hazardous waste sites?
- ✓ What are chemicals of concern (COCs)?
- ✓ What is involved in a basic human health risk assessment?

Table 3: Training and workshops conducted by the Florida Department of Health CSPECE team.

What	Where	When	Duration	Number of attendance
Risk Communication	FEHA, Howey in the Hills	August 2019	30 min	25
PFAS	FEHA, Howey in the Hills	August 2019	30 min	25
Florida CSPECE – An Introduction	FEHA, Howey in the Hills	August 2019	30 min	25
Florida CSPECE – Announcement for Providers	FDCF Provider meeting, Chipley	October 2019	15 min	29
	FDCF Provider meeting, Panama City	October 2019	15 min	51
	FDCF Provider meeting, Tallahassee	October 2019	15 min	40
	FDCF Provider meeting, Tallahassee	October 2019	1 min	21
	FDCF Provider meeting/webinar, Tallahassee	October 2019	15 min	12
VPK Conference by Hillsborough County ELC	Tampa	February 2020	All day outreach	150
Baby and Family Fair	Tallahassee Memorial Hospital	February 2020	3 hrs outreach	300 Families

CSPECE = Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education; ELC = Early Learning Coalition; FDCF = Florida Department of Children and Families; FEHA = Florida Environmental Health Association; PFAS = per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances; VPK = Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten.

FDOH has presented on Florida Choose Safe Places in several ***webinar trainings*** offered by FDOH and ATSDR, as well as at the annual training by the Florida Environmental Health Association (FEHA, 2 Aug 2019).

Training will be provided year around. Some training will be accessible on demand via recordings on the FDOH TRAIN website (https://www.train.org/florida/), the FDOH SharePoint, and/or on the FDOH Hazardous Waste Site Health Risk Assessment website (http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/hazardous-waste-sites/index.html). In-person training will also be available. Training will be provided based on educational background. Timelines have not been discussed yet.

All assessed locations with potential concerns will receive educational support within four weeks of the final recommendation report. Site-specific training will be tailored, and in-person training and/or availability sessions will be provided. FDOH has produced a factsheet and poster to present at availability sessions. Facility owners, staff and parents will be educated on how to avoid/reduce exposure to possible environmental hazards. Locations where concerns were identified will receive site-specific education.

After evaluation of the Pilot Tests, the training for providers will be finalized and made publicly available. The final training for providers will be adapted to make Florida CSPECE trainings for other stakeholders including parents, licensing and other agency staff.

All training and attendance will be recorded and archived. Each training will finish with a short multiple-choice test. In addition to FDCF's education credits, all trainees will receive a Florida CSPECE Certificate.

2.2.2.1 Training for Children

An environmental study by Otto et al. (2019) showed that both environmental attitude and behavior form around the age of 7 and continues to develop until the age of 10. The study recommends that to maximize the effects of education for sustainable development, both environmental attitude and environmental behavior should be addressed at the same time.

Therefore, FDOH is creating an Activity Coloring Book, to provide a fun way for children aged 5 and less to learn about environmental health and safety. The book uses two approaches to tell a story and teach the children how to be safe when playing outside. It is a fun activity for both, children and parents, using rhymes and coloring themes. After coloring, the book can be used as a story book, and the children will hear the educational rhymes again and again.

3 Florida CSPECE Website

The program is currently maintaining a website for Florida Choose Safe Places nested within the main FDOH program website: http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/hazardous-waste-sites/safe-places.html.

To reach policy makers and promote Choose Safe Places in Florida on a broader scale, a web developer has been contracted for the following:

1. To create a website (*HealthyPlacesFlorida.com*) with allocated space for Florida CSPECE
2. To collaborate with the Office of Communications within the Florida Department of Health to create a website (*HealthyHomesFlorida.com*) that guides the user on how to make homes better and safer places to live, as well as on how to prevent exposure to environmental, hazardous chemicals

HealthyPlacesFlorida.com will be a website linked to *HealthyHomesFlorida.com*. A child's day care, whether it is in a commercial building or a care givers' private dwelling, is a child's home away from home. All homes should be clean, safe and maintained. If people don't know what a healthy environment looks like in their homes, it could be harder for them to see what "unhealthy" looks like in an ECE program.

As of February 2020:

- the framework for *HealthyPlacesFlorida.com* and *HealthyHomesFlorida.com* has been developed
- the content for *HealthyPlacesFlorida.com* and some areas of *HealthyHomesFlorida.com* are being summarized
- illustrations used for *HealthyPlacesFlorida.com* are being developed
- a DIY cleaning infographic to reduce exposure to hazardous chemicals used in a regular household and business location has been developed

4 Florida CSPECE Partners and Planning Group

Florida Choose Safe Places is led by FDOH's Hazardous Waste Site Health Risk Assessment Program. FDOH hosted a "kick-off" meeting for the then newly formed Florida Choose Safe Places Planning Group in February 2019. The original planning group included six external partners: Two FDOH Programs (Radon and Indoor Air, and Lead Poisoning Prevention), FDCF, FDEP, the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of the Big Bend, and the Creative Center for Childhood Research and Training (CCCRT). During Phase Three, the planning group has been expanded to include an additional three partners: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), FDOH's Facilities Program, and the ELC of Hillsborough County (Figure 4).

Each partner has committed to serve as an advisor for the Florida CSPECE initiative. The group has met via Skype webinars several times since the kick-off meeting and continues to meet via webinar on a quarterly basis to provide progress updates and receive partner feedback. FDOH also hosts an annual in-person meeting at Tallahassee headquarters. The annual meeting will be webcast for Planning Group members located outside Tallahassee.

4.1 Partner Roles and Responsibilities

FDOH Hazardous Waste Health Risk Assessment program is responsible for overall program management, including facility identification and assessment, reporting, as well as training and

education. FDOH is also responsible for initiating communication with partners when relevant. FDOH utilize databases of FDCF and FDEP in the ECE facility identification and assessment process.

FDOH Radon provides help with radon assessments, including guidance on the health assessment and radon-testing of locations that have not been tested.

The **FDOH Facilities Program** is important for communication with counties licensed through the CHD.

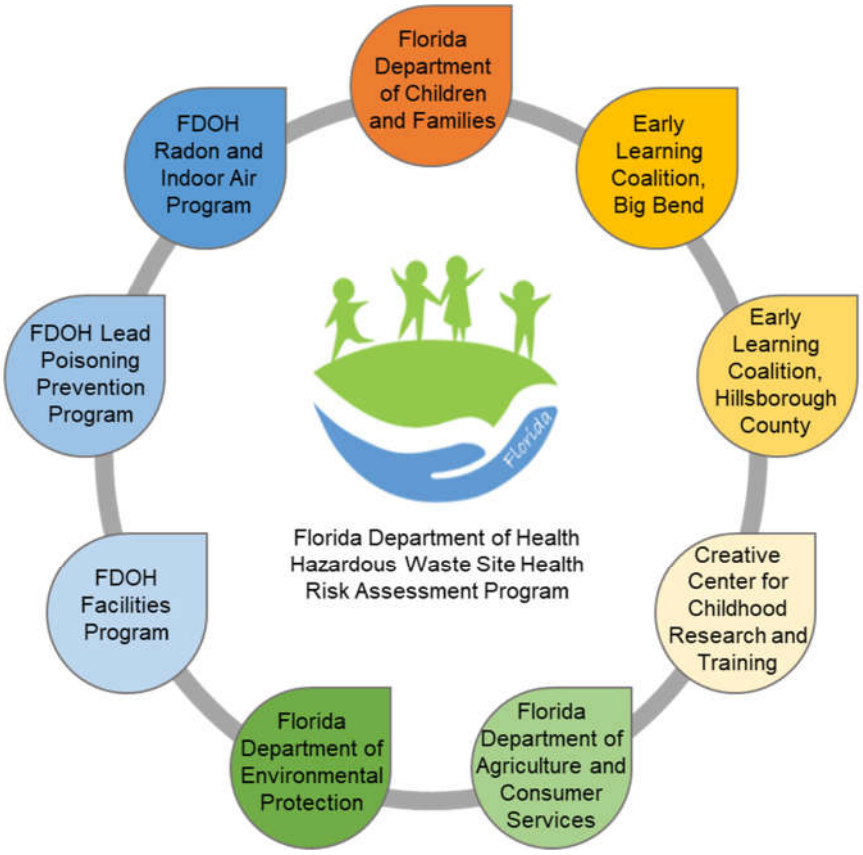

Figure 4: Advising partners of the Florida Choose Safe Places Planning Group. FDOH = Florida Department of Health.

FDCF is the state's main regulator for childcare licensing and a major advisor for Florida CSPECE. FDCF is highly engaged in the initiative and provides many important contributions. Some examples are listed below:

- Provides insight on the licensing process and policies
- Facilitates data sharing, contacts, and distribution of CSPECE information
- Facilitates communication between FDOH and ECE facility providers
- Informs on relevant venues for outreach efforts

- Works on process changes in support of Florida CSPECE
- Added CSPECE language to their recommendations for new providers

FDEP is the state's regulatory lead agency for environmental management and contributes in many ways to Florida CSPECE:

- Facilitates the automated data sharing process with the CSPECE GIS team
- Provides ongoing advice on the geographical scale of the screening process
- Provides ongoing advice on relevant regulatory components

All other partner programs including **FDACS** contribute expert advice on risk of exposure to chemicals such as radon, lead, and pesticides.

Some examples of partner contributions are listed below:

- Support development of tools including the Environmental Health Self-Assessment Survey
- Support efforts to increase awareness of radon, lead, and other chemical hazards
- Support partner development

The **ELC of Hillsborough County** has accepted to review the Florida CSPECE coloring book, offer Florida CSPECE's training for providers, and distribute information materials. The team plans to work closer with the ELC of the Big Bend and the CCCRT as training progresses.

The Florida CSPECE initiative has received letters of support from several partners including the FDOH Radon and Indoor Air Program, FDOH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, FDEP, FDACS, FDCF and the ELC of the Big Bend.

A line of communication has been established with the five counties with local licensing authority (Broward, Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Sarasota), who all provide crucial support. In the future, Hillsborough County child care licensing will include CSPECE in their training for new providers and the county's ELC compliance program will collaborate with Florida CSPECE. Palm Beach is changing their rule language and will work with Florida CSPECE to incorporate relevant language.

5 Florida CSPECE Data Pool

The Florida Department of Health identified necessary requirements for a successful planning and implementation of a CSPECE program that will protect children, be proactive, and raise awareness.

<u>Existing data sources and tools utilized for the CSPECE program include:</u>

- ✓ Environmental data
  - Geographic Information System (GIS)
  - FDEP data and maps
  - FDEP Information Portal and Oculus

All FDEP databases are connected and provide access to reports needed to assess and identify the contaminated media, the contaminant(s) of concern, the groundwater flow, and other useful data.

- Water Management District database
- Florida Water Management Inventory (FLWMI) database (FDOH)
- FDOH Well Surveillance Program
- FDACS Data

✓ ECE data

- FDCF data and GIS maps
- Inspection Forms used for permitting (FDCF)

✓ Risk Assessment Tool

- Public Health Assessment Site Tool (PHAST) (ATSDR resource)
  The tool will be used to determine risk factors at ECE locations of concern.

6 Florida CSPECE – Protocol [Program Operation]

FDOH has optimized the protocol developed in Phase Two to ensure consistent evaluation for the Florida CSPECE program (Appendix 1). The proposed protocol is presented in a schematic matrix (Appendix 1, Attachment B, Flowcharts Zero, I, II, and III):

Flowchart Zero - gives an overview of the Florida CSPECE program and highlights the roles and responsibilities.

