Public Health
Preparedness & Response Framework

Association of North Carolina Boards of Health Meeting: 11.18.2024

About Me:

Raul Gomez, MPA, CHPCP
Public Health Disaster Preparedness Manager

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Guilford County Division of Public Health –** *Public Health Disaster Preparedness Manager*
- **Cone Health**- Emergency Management *Coordinator*
- **J&M Global Solutions -** *Bilingual Facilitator, Puerto Rico Post-Hurricane Maria Recovery*
- **Henry Jackson Foundation -** *Medical Research Assistant, U.S. Naval Special Warfare*
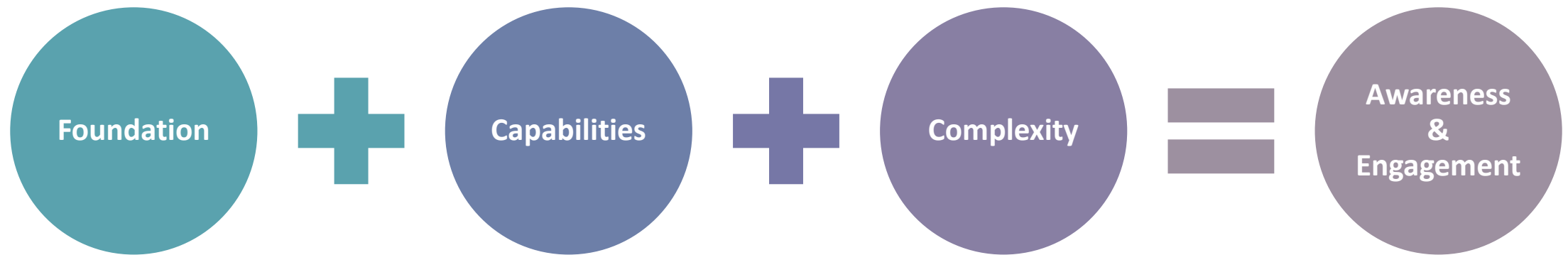
HOMELAND SECURITY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Naval Postgraduate School Center Homeland Defense & Security:** *Emergence & Radiological Program*
- **FEMA National Emergency Management:** *Basic & Advanced Academy*
- **North Carolina & New York City:** *Emergency Management Certification*
- **DRI:** *Certified Healthcare Provider Continuity Professional (CHPCP)*
- **FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness:** *Bronze Level Trainer*
- **Piedmont Healthcare Preparedness Coalition:** *NC SMAT II TRIAD State Medical Assistance Team*
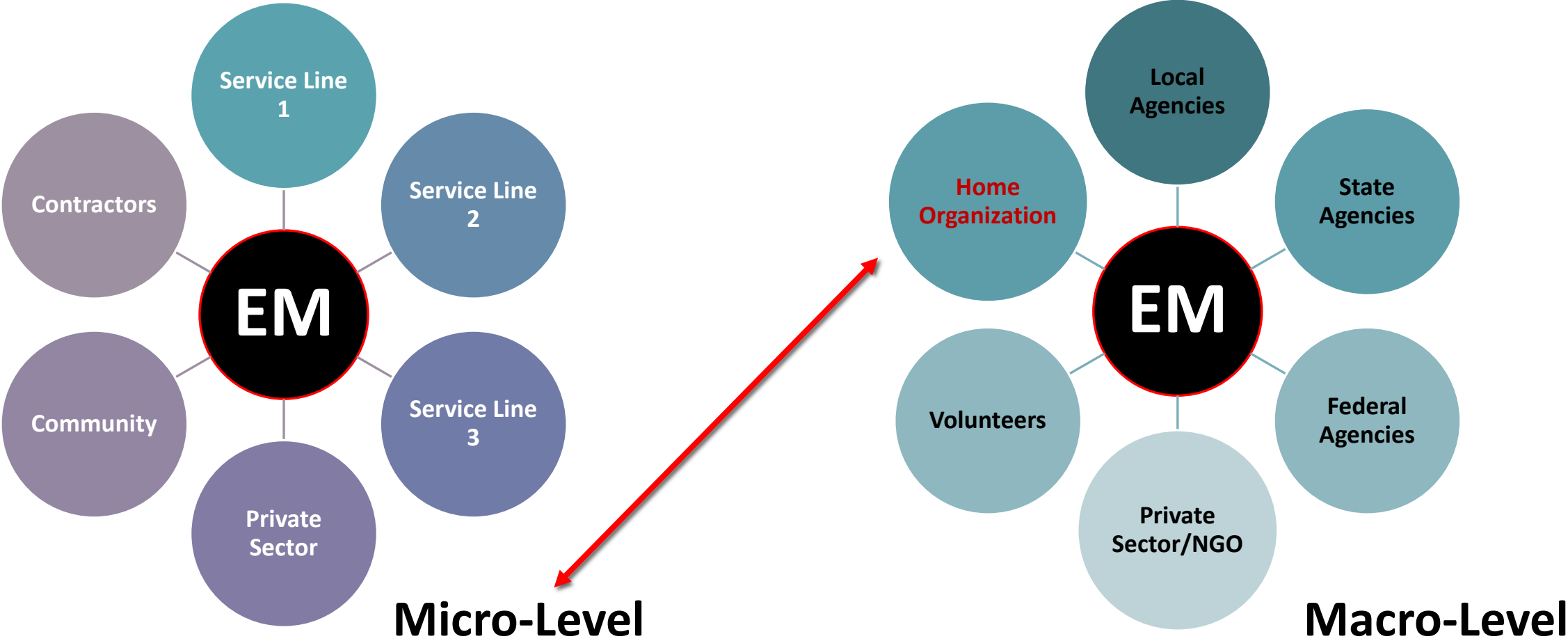
EDUCATION

