

End Date	How is our state doing now when it comes to delivering health and environmental services?	What are our state's greatest challenges to delivering effective, efficient, and accessible health and environmental services in the future?	If you could improve 1-3 things about our state's health and environmental services, what would they be and how do you recommend they be implemented to best serve our residents?
2021-07-27 11:11:50	Limited since Covid. As far as healthcare is concerned, the state has become too monopolized with options for hospital and laboratory services care, which has led to worse health services than other states. In addition to a culture of healthcare professionals ignoring their patients concerns, I feel that there is a lot of room for improvement considering how this wastes time money, and causes unnecessary stress for the patients. For environmental services, the state isn't doing enough to look out for the environment and caves too much in their duties when it comes to businesses or higher profile constituents. It also fails completely with regard to invasive species awareness and has no plan to combat this detriment to the state. There is also a large unaddressed homeless and mental health crisis across the state. Decent. Wish we had more focus on work place health and better online options for health care.	Covid barriers, confused community if we are open or not. The biggest challenges are ignorance, resistance to change, and monopolized healthcare. The state should turn down any future mergers and should encourage new care facilities to come to the state.	Offer any services possible at all sites. Build up the health department services and outreach. 1. Discourage the sale of invasive species in gardening shops and incentivize growers to only carry native plants. While also setting up a task force to address control of invasive spread across the state and identifying key areas where it is out of control. Redo our middle of the road greenery with native species. 2. Discourage monopolies for healthcare. 3. New training guidance on concern for patients and taking them seriously while reducing healthcare costs across the state, and come up with legislation that allows legal grounds for suing for doctors who authorize unnecessary medical procedures and tests.
2021-07-27 11:09:51			
2021-07-27 10:15:31		Budget. Getting the word out. Almost no one seemed to know about the FEMA clinic in Columbia.	Encourage more work place health. Several people in my fitness classes have complained about desk jobs with a dress code that requires shoes that are not conducive to being active on breaks or being able to stand up and walk around a bit through out the day. DHEC should encourage employers to relax dress codes, especially for desk workers, so that they feel comfortable to get up and walk around on breaks and occasionally during the day. Also, encouraging active lifestyles by offering flexible work schedules to make it easier to make fitness a priority. Things like coming in 30 min late, going home 30 min early, or taking a 30 min extended lunch break on some days if they use that time to be active in some way. They can make up the time in other ways if they choose this option if needed. Encourage workplace fitness groups like lunch time walk buddies or healthy cooking lunchons where everyone can share their recipes and the nutritional values of them.
2021-07-27 08:32:49	Decent Water Management is disjointed due to duplication of resources within the state. Water should be managed by a single agency for consistency and though processes. Compared to other states, I think SC is average.	Separate DHEC and allow the areas of service to be focused on an efficient and smooth delivery.	1. Separate DHEC for ease of use and delivery of services. 2. Restructure state government to mandate single agency water services
2021-07-26 15:46:52		1.The high costs of care (even for those with insurance), 2. Providing services to rural areas 3. A shortage of mental health providers and services. 4. Many patients want a "magic pill" to treat their chronic problems, rather than being willing to make behavioral changes.	1. Address the high cost of providing healthcare. Even for those with insurance, a high deductible will prevent them from seeking care. 2. Patient education regarding the impact that behavioral changes can make in a patient's health outcomes. 3. Address the shortage of mental health providers.
2021-07-26 15:31:57	On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being - amazing, I would say we are at a 5. SC does some things okay, but other things like promoting safety in regards to COVID-19 & importance of vaccine seem to not be a focus at all.  Resources are stretched thin. Positions are challenging to fill. Staff is hard to keep.	Limited to no funding for rural areas; lack of competent clinical and other service providers; lack of promotion/awareness for health & environmental services available in SC  The agency has not prepared for the pending exodus of permit writers (aka engineers). Engineer pay is extremely uncompetitive and working conditions are poor. Obtaining a pool of engineers to interview takes multiple postings as the pay is so low. Retaining engineers is a challenge as external opportunities pay so much more. Training new engineers to draft the challenging permits needed takes years - few stay long enough to reach that ability. Within 5 years (probably much less than that), almost all of the existing experienced engineers will be eligible to retire and with the low pay, there is no incentive to stay longer. How will the needed complex permits be written once the agency doesn't have the necessary engineers?	instead of one overarching agency (DHEC) - allow some services/departments to be privatized, like a private agency/corporation in charge of family planning health services; the ability to get an actual point of contact to talk to and/or return phone calls/emails from residents Pay needs to be made competitive for today's job market.
2021-07-26 14:34:50			
2021-07-26 13:40:57	the state has done a good job in vaccine delivery for those who want it can get it and could get it quickly, I know the challenge now is getting those who are hesitant tot take it. I think we should focus more on population health rather than clinical services.	dispelling myths and inaccurate information on social media; also view of the quality of services, DHEC offices generally look older and run down, doesn't make people feel like its quality services Access and technology	overall doing really well - just continue to work to educate and improve image
2021-07-26 12:04:57			
2021-07-26 11:50:23	In my personal experience DHEC has been fair. However, they are extremely slow to respond to anything and it feels like they are anti-business sometimes because of their lack of responsiveness to public issues I feel it is doing well. It could have more information out about getting everyone vaccinated and to star vaccinating in school for those over 12 years of age, with parental consent.	DHEC doesn't pay their employees enough therefore they lack the talent required to properly administer these services, in my opinion. We need more purposeful and forward thinking environmental planning and regulation. We also need more funding for accessible health care and health information dissemination. We must accept all funding offered us for such uses.	Stop providing clinical services and contract that work out; focus on population health; focus on data and technology infrastructure Streamline the decision making processes and not be influenced by political factors to achieve their mission  1. We need more purposeful and forward thinking environmental planning and regulation. We need to fine companies ad entities that break regulations and use those funds to run programs and pay for new planning. 2. We also more funding for accessible health care and health information dissemination. We must accept all funding offered us for such uses by the federal government. We could put a per use tax on alcohol and tobacco products to pay for healthcare for our citizens. 3. We must have more pop up vaccination clinics in areas that are not getting vaccinated and offer vaccines in schools for students 12 and up, with parental consent.
2021-07-26 11:48:04			
2021-07-26 10:36:52	horrible.	Environmental protection! Stop allowing chemicals that kill to be sprayed without consent on citizens. We want clean water, clean air, clean ALL. And NO FORCED VACCINATIONS. Must keep medical and religious freedom.	MAKE THIS THE CLEANEST ENVIRONMENT POSSIBLE For the health of all
2021-07-26 10:33:58	Just OK	Long term committed funding.	Streamline regulations and regulatory processes
2021-07-26 10:24:35	Sorely lacking in the rural areas of SC	Lack of education and reliable mass transit. Escalating housing and food cost which becomes an issue between meeting monthly obligations and seeking medical care. Transportation concerns and warm hand-off – I feel like our clients need an exact phone number/contact person to reach when we give the referral. Not just the main line, but, a direct person.	Telehealth services are essential. In order to meet that need however there has to be access to broadband services and education on how to navigate the system. Home Services Increased Transportation Direct Line to Make Appointments
2021-07-26 09:52:24	Average		
2021-07-26 09:04:42	In environmental services, we have a lot of vacancies but I think we come together as a team to get the job done. We do a great job!! We all know what the others do and who to go to if we need assistance. Our executive leadership team is the best!	We have issues with employee retention mostly due to salaries. When we can hire, we spend a lot of time training people who leave to go to private industry. Or we have people who are fully trained and do a great job but leave because they are making the same amount as the new hires they are training.	-employee retention/salaries -being able to hire in all staff at proper levels (not just hourly) -Let our structure stay the way it is so we can focus on doing our jobs to the best of our ability with the teams we have built relationships with and already know what needs to be done to work together and obtain the best outcome. I love my work family!! -
2021-07-26 08:05:57	Considering that we are still dealing with a global pandemic, very well.	Misinformation	1. Access to healthcare - Helping folks understand the importance of a medical home and preventative medicine 2. Diabetes Education - Utilizing Faith Community Nurses to provide this in faith communities 3. How to access quality health information based on science. Classes to help people to access and use good internet resources.
2021-07-26 07:24:16	I think that SCDHEC is not as effective as it should be because it is underfunded and understaffed. Some services that should be occurring are not being conducted proactively.	Providing the funding and resources necessary to get the job done efficiently and competently.	Increase funding and staffing for 1) mental health, 2) foster care/social services, and 3) environmental protection.

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2021-07-25 19:06:21	From what I have seen DHEC needs a lot of work. Firstly, residential and commercial composting should not have as many hurdles as it does. It would be great if DHEC made an effort to encourage such practices that are badly needed in our time of climate destabilization. Additionally, the current Farm Bill does not deliver in how it should be addressing conservation and pollutant problems. I would love to see more grants and subsidies for small farms practicing organic and regenerative farming. Any sort of future that involves clean water and air, and fertile soils will not involve the corrosive farming that is industrial agriculture. South Carolina needs to move away from this. Moreover, the state needs to stop being so hesitant on hemp farming. It's a burgeoning crop that can only benefit the state. Along those lines, marijuana ought to be legalized for growing and use as well. There's no reason this state has a right to tell it's citizens can't grow a harmless plant. On a separate note, I'm totally discouraged to how the state is handling the existential threat of climate change. The state needs to move fast— this is a timely issue. We need to be planting acres of forests, restoring marshlands, improving public transit, and decreasing carbon emissions in every way we can. I know it's a politically sensitive issue but it is one we cannot afford to amble about on. In short I'm extremely disappointed about the state's handling of environmental issues. From my point of view in Charleston, It favors industry, "development", tourism, and pretty much anything over ecological considerations. This needs to change if the state cares about the land we eat from and share with animals, the water we drink from, and the air we breath.	The greatest challenge seems to me to be lack of political will. This is a conservative state that cares little to none about climate destabilization, deforestation, marsh degradation and the like.	As I said in the first question. 1) Composting should be encouraged and deregulated. We turning a resource of nutrients into a greenhouse gas when we through it in the landfill. 2) reforestation is key to tackling many environmental issues from soil erosion to heat dampening to carbon sequestering to flood management and more. The L-26 tree clearing was devastating to me for all those reasons. We need to increase protected lands and restore long leaf pine ecosystems to the state. To do this the state has to work with private landowners to encourage them to reforest with long leaf and use control burned management techniques to bring back species on the brink of extinction. I want my children to be able to walk through stands of 200 year old long leaf pine. Moreover, we need to plant natives in our city landscaping and stop with the Chinese Elms and Japanese maples and Crete and Myrtles. Native plants look pretty too! Channel this state's xenophobic tendencies into plant species. 3) The state needs to remember that when it considers its residents that does not just mean humans. It means every living thing down to the smallest bacteria. These animals, plants, microorganisms, and fungi literally make our world possible. They create the air, they clean the water, and they make the soil we use to live. Yet, we assault these fellow beings at every turn. This needs to change. They need to be considered in policy making just as much if not more than as any business, industry, or human.
2021-07-25 16:42:15	mediocre	free medical care reaching the poor and minorities	more accessible . place facilities in low income areas. more person to person services
2021-07-25 15:41:31	Great, considering the amount of money the state provides.	financial support to provide competitive salaries	increase funding by the legislature, science-based decision-making, decrease interference in public health by our governor.
2021-07-25 10:00:15	Smaller health entities, like free clinics, need better communication and more chances for partnership.	Not properly reaching the uninsured, under-insured, and those who do not have established, trusting relationships with health care services.	1. Work directly with safety net medical clinics through their state association, SC Free Clinic Association
2021-07-25 09:16:27	Poor - we need to adopt Medicare expansion as made available by the ACA. We need to recognize the overwhelming consensus that humans are causing global climate change and take action to reduce its impact.	Evidently, it is Republican politics.	Expand Medicare.
2021-07-25 08:22:01	Poor	To centralized. Need to be mire accessible. You should be able to speak to someone about your environmental questions or concerns.	I see DEHEC as an arm for business. They permit pollution and do not care about future environmental problems. They permit pollution and Allie destruction of our natural resources. High level employees quit at DEHEC and then come right back as a " private consultant " lobbying the person who took their position. Usually this is a person who worked under them in the past so their is pressure to bend the rules. Example: Look at office that deals with Waste Water permitting depot. Director came right back to fight for permits . Should be a 5 yr. waiting period or not allowed at all for same area.
2021-07-25 04:40:51	Not good.	Communication and education.	1. Communication- do a better job of notifying citizens of request for permits, hearings,etc. Be considerate of those who do not have access (location or economics) to the internet. 2. Education- provide education materials via internet, phone calls, mailings, advocacy organizations, social media, tv, radio, etc. 3. Customer service -treat everyone with respect and dignity.
2021-07-25 04:34:00	Not good.	Communication and education.	Communication- do a better job of notifying citizens of request for permits, hearings,etc.
2021-07-24 16:07:26	Failing	Realize Covid is raising again. This Delta variant is dangerous. Make ppl mask up & get vaccinated.	Stop playing around with Covid. Be serious about mask in schools & inside public places. Do more to educate ppl about the vaccine.
2021-07-24 15:57:06	Needs improvement.	Having clear mission to make the general well-being of citizens top priority, great leadership, adequate funding, adequate staff, solid staff support. Need commitment in particular for mental health services provided locally and or by district in the case of hospitalization. Increasing vaccination response.	3 priorities: 1. Mental health services. 2. Pandemic planning, standardizing access to vaccines. 3. Safety inspections (bridges, dams, food, pharmaceuticals, amusement parks, air and water etc).
2021-07-24 15:07:54	Heath services are severely lacking. Need more community health services in rural areas.	Businesses promise a lot to get tax incentives but they aren't giving back to the communities where they operate. Poor schools, lack of recreation areas and facilities are a problem as well as lack of community health services.	Recreation centers indoor and outdoor in each county available at low cost to residents. Making new businesses moving into the area invest more in the communities they operate in with regard to infrastructure in exchange for tax incentives.