Flowchart I - presents a detailed description of the initial screening process using the EH Self-Assessment Survey

Flowchart II – presents a detailed description of the comprehensive evaluation process for ECE providers requesting a more detailed evaluation.

Flowchart III – is supplemental to Flowchart II proving guidance on the evaluation process.

The protocol flowchart and checklist are not intended as standalone documents but are to be used in conjunction with the each other. The checklist consists of easy to follow components and is intended as a tool to help the assessor perform the assessment. Flowcharts I and II are intended as tools for completion of the checklist. Flowchart III is supplemental to help with the comprehensive evaluation process (Appendix 1, Attachment B).

7 Florida's CSPECE GIS Interactive Tool

7.2 Interactive Maps and Story Maps Development

Florida's CSPECE program is continuing its effort developing an interactive mapping tool merging all available data necessary to evaluate the environmental health at and around early childcare and education centers. The Interactive Map will enhance data sharing turnaround times as every collaborating partner will have direct access to the map and therefore be available to

update necessary data. Once the development of the Interactive Map has been completed, FDOH will create Story Maps to provide answers to many questions and make it available to a wide range of audiences.

7.2.1 Introducing Florida's CSPECE Interactive Map

The data needed for a successful CSPECE program are available from diverse agencies fulfilling different purposes. Further, these data are separate and independent from each other and use different displaying tools. Therefore, the CSPECE program identified the need of developing an interactive tool merging all available data necessary to evaluate the environmental health at and around early childcare and education centers.

An assigned GIS manager gathered the following data from collaborating partners:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)	Maps and Shapefiles of ○ Brownfields Site and areas ○ Petroleum Sites ○ Waste Cleanup-Sites ○ Florida Institution Controls Registry ○ Open, Inactive, and Closed Sites ○ Superfund Sites ○ Dry-cleaning Solvent Program Sites
Florida Department of Children and Families	Public listing of all licensed ECE providers
Florida Department of Health	Florida Water Management Inventory map

7.2.2 Florida CSPECE GIS Interactive Tool – Pilot Results

An initial screening completed in March 2019 discovered over 3,000 ECE locations within 600 feet of one or more FDEP Cleanup Sites (Lesson Learned #2, Section 2.1.1). The GIS Interactive Tool screening process was refined to generate more feasible identifications of sites of possible concern. To pilot test the new approach, a statewide screening was completed using FDCF, FDEP, and FDOH data from January 2020.

For the 500-foot buffer, the total number of matches for ECE locations in proximity to FDEP Cleanup-Sites [1] was 5,322 (Figure 5). This number exceeded the total number of matches (over 3,000) found in the initial screening (March 2019). However, when ECE locations connected to public water supply were excluded, the number of matches was reduced to 427 (Figure 5). Some ECE locations were located near several FDEP Cleanup-Sites replicating some ECE locations.

[1] ***FDEP Cleanup-Sites:*** A site contaminated by hazardous waste and currently in the FDEP cleanup process and/or awaiting cleanup funding. Cleanup programs include: Brownfields, Petroleum, EPA Superfund (CERCLA), Dry-cleaning, Responsible Party Cleanup, State Funded Cleanup, State Owned Lands Cleanup and Hazardous Waste Cleanup. https://geodata.dep.state.fl.us/datasets/4ddebc19ee7743689bdef343584c695d_0

When replicated ECE locations were accounted for, the number of matches for ECE locations with possible well-use within 500 feet of one or more FDEP Cleanup-Sites was reduced further from 427 to 258 (Figure 5). Due to uncertainties in well-use data, these results are estimated. Considering only ECE locations with known or likely private well-use, the number of ECE locations within 500 feet of one or more FDEP Cleanup-Sites is reduced from 258 to 12 (Figure 5).

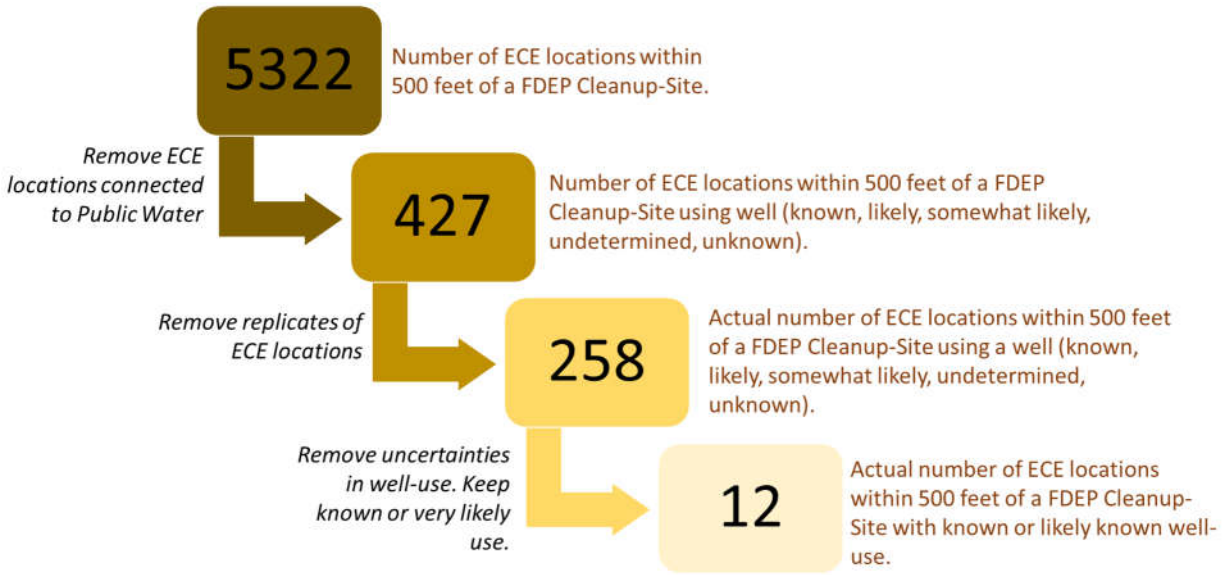

Figure 5. Statewide GIS screening to identify ECE locations of possible concern within 500 feet of FDEP Cleanup-Site(s) (as of January 2020).

The findings presented in Figure 5 and described above show that the optimized screening approach was successful to reduce the number of actual ECE locations with possible concern to a more realistic and more feasible target. It is important to consider that the GIS Interactive Tool is only an initial screening tool that triggers evaluation of locations of possible concern. ECE locations identified by the tool, e.g., to be within 500 feet of a FDEP Cleanup-Site, do not necessarily have environmental health concerns and further evaluation would be recommended.

Figure 6 (A) presents an overview of the different categories of FDEP Cleanup-Sites that matched within 500 feet of 427 ECE locations with possible well-use. Most FDEP Cleanup-Sites are Petroleum Sites (213), followed by Responsible Party Sites [2] (123), and Dry-cleaning Solvent Program Cleanup-Sites (64) (Figure 6 A).

As noted prior, it is important to understand that the GIS Interactive Tool provides an initial insight in identifying ECE locations of possible concern that could trigger further evaluation. For Responsible Party Sites, the screening includes many closed sites, which may no longer have concerns. Sites with Institutional Control(s) are not of concern if the requirements are met.

[2] ***Responsible Part Site:*** A FDEP Cleanup-Site where investigation, monitoring and mitigation is funded by the owner or the party responsible for the contamination.

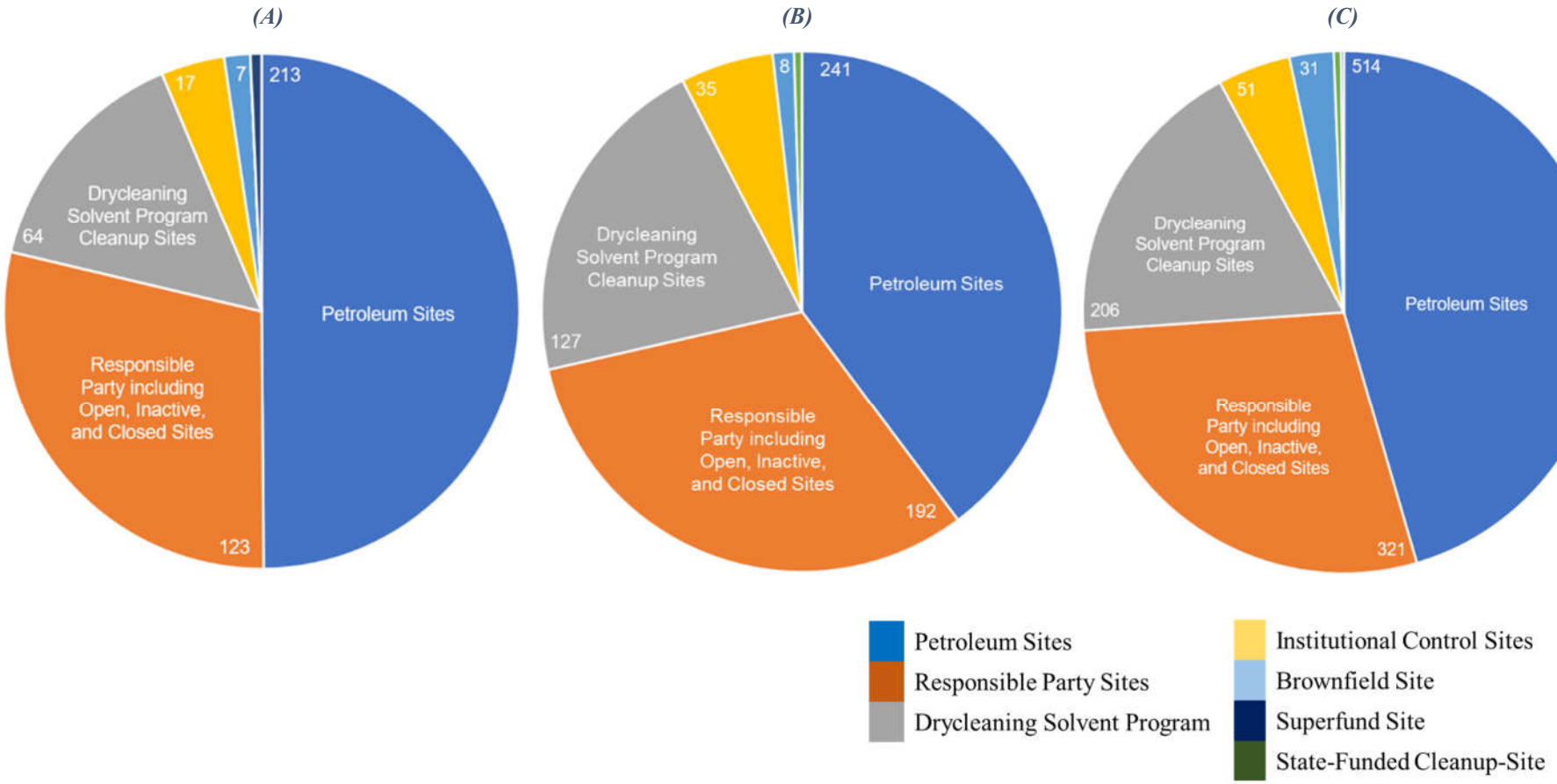

Figure 6. Number of FDEP Cleanup Sites within following distances of ECE locations: (A) 500 feet and with possible private well use, (B) 10 feet, and (C) 100 feet. Statewide GIS screening (as of January 2020). [Note: 10- and 100-feet evaluation is currently not adjusted by well-use.]