- **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health**
  - *Certificate Community Preparedness Disaster Management* (2021)

- **New York University Wagner Graduate School Public Service**
  - *Master's Public Administration- Health Policy & Management (2018)*

- **Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara International School of Medicine**
  - *Medical Doctorate (2011), USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK/CS*

- **San Diego State University**
  - *B.S. Kinesiology (Health, Fitness & Nutrition) (2003)*
  - *Full Scholarship, Division 1 Football, 3-year letterman*

Roadmap

FOUNDATION

Big Picture

Micro-Level

Macro-Level

Emergency Management

4 Phases of Emergency Management

Prepare
Getting ready for the next disaster.

Respond
Addressing immediate threats.

Mitigate
Reducing impacts of future threats.

Recover
Rebuilding to be more resilient.

Prepare · Respond · Mitigate · Recover · Disaster
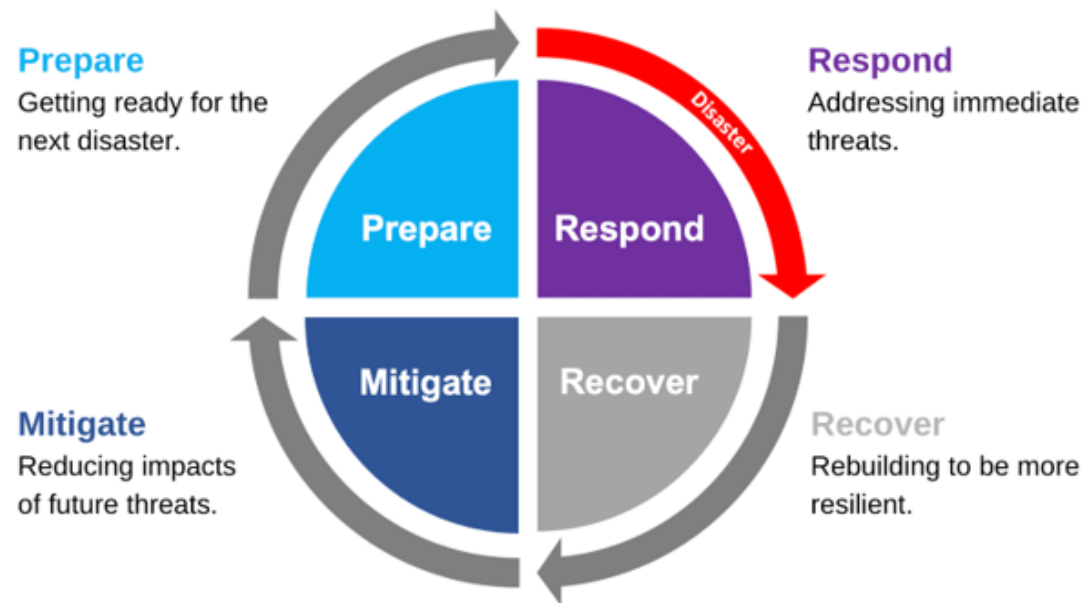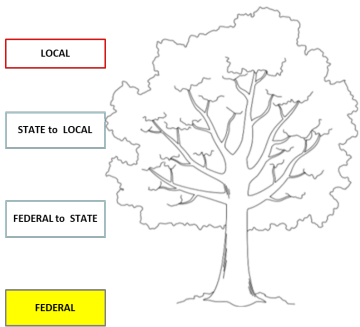
- Managerial Function