2021-07-24 14:40:39	Mental health programs are inadequate or totally lacking. Concern with monitoring of industry discharge of toxins and lack of regulation i.e.: Dump in Bluffton, discharge into waterways, Google pumping water from the aquifer with surrounds worry of lack of drinking water, permitting of development in environmental sensitive areas i.e.:Capt. Sams Spit.	Lack of strong regulation and enforcement of such. Training of staff and Need for additional social services for foster care, homeless, women's health services. Protections for abused individuals.	Implementation of needed regulation and increased enforcement of polluters. Regulations that protect communities because current lack of regs i.e.:sand mining. Long range planning for impacts of growth to balance wants of some vs needs of the community.
2021-07-24 14:28:41	I don't have any data to know about DHEC. I do know the handling of my first covid shot went smoothly. My second shot, in the same location, by the same provider, was not recorded for my family MD to see, and I had to show my card	health and environment are two massive topics to be combined in one agency. The problem of growth/environment tradeoffs is one area. For examples, I don't see flies on watermelons I throw out the way I used to. I don't see roaches in the kitchen at 2:00 AM the way I used to. Bannas and tomatoes don't taste the way they used to. Why? Is some key link missing- like bats needed to pollinate to make Tequilla. A lack of environmental scientists in leadership positions.	I think you need metrics to report and the public needs to keep these basic statistics, life expetancy, infant death rate, sanitation-related accidents in hospitals, air quality metrics like VOCs. The public needs to keep these indicators in their head like earnings reports.
2021-07-24 14:25:56	Not very well.		Separate the agencies into environmental protection led by environmental scientists, and a health agency led by physicians and medical professionals.
2021-07-24 12:57:19	We are exceptionally lackluster with few exceptions.	SC government offers little more than what the Federal government requires.	1. Expand Medicaid. 2. Revise the mission to protect the health of all S.C. residents as the primary goal and to effectively protect our SC environment as the secondary goal, including the closure of business with repeat violations environmental regulations and laws.
2021-07-24 12:41:39	i would say on a 10 pt scale, DHEC delivers at a 4 to 5	inadequate state funding and political influence on scientific decisions.	increase funding; interact better with federal agencies; provide more opportunities for citizen input; expand the board to make it more representative of our diverse state and not have everyone on the board appointed by the governor (as a means to minimize politics)
2021-07-24 12:31:43	Don't know and consequently don't have an opinion.	Keep water systems free of toxic substances. Protect and conserve our water sources. The challenge is to educate the population about the need for clean water and water conservation.	Educate the public about the necessity of being informed about these issues. An educated public so that they can understand the importance of protecting the environment and public health (why do vaccinations matter, etc.) Education through TV spots during popular viewing times, social media, short info. spots on local TV news and radio channels.
2021-07-24 10:54:00	Could do better, especially poor in environmental services, i.e., permitting (both 401 and coastal zone certifications), stream and river instream flow needs, nutrient and pollution standards and control.	Legislative interference (e.g, the water withdrawal act), lack of strong use of science and positive developer bias in environmental permitting decisions,	More reliance on science in permitting decisions. Better and fairer appeals processes for poor permitting decisions.

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2021-07-24 10:40:34	Poorly. DHEC has closed or limited county-based health services. DHEC's public health division lacks transparency and accountability.	DHEC needs to be split into two regulatory agencies, one for public health regulations, health promotion and reporting; and one for environmental regulations, monitoring and reporting.	1) Close DHEC county health clinics, and 2) Subcontract with federally qualified health centers and rural health practices to provide county-based health services in all of the 46 counties; and 3) Reallocate some of the funding available as a result of # 1 and #2 to increase environmental monitoring and reporting.
2021-07-24 08:23:09	We are doing very well considering the small amount of staff we have.	Slow hiring processes for staff and transportation barriers for clients. For ex. We have had a vacant AS II position almost a year. Once someone was hired in this space of time and worked Approx 2 weeks and we're just planning interviews again for next week.	Blood pressure issues for clients with intense education and they would need wristband BP cuffs be given them and glucometers and taught how to use them. But only given to them once. Partnership with free clinics.
2021-07-24 08:11:27	Communicate to the public what services you do provide.	Protect our state's environment by not letting companies that pollute esp. our rivers and air quality operate in our state! Once our environment is ruined there is no going back.	Keep birth control available and easily accessible for all people! Making birth control pill prescriptions for at least 90 days! Young women are so penalized when they have babies too young and it is very sad for the children also!
2021-07-24 07:00:52	It could do better	aging population needs more emphasis on services for the elderly. More attention should be paid to recycle efforts. More effort should be on keeping Lake Murray clean	there should be more fire boats on the lake. DNR needs to enforce Lake Murray Regs. More emphasis needs to be put onto services for seniors. There is a lot of federal money available. Title III-B, Title 3-E,
2021-07-23 23:38:42	Health would be better if politicians would let experts do their jobs. Also need better control of wastes, water quality, and water quantity.	Climate change, education of elected and appointed officials, statewide planning of resources and infrastructure.	Require the Board to have expertise in health and environmental protection- not just political cronies. Require state planning of water use and water quality. Require major fines AND repairs for repeat offenders- sewage and other waste problems. More effective litter control.
2021-07-23 22:25:33	Not that well.	The fact that these two very different services are handled by the same department.	Split DHEC. Expand Medicaid. Protect us better from the Covid-19 virus including improve the % vaccinated. Improve health care access for everyone. Promote green alternatives to fossil fuels.
2021-07-23 22:10:21	South Carolina is one of four states where the health and environmental departments are under one agency. This allows DHEC to integrate health into their environmental work. This places DHEC in a strong position.	Climate reality and equity impacts are the greatest challenges facing the state.	Keep DHEC the same. No need to change a structure that is working for this state.
2021-07-23 20:41:49	It is a travesty that DHEC turns a blind eye to the State Ports Authority's docking cruise ships, which are proven carcinogen emitters in the midst of Charleston's high density residential communities. Residents suffer the harmful effects to health of resulting air pollution not only from the cruise ships but also from the car emissions of the hundreds of cruise passengers' cars. This is disgraceful and DHEC makes a mockery of its mission to protect citizens health.	You greatest challenge is fulfilling your mission statement and getting out of bed with the State sports Authority. Do your job!!!	You could actually mandate that sources of dangerous air pollution not be allowed to operate in immediate proximity of high density residential areas and to demonstrate that your mission statement actually means something.
2021-07-23 20:40:22	It is a travesty that DHEC turns a blind eye to the State Ports Authority's docking cruise ships, which are proven carcinogen emitters in the midst of Charleston's high density residential communities. Residents suffer the harmful effects to health of resulting air pollution not only from the cruise ships but also from the car emissions of the hundreds of cruise passengers' cars. This is disgraceful and DHEC makes a mockery of its mission to protect citizens health.	You greatest challenge is fulfilling your mission statement and getting out of bed with the State sports Authority. Do your job!!!	You could actually mandate that sources of dangerous air pollution not be allowed to operate in immediate proximity of high density residential areas and to demonstrate that your mission statement actually means something.
2021-07-23 20:25:32	Don't have any idea. SCDHEC is certainly not promoting themselves to the public.	Where to start? Education is the key: let the public know what you can offer. Priorities would include preventive medicine, particularly in educating the public as to proper nutrition and lifestyle moderation	Quit rubber stamping projects that pander to corporate wrath as opposed to the quality of life for citizens.
2021-07-23 20:20:42	Poorly. Many bordering states have implemented and constructed "Environmental" divisions within the regulatory agency of the state. This type of structure allows the Environmental Division to act and move independently.	Personnel and pay. Because South Carolina does not heavily regulate most industries that violate permit limits, or towns and cities which do the same it is difficult for the state to generate revenue. Historically, SCDHEC will tactfully go after folks believed to have deep pockets. It may be more beneficial to hold all industries and activities to the regulations written into legislation.	THE WEBSITE! The website is not very helpful when looking for answers to very simple questions. E-permitting, is a great tool, however, getting it to function and benefit the state and individuals using it.
2021-07-23 19:24:31	So so	Getting people to believe in vaccines	More mandatory vaccinations for health care workers and employers
2021-07-23 18:46:28	Not sure the agency attends fully to the uninsured. The virus could have had more inf on where shots were available and had more TV and radio tone to get the message out. Our GOP state was not very bold.	Use all airwaves early with clear inf. In ALL counties. Tighten our environmental laws to protect our resources and how we deal with waste and our water (rivers).	Work hard to keep our water supply safe and free of hazardous chemicals, enforce clean air regulations, save forest lands from developers cutting down all trees for a development. Stop illegal drugs from growing and also the over sale of prescription drugs that are not needed but doctors get too much money from the sake of them
2021-07-23 18:04:21	excellent I feel that our state has valuable employees that care about the services they provide but educating the public about services and ways they can be a partner in improving health and the environment is lacking.	Communication 1. Less than desirable reputation about the state's capabilities... I think the entire image of SC DHEC needs to be freshened up and promoted so the public trusts the staff, services, and assistance that DHEC provides. 2. Ensuring that public health services and environmental services maintain a strong partnership (if not remaining as one agency) to provide comprehensive services to the public - they go hand in hand in developing a healthier population 3. Recruiting and retaining quality staff with limited budgets	more locations, In school resources 1. Reducing public health disparities; we can do this by improving clinic-based services, health education, and quality of services to ensure people are accessing what the state has to offer 2. Putting more focus on how mental/behavioral health is foundational to the prevention of chronic illness (see the work of Dr. Nadine Harris Burke); 3. Ensuring that environmental protection staff are visible partners in all communities- we do this by utilizing existing public health offices and teams so residents don't feel like their environment is being managed by a large, regionalized bureaucratic entity (rural areas feel overlooked)
2021-07-23 17:44:49			
2021-07-23 17:00:56	It's difficult to say without having some kind of benchmark to compare its performance to.	I suspect financing is always an issue and we can never be effective without a clearly articulated game plan for delivering those services	First, specify the goal. Second, spell out the plan for achieving the goal, including markers for success.
2021-07-23 16:39:26	C	Rural vs urban availability to services	More services in the poorer areas with more medical services available, for example open many more clinics
2021-07-23 16:22:48	I find the services to be inconsistent. At times satisfactory, other times not.	Based upon my direct experience with the staff at DHEC I would say that it is their training and education. So, this would implicate overall management.	1. Learn to identify when you do not have all the information needed 2. Use the technical resources at our local universities more to expand your knowledge. More and better ideas and initiatives can result from collaboration.
2021-07-23 16:13:17	Below average compared to the country. Average compared to south east.	-Accessibility by citizens - impacted by the state's technology infrastructure than it does the Agency's processes Qualified and reliable staff - open positions create excess burden to current staff members and make it harder for existing staff to be efficient, effective, thorough, and happy.	- Staff Retention - Very specialized knowledge needed for EH, training is high investment. More efficient with retained and experienced staff at all levels. - Clearer communication on what EH does and does not need with community and citizens - Clearer expectations with in the organization for employees. Clearer roles and responsibilities
2021-07-23 16:02:39	poorly, not enough doctors and far too few mental health providers with appropriate skill levels	The lack of will to fund services properly. Emphasis should be on prevention rather than treatment. I don't see that happening.	Widespread, affordable, accessible mental health services available for everyone, well before they reach a crisis level. These can be on a sliding financial scale, with \$0 for the poor who do not have Medicaid.
2021-07-23 16:01:04	Poorly	Listening to citizens and not industry or business leaders	Best control of water use by factory farms. Tighter controls on pesticide use in factory farms, including those spread by planes and helicopters, and notifying neighbors when and what is being spread. A better approach to protecting South Carolina's natural resources especially water.
2021-07-23 15:25:06	Doing okay	Staffing, low budget	E-Permitting was not rolled out to industry or SCDHEC staff well. It is not understood and guidance is not given well as such. Title V permitting renewals are so slow even with few changes. Why? Asbestos regs are unreasonable. Requiring inspections with all renovations/demolitions is excessive.