Figures 6 (B) and 6 (C) present the distribution of FDEP Cleanup-Sites within 10 and 100 feet of ECE location, respectively. These screening results show all matches found through initial screening and identified 606 and 1,556 ECE locations within 10 and 100 feet, respectively. Similar to the results for the 500 feet buffer screening, the Petroleum Sites accounted for most of the FDEP Cleanup-Sites, followed by Responsible Party Sites[2], and Dry-cleaning Solvent Program Cleanup-Sites (Figures 6 B and 6 C).

7.3 Florida's CSPECE GIS Tool for Emergency Response

Contamination from existing and potential contaminated sites can pose a risk to public health, which could be enhanced during a natural disaster. Currently, the necessary capacity to immediately identify, respond to, evaluate, and minimize risks is lacking. Appropriate planning and knowledge about existing and potential contaminated sites prior to the natural disaster will improve the necessary capacity for response. The Florida CSPECE GIS Interactive Tool is being designed to identify ECE locations located near hazardous waste sites and other sites that use chemicals of concern. The data collected for this tool can be utilized to develop simulation methodologies for use in preparedness exercises and educational outreach. Data are also used to develop a web application allowing users to navigate to a location within Florida and access site-specific public health information from multiple resources relating to contamination and other threats. Therefore, the Florida CSPECE GIS Interactive Tool can be utilized following a natural disaster and quickly identify sites of potential risk of chemical mobilization and nearby ECE locations that may be at risk of disaster-triggered chemical exposure.

8 Program Strengths, Weaknesses, Challenges, Limitations and Gaps in Data Collection

Program strengths: The Florida Choose Safe Places Program has the advantage of a strong planning group with partners from several state agencies. Having a strong advisory group facilitates not only database access and data sharing, but also enables consultation and support from experts across all relevant fields.

In Florida, there are many very versatile online databases available to support most data requirements.

FDOH has the advantage of having a GIS team to help develop the mapping tools needed to locate ECE programs near hazardous waste sites and other sites of concern.

Program Weaknesses: The sheer number of licensed ECE providers in Florida (10,370; FDCF database as of February 2020) continues to present a challenge for the program. As the program becomes more established however, the need for assessment will be reduced to fewer locations.

The State of Florida has limited data available to address concerns of possible nearby pesticide applications (See Florida Choose Safe Places Phase Two Report).

Owner privacy policies and Florida's Public Records Law are expected to present challenges with respect to site history assessments, including knowledge about the presence of asbestos and lead-based paint.

9 Florida CSPECE Evaluation and Performance Measure Plan

The CSPECE EPMP is included in the FDOH APPLETREE program Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan (EPMP) submitted October 8, 2018 (Appendix 2). The Florida APPLETREE EPMP was submitted to meet the requirements set by the ATSDR, and as a condition of the APPLETREE cooperative agreement with FDOH.

10 Florida CSPECE Success Stories

Story #1: EH Self-Assessment Survey

In 2019, Florida licensed over 10,000 childcare providers (Lesson Learned #2), including more than 900 new license holders (Lesson Learned #3). Florida's CHDs do not have the capacity to perform EH inspections for all licensed providers (Lesson Learned #4), and FDCF manages applications for new providers manually. To meet possible high demand without exhausting resources, Florida CSPECE has developed an EH Self-Assessment Survey to encourage and help providers conduct a preliminary EH assessment of their ECE property and location. The survey will also serve as an educational tool by highlighting important EH considerations to help improve the environmental safety of property and parcel. Discussions have already begun to incorporate the EH Self-Assessment Survey in Florida's future licensing requirements.

Story #2: Statewide Distribution of Florida CSPECE Factsheet to Providers

Florida has over 10,000 licensed ECE programs throughout the state (Lesson Learned #2). In October 2019, FDCF distributed the Florida Choose Safe Places factsheet to 10,177 providers statewide including the counties with local licensing authority. The factsheet has also been distributed in person at four provider meetings in Florida's northwest region (106 providers outreached), one provider conference in Hillsborough County (136 providers outreached), and at the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Baby and Family Fair (300 families outreached) (Table 4).

The program will continue to perform outreach to ensure that providers are well-informed of Florida CSPECE. At the time of writing, the team plans to exhibit Florida CSPECE at Florida's Family Child Care Home Association in June 2020. This will help reach ECE family home providers, who do not generally show great attendance at the other provider meetings.

Story #3: Locally Licensed Counties

In the State of Florida, FDCF licenses ECE providers in 62 of 67 counties. The remaining five counties, Broward, Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Sarasota have local licensing authority. While these counties must meet and over-achieve the minimum licensing requirements of FDCF, their licensing processes differ from FDCF's and each other (Lesson Learned #5). The program is in successful communication with all five locally licensed counties, who have shown great support of Florida CSPECE.

- Hillsborough County Local Licensing Authority

  The team met with the local licensing manager for Hillsborough County in January 2020 to learn their licensing procedure. The county is very supportive of CSPECE and their licensing procedure may be particularly well suited to reach prospective providers due to their early training of prospective providers

- Palm Beach County Local Licensing Authority

  The county is working on new rule language, which will include new language regarding environmental health. The county will consider CSPECE.

Story #4: 2019/2020 Brought Additional Partnerships and Collaborations

- Hillsborough County Early Learning Coalition (ELC)

  Florida CSPECE partnered with Hillsborough ELC. The ELC is committed to serve the program in an advisory capacity. As the ELC provides training for providers, it will be a great source of expertise on training tools including Florida CSPECE's activity book for children. The ELC has offered to review the book to confirm that it is age- and education appropriate. The ELC's compliance program will also be useful for compliance issues.

- Hernando County CHD
  - *The program has established contact with the EH Disaster Planner for Hernando County. This CHD has developed and maintained a Child Care Emergency Response Plan in collaboration with Pasco County, the Counties' ELCs, and Hernando County Emergency Management. Florida CSPECE plans to work with Hernando County and utilize their guide to incorporate emergency planning in Florida Choose Safe Places. The team will build natural disaster planning into the GIS Interactive Toolkit in the future.*

Story #5: Letters of Support

In 2019, Florida CSPECE received Letters of Support from following Florida CSPECE Stakeholders:

- ✓ Florida Department for Agriculture and Consumer Services
- ✓ Florida Department of Children and Families

- ✓ Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- ✓ FDOH - Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- ✓ FDOH – Radon and Indoor Air program
- ✓ FDOH Public Health Research Program [Environmental Public Health Tracking Program / Florida Birth Defects Registry / Occupational Health and Safety Program]
- ✓ Early Learning Coalition Big Bend

The Letters of Support highlighted the importance of the initiative for Florida regarding overlapping visions, missions, and goals of all Stakeholders. It was stated several times that it is essential to continue the work on Florida CSPECE to assist each of the stakeholders reaching their goals to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida.

11 Path Forward – Phase Four and Beyond

To guarantee a successful and long-term implementation of the CSPECE in Florida, additional funding sources will be required to hire additional staff and/or to support other parties to conduct the CSPECE at the local level (*e.g.*, at the county level).

Phase Four evaluates the Pilot-Testing effort and implemented program, including evaluation of its effectiveness for the State of Florida. It will give a thorough description of tools implemented as well as steps taken to integrate Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education and environmental exposure concerns into licensing improvement programs.

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APPENDIX 1: FLORIDA CHOOSE SAFE PLACES – REVISED PROTOCOL

PROTOCOL

PRELMINARY

Florida Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education

Planning | Guidance | Protection

Revised:
Friday, April 10, 2020

Prepared by:
Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Health

Under Cooperative Agreement with
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

FOREWORD

Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE) is a federal initiative created by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). CSPECE encourages thoughtful consideration of where to locate early care and education (ECE) programs. It gives towns, cities, and states a framework to adopt practices that will make sure ECE programs are not located near chemical hazards. The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) has partnered with ATSDR to develop Florida CSPECE.

The *Florida CSPECE Protocol* guides ECE providers , public health officials and communities through the Florida CSPECE's evaluation process to ensure children's safety from environmental impacts. The assessment process engages governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in a series of tasks to investigate possible environmental hazards where children learn and play. The assessment considers hazards that could harm children's health and the actions necessary to protect children at risk in the present and future.

FDOH and ATSDR are committed to reduce children's risk of being exposed to dangerous chemicals during their care. ATSDR wants professionals in public health, community planning, licensing, zoning, environmental protection, early care and education, and other fields to ensure the safety of ECE locations within their communities and are committed to providing them support in doing so.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Florida Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE) receives advice through a Planning Group of 18 members comprising representatives from governmental and non-governmental agencies, and coalitions. Members provide overall advice, direction and oversight, as well as access to data needed for a successful CSPECE. As CSPECE continues to excel, the number of members may increases based on the identified needs. In addition to the Planning Group, Florida CSPECE receives support and advice from many other professionals across the state with local expertise relevant for the initiative.

Planning Group (as of February 2020)

Lead

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Children are the most sensitive populations when exposed to environmental hazards such as toxic substances. They are more vulnerable and sensitive towards toxic materials due to their small size and behavior that places them in closer contact with contamination and make them more susceptible to exposure. Some chemicals are more poorly metabolized in developing children than in fully developed adults, and thus may accumulate to higher degree in children. Some of those chemicals such as lead can be harmful for the development of children (Meyer et al., 2003).

Children (below the age of 18) spend most of their time in a care setting outside their homes (Axelrad et al., 2013). Places where young children may be cared for outside their homes are included in the “Early Care and Education” (ECE) term. In the United States alone, more than eight million children less than five years of age are cared for in a licensed child care facility (NCCCQI, 2015).

Limited data are available to determine the number of ECE programs and children at risk of harmful exposures. Therefore, current estimates of possible risk for children in ECE programs are based on extrapolated data. Extrapolation methods have the advantage of requiring only relatively small observed datasets. An extrapolation may, for example, take data observed for one state and apply it to all other states, where data have not been observed. Thus, extrapolation methods, as they use less data, are associated with higher uncertainty.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) created the Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE) program to help protect children from health risks while in care. The program is increasing awareness of chemical and radiological hazards, how to reduce exposure to existing hazards and the considerations necessary to avoid placing new ECE programs at hazardous locations. ATSDR created the CSPECE Guidance Manual that offers tools and resources to build programs to protect children in their communities (ATSDR, 2017). The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) has joined forces with the ATSDR “Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) Program” to execute its mission to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts. Due to previous experiences of environmental hazards in or near ECE locations in Florida, FDOH works to achieve CSPECE program goals to protect the health of children during care. The goals include defining the selection process for ECE program locations, developing methods to help ensure ECE programs are placed on safe sites, and implementing a pilot Choose Safe Places Program.

The protocol entails five main components outlined below to ensure children’s safety in places, where they learn and play:

Florida CSPECE Main Protocol Components

Component A:	**Florida CSPECE GIS Interactive Tool: Database Maintenance** FDOH maintains the GIS Interactive Tool database. The GIS Interactive Tool combines relevant data and map ECE locations together with hazardous waste sites helping to identify ECE locations of possible concern.
Component B:	**Environmental Health (EH) Evaluation: Self-Assessment Survey** ECE providers conduct EH Self-Assessments and submit the surveys to FDOH. The CSPECE manager creates a case file for the ECE program, evaluates the surveys and submits recommendation letters to the providers. If Comprehensive Evaluation is requested, a health assessor is assigned (Component C).
Component C:	**Environmental Health Evaluation: Comprehensive Evaluation** Health assessors use databases maintained by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other tools to research ECE location history for any possible hazards (*e.g.*, past land use), identify chemicals of possible concern, contaminated media (*e.g.*, groundwater, soil) and other concerns. The CSPECE compiles all information and recommendation in a final report (Component E).
Component D	**Communication with Partners** FDOH continuously communicates with partners such as County Health Departments, Child Care Licensing Managers and other relevant professionals throughout evaluation process.
Component E:	**Certification - Reporting - Outreach** Recommendations based on the EH-Self Assessment Surveys are communicated in concise letters. Recommendations based on the Comprehensive Evaluation are communicated in a full reports. Training and other outreach are performed for ECE locations with concerns. Florida CSPECE Certificates of Participation are given upon completion of any Florida CSPECE service.