- Integrated Approach

- Unity of Effort / Whole Community Approach

- Build & Fortify Community Capacity

- Sector-specific

- 4 Phases "Fluid"

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Framework

LOCAL

STATE to LOCAL

FEDERAL to STATE

FEDERAL

Local Public Health Departments

Agreement Addendum 514: Emergency Preparedness

NC PH Preparedness & Response Branch

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement

CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response Capabilities (PHEPR)

National Preparedness Goal

National Preparedness System

National Response Framework

| LOCAL |
| STATE to LOCAL |
| FEDERAL to STATE |
| FEDERAL |

National Preparedness Goal

- Defines "Whole Community" preparedness for all types of disasters & emergencies (5 Misson Areas & 32 Core Capabilities)
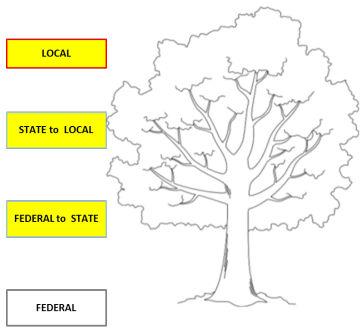
National Preparedness System

- Framework to achieve NPG Objectives (6 Components)
- Continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action

National Response Framework

- "Roles & Responsibilities"
- Strategy & Doctrine "Tools" to deliver NPG (1 per Misson Area)
- Guiding Principles
  - 1. Engaged Partnership, 2. Tiered Response, 3. Scalable, Flexible, Adaptable Operational Capabilities, 4. Unity of Effort
- Concept of Community Lifelines (most basic services relied on)
- Concept of Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)- response coordinating structures
- National Incident Management System

Safety and Security | Food, Hydration, Shelter | Energy (Power & Fuel) | Communications | Health and Medical | Transportation | Hazardous Materials | Water Systems

