

## Environmental exposures across urban and rural communities in the Deep South

Joint conf call meeting: West Central Alabama Advisory Board, Birmingham Advisory Board and research team members

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

2:00-3:00 PM

### Draft Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Molly Bernhard, Keisha Brown, Mary Evans, Julia Gohlke, Ethel Johnson, Matt Lacke, Claudiu Lungu, Leslie McClure, Anna Scott, Sheryl Threadgill, and Ben Zaitchik

#### **Discussions:**

Agenda adoption: Agenda was adopted.

Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes: Draft meeting minutes from Jan. 28th meeting were finalized with no additional edits.

CAB member attendance on monthly calls: These are open to CAB members, but members should not feel obligated to join each call. In Wilcox County, CAB members agreed on 2 meetings per year and in Birmingham the CAB agreed on 4 meetings per year (Refer to meeting minutes Apr. 2013).

Phone Survey Results: The outside activity questions on the Fall workshop survey are currently being analyzed to identify additional locations to consider for placement of monitors this summer. There were mentions of additional parks in Birmingham, lots of personal homes, East Lake Park and North Birmingham Park, specifically. In Wilcox County, the Wilcox Central High School Stadium was mentioned several times. More information will come via Basecamp.

Grant Application to expand our project: This was submitted Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. If awarded, it will add 2 new investigators, additional recruitment next Summer (2017) of persons with type 2 diabetes, and an urban planning/ built environment component. We are expected to receive the review of the application in late Summer.

Discussion of sampling protocol for this coming summer: Ben discussed how there has been a slight change in focus from when the original proposal was written that included Wet Bulb Globe Temperature. Based on birth and death record analysis, the complex heat metrics are likely less important than the spatial variation in temperature. It was agreed to keep the focus on examining

spatial variability and to develop this Summer's sampling design to for characterizing neighborhood scale variability. There were 2 main approaches mentioned: 1) examine how neighborhoods differ from each other and 2) a pairwise approach to compare greenspace features.

Claudiu presented a plan for placement of VOC monitors. As in 2015, one VOC monitor station in urban and 1 in rural area could be evaluated, focusing on weekly measurements over a longer time frame (3 replicates each week will be collected for 6 weeks total (48 samples and \$5300 total)). This longer time frame for weekly sampling increases likelihood of capturing relationship between heat and VOC concentrations. An alternative is to reduce the number of weeks of monitoring and have 2 sampling locations in each setting, but Claudiu mentioned that he would not expect much spatial variability except when there is a point source. Emissions of VOCs within parks from trees was also discussed. It was decided that the cost of analysis will prohibit evaluation of spatial variation in any meaningful manner. Claudiu and Julia will discuss further on how to fund this additional cost to help to make decision regarding VOC sampling.

Coordinating Travel for monitor placement: Placement of temperature monitors is best in May. The week of May 9<sup>th</sup> worked best for everyone, specifically the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The high school graduation in Wilcox County is May 20<sup>th</sup>. Ethel will check on the last day of school; her schedule is conflicted for May 20 and July 23<sup>rd</sup>. May Birthday Celebrations: Keisha's 9<sup>th</sup>; Claudiu the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>; Anna- near Memorial Day.

Additional goals for this project year: Julia mentioned one item that was proposed in Aim 1 was to develop an evaluation plan based on the Partnerships for Environmental Public Health Evaluation Metrics Manual (<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/translational/peph/metrics/index.cfm>). This could be an item on the agenda for the next formal CAB meetings.

Advisory Board membership: No new information. This will be a discussed at the next formal CAB meetings.

Upcoming Conferences: A session proposal on personal heat exposure has been accepted for the American Public Health Association meeting (Oct 29<sup>th</sup>- Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> Denver, CO). The full abstract is due in April. Speakers for our presentation during the session need to be determined. The Community Engagement Institute in Birmingham will occur in early October.

Next conference call: To be determined.

Next meeting: Julia will be in Birmingham for a meeting March 17<sup>th</sup> at 11am with Keisha, Sheila, Molly, Mary, Rachel (and any CAB members within the vicinity). Location TBD.