CSPECE = Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education; ECE = Early Care and Education; FDOH = Florida Department of Health.

PART I: OVERVIEW

1. Purpose

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) has had previous experiences with environmental hazards at Early Care and Education (ECE) locations in Florida. On November 12, 2015, the Florida Poison Information Center in Tampa notified FDOH in Hillsborough County about a boy aged 3 years with a urine mercury level of 79 µg/L (normal <10 µg/L) (Tewell, Spoto, Wiese, Aleguas, & Peredy, 2017). As a result, FDOH developed a factsheet that warned about the dangers of liquid mercury to young children. The Florida Department of Children and Families (FDCF) distributed this warning to 9,200 home child care operators.

Children cared for in ECE programs that are operating on land or in buildings that could be or were impacted by hazardous chemicals could be at health risk. Identifying such ECE locations as early as possible is crucial to eliminate risk of health problems to staff and children, who are more sensitive to the effects of chemicals. Even if an ECE program meets current state licensing regulations, the children and staff could be exposed to environmental contamination due to the location and location history of the ECE program.

2. Target

To execute FDOH's mission to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts, FDOH joined a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) Program. APPLETREE funds 25 state health departments to increase their capacity to advance ATSDR's goal of keeping communities safe from harmful chemical exposures and related diseases. Because ATSDR is committed to promoting the healthy development of children, ATSDR expanded the scope of this cooperative agreement to include Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE). ATSDR's CSPECE program is one that, once implemented, protects the health of children in licensed ECE programs. It reduces the children's risk of being exposed to dangerous chemicals while in care by providing tools and resources to public health professionals to conduct early evaluations of ECE program locations and their surroundings. The CSPECE program emphasizes identification of the environmental hazards and environmental auditing as described by the National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (NCECQA). According to NCECQA, an environmental audit should be conducted before construction of a new building; renovation or occupation of an older building; or after a natural disaster, to properly evaluate and, where necessary, remediate ("clean up") or avoid sites where children's health could be compromised (EPA, 2011; Somers, Harvey, & Rusnak, 2011).

3. Outcome

During the past three years and as part of a continuous effort, FDOH is working to achieve the CSPECE program goals in Florida: (1) defining the selection for ECE programs locations, (2) developing methods that help ensure that ECE programs are placed on safe sites, and (3) implementing a pilot Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE) program study. ATSDR is providing technical support and guidance to the APPLETREE states to help them start their own Choose Safe Places programs. Florida CSPECE is being implemented in four phases (Figure 1). Each phase helps to form partnerships, identifies ways to strengthen licensing policies, and builds on existing resources. All steps lead to the implementation of the program, including community outreach and the education/training of staff and other agencies. The phases are assigned as shown in Figure 1.

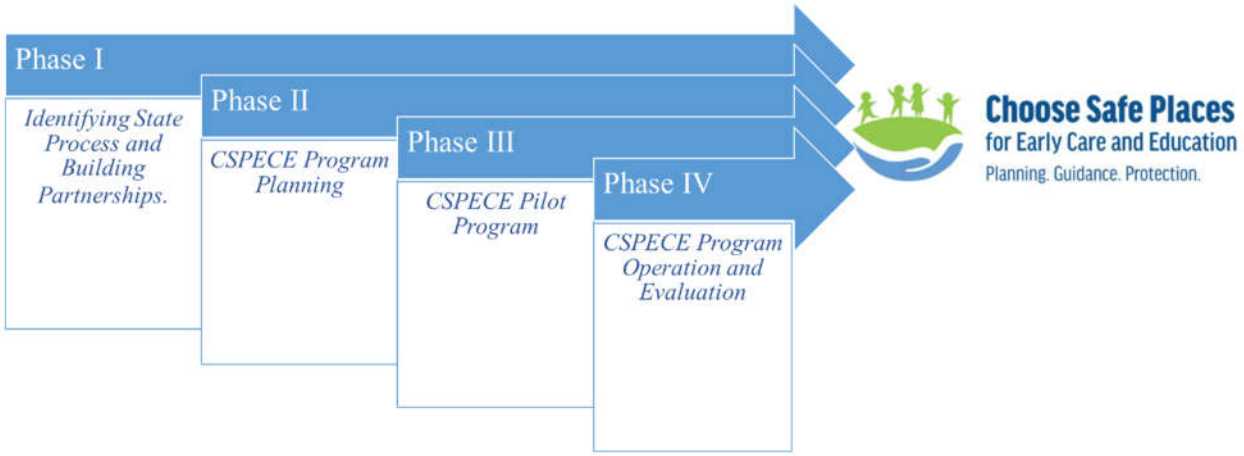

Figure 1: Overview of the Implementation of Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE).

4. Planning Group

Development of the Florida CSPECE Protocol started in April 2018. FDOH reached out to potential governmental and non-governmental partners to create a Florida CSPECE Planning Group (Attachment A). The initial Planning Group of 15 members met at a kick-off meeting held at FDOH in January 2019. The 'Florida CSPECE Planning Group' meets quarterly via web conference and once a year in person to update members on progress and other updates. The Planning Group discussions are important to ensure that the CSPECE initiative considers all necessary steps needed to protect children and to ensure that the program can be implemented state-wide. Each meeting provides an overview of program status as well as progress made since last meeting. Partners will continue to receive regular emails with information material and will be contacted directly for more urgent questions and/or concerns. Additional important regional and county-level contacts are listed in Attachment A.

5. Program Strengths, Weaknesses, Challenges, Limitations, and Gaps in Data Collection

Program Strengths: The Florida Choose Safe Places Program has the advantage of a strong planning group with partners from several state agencies. Having a strong advisory group facilitates not only database access and data sharing, but also enables consultation and support from experts across all relevant fields.

In Florida, there are many very versatile online databases available to support most data requirements.

FDOH has the advantage of having a GIS team to help develop the mapping tools needed to locate ECE programs near hazardous cleanup sites and other sites of concern.

Program Weaknesses: The sheer number of licensed ECE providers in Florida (10,370; FDCF database as of February 2020) presents a challenge for the program. Once the program is well established however, the need for assessment will may be reduced to fewer locations.

The State of Florida has limited data available to address concerns of possible nearby pesticide applications (See the Florida CSPECE Phase Two Report).

Owner privacy policies and Florida's Public Records Law are expected to present challenges with respect to site history assessments, including knowledge about the presence of asbestos and lead-based paint.

PART II: METHODOLOGY

6. Florida CSPECE – Preliminary Protocol

The Florida CSPECE-Protocol consists of five main and seven sub-components:

Component A:	Florida CSPECE GIS Interactive Tool: Database Maintenance
Component B:	Environmental Health (EH) Evaluation: Self-Assessment Survey
1.	ECE Program Case Filing and Survey Evaluation
Component C	Environmental Health Evaluation: Comprehensive Evaluation
2.	Communication: FDOH and ECE Provider [Site Visit, if applicable]
3.	Building History and Description
4.	Parcel History and Description
5.	GIS Interactive Tool Evaluation
6.	Identification of other concerns
Component D:	Communication with Partners
Component E:	Certification - Reporting - Outreach
7.	Short letter recommendation for EH Self-Assessment Survey Full Report for Comprehensive EH Evaluation

The protocol is comprised of several tools including flowcharts (Zero, I, II, and III, Attachment B) and a comprehensive Protocol Checklist with guidance manual (Protocol Checklist Manual, Attachment C). These tools were developed to ensure consistency in all evaluations of ECE program location. No tool is intended as a standalone document but to be used in conjunction with the other companion tools.

Flowchart Zero gives an overview of all program services. Flowchart I gives an overview of the process conducted from the CSPECE manager receives an EH self-assessment survey or request, to the short letter recommendation and/or assignment of health assessor. Flowchart II gives an overview of the main components to be addressed for comprehensive EH evaluation, with more detailed evaluation guidance provided in Flowchart III.

6.1 Protocol Checklist and Protocol Checklist Manual

The Protocol Checklist functions as a guide for managers and assessors to ensure good record keeping, that all considerations have been made and expected timelines have been met (Attachment C). The Protocol Checklist also serves to present a quick overview for reviewers (Program Administrator).

The Protocol Checklist Manual describes what each checklist component entails and how to complete it (Attachment C). Attachment C further includes a Supplementary Hazardous Cleanup Site Checklist, which has been developed to compile more specific data in a form suitable for potential enquiries with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Data from FDEP's databases may be used to identify more specific information regarding the chemical of concern and the impacted environmental media on a case by case basis (e.g., groundwater, soil).

Both checklists in Attachment C must be filled and will be used as short summaries for consultation with FDEP and other partners, if applicable, and as attachments in the final report.

6.2 Environmental Health Self-Assessment Survey

The Environmental Health (EH) Self-Assessment Survey (Attachment D) will be filled by ECE providers to gather information for initial evaluation of their location. The provider or delegated person will fill the survey to their best applicable knowledge and submit the Survey to FDOH. The EH Self-Assessment Survey provides an option to request a Comprehensive EH Evaluation.

6.3 Notification Letter, Report and Participant Certification

Reporting templates are currently being developed to help workflow and ensure consistent reporting of recommendations. One template will be for completion of the short letter recommendations and one for completion of the Full Report based on the Comprehensive EH Evaluation. Further, a Florida CSPECE 'Certificate of Participation' template has been developed (Attachment E).