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	<p>Given the limited financial resources provided through the state budget DHEC is doing a great job. It is not the agencies fault they do not have adequate staff. The problem started with Catherine Templeton, who came into the agency with a mandate from the Governor or someone to ripe the agency apart, in doing so, a tremendous amount of institutional knowledge was shown the door. The so called restructuring done by her was a disaster, she made it almost impossible for Environmental Health staff to perform their job in a timely manner. Removing staff from each county and co-locating them into clusters was and is very inefficient. The General Assembly needs to leave DHEC alone when it comes to splitting the agency.</p>	<p>State Resources. You MUST have adequate staff to deliver effective and accessible health and environmental services. Pulling Env. Health out of DHEC and putting them with Natural Resources is laughable. The environment is a huge part of Public Health, separating them shows a limited knowledge of what Public Health really is all about. Making DHEC a cabinet agency will only further restrict their ability to enforce the state laws relating to Public Health and the Environmental Regulations, by bringing in unwarranted and excessive interference from the General Assemle and the Governor's Office.</p>	<p>1. The regions have gotten way to large. Delivering quality Public Health Services requires the people in charge of delivering these services and the providers of such services to build/have relationships within the local communities. You must be know in your county and/or community in order to build trust within those counties and communities. I would bet the current Regional Health Directors and Administrators do not have a first name relationship with the County Administrators and County Council Chairmen/Chairwoman for the counties under their charge. You MUST know who you are working with in order for them to trust you. 2. Environmental Health Permitting services such as Restaurant Licensing/Inspections and the issuing of septic tank permits MUST be moved back to each county. Having contractors and restaurant owners having to drive 75-100 miles in order to met with DHEC staff is beyond stupid and then requiring DHEC staff to turn around and drive the same distance to perform the services makes no sense. Talk abut being inefficient. Doing some things on line is fine but you must not remove the face to face interaction which instills confidence with the public. 3. Regional Structure, I've already spoken on the regions being to large but we also need to look at the make up of the regional leadership. There should be one Regional Director who is over ever services provided within that region. There should not be a Regional Health Director and then a Regional EQC/Environmental Health Director. We have one State Agency Director who is responsible for both and that is the way it should be in the regions. These Regional Directors should report to the Agency Director. Thanks for the opportunity to provide input.</p>
2021-07-23 15:11:57			
	<p>Services available are not very convenient. More satellite locations needed. Environmental services ineffective because nothing is enforced. Unchecked cheaters are destroying salt marshes and other South Carolina resources where are you. I try to stop illegal stuff being done on weekends but get no response from officials. And builders call cops on me but don't check builders permits.</p>	<p>More employees/ inspectors/ enforcers needed all over state not just larger cities. Businesses and public buildings don't do regular cleaning and maintenance trying to save money. (No cleaning For years at a time especially at middle and high schools) Overfishing is not checked or stopped Recycling by commercial rentals is not being done. Remind tourists we recycle here.</p>	<p>More local involvement thru community outreach initiative from state level to county level programs in churches schools and clubs. Ask us we want to help improve our health and environment. Make us more aware of what works to protect our environment. Thanks</p>
2021-07-23 14:47:47			
	<p>It has gotten politicized in our Health.and especially was not good with Covid information and vaccine distribution. Environmentally it seems swayed by corporate interests when it comes to nuclear waste and coal ash clean up. And why is the sewage overflowing into the Congaree River yet again????</p>	<p>Politics is the problem. Gets in the way of common sense strategies to deliver quality healthcare to rural and impoverished communities</p>	<p>Make them not accountable to political whims so they can be autonomous from governor pranks</p>
2021-07-23 14:45:53			
	<p>Good and bad. Health, I think is good. Covid laid unprecedented healthcare challenges at our feet, and it was clear to me that DHEC was working to coordinate resources as fast as they could. Environmental, however, is a different story, and DHEC does not abide by the laws, policies and regulations in place in issuing permits. At a time when we are at a crucial period of time in our nation's history, DHEC is not protecting the environment from devastation. I would like to see DHEC both follow the existing laws and scrutinize the permitting process for ways to be more protective of our rapidly diminishing coast, communities, forests and streams rather than acquiescing to the whims of developers.</p>	<p>As environmental resources diminish and pollution spreads, serious health issues will increase. DHEC needs to explore the interplay between environmental devastation and health outcomes in order to understand and anticipate the needs of the community in the future. Optimally, they would work to uphold and strengthen the existing environmental laws, policies and regulations to better understand the interplay between environmental and community health, but I have little hope they care about that as an organization.</p>	<p>Begin using the environmental permitting laws, regulations and policies to better protect communities. The infrastructure is there, but they are not utilizing it enough to protect communities from damaging developments and projects. To implement, I think employees and project managers need training on how to ask better questions of permittees before issuing permits, assess projects more critically and rebrand as a regulatory agency rather than a good ol' boy network who will push anything through for the right/certain consultants.</p>
2021-07-23 14:40:45			
2021-07-23 14:24:00	Fair.	Too few field workers at DHEC; too many desk sitters.	Hire qualified field staff to enforce regulations.
2021-07-23 14:21:23	Fair	Equitable services for all	Employ persons with expertise in Area, NOT political appointees
	DHEC hasn't taken the role of leadership that I thought it should during this pandemic. I think politics and inconsistent messaging have sidelined and weakened it, it doesn't command the public's confidence.	Money and politics	1) Strengthen the leadership roles. Politicians should be coming to you for advice not giving it. 2) consistent and strong messaging about public threatens to health and Well-being should be a priority and not influenced by elected officials who lack credentials in health and environmental issues. Tick surveillance, water quality and laws-policies to protect it, messaging about diseases—including other not just COVID such as threats from other viruses, bacteria and fungus, air quality alerts and warnings—public education about all these things for schools. Immunization clinics held at schools and allow a certain age child to bypass parent permission as parents don't have the right to put their children in danger because of some wild religious belief. It should be illegal to put children in danger for preventable diseases. Help schools educate kids while they are still listening to adults.
2021-07-23 14:10:11			
	Doing the very minimum.	Weak regulations. Weak enforcement of current regulation. Poor training for regulators. Confusing and challenging language within regulations. No leadership nor good decision making.	We need clear and concise laws and regulations that are upheld at all levels. We need swifter and stronger enforcement actions taken when violations are found. We need good, strong leadership within the agency. We need employees empowered to make decisions and do their jobs. We need far less middle management. We need significantly better training to not only do the job but to be a leader among states as an environmental agency. We need to refocus are priorities and goals and redefine what success looks like. The state has to be aware of the environmental challenges our state has and have clear and transparent access to what is happening in and around their communities. Keeping the state healthy must become a priority after years of neglect.
2021-07-23 14:06:35			
	Not well for all residents	improving access to healthcare and preserving the environment/ improving the environment	increase access to both expand ability of licensed healthcare providers who are not physicians to provide services
2021-07-23 13:56:49			
	Health is closely tied to education and income. Our public education needs to be funded and a minimum wage of 15.00 per hour needs to be established. People are more likely to be healthy if they are educated and have income to provide for at least their basis needs. One of the more disturbing statistics in SC is the child hunger/food insecurity rate. There is no reason for 30 plus % of SC's children to go hungry on a regular basis.	Public education and economic development for the underserved needs to become a priority for our state. This includes prison reform, education and training opportunities, and minimum wage reform.	1. Increase minimum wage to 15.00 per hour. Putting money in people's pockets stimulates economic development. 2. Increase funding for public education including the amount of money that teachers earn. SC diverts significant monies from public education to corporations and SC has not realized the anticipated benefits. 3. Improve infrastructure and with new infrastructure include monies for bike lanes, busses, light rail, etc. essentially create policies that support healthy environments.
2021-07-23 13:55:59	Public Health services in SC will be strengthened with community health centers are adequately funded and staffed and when funds become available for support environmental changes that enable healthful environments. Importantly, policies need to be in place to support those environmental changes.		
	I believe we can be doing much better, having more resources available to those in need.	Availability, being able to meet individuals where they are. Having one facility that serves three counties is hard on those who need this service.	Having more available sites where someone can receive the services they need.
2021-07-23 13:41:50		It seems like parts of DHEC are in opposition to each other. One arm permits projects that the environmental side would not have agreed to. I don't know if that is due to some sort of outside pressure or if they don't look far enough ahead to determine the likely outcome of these projects.	Really look at the all the possible consequences of an action such as permitting to determine if it is indeed in the state's best interest, assuming that the state ranks clean air, water, and soil highly. DHEC needs to remember that it serves ALL citizens, not just those with money or who offer jobs or the folks at the State House or Governor's Mansion.
2021-07-23 13:38:37	I think the employees at DHEC are doing the best they can. The scientists I've met have all been well qualified for their jobs.		Communicate Community meetings to share i fo frequently
2021-07-23 13:34:20	Fine	Communication	

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2021-07-23 13:32:43	Mediocre	Delivery of services by DHEC reminds me of a fireworks display. On special occasions, you see bright bursts of light and energy for a short period of time. But mostly you see nothing. During an emergency, or lots of negative press, DHEC springs into action. When there is no media? *PSST* This stop and start way of operating is not effective, efficient, or sustainable.	More resources, especially staff - right now, there are too few people tasked with too many responsibilities. And the agency can be split into 2, 3, or 8 agencies...doesn't matter without more people. More creativity - too many staff are quick to say 'No,' when the answer really is 'Maybe' or 'I don't know...let me talk with my team to craft a solution.' Create a culture of thinking outside the box. More backbone - too many staff (including managers) are afraid to make the hard decisions, even when they are in the right. Administration has to support staff decisions that are based on science and integrity.
2021-07-23 13:26:32	Not well. I think part of it is the legislature and the governor....especially in terms of Covid. They have done and continue to do everything they can to push back on medical recommendations.	Priorities. This state needs desperately to expand Medicaid. Focus needs to be on early intervention and prevention. In Northern Greenville County where I live, the services like emergency room, etc. are abysmal. The comparison from the Eastside of Greenville County and the Northern part of the county speak volumes. Socio economic disparity is across the state. Many underserved and in poverty.	Expand Medicaid. Establish and expand medical services in poor and underserved areas. Telehealth would help, but that requires broadband and internet access which is also poor in many areas. Work on prevention and early intervention especially related to Adverse Childhood Experiences. Mental health services need to be restored. We are doing little.
2021-07-23 13:16:04	so-so, but I blame politics, not DHEC	Stop thinking poor people don't deserve to be helped. Stop declining federal funds, e.g., for Medicaid. Move towards wider healthcare options. Encourage micropractices rather than large corporate medicine.	Accept federal Medicaid funds. Computerize medical records and make telehealth services available to all. Stricter environmental standards - don't wait for government to set them. It's too late for that.
2021-07-23 13:06:34	Good in the end but the regulatory burden for certain approvals is daunting	We are doing fine	1. Check regulations against actual implementation within continuum of care 2. Keep freedom of personal choice alive by not vaccine shaming!
2021-07-23 13:04:35	Not good. Too much influence from large corporations and corporate farms.	Lack of funding. Very lax enforcement.	Split functions. Hire advocates.
2021-07-23 13:04:16	Services are fine. Messaging, guidelines, and informing the public is terrible.	The current Governor.	Serve the public's interest rather than the whims of the current Governor.
2021-07-23 12:42:09	Fair	Insufficient funding, staff, and communication with the public.	Heighten your presence and visibility, use credible spokespeople often, stress health and don't give way to retrogressive political statements.
2021-07-23 12:37:52	In terms of environmental services, not well. The primary culprit for decades has been and still is Santee Cooper.	Protecting privately-owned land from entities such as Santee Cooper, and controlling runaway out-of-control development that destroys and encroaches onto wetlands, rivers and contributes to pollution of many types.	Have DEHEC empowered to work in conjunction with the Public Service Commission/ORs to restrict and effectively control what Santee Cooper and other big utilities can do and build that is literally destroying the historical and natural resources of South Carolina.
2021-07-23 12:29:03	It could be more progressive and comprehensive. Most residents don't know what services DHEC does.	Rural outreach	Mobile healthcare and improving tele health services
2021-07-23 12:26:53	Average to below average	Public involvement and education	Find a way to engage the community to help increase things like COVID vaccine rates
2021-07-23 12:25:34	Just okay	The General Assembly	Stricter limits on suburban sprawl, plastic pollution, and construction of new roads.
2021-07-23 12:24:58	We are consistently in the bottom quarter of the country. This is a running joke and source of great frustration . We can and should be doing much better. Health and environmental services could be improved. DHEC is stretched too thin trying to achieve both health for people and investigating and regulating health for the environment. Admittedly, making sure that industries are not polluting does have an effect on health for people, but the two tasks are different enough that they deserve the full resources (both money and personnel) to carry out their tasks.	Following the science, treating the climate crisis as a real-time threat to every component of life, and proactively communicating the same to SC residents. Poor people in SC who aren't eligible for Medicare or Medicaid have a difficult time accessing health services. Going to a hospital emergency room does not help either the patients who have put off medical care because they can't access routine health care or the rest of us who end up paying astronomical rates because the poor can't pay for the services they are given at hospital emergency rooms. Also, environmental regulations are difficult to enforce because the personnel who are supposed to enforce them are spread too thin. When violations are discovered, companies are not forced to mitigate the violations. This is happening right now with New Indy Paper Mill near Rock Hill, SC. Their violations will also affect the water of communities downstream because they are located on the Catawba River. They are also affecting the air the local community must breathe, on up into NC. DHEC needs to do a better job of finding and correcting environmental problems in order to safeguard community health.	1. Remove politics from all decisions. Trust the science. 2. Expand Medicaid/Medicare 3. Invest in a renewable energy infrastructure 1. Give all people access to routine health care. Use a sliding scale. If they are below a certain income, it should be free. 2. There should be routine, unannounced inspections of industry to make sure they are following regulations. Require mitigation of the problems instead of simple fines. 3. CAFOs and other industries that currently use holding ponds for waste should either be outlawed or mandated to operate in such a way that their waste cannot enter the environment through either land, water or air. Ideally, they should be mandated to clean the waste rather than store it. If allowed to store it, it should be in lined ponds that are covered until they can be cleaned. The industry generating the waste must be required to clean it. SC should not be a dumping ground for industry.
2021-07-23 12:16:41		Getting information out the the public.	Use printed information in public places, like grocery stores and get a good, easy to use on-line website that is updated on a regular basis.