Figure 1: Community Lifelines

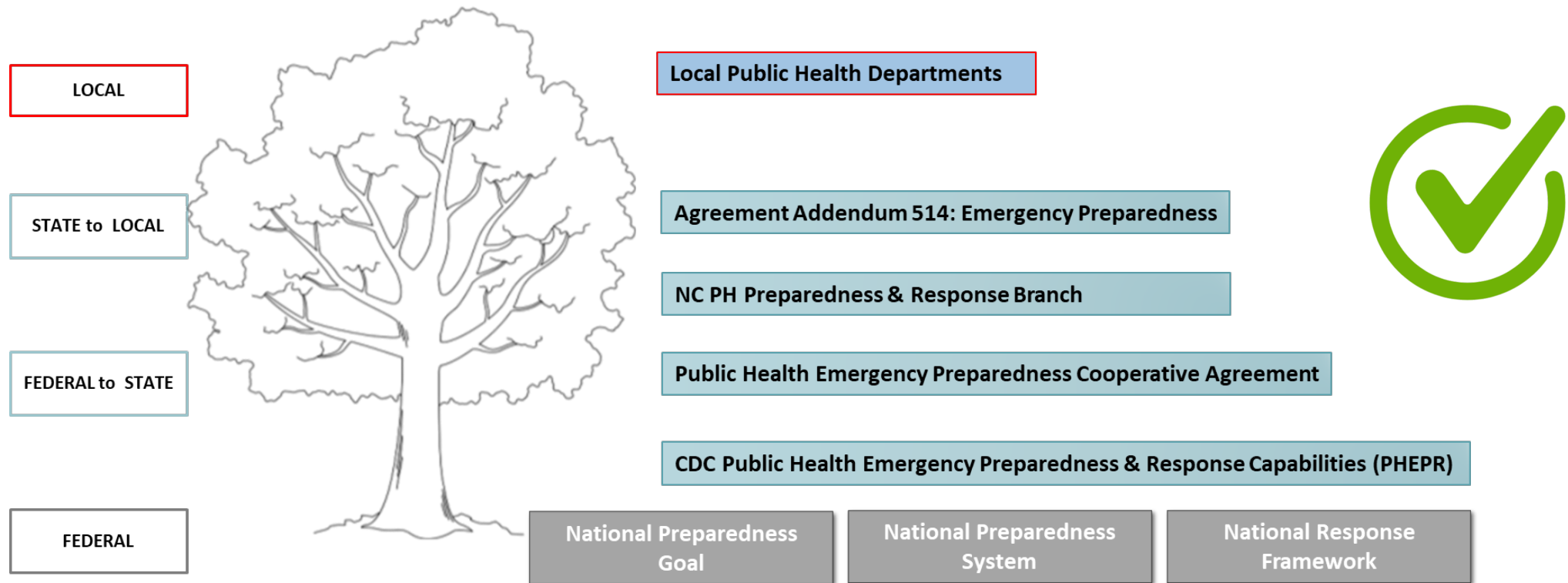|	
CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response Capabilities (PHEPR)	• USDHHS→ Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)- 15 national capability-based framework • Guides jurisdictional PH structure emergency preparedness & formalizes (ESF) #8 role • Relevant to both routine "day-to-day" PH activities and essential PH Services during disasters
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement	• Annual CDC Funding source (State, Local, Tribal, Territorial) Public Health Departments (Nationally) • Administered by Office of PH Preparedness & Response • (2024) $ formula: NC Association of Local Health Directors, Population, Land square miles, total square miles • (2025) $ formula: county's % total state population, relative social vulnerability indices, plus base $25k per county
NC PH Preparedness & Response Branch	• (2002) NCDHHS—a branch of the NC Division of PH--- to meet state accreditation requirements & national standards • 4 Regions of SME: Industrial Hygienist, Pharmacist, T&E, Epidemiology------- • Epidemiologists, Registry Bio Agents, SNSP, Provision KI, PH Laboratory, NC Health Alert Network, NC DETECT
Agreement Addendum 514: Emergency Preparedness	• Funds to Local Health Departments to provide public health preparedness initiatives / Salary / Outlines requirements
Local Public Health Departments	• Program building (Plans, Policies, Training & Exercise, etc.)

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Framework

LOCAL

STATE to LOCAL

FEDERAL to STATE

FEDERAL

Local Public Health Departments

Agreement Addendum 514: Emergency Preparedness

NC PH Preparedness & Response Branch

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CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response Capabilities (PHEPR)

National Preparedness Goal

National Preparedness System

National Response Framework

CAPABILITIES

Determining Community and Organizational Risks

What do we need to prepare for?

What level of capability do we need to be prepared for?

What are our current capabilities?