REFERENCES

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Attachment A. Contact Information for Florida CSPECE

CONTACTS – PLANNING GROUP MEMBERS	
Affiliation	**Name and Contact**
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)	Audra Henry Technical Project Officer Program Coordinator Florida CSPECE 4770 Buford Hwy NE, MS F-59 Atlanta, GA 30341-3717 (770) 488-3758
Florida Department of Health (FDOH)	
FDOH Hazardous Waste Site Health Risk Assessment Program Bureau of Environmental Health, Tallahassee HQ (Florida CSPECE)	Glady Liehr Environmental Administrator 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-08 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1710 (850) 245-4249
	April Crowley Health Educator 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-08 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1710 (850) 901-6494
	Jesseka Forbes Health Assessor 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-08 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1710 (850) 901-6598
	Anita Poulsen Health Assessor 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-08 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1710 (850) 901-6898
	Olasunkanmi Fasakin Health Assessor 4052 Bald Cypress Way, bin A-08 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1710 (850) 558-9616
FDOH Radon Program Bureau of Environmental Health, Tallahassee HQ	Ferda Yilmaz Environmental Administrator 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-08 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1710 (850) 245-4280
FDOH Facility Programs Bureau of Environmental Health, Tallahassee HQ	Andrea Ables Environmental Manager 4052 Bald Cypress Way, bin A-08 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1710 (850) 901-6484
FDOH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Bureau of Epidemiology, Tallahassee HQ	Thomas Troelstrup Reports and Analysis Unit Manager 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-08 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1710 (850) 901-6802

PLANNING GROUP MEMBERS *(continued)*	
Affiliation	**Name and Contact**
Florida Department of Children and Families (FDCF)	Miatta Jalaber Program Safety Manager 2383 Phillips Road Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 778-4042
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)	Brian Dougherty Program Manager 2600 Blair Stone Rd Tallahassee, Fl 32399 850-245-7503
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)	Paul Rygiel Environmental Manager 3125 Conner Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 31399 (850) 617-7928
Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of the Big Bend	Melanie Worley Early Care and Education Manager 2639 North Monroe St, Bldg. C-300 Tallahassee, FL 32303 (850) 552-7320
The Creative Center for Childhood Research and Training	Pamela Phelps Consultant 2746 West Tharpe St Tallahassee, FL 32303 (850) 422-1080
ELC of Hillsborough County	Bobbi Davis Director, Resource Development 6302 E. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Suite 100, Tampa, FL 33619 (813) 515-0802

CONTACTS – COUNTIES WITH LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY	
Broward County	William Karp Child Care Licensing and Enforcement Manager 1 North University Dr Plantation, FL 33324 (954) 357-4800
Hillsborough County	Angela Chowning Child Care Licensing Manager 3152 Clay Mangum Lane Tampa, FL 33618 (813) 264-3925, Ext: 53565
Palm Beach County Health Department	Holly Strawser Environmental Manager 800 Clemantis St, 4th Floor West Palm Beach, FL 33401 (561) 837-5900

COUNTIES WITH LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY *(continued)*	
Pinellas County Health Department Child Care Licensing Program	Faith Bornoff Executive Director 8751 Ulmerton Rd, Suite 2000 Largo, FL 33771 (727)-507-4857
Sarasota County Health Department Child Care Licensing	Fatimah Conteh Environmental Specialist III 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34240 (841) 861-6650

CONTACTS - FDCF HEADQUARTERS	
FDCF Office of Child Care Regulation	Dinah Davis, CPM Senior Management Analyst Supervisor 1317 Winewood Blvd, Bldg. 6 Tallahassee, FL 32399 (850) 717-4361
	Mary Beth Wehnes Senior Management Analyst Supervisor 1317 Winewood Blvd, Bldg. 6 Tallahassee, FL 32399 (850) 717-4360
	Cynthia Campbell Senior Management Analyst 1317 Winewood Blvd, Bldg. 6 Tallahassee, FL 32399 (850) 717-4536
	Yemi Quijada Operations and Management Consultant 1317 Winewood Blvd, Bldg. 6 Tallahassee, FL 32399 (850) 717-4796

CONTACTS – REGIONAL FDCF	
FDCF Central Region	Bill D'Aiuto Regional Director 400 W. Robinson St, Suite 1129 Orlando, FL 32801 (407) 317-7000
	Richard Forrester Regional Safety Program Manager 1601 W. Gulf Atlantic Hwy Wildwood, FL 34785 (407) 317-7064
FDCF Northeast Region	Patricia Medlock Regional Managing Director 5920 Arlington Expressway Jacksonville FL 32211 (904) 723-2000

REGIONAL FDCF *(continued)*	
FDCF Northeast Region	Mala Ramoutar Regional Safety Program Manager 5920 Arlington Expressway Jacksonville, FL 32211 (904) 485-9564
FDCF Northwest Region	Walter T. Sachs Regional Managing Director 2383 Phillips Road Tallahassee, FL 32301 (866) 286-3609
	Miatta Jalaber Regional Safety Program Manager (CSPECE Planning Group Member) 2383 Phillips Rd Tallahassee, FL 32308 (850) 778-4042
FDCF Southeast Region	Dennis Miles Regional Managing Director 111 S. Sapodilla Avenue West Palm Beach, FL 33401 (561) 837-5078
FDCF Southern Region	Bronwyn Stanford Managing Director N1007 Miami, FL 33128 (305) 377-5055
	Suzette Frazier Regional Safety Program Manager 401 NW 2nd Ave N321 Miami, FL 33128
FDCF SunCoast Region	Lisa Mayrose Regional Managing Director 9393 North Florida Avenue Tampa, FL 33612 (813) 558-5500
	Chantal Porte Regional Safety Program Manager 9393 North Florida Avenue Suite 500 Tampa, FL 33612

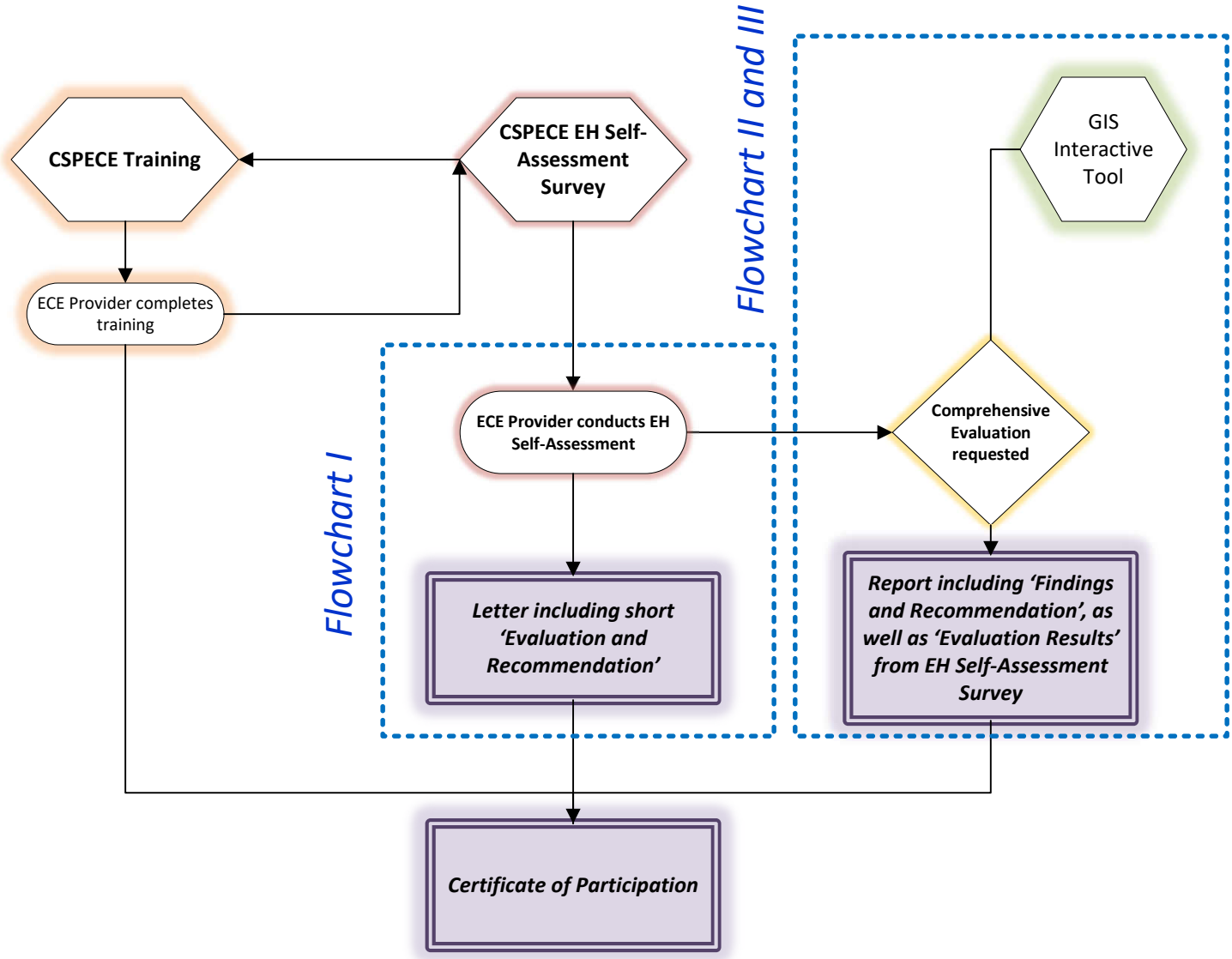
CONTACTS - OTHERS	
ELC of Hillsborough County	Tasha Williams Compliance Specialist 6302 E. Dr. Martin Luth King, Jr. Blvd. Suite 100, Tampa, FL 33619 (813) 515-2340, Ext. 345
	Stacey Francois Professional Development Specialist 6302 E. Dr. Martin Luth King, Jr. Blvd. Suite 100, Tampa, FL 33619
	Megan Folts Manager, Policy and Program Compliance 6302 E. Dr. Martin Luther king Jr. Blvd. Suite 100, Tampa, FL 33619 (813) 515-2340, Ext. 245
Hernando County Health Department	Stefica Depovic Environmental Health Director 15470 Flight Path Dr Brooksville, FL 34609 (352) 754-4132
	Nina Mattei Disaster Planner 7551 Forest Oaks Blvd. Spring Hill, FL 34606 (352) 540-6822