2021-07-23 12:15:25	Not as well as NC, where we were able to get the covid shot months before SC	Keeping ignorance and politics out of an area that should rely solely on science. Vital area that needs to be fully funded!	1. Giving a leader that has authority to implement public health standard without having to submit to an ignorant, politically motivated governor and legislature
2021-07-23 12:14:08	Totally awful. Where are the public service announcement on the vaccine!? Many other areas lacking.	more accessible/quicker responding staff, better adherence of existing regulations	see above
2021-07-23 12:12:13	health services need better delivery/coverage in rural areas. Environmental services need better enforcement		
2021-07-23 12:10:10	Not well	Overcoming old ideas of how things have always been done and falling victim to the influences of groups/industries that do not have the state's best interests in mind	Stricter water laws, oversight over large-scale land clearing to address environmental impact

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	<p>If I were to rate DHEC overall, just as a basic marker, from 1-10, I would give the agency, as a whole - a 4. There is way too much bureaucracy within the agency. The enforcement capabilities have been stripped on some fronts and there are massive over-reaches on other fronts. I understand that some of this may not reflect DHEC of itself, but from legislation higher up. There are numerous environmental and health concerns that DHEC seems to 'pick and choose' as to which are addressed or enforced. This type of 'management' undermines any type of 'control' or enforcement overall. Consistency is needed within the agency. True audits are needed within the agency, from an independent source to keep DHEC honest to it's mission of protection. South Carolina has weak environmental laws and enforcement compared to most other US states (SE US excluded), but does seem to have (from my view) excessive food 'safety' and coronavirus over-reaches which delve into personal liberty concerns.</p>	<p>The bureaucracy and conflicts of interest within the agency. As we are in the south, unfettered capitalism seems to drive even the regulators - DHEC is no exclusion to this. Capitalism is good when there are checks and balances to the system, but at times, DHEC is inconsistent with how and who they choose to regulate (enforce). Everyone should have one standard otherwise violations persist and will blossom later on, as a culture will be established. However, in sounding too legalistic, I would balance this with the idea that as a regulator, there are also times to point businesses in the right direction as opposed to being authoritarian at all costs. Point being, all pertinent laws should be addressed and enforced at times, but balance, prudence, and consistency are the keys here. DHEC seems to have abandoned these principles, often times enforcing a harsh penalty or doing absolutely nothing in a different circumstance, with no precedence to draw from. Efficiency is lacking within the agency overall, as the agency is too subdivided with "departmental-ism" or "bureau-ism" galore.</p>	<p>1.) Incorporate more public input and allow more time for decision-making, especially on important or big upcoming changes. And please provide actual scientific data when bringing forth changes, to support such change. At times, DHEC has veered too much to a 'one-sided' approach in which either an economic benefit or an environmental benefit was more heavily weighed on a decision. At times, and in certain areas, this may make sense, but generally speaking, both sides need to be looked at, as well as certain limitations being placed on either side. 2.) I think environmental law and enforcement needs to step up, particularly pertaining to water laws and large operations within the state, as these operations have a bigger footprint and potential to cause damage. Issues like mosquito-spraying, water fluoridation/chlorine amounts, stormwater enforcement (or lack thereof) need to be looked at. The public should have more of a say in some of these, as many of these are forced upon the public with little data to support such practices; or perhaps just the one-sided approach again, without looking at potential safety effects of such practices, erring on the 'sterilization' mindset. Again, much of this may be above the agency, but the agency can choose how they enforce or regulate such activities. Prudence again is the key. There is broad over-regulation and propaganda coming from DHEC about coronavirus. Lets look at real percentages of those that are at-risk compared to other diseases through modern history and not fall prey to the 'sterilization' or 'no-risk' mindset again. People have free-will in life and DHEC should not promote against our constitutional liberties protected by the constitution. Any campaign to promote a vaccine or mask-wearing in children is diabolical, as the data clearly shows that children are not at risk. DHEC, be honest, and 'follow the science'. 3.) Be honest and promote the true good of those in SC. All else will fall in place if prudence is observed. DHEC needs to have some ability to function independently, not associated with the corruption of the current EPA. This must start with credible science and good people in positions of power. There is too much industry 'regulation' built into policy already. Environmental and health laws need to be revised and consistency in regulation needs to persist in this better law. This may be a utopian view, but it's the truth. Practically speaking, DHEC needs to be simplified as a whole- there are way too many departments and bureaus which prevent any one department from making a meaningful impact. Streamline the agency and remove those who've been appointed to protect certain interests (not the interests of the people and environment of SC)-plain and simple.</p>
2021-07-23 12:08:12			
	<p>Poorly</p>	<p>Environmental protections need to be greatly strengthened to protect what makes SC special. The current laws, including mining refs, need to be changed to protect environmentally sensitive areas. Development of the coast needs to be limited.</p>	<p>Change mining laws to NOT allow mining close to coast, prohibit nuclear waste dumping and limit construction on coast</p>
2021-07-23 11:50:42			
2021-07-23 11:40:12	<p>Not great</p>	<p>There is litter everywhere. It is clogging up drainage ditches, streams, rivers and ends up in our major waterways.</p>	<p>Hire people to patrol and enforce our litter laws</p>
2021-07-23 11:39:55	<p>Not too good</p>	<p>It must be truthful and complete information</p>	<p>On the site list all information</p>
2021-07-23 11:36:55	<p>Poor - The information regarding where and when to receive Covid vaccinations was slow and confusing.</p>	<p>Convincing vaccination hold-outs to get vaccinated and eliminating highway litter.</p>	<p>1. Require proof of vaccination to enter restaurants, bars, or sports events - France is doing this now. 2. Increase the penalty for littering to \$5000 on all public state and county roads - Provide an anonymous way for citizens to report violations in real time. 3. Promote land conservation by creating a conservation easement program for smaller properties - under 10 acres.</p>
	<p>Not particularly well! In fairness to the current DHEC this is as much a Legislative failure as a Regulatory failure. The Legislature regularly rolls over for hunters, polluters and anti-regulators.</p>	<p>Split the agency so that the Public Health professionals and Environmentalists can do their respective jobs without bureaucratic compromises. Have the Legislature ENACT comprehensive legislation that enables Public Health. The current Covid crisis is a prime example of the Legislature and Governor sitting on their hands and doing NOTHING instead of being out front and insuring that appropriate measures are passed and implemented.</p>	<p>1. Split the agency. The two functions are uniquely different and should be managed professionally. 2. Enact legislation that puts Environmental controls in place to manage the behavior of the business community. 3. With appropriate enabling legislation in place hire quality professionals to manage and staff the two agencies and allow them to do the job WITHOUT the Legislature mucking around because some constituent is unhappy.</p>
	<p>Reasonably well considering budgetary restraints.</p>	<p>Lack of state funding and personnel.</p>	<p>Fully fund environmental and health issues since the condition of the environment greatly affects the health of its citizens. Decrease the reliance on funding from licensing fees with sets up a conflict of interest and on federal grants which tend to be for a specific problem but do not address over arching programs. Relief from such a heavy reliance on these income sources would allow implementation of true 5 year plans and goals.</p>
2021-07-23 11:27:45			
2021-07-23 11:26:40	<p>I have little experience with SC Health &amp; Environmental (H&amp;E) services</p>	<p>Well trained and well paid people, available to provide H&amp;E services.</p>	<p>(1)Provide excellent training and (2) provide good salaries and working conditions, (3) Locate personnel where most need indicates.</p>
2021-07-23 11:21:49	<p>I will give it a C-</p>	<p>Our uneducated population</p>	<p>Stricter enforcement of and larger penalties for corporate pollution.</p>
2021-07-23 11:21:18	<p>Not well. I visited Aiken Regional ER this week and I was shocked at the number of people in the waiting room. It was pretty clear that a significant number of those people were using the ER as their primary care provider. Either we need universal healthcare, or we need more access to physicians for the poor in our communities.</p>	<p>There seems to be a shortage of general practitioners in our area.</p>	<p>The state could provide incentives to bring young physicians to our poorer communities. Implementing universal healthcare for all would help as well.</p>
2021-07-23 11:17:18	<p>Variable geographically and temporally.</p>	<p>Political interference and an inadequately educated public.</p>	<p>Strictly enforce all laws and regulations that relate to environmental protection.</p>
2021-07-23 11:11:49	<p>Not very good</p>	<p>This agency is too large. Too many chiefs ant not enough work</p>	<p>Simplify and break down the size of the agency.</p>
2021-07-23 11:11:02	<p>Very poorly compared to any other developed country.</p>	<p>Capitalism</p>	<p>1. Expand Medicaid 2. Implement a universal single-payer system grafted onto existing federal programs like the ACA. 3. Help developing countries by funding publicly owned health facilities, equipment and medicine.</p>
2021-07-23 11:06:31	<p>Fair</p>	<p>Keeping politics out of healthcare decisions</p>	<p>Too fragmented, mission too broad, political interference diminishing ability of healthcare professionals to protect citizens e.g. COVID response and ongoing nursing home and assisted living regulations</p>
2021-07-23 10:59:40		<p>High turnover, no succession planning</p>	<p>Implement the salary survey - employees are very underpaid and turnover is high. Get out of dept. of administration leases - buildings are extremely poorly maintained - working environment is abysmal.</p>
2021-07-23 10:58:35	<p>Poorly</p>	<p>Education and funding</p>	<p>I would break up DHEC so that health and environment are separate agencies and each one is funded ore robustly.</p>
	<p>Not great</p>	<p>Lack of political support/lack of independence from politics which results in: - Lack of funding - Lack of executive direction - Insufficient legal authority to deliver effective, efficient, and accessible health and environmental services</p>	<p>Empower the agency to do their jobs through: 1. Better funding 2. Clear executive direction (from the Governor on down) 3. Sufficient legal authority to act</p>
2021-07-23 10:58:26			

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2021-07-23 10:56:54		Lack of succession planning at DHEC. Extremely low and uncompetitive salaries cause excessive turnover.	Make salaries competitive. Have an environmental agency - the tie to health causes environmental needs to not be addressed.
2021-07-23 10:52:47	I do not think they are doing well. It is very difficult to get services for those who need services.	Competitive pay for its works, not enough workers, not enough options for those who are in need	We must reach out to those who cannot get to the approved facilities. We have to have programs in place that not only helps women and children but also our geriatric population.
2021-07-23 10:51:24	reasonably well although too much political influence within the department - delivery of services should be independent of political tendencies and reflect protections of state resources for the long term rather than interests of the political players. Our natural resources should not be for sale	Tendency to look at needs/desires/requirements of business and private interests rather than the health, safety and welfare of all South Carolinians. Long term thinking must figure into the decision-making so that we are in a position to deal with issues such as climate change/warming and its impacts.	-availability of information available online is abysmal -publication and dissemination of state priorities relative to all South Carolinians and how this affects long term resources -there needs to be an interface between this department and agencies such as transportation, commerce and energy that look to long term health and environmental impacts (including costs to taxpayers over time for cleanup, health resources, and lack of park/recreation resources)
2021-07-23 10:50:44	Poorly. By refusing to insist on masking and other protective efforts that I know were blocked by the governor's office, SC failed to protect our most vulnerable residents. You all tried but had a political handicap...	Countermanding erroneous and deliberately false distribution of information by social media.	For the agencies to be given freedom to function devoid of political whims so that they can operate on the basis of vetted medical and scientific research and information. Deliver clear, understandable messages to residents - billboards, PSAs, radio spots, SC ETV, health clinics - both thru hospital systems, free clinics, and even churches, to reach small communities. Perhaps small scattered start up info booths - and free vaccinations - in rural communities. Print ads. Simply a barrage of legitimate information.
2021-07-23 10:49:13	The state needs to be more diligent in its enforcement of environmental regulations that currently exist.	The department needs to continue lobbying the state for more funding to increase its staff to monitor and enforce current regulations	Once again increased staffing. Training/workshops for a volunteers to help monitor problem areas.
2021-07-23 10:48:50	Badly	Getting experienced personnel and funding	Transparency, experienced personnel and proper allocation of funding
2021-07-23 10:48:46	Poorly. Unbelievable that the Governor has restricted schools from implementing mask mandates in the Fall. Also unbelievable that he refused Federal help in door to door vaccination education. Also unbelievable that he has refused Federal aide in expanding Medicare . More restrictions needed on building along the coast. Perhaps housing buyouts are in order too instead of having tax payers donate to saving investors homes along the beach	Mindset. And, the reluctance to making those investors and homeowners pay their own costs for building in environmentally fragile areas. Health...mindset again. Also education	Environment: stricter building controls in environmentally fragile areas. Not allowing rebuilding in fragile areas when homes are destroyed. Health: Problem: high health care and drug expenses. Lack of education. Expand Medicare . Work on reducing drug costs for our State & country
2021-07-23 10:48:29	I believe this two service should be divided. I feel that DNR does an excellent job in managing the natural resources.DHEC has opportunities in managing the environment and the current pandemic clearly show the weakness of health services.	Governor MacMaster and our legislature seem to be your greatest challenge. They have politicized these processes. Let the professionals in these areas make the decision at the lowest level.	Need an improved reach out in under served areas in health. Establish internet service free statewide. Offer health and environmental education in schools.
2021-07-23 10:47:04	Badly	Getting experienced personnel, proper oversight and paying them enough	Transparency, proper allocation of resources and more experienced personnel
2021-07-23 10:43:14	Poorly	Opening Medicare/Medicaid services to the working poor. Pay Medicaid doctors the same as Medicare and provide incentives to Medicaid doctors to become service providers.	1) Increase medicaid funding to meet the needs of South Carolina's needy. Healthcare in the USA should be a right, not a privilege.
2021-07-23 10:42:57	Alright, could be better	Making sure there are enough accessible locations to properly serve the whole state	Provide free basic healthcare for everyone so that everybody can have a primary care physician, provide dental care for everyone as well
2021-07-23 10:42:29	Stinks to high heaven. Too many needless covid-19 deaths caused by mcmaster's political ion of dhec health policies.	Clear focus on clearly stated mission with budgets linked to expected outcomes. Vet board members for independence so members have ability to corrupt the decision process.	Dhec focus on people. Dnr focus on where people live. Coordinating council to address harms and benefits derived from nature.
2021-07-23 10:42:14	poorly	Our Governor is the biggest hindrance at this time.	1. Ability to counter misinformation. 2. support for mask mandates 3. support for vaccine outreach
2021-07-23 10:41:35	Not very well.	Health - A governor who will listen to his experts. Environment - A governor and legislature who will listen to DHEC and financially support the needs of DHEC to adequately and properly implement the SC and Fed laws under which DHEC operates.	1. SC Legislature return DHEC funding to pre-2008 levels (with inflation added adjustments) 2. Provide salary increases to DHEC staff to better attract and retain talented people. 3. Reduce DHEC's bureaucracy overburden of many staff who have no direct job in providing interactions with business and the public.
2021-07-23 08:52:46	In our area, great sufficient funding is an issue	Homebound, reclusive residents who do not wish to be known by the government, and rural areas and sufficient staffing and funding	Better community outreach to allow knowledge of what is available, sufficient staffing and funding
2021-07-23 07:44:45	Good	Providing regulatory training	Provide affordable environmental regulatory certification Offer voluntary compliance services similar to OSHA Incentivize regulatory compliance similar to OSHA VPP
2021-07-22 20:22:57	Access to affordable healthcare is problematic for a large portion of South Carolinians and with a provider that can be trusted.	Overcoming barriers that have been in place for decades.	Access to healthcare for underserved populations. Partnering with Fetter Healthcare who provide mobile care is an overlooked opportunity.