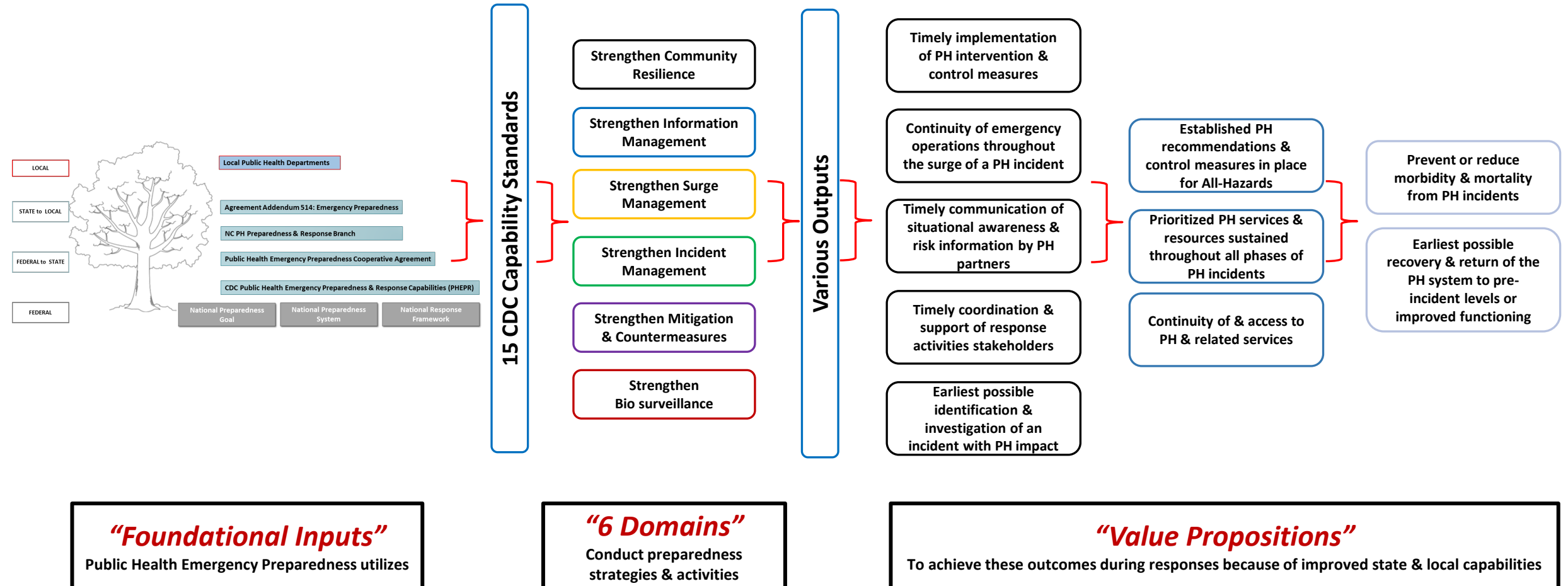What gaps exist between the capabilities needed and those we currently have?

How can we address our capability gaps?

15 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Capabilities

Domain	#	Capability	Tier
Biosurveillance	12 13	• Public Health Laboratory Testing • Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation	• 1 • 1
Community Resilience	1 2	• Community Preparedness • Community Recovery	• 1 • 2
Countermeasures & Mitigation	8 9 11 15	• Medical Countermeasure Dispensing • Medical Material Management and Distribution • Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions • Responder Safety and Health	• 1 • 1 • 2 • 1
Incident Management	3	• Emergency Operations Coordination	• 1
Information Management	4 6	• Emergency Public Information and Warning • Information Sharing	• 1 • 1
Surge Management	5 7 10 14	• Fatality Management • Mass Care • Medical Surge • Volunteer Management	• 2 • 2 • 2 • 2

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Logic Model ("If-Then" Relationship)

15 CDC Capability Standards

- Strengthen Community Resilience
- Strengthen Information Management
- Strengthen Surge Management
- Strengthen Incident Management
- Strengthen Mitigation & Countermeasures
- Strengthen Bio surveillance

Various Outputs

- Timely implementation of PH intervention & control measures
- Continuity of emergency operations throughout the surge of a PH incident
- Timely communication of situational awareness & risk information by PH partners
- Timely coordination & support of response activities stakeholders
- Earliest possible identification & investigation of an incident with PH impact