Attachment B. Florida CSPECE Process Flowcharts

Florida Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education

Protocol Flowchart Zero

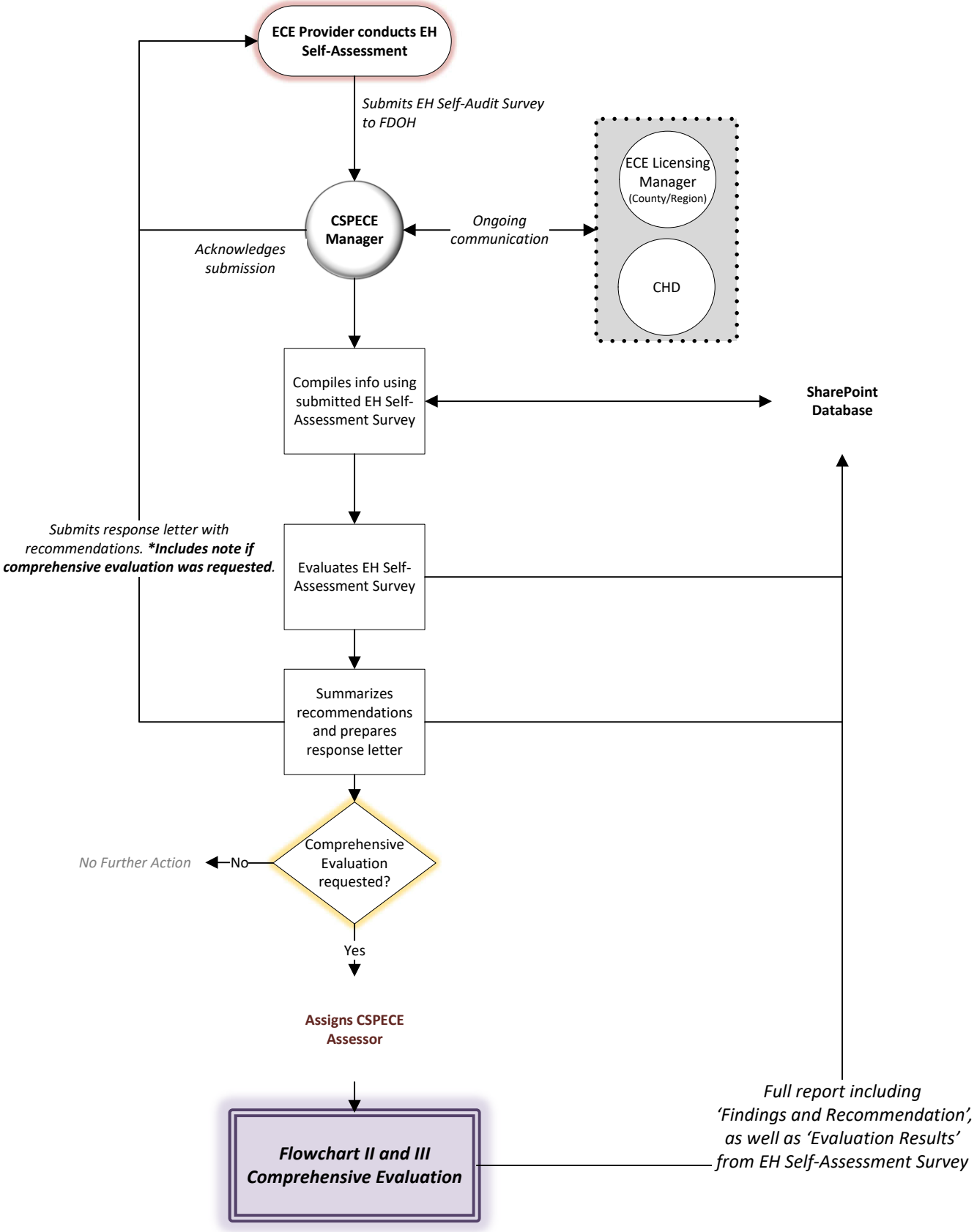
Overview of Program Services



Florida Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education

Protocol Flowchart I

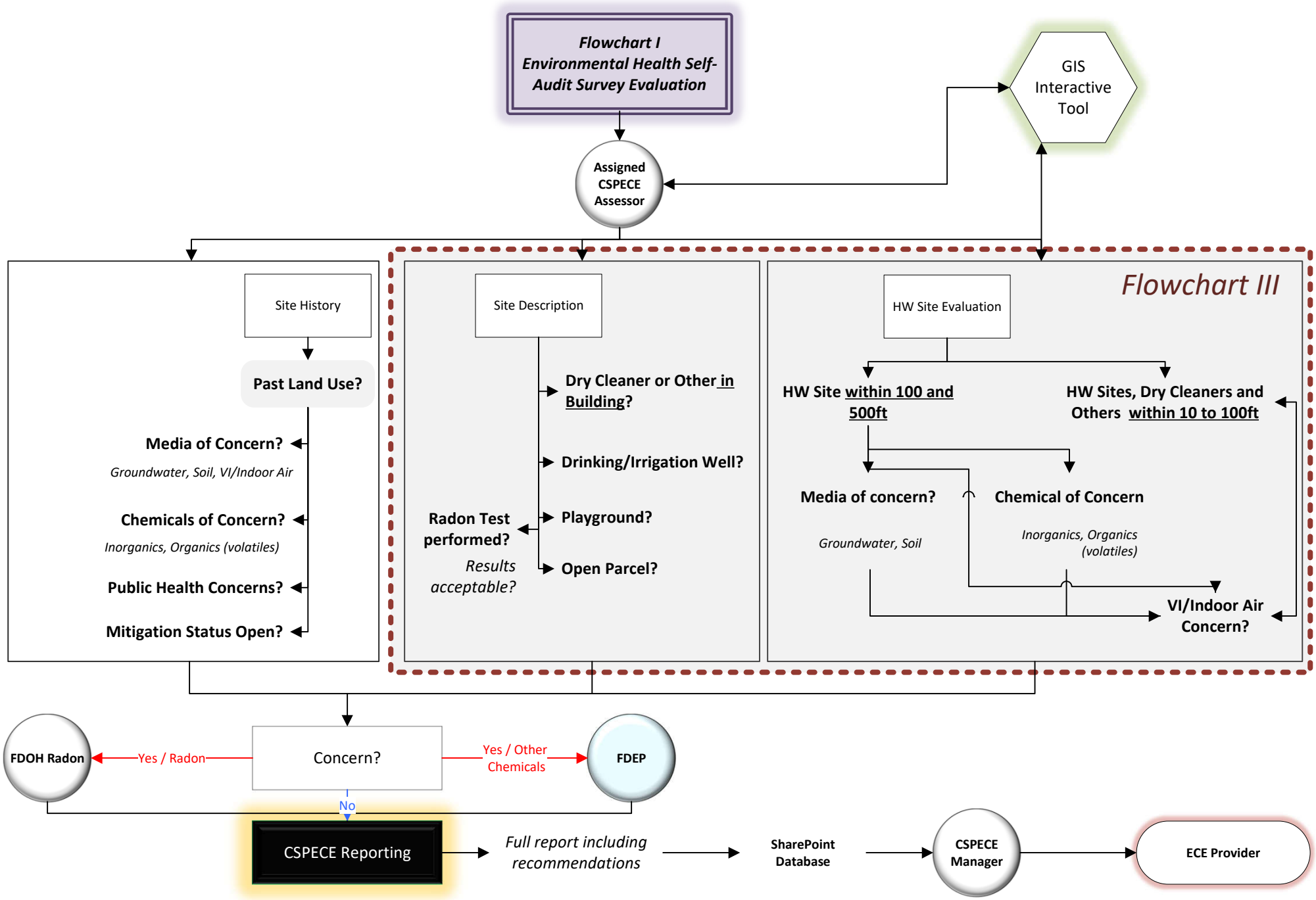
Environmental Health Self-Assessment Survey Evaluation



Florida Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education

Protocol Flowchart II

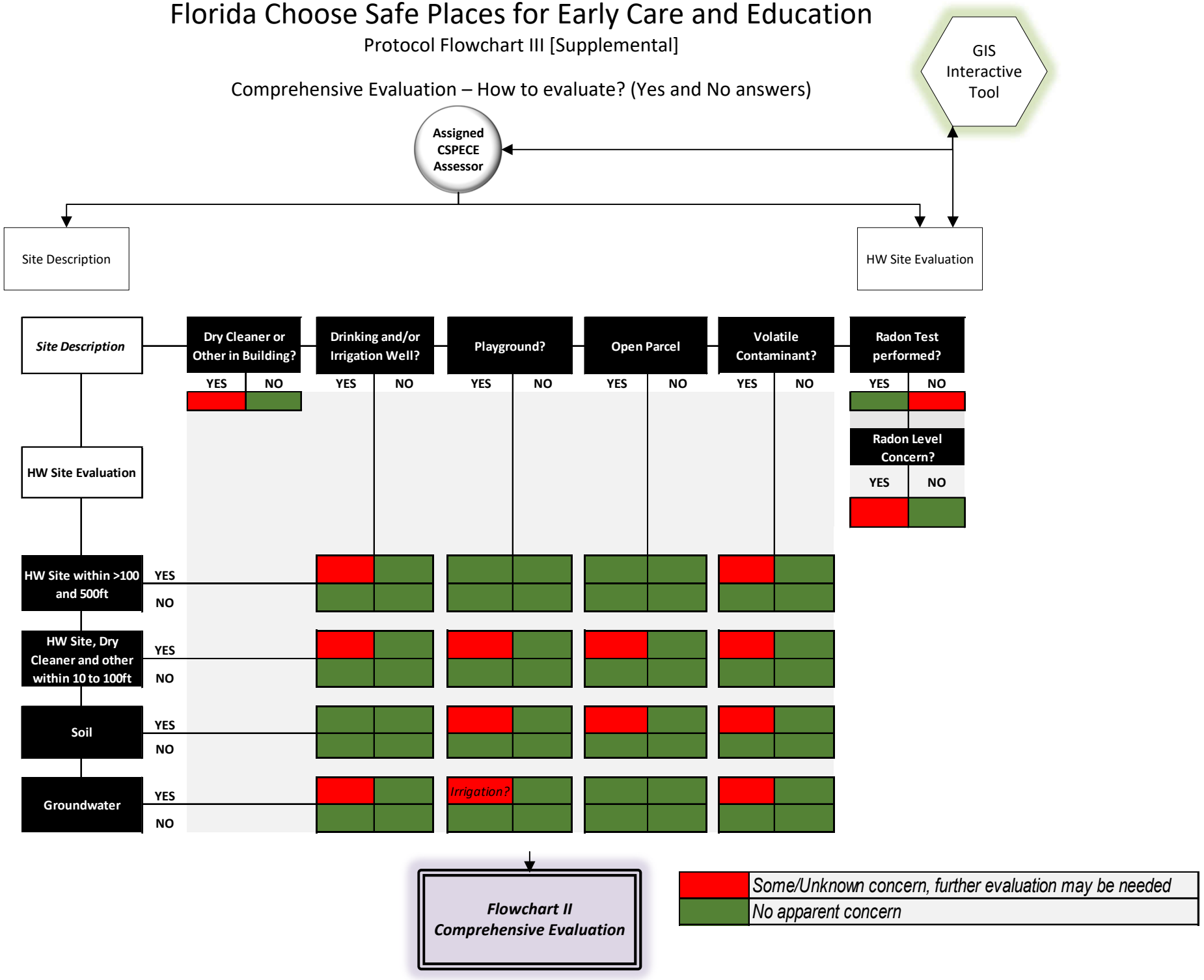
Comprehensive Evaluation



Florida Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education

Protocol Flowchart III [Supplemental]

Comprehensive Evaluation – How to evaluate? (Yes and No answers)



Attachment C. Florida CSPECE Evaluation Checklists

****READ PROTOCOL and USE FLOWCHART to COMPILE INFORMATION****

DRAFT FLORIDA CSPECE - EVALUATION CHECKLIST

A. FLORIDA CSPECE PROJECT MANAGER

Sub-Component			
1	**1**	**ECE Program Case Filing and Assignment (if applicable)**	
1.1	☐	Create a SharePoint subfolder for this month's main folder.	
1.2	☐	Fill in the ECE Program details (blue box) and assign a Health Assessor (if comprehensive evaluation is requested)	

County:		**Email:** Summarized information to assigned FDOH Assessor including file location information	
Name of ECE Program:			
FDCF ID (if applicable):			
Permit #:		**Assigned FDOH Assessor:**	
Date of Permit Application:		**Date of Assignment:**	
New/Renewal:		***Full Report Due Date (NEW):***	
FDOH and CHD Communication:		***Full Report Due Date (RENEWAL):***	

B. HEALTH ASSESSOR

2	**2**	**Communication: FDOH and ECE Provider [Site Visit, if applicable]**	
2.1	☐	Name and info of ECE Program contact person:	
2.2		FDOH Site Visit?	
		Has the ECE Provider completed and submitted an environmental health self-assessment survey?	
		Were photos taken?	
		Were concerns noted?	

3 / 4	**3**	**Building History and Description**	
3.1 /4.1	☐	Compile and review the building history	
		Was there past building use?	
		Are there chemicals of concern?	
		Is there a potential for health effects?	
		Is mitigation status open?	
4.2		Has a radon test been performed?	
		Is radon a concern?	
		If yes, consult with the FDOH Radon and Indoor Air Program	

4	**Parcel History and Description**	
☐	Compile and review the parcel history	
	Was there past parcel use?	
	Are there chemicals of concern?	
	Is there a potential for health effects?	
	Is mitigation status open?	
☐	Complete the parcel description	
	Is there an active dry cleaner or nail salon nearby or in the same building?	
	Is a drinking water or irrigation well in use?	
	Is there a septic tank in place?	
	Is there a playground/play area?	
	Is the ground covered?	
	Is the parcel open to the adjacent properties?	

