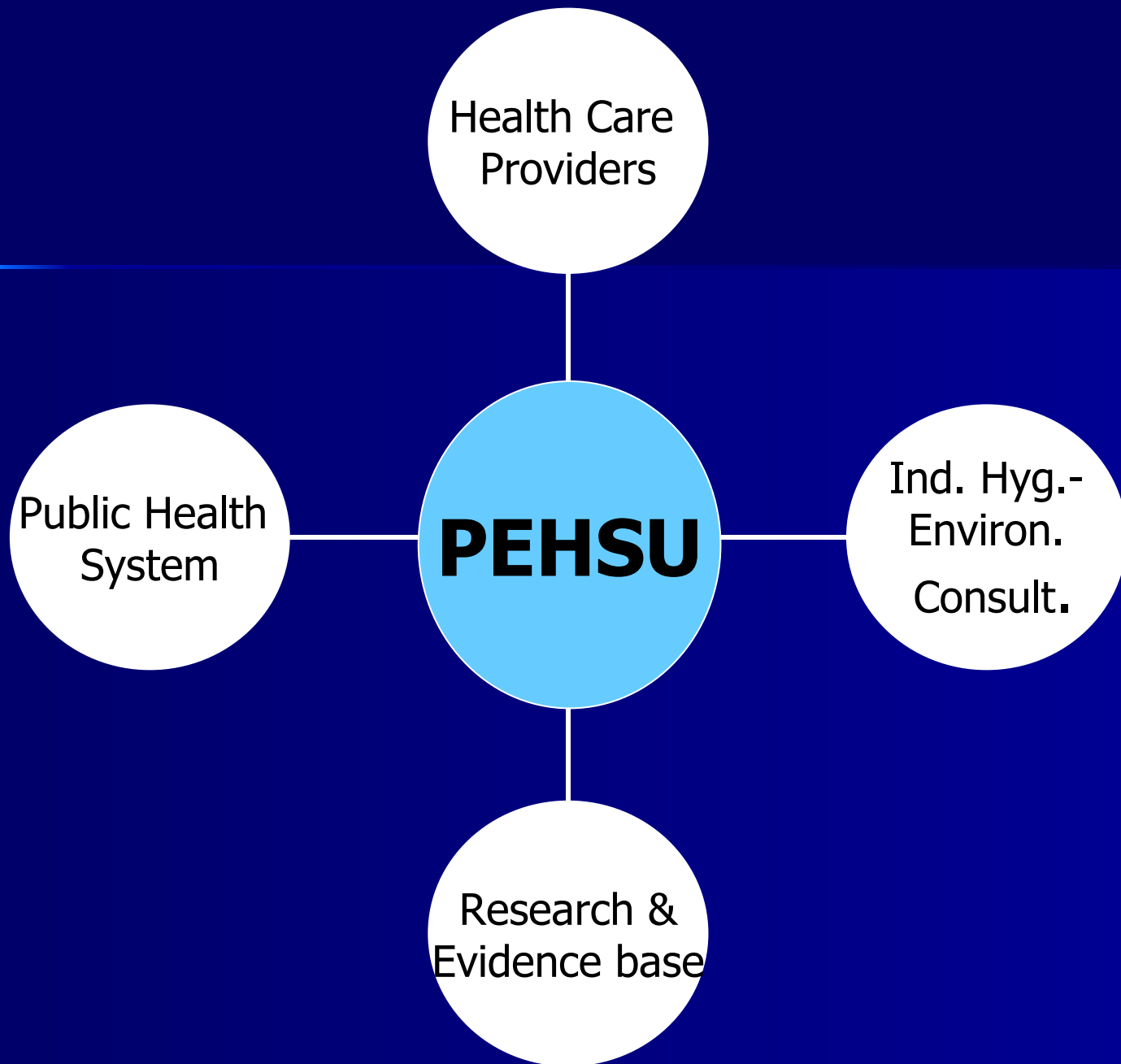


Northwest USA PEHSU: examples of a pediatric environmental health specialty unit program in action

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PINCHES

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PEHSU roles

- Consultation service (free telephone access)
- Health professional training & community education

Other PEHSU services:

- Clinical services if requested
- Special projects & research

PEHSU as LOCAL consultation resource

- Evidence based & interdisciplinary practice (academic centers)
- Identify environmentally related morbidity with dx/tx recommendations (non-acute) - OR NOT and provide therapeutic reassurance
- Promote prevention of environmentally related child morbidity

Case 1

7 y.o. boy

New home → new nighttime cough (asthma), itchy/watery eyes, dry/itchy skin, nosebleeds.

Environmental sampling → widespread fiberglass particle contamination, high overall dust levels, poor ventilation.

Why PEHSU

Referred by pediatric pulmonary colleague who felt could not address concerns raised by patient's mother

PEHSU role: Client request

- What is the health impact for my child due to our home environment? (short and long term perspective - especially the fiberglass particles?)
- What should I do to address the IAQ problems identified?

PEHSU role: What we did

- Review medical & environmental hx
- Review environmental sampling results
- Review the literature on fiberglass exposure and child health.

PEHSU role: What we provided

- Explained likely link between the environmental contaminants (dust containing glass wool fibers) with asthma triggering and eye/skin symptoms (irritant)
- Noted these are acute and reversible effects
- Endorsed previous IH recommendations and provided a priority perspective to these

PEHSU role: What we provided

- Noted no child specific data or immature animal data
- Translated existing primarily occupational epi data -- no consistent evidence of increased prevalence of chronic respiratory symptoms/diagnoses including cancer

Case 2

5 y.o. boy with autism

Alternative and complementary approaches to his care → advised to seek chelation therapy for heavy metal toxicity

Why PEHSU

Interested in academic center
viewpoint before deciding on
therapeutic approaches

PEHSU role: Client request

- What do these previous metal toxicity test results mean?
- Should we pursue chelation?
- If so, what is the best approach and place for this?

PEHSU role: What we did

- Reviewed the medical and environmental hx.
- Reviewed the testing results to date.

PEHSU role: What we provided

- Perspective on hair test results and chelation challenge results (unreliable)
- Opportunity for appropriate exposure biomarkers

PEHSU role in training professionals, educating communities

Foster the pipeline of the next generation of PEH specialists

Provide opportunities for local health professionals to advance their knowledge and resources in PEH

Available to community for health risk communication

The pipeline

- Provide research opportunities for medical students
- Provide specialty elective for pediatric residents
- Insert topics into core pediatric residency curriculum
- Mentor graduate students
- Insert topics into school of public health and occupational & environmental residency curriculum
- Foster fellowship training in pediatric environmental health

Health Professional Training

Multi-format and multi-site to increase impact and accessibility:

Formal ce courses & grand rounds

Informal participatory workshops (“promotoras”)

Web based cme (pesticides and child health)

Presentation at community clinics (underserved & minority)

Community outreach

Complement and extend the public health sector response

(Provide community health risk information at community forums, develop or collaborate on written materials, e.g. lead in school drinking water health risk assessment, factsheet on community groundwater contamination, etc)

Northwest PEHSU



1-877-KID-CHEM

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