- Established PH recommendations & control measures in place for All-Hazards
- Prioritized PH services & resources sustained throughout all phases of PH incidents
- Continuity of & access to PH & related services

- Prevent or reduce morbidity & mortality from PH incidents
- Earliest possible recovery & return of the PH system to pre-incident levels or improved functioning

Foundational Inputs (tree diagram):
- LOCAL
- STATE to LOCAL
- FEDERAL to STATE
- FEDERAL
- Local Public Health Departments
- Agreement Addendum 514: Emergency Preparedness
- NC PH Preparedness & Response Branch
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement
- CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response Capabilities (PHEPR)
- National Preparedness Goal
- National Preparedness System
- National Response Framework

"Foundational Inputs"
Public Health Emergency Preparedness utilizes

"6 Domains"
Conduct preparedness strategies & activities

"Value Propositions"
To achieve these outcomes during responses because of improved state & local capabilities

COMPLEXITY

Evolving Threat Complexity

NYC 9-11 Terrorist Attack
Disaster Declaration 9.11.2001

Seasonal Hurricanes
Disaster Declaration Yearly

Seasonal Wildfires
Disaster Declaration Yearly

Covid-19 Pandemic
Disaster Declaration 3.25.2020

Climate Change
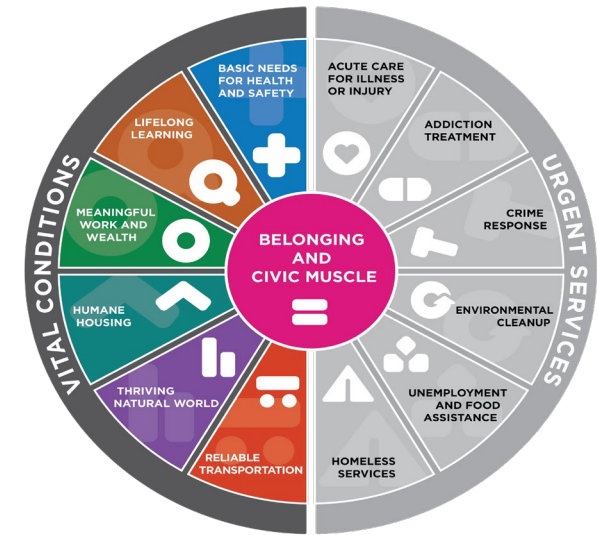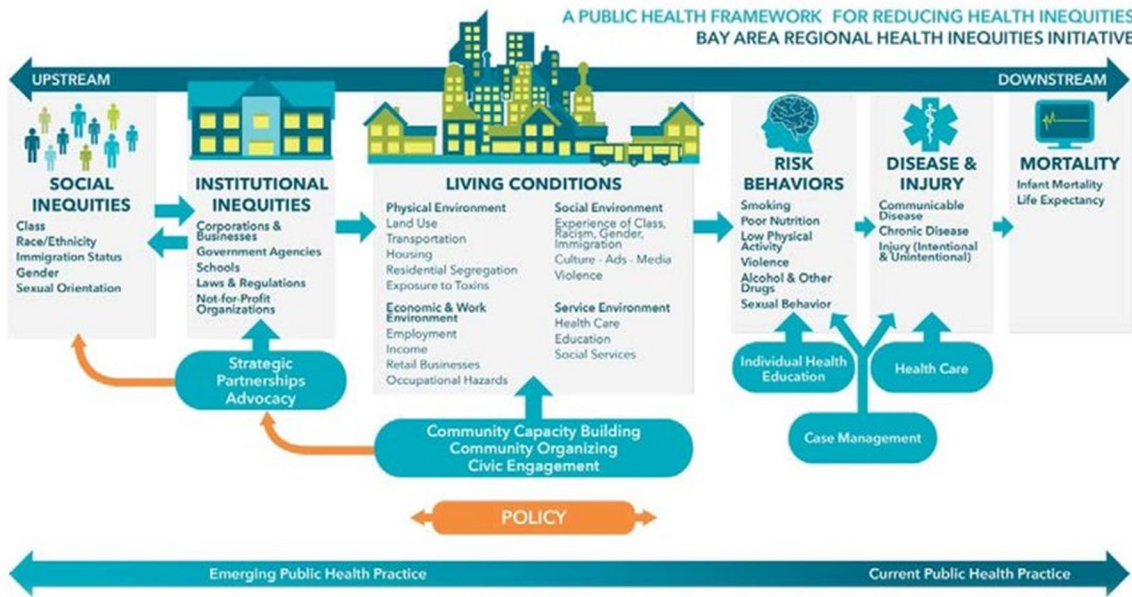Ongoing