2021-07-22 15:08:38	We are not getting services to the rural areas like we need to be. We need to reopen some of the offices in the rural areas that were closed under C. Templeton.	Infrastructure, not enough locations to serve rural areas, transportation issues for our clientele, confusion about just what services DHEC can provide.	1) Reopen offices in rural areas to provide both health and environmental services. 2) Cross train staff to be able to provider better customer service. 3) Create and implement a public awareness campaign to highlight what DHEC is and what it does for all sectors of the population (individuals, families, industry).
2021-07-22 15:01:50	it could be improved	the need for stronger environmental regulations that protect the environment, and greater access to quality, affordable healthcare, especially Medicaid expansion	expand Medicaid to provide healthcare to more people, strengthen environmental regulations and hold polluters accountable
2021-07-22 15:01:32	Well	Virtual services to rural areas	one- improve availability of virtual services; get more towers in rural communities two- place more services in rural areas for ease of access
2021-07-22 13:36:43	I believe it is doing a good job. I believe on the environmental side we could do a better job communicating to the public. For instance the difference between a RP VCC vs NRP VCC and what might better fit the scenario the person is in. Where, what and how things can be recycled. More outreach programs to schools and communities and allow areas to participate in them.	Technology is a big hurdle here. Training new hires and keeping people to work here. The judicial system needs to support DHEC more. There should be a program to sample private water supply wells once a year or every other year. By doing this we would ensure the our citizens are drinking potable water and give an insight to potential unknown contaminated sites. The Bureau don't have an effective way to communicate with each other. I know e-permitting is suppose to bring all the information to us and hopefully that will be widespread soon through out the agency.	Easier ways to get information and give guidance on our expectations. For reports, we should have guidelines and should be concurrence with all sections that have similar reports. Be more present in the different communities and explain what DHEC has to offer in their area.
2021-07-22 12:53:26	I believe the state tax payers are getting ripped off with how environmental health is being managed. They authorize water monitoring and let the contractor continue for years and years without seeing an end to the process.	Public Health is delivered in the same way it has been delivered for the past 50 years. There comes a time to reassess the role of the Public Health System and redesign accordingly.	Public Health Services should be separated from environmental health. Environmental Health should be reassessed to update the monitoring processes.
2021-07-22 12:38:24	I think it does a fairly good job, despite the many challenges facing the Department almost every day.	The greatest challenge among all of them is budgetary. As a state, South Carolina needs to do a much better job allocating financial resources to the departments most at need to fulfill these vital health and environmental services.	I believe the best way to improve our services is to have them become more centralized. There appears to be a lack of accountability when one service falls short of expectations. Another improvement would be to streamline our services better.

End Date	How is our state doing now when it comes to delivering health and environmental services?	What are our state's greatest challenges to delivering effective, efficient, and accessible health and environmental services in the future?	If you could improve 1-3 things about our state's health and environmental services, what would they be and how do you recommend they be implemented to best serve our residents?
2021-07-22 12:21:22	DHEC has a knee jerk reaction to public health issues. The agency seems to be narrowly focused on services already provided, and when new issues arise they're not prepared. There are so many things going on around us that leadership does not pay attention to and our services are at risk of being taken over by more efficient, forward-thinking agencies.	Not paying attention to what's going on around us. Narrow focus on what is happening now, as opposed to listening to and monitoring the community for ever-changing needs. Lots of talk and no action. Top-tier leadership needs an overhaul.	Health services need to be out in the community, meeting the clients where they are. We need to be very flexible and have accessibility after normal business hours. Nurses should be cross trained to provide multiple services in one visit. Transportation and child care are recurring challenges, remove those obstacles. Need to pay attention to new and emerging evidence based programs that are multi-generational. They are out there, changing the way services are being offered, making what we do and how we do it quickly obsolete. Top tier leadership over-haul. Leadership should be client and employee focused, driven by the needs of both. Leadership is lazy, using too many words, with very little action. Pay attention! How you treat your employees and work is a direct reflection of your service to the community. The reputation in our region is not good. The hard working staff deserve to be a part of something better. It's hard enough to recruit and retain employees. Changes need to be made!
2021-07-22 10:33:22	poorly but it isn't DHEC's fault. The general assembly has underfunding you for years and you are unable to do what is needed because of lack of resources. Being said, you have great people in health side (don't know about environmental) and have done well through pandemic	our culture and lack of addressing major issues, trauma/mental health before you can address health	
2021-07-22 10:15:07	inadequate	not enough funding opportunities for non-profit, private agencies who can better serve populations than larger state-run entities.	I would request that the state use funds to assist smaller, more effective and efficient agencies to provide wrap around services, accessible healthcare and mental health needs.
2021-07-22 08:25:04	Okay	The lack of qualified people	More services
2021-07-21 17:30:01	SCDMH does a great job!	Financing	1. More money and incentives for employee retention 2. DO NOT Put SCDMH under a cabinet 3. Give agencies more operational services
2021-07-21 17:12:51	Our state has come a long way; however, there are still many health and environmental disparities and inequities that exist in our state, as well as our nation. This prevalent, inconspicuous system of privilege has been an extremely undue burden on the poor and "minorities" in this country and state. Our State government, including DHEC, continues to operate on semblances of the slave plantation paradigm. Workers are paid low wages, basically blocked from promotions or salary increases, are expected to do more with less, and to be thankful for these things. And just because a few have "made it", doesn't mean that this is progress. Those who have "made it" are outliers, exceptions to the rule. Case in point, the is a DHEC building named after J. Marion Sims, who is considered the father of gynecology. What most don't know about are the brutal experiments he performed first on Caucasian women, then after there was an outcry, he proceeded to do experiments on enslaved African/African-American women that were much more brutal and inhumane. There was no anesthesia used and no empathy felt for these women, as they were seen as property and not as humans. Another example is the fact that some drug use (e.g. crack cocaine) has been an endemic in this country and state for decades, but because these drugs affect mostly Blacks, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOCs), no one has really cared or did anything substantial. In fact, there was an all-out assault (The War on Drugs) on this population where they were criminalized and issued extremely harsh jail sentences for even very minor use or possession. Very limited resources were given to try to rehabilitate or even see what were the root causes of doing drugs. Yet when the opioid epidemic hit the nation, all resources were thrown at this problem. It isn't considered a criminal offense and training is given to front line workers on ways to recognize the symptoms of opioid use and ways to save people taking or overdosing on opioids. The expediency and efficiency to roll out this new system to meet the needs of the opioid addicted population was quite interesting. But wait, did I forget to mention that the population affected by opioid use is overwhelmingly Caucasian. Very interesting indeed.	The greatest challenge facing our future as a state and country is negating inequities, which requires negating privilege. This is an extremely difficult, almost impossible task, because this ideology is embedded in the fabric of this country. It is systemic and systematic. At best, implicit bias is always present. Until we approach health and environmental services from a holistic point of view, there will always be disparities and inequities, and there will always be penalties placed upon the poor and others who are not privileged. This includes the State employees when it comes to fair and equal pay.	A. Higher more employees AND increase wages. This retains better employees who provide better services. B. There are dozens of studies that show racism, biases, privilege, etc. are embedded within many of the policies that govern how we provide services. These policies need to be changed to promote more holistic and equitable health and environmental services to ALL our residents. However, the mindsets of the privileged would need to change to actualize these ideas, and what privileged person wants to give up their privilege?
2021-07-21 17:08:50	Health services are lacking since ER are still being used as family Dr.s. There are so many specialist that one cannot afford all the different Dr's to go to. Family Dr's will not touch areas that a specialist saw you about. They want to refer you back to the specialist to get your ongoing medications etc. Environmentally, trash and god knows what are thrown out daily. Beds, couches, etc left on the side of the road in blind areas all the time. You smell feces around treatment plans and waterways. People cannot have wells any where near a landfill. Still a lot to do. Mental health has gotten better with our children by having services in the schools yet, for low income families, our Local Mental Health is plagued with turn over and too many clients to workers.	Getting and keeping qualified employees. We have to be more competitive salary wise to do this. We need more Dr's that specialize in more than one field and have better diverse family Dr's. Need more in home health services for the elderly. Need referral agencies that can help our adult population get services without going into the hospital, DSS, etc. We need stricter laws on litter with cameras.	1) Increase the number of Multi disciplinary family Drs 2) See how family Dr.s could could work with another Dr through Teams etc. to help reduce the cost and time for a patient to see another Dr. 3) Environmentally, we need cameras for littering
2021-07-21 16:52:47	Delivering services is inhibited by people not signing up for immunizations. As a state, we're doing poorly to be healthy.	Distributing them in a rural environment.	More mobile clinics on a consistent schedule. Link the clinics to community and cultural events (food pantries, farmers markets) Have a healthy food truck event, especially in low-income areas
2021-07-21 16:25:02	As good as they can. On a poor fair good excellent... we are good.	the need of broadband services; transportation;	Expand Medicaid More Rural Provider recruitment Broadband accessibility
2021-07-21 16:23:54	poorly	1. control the managed Medicaid products from their illegal denying practices 2. open outpatient behavioral services for managed Medicaid recipients to all providers not just ones certified by DAODAS ect.	see above
2021-07-21 16:19:44	It seems unorganized and hard to get things accomplished as a partner agency	Efficiency	Faster communication, more organized trainings for HIV/HEP C, getting more agencies signed up to provide COVID vaccines.
2021-07-21 15:31:34	Very well!	Keeping up with technology and emerging trends	Reduce administrative functions some of which are duplicative and are not value added to delivering services in the field. This will also help reduce costs and fees on the regulated community.
2021-07-21 15:31:26	mediocre	Lack of transportation for individuals to get to the agencies to access the services. Mobile units are needed!	Transportation - offer mobile services
2021-07-21 15:21:41	Fair	Lack of effective staff in decision making positions. Allowing politics to drive science.	Keeping politics out of the agency and only hiring professional staff. Hiring a director with experience in health and environment. Providing adequate staffing and funding.
2021-07-21 15:21:36	Fair overall but in areas that are typically under represented the delivery is poor.	Putting the information where it is most accessible which is not always the internet. Newspapers, posters, flyers (print media)	I would work on effective communication. Having groups going out into the community they serve. Perhaps having open round tables to ask questions directly to the people we are trying to serve and asking them what can We do to help.



End Date	How is our state doing now when it comes to delivering health and environmental services?	What are our state's greatest challenges to delivering effective, efficient, and accessible health and environmental services in the future?	If you could improve 1-3 things about our state's health and environmental services, what would they be and how do you recommend they be implemented to best serve our residents?
2021-07-21 15:20:42	Overall I think that the state is doing well with the use of DHEC as it is now to provide health and environmental services to its citizens. However, I do believe there is always room for valued improvement. For example better communications throughout internal DHEC staff high ups down to the field offices/staff and providing better public outreach to educate citizens on what DHEC actually does and does not regulate. I think there is a grey area when it comes to some of the regulations that the public calls into the offices about, therefore tying up valuable resources and time handling the calls on the phone. This will 7/10 times result in the caller be coming frustrated that they were instructed to call our DHEC office, with us ultimately telling them we have no regulatory authority over their issue at hand.	The lack of communications throughout DHEC as a whole. This is a result from the turnover rate that is seen through the employees at DHEC. Not retaining new hires, who go through the training process (some programs take months to complete), will ultimately end up hurting the public in the end as the cycle continues: a new hire goes through training (taking time and resources through other team members training them), they last maybe a year, then find a better PAYING job without the bureaucratic overhead and micromanagement that is dealt with at DHEC, meaning a position is opened (again) and the process starts all over. Having experienced employees retained (offering better competitive salaries, opportunities for raises/growth in positions of a program, etc. seems to be the trend) will allow the public to receive a better service from DHEC as a whole as you will have knowledgeable employees working for the respective programs.	Focus on your employee's needs. We hear that you are "working" on situations and we have recently seen more engagement around increasing in salaries but we need more communications not from the highest of high ups. We need Bureau management to regularly check in. Let us know what is going on frequently and regularly. Even regular communications about what is in the works would be nice to receive. This would help to alleviate ongoing lack of communication with employees and better help them to serve the communities they represent. Sending weekly or monthly updates on what's new and in the works for each programs would be nice to receive. We get the Spotlight emails but that is not relevant to all programs. Another thing to address is regular public outreach and education on the regulator authority of DHEC. Time and resources are wasted taking calls from the public, typically ending in frustration from the caller that we advise we cannot assist them with their call as we do not regulate their concern. This is also the case when callers are transferred from person to person who cannot provide them an answer the first time they call. I think the transferring issue could be alleviated by, again, keeping workers who know their program and are able to provide accurate responses the first time the call is received. Employee turnover is an ongoing issue in today's climate, but there are people wanting to work, and do, but they won't stay due to the lack of competitive/equitable pay within their area with no feedback as to why they cannot receive a raise when the hiring range states there is an opportunity for growth, when it's never presented.
2021-07-21 14:53:50	Average	Adequate funding. SC depends too heavily on federal monies	Provide a structure that gives local flexibility and incentivizes partnerships across public health and behavioral health programs.
2021-07-21 13:55:26	Overall I think the state is doing an adequate job of providing healthcare and environmental services	I think getting health care to the rural areas maybe still be a problem, especially when it comes to the vaccine for the covid 19.	More communication with the public in varies ways via television, internet, podcast and providing more information to community driven business or churches
2021-07-21 12:12:27	From a resource standpoint - not well. The state needs to invest more resources into both public and mental health in the state. State agencies and partners are doing well with the little funding received.	1. Funding. Budgets do not support a stable workforce and public health is highly complex requiring in some cases years of training. Reduced funding leads to lower salaries which leads to higher turnover so new staff are rarely fully trained before leaving the agency. 2. Lack of visibility - Public health is rarely in the "spotlight" unless something is going wrong or there is a problem. The general public is not aware of what we do nor of the great work that is accomplished day in and day out. There is also a lack of awareness of how public health impacts everyone.	1. Increase funding to stabilize staffing and improve efforts in rural communities. 2. "Elevate" regional operations to a level of state importance. Often the "boots on the ground" efforts are lost in the state level conversations but state decisions are very impactful to regional operations. 3. Give a "face" to DHEC and public health. Move beyond DHEC "the machine" to focus more on the local staff who day in and day out improve health outcomes in our communities. Funders, legislators, partners need to be aware of the hyper localized approaches which take place, often behind the scenes, on a daily basis in our communities.
