Our Vision
We want to make Tulsa County the healthiest county in the country.

Our Mission
To improve the health and well-being of all Tulsa County residents.

Our Values
We're committed to a constant pursuit of a healthier Tulsa, and we do so by carrying out our core values:

The THD Way—Treat all people with dignity and respect.

Community First—Put the needs of a client ahead of anything and everything else.

Be accountable to each other and to the people we serve.

Empower residents to make healthy and safe choices.
Tulsa County, Oklahoma

- 587 Square Miles
- 640,000 Population
Tulsa Health Department

- Opened in 1950
- Checks come from Tulsa County
- Governed by Tulsa County Commissioners & Board of Health
- Levy funded
- 1 of 2 autonomous local health departments in Oklahoma
- 320 employees
  - Immunizations
  - WIC
  - Emergency Preparedness
  - Smoking cessation
Environmental Health Services

- 18 staff members....only 7 for mosquito control
  - 5 Environmental Specialists
  - 3 Clerical
  - 1 Manager and 1 Supervisor

- Each Environmental Specialist does mosquito work
  - Responsible for 5 traps per week
  - Have other inspection responsibilities

- Vector Budget $30,000 per year within the EHS total budget
Many hats...

- Environmental Specialist
- Chief mechanic
- Safety officer
- Scheduler
- Chemical mixer
- Problem solver
- Compliance official
Tulsa Mosquito Control Background

- Mosquito control since early 1950s
- Recording public complaints since 1970s
- Detailed mosquito reports since 1979
- West Nile Virus appeared in 2003
- 65 mosquito species in Oklahoma
- 24 (last count) species in Tulsa County
- Average 5,000 mosquito service calls annually
- ~$30,000 annual budget
SPRAY AND PRAY

Pre-2010

➢ Routine Spraying
➢ Surveillance was......bad
➢ Most information came from vendors
➢ Many Tulsa County communities had spray trucks
➢ Science and data......What’s that?
➢ Stagnant middle and upper management
I told you there was a better way...

2010

New OSU etymologist asked to collaborate with THD and they introduced:

- Overnight surveillance
- Speciation
- Larval surveillance
- Interns
2012-2015

- Economic downturn
- NPDES permit requirements
  - All but one community stopped spraying
- Severe drought 2012
  - Many WNV positives
  - Dallas aerial spraying lead to a series of media events
- Minimal State help
- Held on by luck
In 2015 THD began a collaboration with CDC/PHF. Through QI processes we:

- Fully implemented overnight trapping
- Determined significant mosquito areas
- Ramped up public information
- Significantly reduced costs and increased capacity
- New middle and upper management
Moving into modern times...

➢ Prioritized public health
➢ Made public outreach the primary control method
➢ Re-established relationships with communities within Tulsa County
➢ Share information with OKC Health Department
➢ Provide data to the Oklahoma Dept. of Health
➢ Use OSU Agriculture Extension to ID unknowns
Stretching the dollars

Budget is still $30,000

➢ Use any internal THD programs that can help
   ▪ Epidemiology, marketing, GIS, Emergency preparedness

➢ Send information to all media/community partners weekly about successes, needs and information
   ▪ Empower them and they help themselves and YOU
   ▪ Shows value to your tax base

➢ Grants from PHF/CDC and PHI to improve capacity

➢ Emergency funds and contingency plans available

➢ Major purchases available....within a budget or two
Streamlining

- Uniform data forms and trapping equipment
- Spraying based on actual needs
- Open data for all employees to use
- Consistent message throughout THD
- Have actual people answer the phone
- Useable data posted online
- Media releases including a media day
- Developing emergency plan with internal and external partners

https://www.tulsa-health.org/environmental-health/mosquito-control
Now it’s almost a game to make things more efficient

➢ Combining every day work with mosquito control
  ▪ All complaints become education opportunities

➢ Host mosquito training courses

➢ Open to all mosquito control vendors

➢ Employee buy-in

➢ Whatever it takes to get it done

➢ Keep asking for more $$$

➢ Constantly seeking quality improvement

➢ BE VISIBLE
Free or almost free...

- Centers for excellence trainings
- Training and advise from mosquito control vendors
- Bio-bottle assay kits from CDC
- Travel scholarships
- Reach out to other mosquito control people
- Always be of service
Collaborations/Partnerships

➢ Communities of- Broken Arrow, Owasso, Collinsville, Skiatook, Tulsa, Bixby, Jenks, Sand Springs, Sperry
➢ Tulsa County
➢ INCOG
➢ Oklahoma County Health Department
➢ Oklahoma State Department of Health
➢ Oklahoma State University (OSU Extension)
➢ Oklahoma Department of Agriculture
➢ Tulsa media groups
➢ Multiple mosquito control vendors
➢ NACCHO
➢ NEHA
➢ Cherokee Nation
Thank you NACCHO

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