Cyber Security
Ongoing

Mass Migration
Ongoing

Hurricane Helene Recovery

Carolina STRONG

Hurricane Helene Recovery
Ongoing

Social/Political Unrest
Ongoing

Building Healthy Communities

A PUBLIC HEALTH FRAMEWORK FOR REDUCING HEALTH INEQUITIES
BAY AREA REGIONAL HEALTH INEQUITIES INITIATIVE
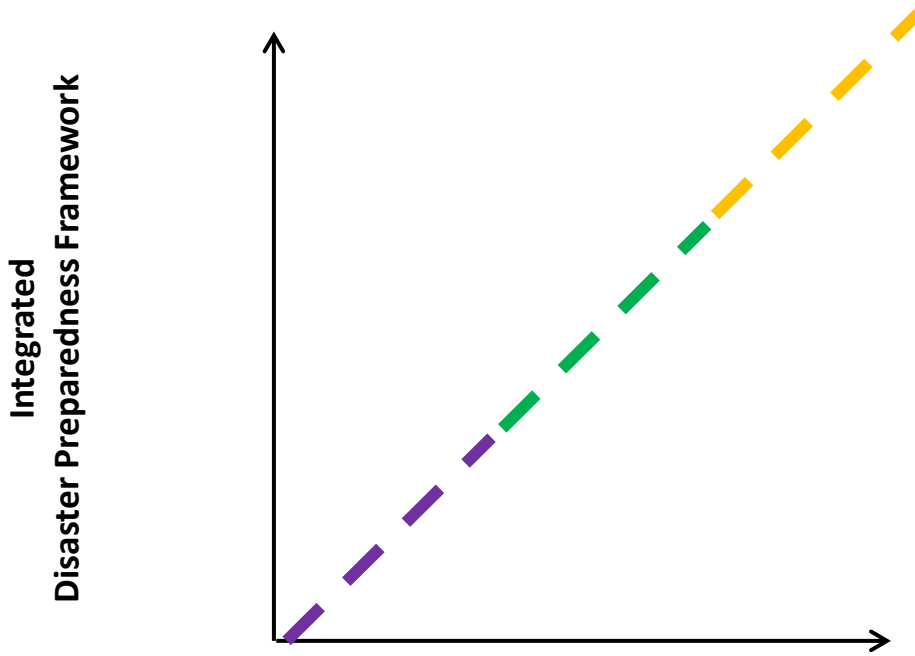