2021-07-21 11:37:19	Lacking.	The communication between departments is abhorrent. The people in air quality in the air bureau do not know what the people in air quality in behs are doing. Same with water and wastewater and their behs people.	To improve communication, functionality, and cost, you need to look into getting rid of BEHS altogether. These functions should be reporting to their respective bureaus. The lab functions should stay as their own entity as they now have a LIMS system and that data can be extracted by the departments that need it. The lab can function as a part of environmental affairs. The regional offices should be managed by environmental affairs but the personnel should be reporting to their respective bureaus. Did you know that there is a department that is centralized in Columbia that routinely sends their people out to every part of the state, every day, driving a state vehicle, and they go to the same places every two weeks??? Sometimes, because they must report to the central area in Columbia every morning, they have to spend the night in areas like Charleston, Myrtle Beach, and Greenville? Why can't these functions be performed by personnel in the regional offices? I think that EA can save A LOT of money by reviewing travel costs. By removing behs, ea will have an easier time being able to retain these necessary, most knowledgeable, and hugely underpaid employees in comparison to even the central office, not to mention the private sector. EA and honestly, even the health side, needs to have an honest and open review of the responsibilities of every employee, middle management, department, and bureau, condense and realign reporting structure and responsibilities, and LEAN out like every other business must do periodically. Guaranteed, they will find the money in the budget for personnel retention, and increase communications.
2021-07-21 11:28:30	I believe SC does a mediocre job delivering the health and environmental services. I feel news media takes away from the importance of the messages that are being delivered. News Media needs to have a better understanding of the importance of such messages to our community/state.	The negative news media. Providing education to the community is a must but with the negative news media as well as social media it's hard to get that communication across efficiently. Providing more drop in clinics/education seminars may be helpful. If we can educate the public in terms they understand it can be a success.	More clinics/facilities to provide the services needed. Public education.
2021-07-21 10:04:26	Not great.	Making health services a non political matter. Covid safety should have been and should continue to be run by DHEC with no influence from the Governor. For example: If the American Pediatric Society is saying kids should wear masks this year. Then they should.	1.) Better mental health services. People in need should not be stuck in ER rooms. There needs to be emergency mental health centers. 2) People trained in mental health to respond to people in mental health crisis, rather than cops. Maybe it would be best if paramedics were given this role as they would be seen as non threatening. 3.) Make the director of DHEC a non political posting. Install a clear non political boundary to the decision of state health polices. These polices should only be made by health professionals.
2021-07-21 09:36:44	Well I feel we are doing a good job getting the proper health services out to the people in the community	Communication Quality of health services	I would like to see more Drinking water reports.
2021-07-21 09:13:41			I think getting sexual education back into the schools or maybe in have vans with the proper information to educate our youth on using contraceptive and showing them the actual diseases and educated them on how it could eventually harm them and sometimes kill them, unwed mothers and fathers should be in some apprentice type education and jobs that will help them be able to take care of the child or children once the course(s) have been completed they should be placed in a job setting to continue to help take care of their families, Putting the fathers in jail because of lack of paying child support is not the answer, the mom of the children should be responsible for income to provide for the child or children as well so with the proper training for jobs both parents will earn income to help the child or children

End Date	How is our state doing now when it comes to delivering health and environmental services?	What are our state's greatest challenges to delivering effective, efficient, and accessible health and environmental services in the future?	If you could improve 1-3 things about our state's health and environmental services, what would they be and how do you recommend they be implemented to best serve our residents?
2021-07-21 09:06:11	Environment--good job overall. I don't know about the health services side of DHEC. I have been an engineer in Environmental Affairs for 6 years and have never met anyone from the health side.	For the environmental side, the two greatest challenges are: (1) Burdensome and ever-increasing regulations coming down from the EPA. (2) Low quality and unqualified DHEC employees. Specifically, I (and others) have noticed that middle/upper management and administrative positions are increasingly being filled by candidates based on their race, gender, and sexual orientation (favoring Blacks, women, and LGBTQ) instead of their qualifications and merit. This is being pushed largely under the guise of social justice issues (racial justice, environmental justice, and climate justice) and the push for "diversity, inclusion, and equity." DHEC has few qualified technical staff remaining (professional engineers and geologists) and the ones that do remain are being led by unqualified staff who do not have a basic technical understanding of real-world environmental issues.	(1) Separate the health and the environmental sides of DHEC. (2) Do not put Myra Reece in charge of the environmental side. She is pushing Environmental Affairs towards focusing on justice and "equity" issues (racial, environmental, climate) and away from its core mission.
2021-07-21 08:52:21	Not as good as we think. Companies come here for low wage workers and weak environmental protection laws that are rarely enforced.	The agencies enforcing the laws need to stop worrying about losing in court, so they never even try . they need to goto court and lose !! several dozen times. So that the legislature and the public will see that the State laws need to be strengthened.	take cases to court even if you think your going to lose. Who knows, a judge may surprise you.
2021-07-21 08:50:01		Cost. Especially behavioral health. It's outrageous and so many people are not seen that need counseling, yet cannot afford it. Employer's could help with this as well, especially the state if they had a counselor on staff.	1. Mental health should be affordable and accessible to EVERYONE
2021-07-20 20:38:55	Fair	Politics	1. A focus on intergenerational equity issues in the long term 2. Less focus on ideology and MORE OF SMART SCIENCE 3. A focus on "investing" in the health and environment of our people and places
2021-07-20 17:06:41	We are doing the best we can with the limited resources and staff we have	Staff retention - impossible to compete with other state agencies and some local agencies that are in the same retirement system. A large percentage of our staff have second jobs to make ends meet which creates low morale and staff leaving the agency in frustration. The pay gap between staff, especially in EA, and top management is astounding.	-higher pay to retain existing expertise and recruit better talent. -increase front line staff that deal with companies and citizens to approve projects and address concerns (less overhead positions). -increase funding transparency so managers can put resources where needed.
2021-07-20 16:25:03	Ok	Poverty, communication, outreach,	Understandable for all education levels Available at rural sites, where there is little transportation More languages
2021-07-20 15:32:57	I would give them a n average grade.	One agency has far too much responsibility. There should be a Dept of Health and a separate agency that handles the Environment. Let DNR do wildlife and reinstate the Water Resources Commission for state water planning and and permitting. Don't place this under Dept of Ag.	see answer #2....this is a huge change, but necessary. We dissolved part of this idea under Hodge's administration and I believe that was a mistake.
2021-07-20 15:21:54	Great	Getting Medical Care for the People of SC.	Transportation for People who needs it. Better commutation to the public, about services Also, give the people of South Carolina the benefit they need to live a better healthier life.
2021-07-20 15:21:39	I'm not real sure.	I'm very concerned about the widespread use of vaping products among our school children, ages 13 and up.	1. Offer more PSAs and educational material on the risks and treatment of type 2 diabetes. 2. Conduct an advertising campaign warning the public about the dangers of vaping. 3. Encourage the development of community/neighborhood gardens.
2021-07-20 15:16:39	ok	Basic advertising. I have worked for DHEC for over 10 years and was completely unaware of many of the programs that DHEC has until COVID forced us to change our approach to working with the public. They (and we) can't utilize what we are unaware exists.	Take a step back and see how we can blend some of the programs together or at least offer access to them. When a client has a health risk that is related to what we do in a different area, don't just refer them out to the provider of choice, refer them within DHEC to programs that may offer information and resources that are unknown to them. Examples are clients with diabetes, acute disease, arthritis, children with special needs, etc.
2021-07-20 15:05:51	I think that overall the state does a fairly good job delivering health and environmental services to the citizens of South Carolina. Having said that, I feel that there is much more to be done, especially in the area of behavioral health services, specifically in dealing with the homeless, teens and the elderly.	Lack of properly trained/experienced/knowledgeable staff to deliver services/information. Lack of technology access (internet) by segments of population. Lack of health insurance/medical facility access by segments of population. Insufficient/inefficient message delivery systems for what services are available and how they can be accessed.	Provide easier access through less layers of bureaucracy. Improve service agency websites to be more user friendly. Provide better training for new staff and have greater retention of the experienced staff members. The state should increase funding for Medicare and Medicaid also.
2021-07-20 15:01:51	The Department's strengths are meeting people where they are - providing the needed services where the people need them and making sure that everything that can be done to help, is done. Also, the ability for environmental staff to rely on health staff, and vice versa, is incredibly valuable. So many of the challenges South Carolinians face are impacted by both, so the teamwork between the two is so valuable. For example, Zika virus was/is a health issue, but one that is nearly entirely impacted by environmental concerns, and required both teams to fight it.	Staff retention and pay: not only are staff underpaid compared with private industry, they are underpaid when compared with state employees in other states. Funding in general is another challenge. Fees are rarely increased, so programs are working with dwindling funds and increasing demands and workloads.	Campaigns to help South Carolina residents to better understand exactly what DHEC does and doesn't do. Too often, people believe that DHEC can do absolutely anything because it could relate back to their health. And DHEC does do a lot. That should be celebrated, but in a way that reminds people that there are services that they should be looking to other Departments for.
2021-07-20 14:35:28	Different in each field. There seems to be an unbalanced approach to all services. Health seems like its getting back to normal. Some env (like septic and traditional EQC programs) are business as usual. In my opinion, it should not be vital for all permitted RFE's to receive LSI's prior to re-engaging in graded inspections. Other programs seem to have returned to "normal operations" (or close to that) in a quicker pace than the food program.	Keeping trained, motivated staff to perform the necessary duties. The comments during today's EA staff briefing seems to show that management is committed to solving our workforce problems.	Continue to promote vaccinations. Perhaps seek incentives to encourage more of the public to complete the vaccination process? Continue to be adaptive in our approaches to evolving situations. The innovations in adapting our inspection techniques to virtual platforms has been a huge success, but we need to move forward in returning to more normal inspections and services as safety allows.
2021-07-20 14:31:35	Very well I think we are doing a good job but we can do better	Staffing Technology- Folks need to be able to access services on line and schedule appointment on -line. I think our state legislature should consider allowing us to treat STD's by giving patients seen for STD diagnosis prescriptions to bring to their partners for treatment as is done in other states. We need to work with the state legislature to provide Wi-Fi services statewide so that we can reach our most targeted rural populations. Almost everyone has a cell phone. We could beef up our advertising of our services so that folks know what we provide. I think we can do a better job of providing services by partnering with our Library system if we can not get into the school system. We could do Height weight and scoliosis screening and bill medicaid to start but i think our NP's could establish clinic in the libraries and I also thinke we could eventually offer dental services by partnering with the dental schools and eventually we could offer preventive health services as well and perhaps expand WIC even further.	Be allowed to educate with isolated issues and tell the buildings what a great job they are doing. I think state health departments should embrace public private partnerships with DMH and others to expand mental health services outreach; needle exchange and disposal; advertise and accept prescription drug drop-offs for disposal; Strengthen our partnerships with Reach Out and Read Program; etc...
2021-07-20 14:25:14			
2021-07-20 14:07:08	Poor.	Insufficient funding. Politicization of science.	Public health response to COVID had been atrocious from the political point of view. DHEC did an admirable job on testing, but the governor and local politics has really hindered an effective response.

End Date	How is our state doing now when it comes to delivering health and environmental services?	What are our state's greatest challenges to delivering effective, efficient, and accessible health and environmental services in the future?	If you could improve 1-3 things about our state's health and environmental services, what would they be and how do you recommend they be implemented to best serve our residents?
2021-07-20 13:58:28	I haven't had the pleasure to work a lot along side environmental outside of IT issues. However, it seems a few more inspectors could be hired to lessen the load on current staff. I'm very disappointed with health side. There are no services offered to seniors such as hearing tests, blood pressure checks, etc. The agency can partner with a university to have students majoring in audiology to conduct basic hearing test once a week. Same with eye exams and teeth cleaning.	Technology - outdated applications such as Cares and EFIS. More applications need to be web based. Develop a marketing strategy. I understand this is public health. However, we need leaders that see the organization as a healthcare facility and not your average business receiving grants. I don't know all the partnerships we have, but during COVID it seems our partners outdid DHEC when we should have lead by example.	Develop better marketing strategy to include billboard; partner with several agencies to host an event for back to school or senior week. Possibly work with homeless and immigration agencies to provide medical care and WIC services.
2021-07-20 13:47:30	South Carolina needs to work on it. We need to provide more services for underinsured individuals at our health departments. We offer limited medical services compared to other states.	Public Health should be meeting people where they are.. transporation is a problem for some, off site services for WIC/ Preventatative Health ,vaccinations off site,or alternate clinic hours not just 8:30-5. These are just a few examples.	Just as stated above Public Health meets people where they are not 8:30- 5 everyday. We need early hours for services or extended hours for services somedays. We need need to open Monday thru Thursday with Fridays off or alternate days some weeks.