5	**5**	**GIS Interactive Tool Evaluation**	
5.1		Is the ECE location within 500ft of a FDEP Cleanup-Site?	
5.2	**5.a.** ☐	**FDEP Cleanup-Site History and Description**	
		Name/FDEP Site ID:	
		Is there a media of concern?	*Space can be used for Notes if needed. (e.g. ERIC #)*
		Is there groundwater contamination?	
		Is there soil contamination?	
		Are volatile chemicals present in soil and/or groundwater?	

6	**6**	**Other Concerns (lead and asbestos)**	
6.1		Was the building built before 1978?	
6.2		Was the building built before 1989?	*Space can be used for Notes if needed*
6.3		Other Concerns:	

7	**7**	**Summarize and export findings to complete the check described in Flowchart III**	
	☐	Communicate concerns/no concerns to the FDOH CSPECE Project Manager	
	☐	Complete all reporting, and email it to the FDOH CSPECE Project Manager	

****

	Assessment Completed	
8	**Health Assessor initials:**	**Date:**
9	**Environmental Administrator Signature:**	**Date:**

Guidance Manual for Florida CSPECE

–

Evaluation Checklist

SECTION A: FLORIDA CSPECE PROJECT MANAGER

Sub-Component 1: ECE Program Case Filing and Assignment (if applicable)

Component 1.1. Create a SharePoint folder:	Create a folder on the FDOH SharePoint. Use this filename format: County-City-PermitID-ECEProgramName-Year. *Example:* *Leon-Tallahassee-XXXX-TallahasseeDaycare-2020* The SharePoint folder may be used by FDOH personnel to add/update completed files and forms, and to share with the group.
Component 1.2. Fill the ECE Program details in the blue box	Fill all information in the blue box using dropdowns when available. For FDOH and CHD Communication, contact the local County Health Department Environmental Health Director to notify him/her that an evaluation has been initiated. Type communication details in the right-hand box.
Assign a health assessor to the ECE program by email:	Attach to the email with all obtained information, if not on the form. Notify the assigned assessor of the due date of the comprehensive report.

SECTION B: FLORIDA CSPECE HEALTH ASSESSOR

Sub-Component 2: Communication: FDOH and ECE Provider [Site Visit, if applicable]

The assessor has limited time to complete the initial assessment. Sub-components 2 through 7 must be completed in parallel to meet the due date.

Component 2.1. Name and info of ECE Program contact person	Type the name and email address of the ECE provider in the right-hand box.
Component 2.2. Is a FDOH Site Visit needed?	Study the EH Self-Assessment Survey results and communicate with CHD and/or provider. Decide if a visit is needed using professional judgement. If the ECE provider has submitted a survey, including photos, a site visit is generally not needed.

SECTION B: FLORIDA CSPECE HEALTH ASSESSOR - *Continued*

Sub-Component 3[11]: Building History and Description

Component 3.1. Compile and review the building history	Compile the building history. The building history relates to the building only. The parcel is reviewed in sub-Component 4. If an EH Self-Assessment Survey was submitted, this may be used as additional information. It is suggested to visit a public databases such as FDEP and County Appraiser Websites. Google Earth can also be helpful to review history. Consider if there is a possible exposure pathway for human contact with the chemical of concern. Check Check DEP online databases to check mitigation status. If mitigation status is open this means mitigation was found necessary but has not yet been completed. Open status would flag a concern. An average radon level of 4 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) or over is considered too high by EPA. If radon is a concern, consult with FDOH's Radon and Indoor Air Program within 5 business days. ***Note:*** Use the Supplemental HW-Checklist to compile specific information about chemicals and media of concerns.

Sub-Component 4[1]: Parcel History and Description

Component 4.1. Compile and review the parcel history	Compile the parcel history. This component relates to the parcel only. Building history is addressed in sub-component 3. If an EH Self-Assessment Survey was submitted, this may be used as additional information. It is suggested to visit a public databases such as FDEP and County Appraiser Websites. Google Earth can also be helpful to review history. Consider if there is a possible exposure pathway for human contact with the chemical of concern. If mitigation status is open, mitigation may be needed but incomplete, which could be a concern.

[1] HELPFUL RESEARCH-EVALUATION TOOLs – SEE AT THE END

Note: Use the Supplemental HW-Checklist to compile specific information about chemicals and media of concerns.

SECTION B: FLORIDA CSPECE HEALTH ASSESSOR - *Continued*

Component 4.2.
Complete the parcel description.

If an EH Self-Assessment Survey was submitted, this may be used as additional information. It is suggested to visit a public databases such as FDEP and County Appraiser Websites. Google Earth can also be helpful to review history.

Dry cleaners and nail salons use potentially harmful solvents, which can lead to residual vapors and poor indoor air quality. Vapors can move through cracks and vents to neighboring rooms.

If there is groundwater contamination, well water may also be contaminated. Public water is generally considered clean of contamination.

An open ground cover permits contact with possible contaminated soil. If volatile chemicals are present, vapors may also penetrate the air from below more easily if the ground cover is open.

Contaminated soil can move from parcel to parcel, unless there is a protective barrier such as a fence.

Sub-Component 5: GIS Interactive Tool Evaluation

Component 5.1.
Evaluate distance of ECE location from FDEP Cleanup-Site?

Distances of main interest are: 10, 100 and 500 feet.

Component 5.2.
FDEP Cleanup Site History and Description

Fill in the site name and FDEP ID.

Evaluate[1]:

- Is there a media of concern?
- Is there groundwater contamination?
- Is there soil contamination?
- Are there volatile chemicals present in soil and/or groundwater?

Note: Use the Supplemental HW-Checklist to compile specific information about chemicals and media of concerns.

SECTION B: FLORIDA CSPECE HEALTH ASSESSOR - *Continued*

Sub-Component 6[1]: Identification of Other Concerns

Component 6.1. Was the building built before 1978?	Buildings built before 1978 may have been painted with lead-based paint. Consider potential effects from lead exposure.
Component 6.2. Was the building built before 1989?	Buildings built before 1989 may contain asbestos. Particularly buildings from the 1950-1970s may have been built with materials containing asbestos. Consider if an asbestos check is necessary. Asbestos is only a concern if un-contained.
Component 6.3. Other Concerns?	Add all other concerns that don't fit in any of the above sub-components. Identify other possible building, parcel and/or location concerns

Sub-Component 7: Summarize and export findings to complete the check described in Flowchart III

Use Flowchart III (Attachment B) and follow the 'red/green (yes/no) scenarios check boxes'.

The 'red/green scenario check boxes' should help guide you to determine if there is a concern or not. ***Note:*** A yes does not necessarily mean there is a concern. For example, if there is a drinking water well to be used by the ECE program, this is only a concern if there is also groundwater contamination. Similarly, groundwater contamination is not a concern unless that water is used at the ECE program for drinking or irrigation, and/or if volatile chemicals are present. Remember that children may play in water from sprinkler systems or touch irrigated grounds.

- ➔ Evaluate any possible concerns to derive recommendations if necessary.
- ➔ Communicate findings to the FDOH CSPECE Project Manager
- ➔ Complete all reporting and email it to the FDOH CSPECE Project Manager

Sub-Component 8: Assessment Completed – Sign with Initials and Date

Sub-Component 9: Assessment Completed – Environmental Administrator Sign and Date

To finalize the checklist and facility assessment, the checklist must be signed by the Environmental Administrator.

[1]HELPFUL RESEARCH-EVALUATION TOOLs:

ATSDR Chemical Toxicity Profile and Factsheet	*https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/az/a.html*
FDEP Database Tool	*http://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DepNexus/public/searchPortal* *https://floridadep.gov/waste/waste-cleanup/content/cercla-site-screening* *https://depedms.dep.state.fl.us/Oculus/servlet/login*
FDEP Mapping Tool	*https://ca.dep.state.fl.us/mapdirect/?focus=standard* *http://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DepClnup/welcome.do*
FDOH Hazardous Waste Health Risk Assessment Program - Reports	*http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/hazardous-waste-sites/Reports/hw-reports-search.html*
FDOH Florida Water Management Inventory Map	*https://gis.flhealth.gov/FLWMI/*

Florida Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education - Hazardous Waste Sites Supplementary Checklist

ECE program	
Permit #	
Reviewer	
Cleanup Site	
FDEP Site ID	
Site Status	

Distance to Site (ft)	
Potable Well	
Irrigation Well	
Surface Water	

A CONTAMINATED MEDIA

Soil		
Groundwater		
Surface Water		
Sediment		

B Groundwater

Chemical of Concern		
Onsite/Offsite		
Flow Direction		
Flow Towards ECE Location?		

C Soil

Chemical of Concern		
0-2 ft		
Below 2 ft		
Leachability		
Proposed Cleanup		

D Indoor Air/Vapor Intrusion (VI)

Volatile Chemical of Concern?		
Within 100 ft?		
Has VI been checked?		

Consultation with FDEP needed?		*comments:*

Additional Comments:

Attachment D. Florida CSPECE Environmental Health Self-Assessment Survey

Florida Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education

Voluntary Environmental Health Self-Assessment Survey

AWAITING FDOH LEGAL APPROVAL

The Florida Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE) program within the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) is an initiative to help keep children safe from harmful environmental hazards during care. This voluntary survey was developed by the Florida CSPECE initiative for child care providers to self-assess the environmental health of their facility and/or family child care home. The survey considers both property and building information. Your answers will help discover any potential environmental hazards such as chemical contamination on or near the property that could compromise the safety of the staff and children at your facility.

LIMITATIONS: FDOH's goal is to identify possible environmental hazards associated with properties to help protect public health. The recommendations provided as part of the Florida CSPECE initiative are limited based on the resources available at the time of the assessment and FDOH's professional judgment. FDOH cannot guarantee all possible environmental hazards associated with the evaluated sites will be identified.

PARTICIPATION DISCLAIMER: FDOH is not responsible for any costs associated with the recommendations it provides. Any data submitted by the participant or obtained by FDOH during the evaluation process is subject to Florida's Public Records Law.

By submitting this Environmental Health Self-Assessment Survey, I, _____, the owner of _____, acknowledge voluntary participation in the Florida Choose Safe Places For Early Care and Education inactive and acknowledge that I have read the Limitations and Participation Disclaimer provided above.

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Florida Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education
SELF-ASSESSMENT SURVEY
for Child Care Providers

Instructions:

1. Fill the form to the best of your ability. It is OK if you cannot answer all questions. Space is provided at the end of the form for any additional information you think would be helpful. Taking a photograph can be helpful.
2. Save a blank copy of the form for your use whenever you wish. It is suggested to use the checklist at least once a year.
3. When the checklist is completed, save a copy for your record.
4. File the completed checklist (including Page 1) electronically *or* via postal services to:

ChooseSafePlacesFlorida@flhealth.gov

or

Hazardous Waste Health Risk Assessment Program
Attn: Choose Safe Places
Florida Department of Health
Division of Disease Control and Health Protection
Bureau of Environmental Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-08
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-17100

5. For any questions, please use the contact information listed above, or call our Toll-Free number at 877-798-2772

Provider / Day Care Information

Name of the facility/home: Click or tap here to enter text.

Address:

Street Click or tap here to enter text.

City/County/Zip Click or tap here to enter text.

License No.: Click or tap here to enter text.

License Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

Name of person submitting the form: Click or tap here to enter text.

Contact information: [phone and/ or email] Click or tap here to enter text.

Date of Submission: Click or tap here to enter text.