Vital Conditions Framework

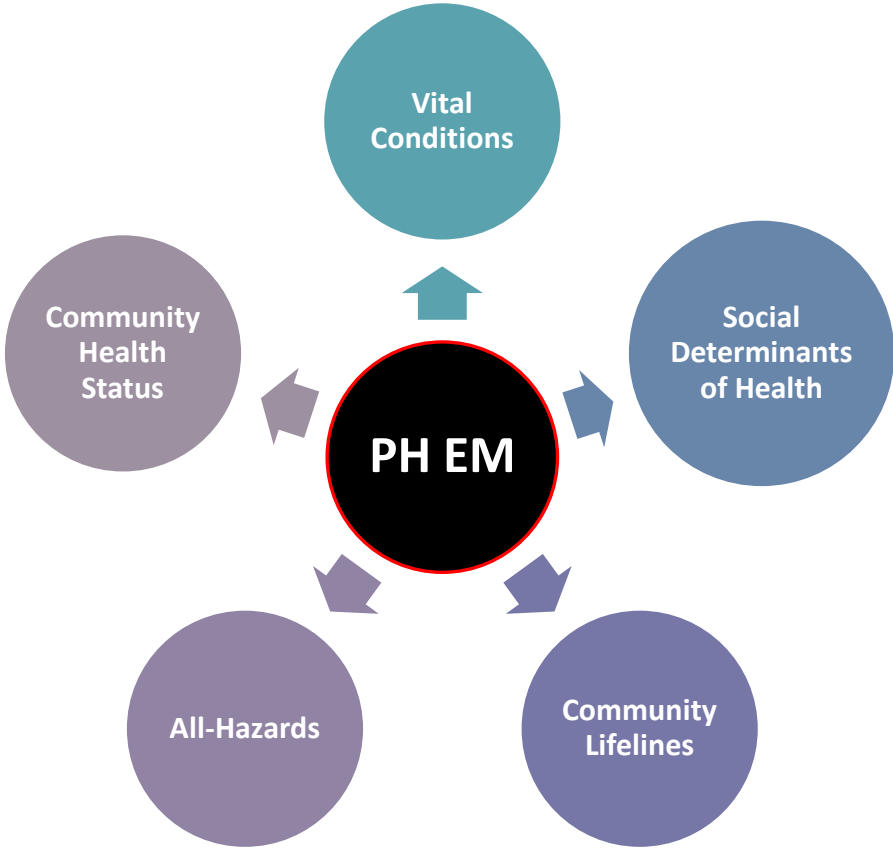**Figure 1: Community Lifelines**

Credit: Vaughn Upshaw
*"The Role of Local BOHs as Critical Public Health Institutions."*05.28.24

Integrated Preparedness & Response

"Whole Community Health & Resilience"

Vital Conditions, **Community Health**, **Community Lifelines**

Challenges Overview

1. Conceptualizing and Defining Public Health Emergency Preparedness

2. Evolving Threats

3. Integrating into a complex Public Health Network

4. Lack of Authority (Governance)

5. Decentralized framework/services (Coordination & Communication)

6. Funding & Turnover

7. "Team of One"

ENGAGEMENT

What Can You Do?

1. **Foster Collaboration**
   - Current organizations & community preparedness partners
   - "Know Us Before" vs. "During Incidents"

2. **Get In The Game**
   - Committees, Exercises Workshops, Seminars, Tabletops, Full-scale Exercises
   - "Blue Sky Days" & "Gray Sky Days"

3. **Agents of Change**
   - Your network is powerful
   - Force Multiplier
   - Shared Values
     - Collective commitment to our communities "What We Should Be Doing"------Say It, Show It, Reinforce It

Questions, Comments, Concerns

THANK YOU

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100%

Resources

1. Digital Communications Division. (9.19.24). **USHHS Organizational Charts Office of Secretary & Divisions**. https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/orgchart/index.html

2. Digital Communications Division (7.11.24). **NCDHHS Organizational Chart**. https://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhhs-orgchart

3. CDC State & Local Readiness (2024). **Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program & Guidance.** https://www.cdc.gov/readiness/php/phep/index.html

4. CDC State & Local Readiness (2024). **Emergency Preparedness Funding & Capabilities**. https://www.cdc.gov/readiness/php/index.html

5. CDC State & Local Readiness (2024). **2024-2028 PHEP Cooperative Agreement.** https://www.cdc.gov/readiness/php/phep/2024-phep-cooperative-agreement-guidance-budget-period-1.html

6. North Carolina Healthcare Preparedness Programs (2024). **Healthcare Coalitions**. https://hpp.nc.gov/coalitions/

7. North Carolina Department Health & Human Services (6/2002). **Public Health Preparedness & Response.** https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/phpr/index.html

8. Vaughn Upshaw. (5.28.24). The Role of Local BOHs as Critical Public Health Institutions. https://www.ancbh.org/boh-governance-network