2021-07-20 13:06:20	Outstanding, given the limited funding and political meddling.	Director turnover/revolving door causes much distraction and disruption. Recruit an internal agency Director who plans to stay with the agency for several years. Agency/State issue inexperience has been a huge handicap with the past three Directors.	1- Recruit an internal Director- recruit a Director from within the agency 2- Adequately fund the agency- state legislature must adequately fund the agency to equip agency for efficient function and success
2021-07-20 13:03:29	Very well with consistency of the services provided	We are still using an old model of having those that are served come into a site to receive services. There should be more hybrid models of service delivery which could include serving communities off-site or when appropriate, online.	1. Better linkage between health of the public and the environment through more intentional leadership and communication 2. More alignment between state and local efforts through bi-directional planning and communication 3. Use data to drive decisions and resources by really evaluating what the community and state needs are and directing appropriate resources for these needs (use the State Health Improvement Plan)
2021-07-20 13:02:14	I think the state is doing well, given the constraints and considerations that come into play when delivering these services.	The role of the legislature seems counterintuitive to our success. We have to "play nice" but we should be an independent body founded on science and public health principles. We have to put our tail between our legs to keep funding coming from the state, but then we're expected to be fair and unbiased? It's like we're in a no-win situation. Retention is also difficult. Substantial career development, raises, increased responsibility, and respect are needed to retain an educated, well-oiled public health workforce.	1. Antiquated, bureaucratic processes (procurement, contracts, personnel practices, etc) need to be reevaluated to keep up with the demands of 2021. 2. Toxic managers need to be identified and remediated. Example: Environmental Affairs battles with deep seated nepotism where qualified candidates are ignored for years because they are not liked by upper management. "Yes-men" and "yes-women" are the chosen candidates for promotions. Working for them was like being a child all over again. Every line you write in an email is scrutinized, every person you copy on an email is scrutinized to the point where you can't even hear your inner voice anymore. They need a serious shake up. 3. DHEC should be the Health Authority for the state. We shouldn't have to run everything by the governor. We can't work effectively that way.
2021-07-20 12:56:05	The platform (linking health and the environment) is a good one, but public health should be focusing more on being a change agent via working with local communities to provide data, problem-solving and funding.	Funding. The health department, not but a couple decades ago, had much more state (vs. federal/other) funding on a percentage basis. The ability to use state money to reach the local communities to solve local problems locally has diminished. Staff pay is also a challenge, even when compared to other state agencies; if we want to do good things, we need good staff and we need money to keep those good staff.	Provide additional funding from the state legislature to embrace the concept of Public Health 3.0 (as pioneered by the Dept of Health and Human Services and CDC). More public health staff are needed to work deeply in coordination with local communities on matters like chronic disease (diabetes, stroke, heart disease, obesity, etc.) to embrace the PH 3.0 concept that our public health leaders should be the chief health strategist for our communities.
2021-07-20 12:48:31	From what I have read, we have not done brilliantly at providing health services to the more remote and poor communities in the state. The one good thing about COVID is that it has mobilized an effort to improve that problem.	In my opinion, it's a complicated issue with many moving parts. State agencies are not well respected with the well-educated portion of the our community because they (rightly or wrongly) believe that those who work for the State do so because they could not compete for private sector jobs. In addition, lower income communities do not trust government agencies and employees due to historic mistreatment of and condescension to this sector of the population ("we know better than you what is good for you").	Every community has leaders that the people trust. If the leaders trust the agency, then the community will follow. Humility, time, and active listening will go a long way, in my opinion.
2021-07-20 12:47:26	I feel that the state is still doing a poor job at getting information regarding health and environmental affairs out to the public.	Time and validity of the information they have and being urgent about how to solve or implement changes.	only have the people directly involved provide help resolutions to changes needing to be done. The people that make the decisions are never the people on the front line of the issues.
2021-07-20 12:47:08	Great	Funding, understaffing, and training	More hands on training for employees new to a position, More staffing(alot of areas especially in the region are understaffed) More funding to pay for the above
2021-07-20 12:45:57	I think we are doing ok.	I don't know.	
2021-07-20 12:33:36	doing well	rural communities have limited access to health services	1. Expand hours of service, other than 8:30a-5:00p Monday-Friday. Try to extend clinic hours - maybe offer services earlier in the morning, before 8:30am and after 5pm, for at least 1-2 days per week. Possibly offering services on Saturday (until noon).
2021-07-20 12:28:50	In our area there is a tremendous back log in several areas	Loss of employees. It is impossible to get the necessary calls and evaluations done when the turnover of employees is constantly occurring---- we have to retain our employees to provide quality consistent service	Keep our employees in order to have the adequate number of personnel necessary to perform the inspections and evaluations necessary to serve the residents. Implement a retention program to keep the experienced personnel here - that will make a tremendous difference to the actual service that can be provided to our residents. Giving tokens of appreciation is a nice gesture...but in reality it is not productive at retention...find a way to make salaries competitive and reward good production with pay advances.
2021-07-20 12:28:20	Very poorly! We are not working in the community, we keep trying to shoehorn services into the health department mold and it is no longer feasible. The people we serve WORK, many times multiple jobs...expecting them to come to a difficult to access HD during working hours is old school. We need to be going to them, just like the hospitals are doing...much more outpatient and home health scenarios. Our numbers have decreased so much in the last 5 years, the health departments are nearly defunct. Programs is where the future lies and we are remiss in our duties not to be focusing on programmatic solutions instead of operational. We also cannot retain staff, specifically RN staff. We pay them 20,000.00 LESS than the hospital first line staff and yet they must go through many additional certifications and work at a higher level than their hospital counterparts. And, they are expected to work five days a week. The retirement is not great, it was considered the top of line 30 years ago, but today the 401K and other retirement plans being offered in the private sector match or many times surpass the pension plan. Why work for public health when you can work 3 days a week, have less training, and make more money? Plus have a retirement plan that is equivalent to what we offer?? We are working in the past, not the present, or even anywhere near what the future of public health should look like. I am guessing those reading this have never heard of EPT or Expedited Partner Therapy? SC law has changed to allow it, yet we are not doing it...why is that? And we grieve over the fact we have some of the highest STD rates in the country. So, how are we doing? We are nowhere close to where we should be.	See above. EHR is a huge issue. Community health is another. The structure of the Org chart is inadequate. The pay is insufficient to have a workforce of quality. The health departments are not meeting the current needs of the community, they are set up as physician offices. Non-clinical people are making decisions in a silo, nursing is not even at the table....shoot many stakeholders are not at the table. The harvest is great, but the workers are few. And the few who are left are earnestly looking for a way out....things have to change or there will be no one left to serve the community.	The Organizational Structure does not meet the needs of the regions. It is extremely CO heavy and region light. Don't necessarily need more jobs, we just need to reconfigure those we have. Second, pay the staff a living wage. In order to have the excellent public health and retain good employees we have to offer good pay, good hours, good retirement, flexibility where it can be offered. Finally, stop focusing only on the health departments as if they are the solution, they are a tool but not the entire toolbox! Community is the current standard, it changed about 7 years ago from brick and mortar to telehealth...its time we caught up with the trends.

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2021-07-20 12:20:45	Ok, could be better.	Money, removing "Old Guard" mentality, transparency.	Improve access by public - online, increased open hours. Get back to being public servants - helping where needed. change/modify org structure; need less middle mgt, need more employees who actually do the work.
2021-07-20 12:20:23	I believe the environmental side does an excellent job at utilizing technology very efficiently. They usually have databases set up for most of their information which is critical when it comes to sharing data and disseminating information. When it comes to health we could improve in data management and governance.	The effective utilization of the different groups within the agency. There is a disconnect between some bureaus. There are some overlapping of responsibilities among the bureaus that need to be clearly defined. Technical expertise should be more included when making decisions on changing system and data workflows	1. Centralized data sources ( use data bases instead of separate extracts in the form of spreadsheets and csv files). Once data is centralized there is only one source to maintain instead of multiple spreadsheets. 2. During emergencies after a month of maintaining apps and data those workflows should be in maintenance mode and moved to a database. 3. Need to understand local and state partners needs and work better with them delivering information that is relevant to their work.
2021-07-20 12:19:22	I would grade it a C+	Lack of resources, poor employee moral, lack of political will, fear of making the news, trying to make everyone happy	Allow decisions to be made at the program level. There is no need for upper management to be involved in permitting/regulatory decisions that adhere to the laws and regulation of the state, even if there are political consequences.
2021-07-20 12:18:16	It was fine in the past. However, now the local Health Departments are not able to give out septic tank applications or take payments for that service or the restaurant fees. It is like the health department and environmental services are two different agencies now. I don't think this good customer service.	Stop with all the changes and let each county serve their community. Some people in the community do not use computers and they do not want to pay over the phone with a debit card (they still write checks). Even though technology continues to expand---we have some senior citizens that aren't comfortable going that route and we are making things very difficult for them.	Stop making changes all the time. The people that come up with the changes need to work at a health department as a front line staff member. When someone deals with the public first hand, they will see what our community expects from us. If we are DHEC then we all should be dealing with health and environmental control issues.
2021-07-20 12:16:47	We do the best we can with the resources given. Environmental is not a focus unless there is an issue. The focus is on the health side.	DHEC needs to value institutional knowledge. With the extremely low and uncompetitive pay for engineers (permit writers) and the (somewhat) recent changes to the retirement system, we still have career employees that remain, working for retirement pension/healthcare - but they won't be here much longer. Newer hired engineers only stay long enough to train/learn and then typically leave for a significantly better paying job. Training a new engineer to draft the required permits for complex facilities/regulations takes multiple years. In a few short years, the bulk of the career employees will be retiring and there will be few experienced engineers left here to draft the complex permits required for new/existing industries and to train the revolving door of new engineers (if we can actually hire any). Competitive salaries for engineers are needed sooner rather than later if there is any hope in stemming the tide.	Staff retention (low salaries and poor HVAC in the Aycock building make this almost impossible today), competitive salaries (the current salaries work against us both for hiring and retention as they are so far below market values), functional healthy safe work environments (time to do some major capital improvements in the Simms Aycock building - HVAC, ceiling tiles, etc.)
2021-07-20 12:15:50	quite well	Perhaps resistance by the public. Whether a restaurateur kicking against the goads of health regulations, or a Covid denier refusing to take the vaccine, or a public official trying to pander to a recalcitrant base. This kind of resistance is nebulous and really hard to counter.	Increase public outreach. Send ambassadors to schools, churches, community organizations.
2021-07-20 12:04:05	Health services seem to be fine, but environmental services are severely lacking- the oversight on non point source management and stormwater runoff is not great in the upstate area from the state. I hear complaints constantly about the lack of help from SCDHEC to citizens or municipalities when it comes to education and regulation. Environmental services provided by the state are not held in high regard. The common reply from people is " who care SCDHEC will not do anything about it" - not good	It appears that the state does a great job at delivering accessible health- during COVID they did a great job of pop-up health screenings and vaccines etc. Environmental services need to be restructured and knowledgeable and passionate employees need to be hired. Many of the citizens in the state feel that the environmental side does not provide adequate services and certainly not in an effective manner. The state is growing and needs to figure out how to plan for the future and manage the environment better	Health- nothing Environment- 1. Actually serve your constituents- investigates true complaints and find real solutions especially to non point source problems 2. provide more support to local municipalities, they often seem to feel that the state does not back them especially in stormwater regulation disputes 3. Employee more personable and knowledgeable employees, they serve the public and need to have the natural skill set to do so
2021-07-20 12:01:47	They do an excellent job in protecting public health. They communicate well and typically take a common sense approach to resolving issues.	1) Funding, 2) Staffing - retention and being competitive for qualified staff, 3) Ever increasing regulatory mandates - most of which are unfunded, 4) Lack of understanding by members of the Legislature.	1) Increase their funding and staff to sufficient numbers to handle the workload. 2) Ensure that they hold every organization to the same standard of quality and performance. 3) Have them be more aggressive to the point that issues are dealt with prior to becoming large issues - more enforcement may be called for in certain instances.
2021-07-20 11:58:46	Average compared to some other states when it comes to the environment.	More money is needed for the research and management of our natural resources, particularly our water resources.	Stormwater and non-point source pollution is the nation's #1 cause of water quality problems. We need more money and attention given to stormwater and non-point source pollution. We need to adopt "performance"-based standards for stormwater control measures and get away from simply compliance. It's not enough to manage stormwater for flood protection. It must be managed to better protect downstream water quality. Need performance-based standards like NC and other states.
2021-07-20 11:58:02	pretty good, we could do better with health information dissemination, we need to modernize IT infrastructure at DHEC and encourage public/private exchange of real time data (HIE)	outdated IT at DHEC, and lack of established public private partnerships/teams (although Covid certainly accelerated this, we should keep it going)	1. Hardwire partnerships in anticipation of future pandemics and emergency needs. 2. DHEC has a history of being very defensive and not playing well with other agencies and associations (old guard), come to the table with a partnering framework and things will be better for everyone 3. Work with HSSC/SCHIE and others to promote health information exchange so providers can use available data in real time at the point of care (with patients in front of them) to better the health of all South Carolinians, remove silos of data
2021-07-20 11:57:45	SC lacks in mental health services greatly. As a provider, there are limited opportunities for treatment and access to services and housing for those with mental illness. The handling of COVID has been messy. For providers the messaging changed frequently for a while causing lots of confusion. Lately, communication has been very limited and has not been updated as CDC changes occur. Families are not understanding why we aren't making changes as CDC changes.	Meeting the mental health needs of our state's residents. Encouraging low income individuals to get employment that provides insurance and become more self reliant.	I would reduce the amount of regulations involved in oversight of some industry providers such as nursing homes that make operations cumbersome at times. I would recruit a volunteer round table of providers and leaders in the industry to implement this process change. I would make resources available for mental health services to be offered to residents of nursing homes, prisons, community group homes, etc. Residents referred and diagnosed would be offered a treatment plan with regular oversight until they are stable. There are many strategies that could be implemented to offer these residents a more independent lifestyle from institutions, medical restraints and the like. I would gather a group of providers and mental health leaders to assess the true nature of the problem and use examples of successful independent organization strategies that have worked in our state to use across the state.
2021-07-20 11:56:35	I'm not qualified to render an opinion on such an enormous question.	Ignorance. The education level in this state continually appalls me.	Mental health services in this state (and nation) are absolutely demoralizing. Grossly and chronically underfunded, many facilities render more abuse than assistance. Short-term inpatient stabilization teaches people new methods of harming themselves. Longer-term facilities are shoddily run and quality of care is inconsistent. Look to the Portuguese - spend more money and you'd potentially solve the ignorance crisis, as well as the hepatitis A and opioid epidemics.