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1. Are the following items visible on and/or around the parcel of your facility? (Check all that apply)

- □ Metal drums or barrels
- □ Old car/vehicle parts
- □ Discarded white goods (*i.e.*, old appliances)
- □ Construction and demolition debris pile (*e.g.*, bricks/concrete, wood, plaster/drywall, plumbing fixtures, roofing, glass, electrical wiring, piping, asphalt pavement, insulation).
  *If checked, please specify:*_____
- □ Barn(s), farm machinery/equipment
- □ Other (batteries, paint cans, syringes, *etc.*)
  *If checked, please specify:*_____

Additional comments/Specify other:

_____
_____
_____

2. What would best describe your outdoor playground surface (ground) cover? (Check all that apply)

- □ The property is safe to walk and play.
- □ The outdoor property is covered (*e.g.*, grass, asphalt, soft rubber)
  If yes, describe the cover type: _____
  - □ The surface/ground cover is in good condition
  - □ The surface/ground cover has holes in it/exposed parts
  - □ The surface/ground outdoor surface is open gravel

Additional comments/Specify other:

_____
_____
_____

3. Drinking and irrigation water use information. (Check all that apply)

- □ The facility uses water from a municipal source
- □ The facility uses a well:
  - □ for drinking
  - □ for irrigation
  - □ property has one or more wells

****If you know of well water results, please specify and note if the results are for drinking and/or irrigation water.*

Please fill following if you checked any of the above:

- □ I don't know if the wells on this property have been tested
- □ The wells on this property have not been tested
- □ The drinking water well has been previously tested for bacteria and/or chemical contaminants
  *If checked, please specify:*_____
- □ The irrigation water well has been previously tested for bacteria and/or chemical contaminants
  *If checked, please specify:*_____

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4. What business types are located inside the same building, on the same parcel, next to and/or directly across the street from your facility? (Check all that apply)

- □ Auto repair/paint shop
- □ Copy/print shop
- □ Dry cleaner
- □ Factory/manufacturing/industrial business
- □ Farming/agriculture
- □ Fire station/Fire training facility
- □ Former funeral home
- □ Gas station
- □ Landfill/dump
- □ Loading dock, large delivery doors
- □ Metal plating/welding business
- □ Nail/hair salon
- □ Old brick construction resembles old factory building
- □ Old mill building/mill complex
- □ Recycling facility
- □ Shooting range
- □ Wood/paper treatment

Additional comments/Specify other:

_____

_____

_____

5. Building History. (Check all that apply)

RADON

****Radon is a naturally-occurring cancer-causing contaminant. Radon testing is a requirement for licensed early care and education facilities in 48 of 67 Florida Counties.*

Learn more and see if your facility has tested for radon [search by county/city]: http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/radon/radon-menu

Has the property ever been tested for radon?

- □ Yes
- □ No
- □ Unknown

If yes, specify the measured radon level:

_____ picocuries per liter

LEAD BASED PAINT

****Buildings built before 1978 may have been painted with lead-based paint.*

Was the building built before 1978?

- □ Yes
- □ No
- □ Unknown

If yes, do you know if lead-based paint was used in the building?

- □ Yes
- □ No
- □ Unknown

If yes, do you know if lead-based paint was removed?

- □ Yes
- □ No
- □ Unknown

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ASBESTOS

Was the building built before 1989?

- □ Yes
- □ No
- □ Unknown

If yes, do you know if asbestos was used in the building?

- □ Yes
- □ No
- □ Unknown

If yes, do you know if the Asbestos was removed?

- □ Yes
- □ No
- □ Unknown

****Buildings constructed before 1989 are more likely to contain asbestos than newer buildings. Asbestos production and use has declined since 1989, due to increased knowledge of the health risks. Buildings from the 1950-1970s may contain asbestos-based materials. Asbestos is only a concern if uncontained. Consider if an asbestos check is necessary.*

6. Property History.
If you know anything about the previous use of the property, please indicate below.

Give details of activities on the property, describe any manufacturing or production that took place, and any other details about previous businesses. If known, please include name(s) of property owner, business and year(s) of operation.

_____
_____
_____
_____

7. Please share any additional information you think is important.

_____
_____
_____
_____

OPTIONAL REQUEST - *Comprehensive Environmental Health Assessment:*

The Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education program offers a free, comprehensive environmental health assessment of your facility.

Do you want to enroll your facility for this service?

- ❑ Yes
- ❑ No
- ❑ Maybe

By submitting this request with 'Yes', I ,_____, owner of _____, acknowledge voluntary participation in the Florida Choose Safe Places For Early Care and Education inactive and acknowledge that I have read the Limitations and Participation Disclaimer provided above.

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Attachment E. Florida CSPECE - Certificate of Participation

DATE

CERTIFICATE
OF
PARTICIPATION

This is to certify that

PROVIDER NAME

has completed the *PLACEHOLDER*
as part of the
Florida Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education Initiative.

****An initiative to help keep children safe from harmful environmental hazards during care.****

Kendra F. Goff, PhD, DABT, CPM, CEHP
Chief and State Toxicologist
Bureau of Environmental Health
Division of Disease Control and Health Protection

******NOTE: ALL PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED IS SUBJECT TO FLORIDA'S PUBLIC RECORDS LAW******

APPENDIX 2: EVALUATION AND PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT PLAN (EPMP)

APPLETREE
Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan (EPMP)
Florida Department of Health

I. Introduction

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) prepared this Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan (EPMP) to meet the requirements set by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) as a condition of the APPLETREE (ATSDR's Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure) cooperative agreement with DOH. This EPMP demonstrates how Florida DOH will collect and evaluate/assess outcome and performance measures. Results can be used to improve the program quality, make better management decisions, and support new approaches. Subsequently it will be used to strengthen Florida's DOH mission to protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts. Further, the EPMP can be used to determine whether the program is achieving its goals or objectives and whether new approaches need to be implemented. It is a valuable tool to evaluate process, impact and cost-effectiveness.

II. Presentation of Florida Department of Health Measures

FDOH concluded to present the measures in a schematic matrix (see Appendix I) and identified four main measure categories:

1. Outcome – High-level desired results for FDOH and the community:
   - ✓ Increase awareness
   - ✓ Increase knowledge
   - ✓ Change behavior
   - ✓ Increase the ability to respond
2. Measured Indicator/Output – Measurable results that could indicate whether outcomes are being reached
3. Input/Activity – Things that can be done to lead to the desired measured indicator/output
4. Performance Measure – Desired value resulting from the input/activity

Color coding was used to visually identify associations between these desired outcomes and the associated measured indicators/outputs as well as their performance measures. Independent from these, different inputs/activities to the measures were classified to four main inputs/activities groups:

- Survey
- Meeting-Training-Networking-Communication
- Planning and Research
- Lessons Learned-Evaluation-Reporting

III. Assurances

a. Ability to collect the measures

DOH has the ability to collect these measures.

b. Partnerships for data collection

DOH has the established working relationships with both the federal EPA and the state DEP to check on the status of recommendations and solicit honest feedback on program performance.

c. Use of evaluation findings for program improvement

Florida DOH will use the results of the measures to improve program performance and effectiveness, and share findings with stakeholders and other partners.

IV. Potential Challenges or Issues

DOH's APPLETREE program experiences significant staff turnover regularly. For example,

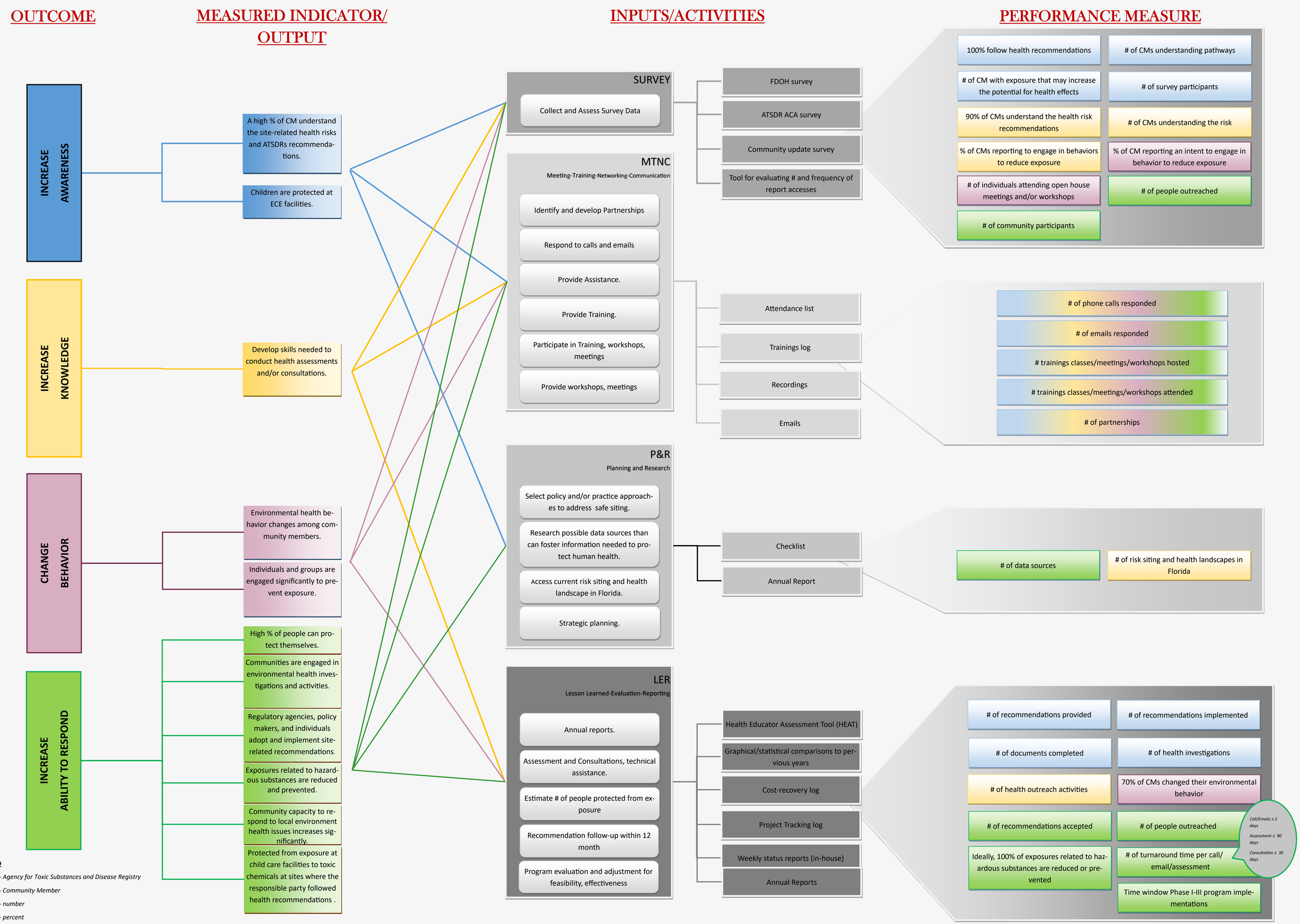
1. In April 2017, DOH hired a new community involvement coordinator.
2. In the second half of 2017, two health assessors moved to other DOH programs and the third moved to work on the APPLETREE program in another state.
3. The Principal Investigator retired on December 31, 2017.
4. New health assessors joined the team in October 2017, January 2018, and March 2018.
5. A new Principal Investigator joined the team in March 2018.

Evaluating program performance may be challenging for staff still learning the program.

V. Conclusions

DOH will collect outcome and performance measures and use the results to improve program quality.

Appendix I: Schematic Matrix of Florida Department of Health Measures



LEGEND

ATSDR - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

CM - Community Member

 # - number

% - percent