

July 28, 2008

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H. State Surgeon General 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #A00 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1701

Dear Dr. Viamonte Ros:

The National Association of County and City Health Officials' *Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH)* guidebook provides a methodology that offers local public health officials a valuable and largely unique approach to environmental health improvement through community collaboration and empowerment. However, it is a tool that requires long-range planning, keen promotion, and a degree of visionary leadership to achieve its greatest potential. Ultimately, the *PACE EH* process seeks to establish a broader, more proactive, holistic public health approach to addressing local environmental health priorities. The work of the local public health officials and communities in Florida, supported by the Florida State Department of Health's Division of Environmental Health, indicates that they are well on their way to achieving this lofty ambition.

As such, it is with great honor that the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) acknowledges your outstanding contribution to improving the environmental health status of Floridians. Florida's PACE EH work has already resulted in successes. They received the NACCHO-ASTHO Jim Parker Memorial award in 2005 and a NACCHO Model Practice designation in 2007. By maintaining the ongoing commitment of the Florida State Department of Health to the development and support of a statewide *PACE EH* program, you have ensured that community members across the state will remain actively involved in identifying and acting upon local priority environmental health issues. Further, you are supporting the development of a vastly improved local environmental health workforce, one that has stronger bonds with the communities it serves and more comprehensive partnerships with the many agencies and institutions that impact the daily lives of all Floridians.

Thank you for your service to the health of Florida communities and the support of local public health in your state.

Sincerely,

Patrick M. L. Sory

Patrick M. Libbey Executive Director

cc: Jean L. Kline, RN, BSN, MPH

Daniel Parpit

Received

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