2021-07-20 11:55:39		Being able to reach and improve conditions in rural and low-income communities. Creating long-range plans for climate change as well as population growth and development.	Better internet to rural areas as a general improvement. More grant or funding assistance to help communities and individuals with environmental improvements.
2021-07-20 11:55:23	Very poorly compared with what the state's needs are.	There are diverse existing problems that need to be addressed in a more proactive manner. There should also be more planning for all future and emerging problems.	Split the agency into two - public health needs to be its own agency. Make the agency more science-driven and protect them from political interference. Make sure they have the full budget they need to accomplish their core functions.

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2021-07-20 11:51:50	I am sure the health side could have done some things differently when dealing with the covid-19 pandemic, but since we were dealing with so many unknowns I think they responded as well as possible.		I work on the EA side of DHEC and think there needs to be some teeth added to the regulations we are tasked to enforce. Personally, I expect people to do the right thing for the environment and other people, but this does not always happen and with no real punishment for doing the wrong thing many people just do as they please.
2021-07-20 11:50:41	half as good as we could	we need political and financial support. mostly we have politicians go to the media to support the violator and then they promise financial reimbursement but don't deliver	get the support of the will of the people. Education through bill boards and commercials. maybe we could produce some informational videos that promote healthy people and healthy environments so we can encourage a community with a common mission. No one has to convince our citizens that the state needs SCDNR....well, they need us too!
2021-07-20 11:47:30	I think that SC is like many other states. We need FAR more free or low-cost healthcare services for all people, not just people who meet the criteria for Medicaid. We can't only rely on Medicaid for their healthcare. For example, my boyfriend was fired from his job in January because he has some disabilities that "interfered" with his work (quite subjective, of course -- he was trying his best, but his employer didn't want to be bothered having an employee with a disability). My boyfriend applied for Medicaid, and was denied, even though he has had literally zero income since February. He has NO income coming in, but he still needs healthcare, including mental health services. We feel like he has been tossed to the curb. He has to keep dipping into his emergency savings account to pay thousands of dollars for doctors' visits, therapy visits, and prescriptions. It's horrible. He was charged almost \$900 for his first doctor's visit just to establish a Primary Care Physician and get basic bloodwork, etc. How can someone with zero income be expected to pay \$900 for one doctor's visit? I'm a DHEC employee and I don't make a whole lot.... I can't afford to help him pay thousands of dollars for this kind of healthcare. It infuriates me that he's expected to either suffer without prescriptions, or spend every dime of his emergency savings.	Insufficient funding and staffing. Intentional public ignorance about public health issues, such as vaccines.	As a DHEC employee, I have seen how overworked and understaffed we are. SC government needs to invest more in DHEC. We need more employees so that we can provide higher quality services. I routinely have to make difficult decisions about doing poor quality work simply so that I can meet all of my deadlines. There's no way that I can handle my workload -- and I know so many other DHEC colleagues who are in the same situation as me. I have colleagues who work every single weekend. One colleague told me that the only way she could take a vacation was because she was going to be out on sick leave due to a surgery. It's so unacceptable and hypocritical for the state health department to overwork its employees like this!! Our state needs to ensure that DHEC employees have reasonable workloads, so that they can actually do high-quality work and not risk their own mental or physical health.
2021-07-20 11:47:04	National statistics and data speak for themselves - SC is at the bottom of most every single ranking.	The state's non-progressive, GOP-controlled legislature.	Medicaid expansion; independent health and environmental agencies (i.e., not beholden to the governor nor legislature);
2021-07-20 11:46:50	During Covid-19, the weekly updates with the Governor on TV was really good to getting the message out to the public. Need to keep utilizing the media platforms that most people use to information in the public's eye.	You need gain the public's trust. People don't trust the government and they associate DHEC with the government.	Easy access to services/ information either in person or virtual with a live person as well as a website for go to directions. Most people still like to talk to people and ask questions.
2021-07-20 11:31:31	I see a lot of health promotions on TV; however, at this point in my life it is not applicable to me. I work with the environmental issues. We need to increase our fees, make new fees (ie monitoring well permits, VCC fees) etc. We also need a dedicated attorney and an effective enforcement process, with real painful consequences for not addressing environmental issues.	Money. Money for advertising, money for staff, money for raises, etc. We also need an effective training program. Currently, we hire engineers without groundwater experience and expect them to work groundwater contamination sites. Just no, groundwater/soil assessment and remediation requires the appropriate education which is a geologist. You hire chemical engineers and electrical engineers for these jobs and pay them significantly more money and they have to be trained by a GEOLOGIST and they still don't get it.	Hire the appropriate degree for the job. Recognize that engineers/geologists are project managers at this agency, doing the exact same job and should be paid the same. By hiring and having the appropriate and knowledgeable people working the contaminated sites, the projects move forward to clean up and completion in a reasonable time frame.
2021-07-20 11:17:02	Barely keeping our nose above the water's surface.	Outdated regulations; low staffing numbers	Onboarding- employees need to be trained properly for positions they are hired into. To combat this, there needs to be an onboarding manager for each section/bureau. Low staffing numbers to keep up with work- increase fees for environmental services!
2021-07-20 11:14:10	It seems that the state is stretched thin in this area. There does not seem to be enough resources.	More staffing. It seems that DHEC is short-staffed and employees that are not necessarily trained to handle certain jobs have to do it anyways because someone has to.	Improve salaries so that there is incentive to stay in the State employ. Hire more employees so that staff is not stretched thin. Decrease workload which can also be accomplished by hiring more staff.
2021-07-20 11:13:24	I believe S.C is doing well providing the public with up to date data and guidance necessary to continue to live a happy and healthy life.	Our greatest challenge is our rural communities and providing accurate timely information to those citizens.	Provide more free or low cost services public health services to our citizens.
2021-07-20 11:12:41	I think our state does a good job.	Funding and retention.	1) Funding 2) Retention 3) Training
2021-07-20 11:11:26	Adequate	Retention of talent	Pay the employees more so they actually feel motivated to do their jobs instead of the crushing malaise that currently permeates each and every day
2021-07-20 11:02:52	Still having difficulty reaching rural and medically underserved areas. How can we make inroads toward achieving health equity? How can we improve SC's standings in terms of health outcomes?	We have yet to declare racism as a public health issue.	Declare racism a public health issue. Track how we're disseminating information outside of the agency (e.g., through presentations, policy briefs, white papers, manuscripts, etc.)
2021-07-20 10:57:57	I believe the state is doing ok. The job is getting done- however, the state could greatly benefit from planning out their efforts in a more precise way. The state could also better their efforts by adequately staffing	Offering consistently great service due to staffing issues and unmotivated employees; Inaccurate health education for patients and consumers due to unreliable sources (media etc); Lack of trust; Toxic, unethical, siloed work environments;	Offer solutions instead of allowing our clients and patients to get the "run around" when they're trying to receive help. It negatively affects how the agency is viewed and trusted by the very communities we're attempting to serve. Hire ppl that understand public service requires serving the public- People with personality, who look to serve and has communication - that take accountability for their short comings.
2021-07-20 10:53:36	Consistently working on getting the facts out about COVID-19 vaccine.	Under utilizing Community Health Workers (CHWs); finding out what the community needs are, from those who live there, and who can express the needs to CHWs as they are doing outreach.	We have many great services in health and enviro and they are what our communities need. We need to find ways to help facilitate results by including the clients who need the services. We need to find more ways to let the community know that resources are available. When I meet people and share resources with them, they are often unaware that a number of resources are just "around the corner".
2021-07-20 10:50:33	We could be doing better if we have appropriate funding.	Provide competitive salaries and program funding to attract and retain talented staff.	Long term, sustainable funding to appropriately conduct the agencies' goals.
2021-07-20 10:31:43	I think it's doing okay. With the Spanish speaking population, efforts could increase to make sure that educational health materials and resources are available in Spanish. I can only speak to the environmental side. The OSWW program is in need of attention. Years of valuable experience were lost in 2018 due to retirement of numerous senior staff. The program now, while meeting the very basic needs for our customers, it is far from being a program that one can be proud of.	Populations of color are sometimes left out. Lack of community health workers that represent the people they serve The greatest challenges in OSWW appear to be the lack of work ethic in new employees as well as the lack of senior management in taking steps to address issues. New employees are not consistently disciplined. Therefore, new employees do not feel like their job is at risk which results in a total lack of respect for our goals of providing quality work and excellent customer service. The resulting attitude is "what are you gonna do about it, fire me?" Every time an employee is allowed to circumspect the rules and blatantly allowed to refuse to do their job, they get emboldened to perform worse, or even not at all.	Community engagement is important. Involving community leaders, not just faith based, but other professionals as well that have common interests for serving SC residents. In OSWW, the wear and injures an employee receives to their body should be seriously examined. It is the most physically demanding job at DHEC, and while, as an agency, DHEC is tasked with improving the health of all South Carolinians, it does not seem like this is a priority for staff in the OSWW program. Life changing back injuries have occurred that were not taken seriously by senior management, resulting in greater damage to the body than was necessary. Having strong leadership, consistent application of rules and strong communication of expectations is paramount in leading a team that will competently serve our customers. Leaders are born, not trained. Better selection of leaders is needed to foster respect and quality customer service.
2021-07-20 10:29:34			

End Date	How is our state doing now when it comes to delivering health and environmental services?	What are our state's greatest challenges to delivering effective, efficient, and accessible health and environmental services in the future?	If you could improve 1-3 things about our state's health and environmental services, what would they be and how do you recommend they be implemented to best serve our residents?
2021-07-20 10:23:03	As well as practical since a horse can be led to water but not made to drink (without a salt lick). With that in mind, people won't get vaccinated with misinformation, fear, inconvenience, spite, peer pressure, etc. Believing people are all motivated differently, seems like one of the few untried options is an unmarked mobile unit/team (as small as practical), strategically seeking the poorest in the neighborhood (clues: unkempt/condemned/fore closed property, unpaid taxes/rent/utilities, poor health/sick, missed medication, dark at night, unhealthy food, soiled clothing, homeless, phoneless, vehicle less, family less, friendless, jobless, helpless, etc.), knocking on doors, asking what occupants need, provide literature, reading it to them, asking if they feel comfortable receiving vaccine or want to think about it, leave contact info, return after needs met, ask about any remaining needs, etc. until cycle builds trust to receive vaccine. It'll be difficult, time consuming, expensive, and dangerous, but if herd immunity is the goal, we have to start asking what's it worth. Low hanging fruit's long gone.	See above plus addictions	See above plus mobile recovery services
2021-07-20 10:19:11	I don't think its doing to bad but there isn't much help for those on the spectrum, at least in Columbia. Most help for those on the spectrum is given out to private offices that are costly. If we could have more state help for those on the spectrum, not just for children and their parents, but for adults, that would be great.	I think our greatest challenge will always come down to money and the interest in something to spend that money on. We may get money but it may only be for one thing that already gets help while other areas are left with barely any funding. I'm not sure of how that all works but I do know behavioral takes a hit because of this.	Free get help webinars for people who can't afford regular behavioral health services. Cheaper hourly rates for those who need behavioral help. It feels like those who are different and need help to try and deal with the world around them are penalized for being the way they are naturally and that's not very fair. Make it easier to get the help people need by being more welcoming and getting the right number and address's out there.
2021-07-20 10:15:38	FAIR	getting the public to understand that permits issued based on entities meeting state and federal statutes/regulations not on if citizens "want" the entity	
2021-07-20 10:15:15	I feel we provide adequate but not exceptional services.	Availability - many services are back logged for appointments due to staffing issues, work load, availability of qualified providers	1. Audit wait times for appointments- determine cause. 2. Increase services in rural area. 3. Improve staffing, evaluate salary bases
2021-07-20 10:13:25	Health is not great. Environmental is decent.	Not using current technology & software like the rest of the world. Long delays in leadership making decisions & leaving staff in limbo.	1. Get current ASAP on technology. Accessing services should be as easy as ordering on Amazon. 2. Remove duplication & streamline ALL processes. Review all. 3. Focus on doing the basics well rather than politically correct activities. Bolster the infrastructure of our core services so a template is in place when something big comes up like COVID. We should have a plug & play plan with infrastructure.
2021-07-20 10:06:48	Working in as a front line employee. The Agency's does not support the public with services other states public health departments provides. There's really no employee available to help out with clinic shortage. Ex instead of having a nurse for a larger clinic help provide service to a small clinic that's short staff Low County will close the clinic before sending help. I always thought DHEC works as a TEAM.	Short staff. I feel the agency have a reputation of Oh! well we'll hire some one else if that employee doesn't work out. No insinuitive to keeping employees. Do those who work in the	I feel that when it come to family planning Medicaid from the state of SC Those individuals should have the health Department usage as their net work. We pay for private insurance and have to find a provider within our net work. I think in order to generate revenues and continue proving Preventive health in the clinic settings that is something the state may need to address. Clients applies for the Family Planning waiver within the DHEC health Departments, get approved then carry their services to another provider such as Doctors office. DHEC's is revenue. loosing but the Doctor offices is gaining
2021-07-20 10:03:28	The state of SC is doing well with improving the delivery of health and environmental services.	In order to be a healthy and active state, we need to work promote increasing side walk access in neighborhoods and to schools (in several counties). Health opportunity through FREE physical activity is very limited for ALL individuals without safe sidewalk access.	see above
2021-07-20 10:02:45	Fair- The best they can w/ the available resources they are given.	Our greatest challenges are money and having the resources to improve things. Corporate America is not doing enough, they are to worried about profit not people's health or the environment. THEY have too much influence on the government.	Environmental regulations are not strict enough. Industries should be instructed to clean up their act or leave our state. We are not doing enough to prevent things but instead focus on fines & clean up after the fact. Our beautiful state deserves better! We are not doing enough to make sure everyone can afford healthcare & treatment (to include the middle class). Lots of people put off their healthcare needs because they can't afford it even with health insurance. I also think every resident of SC should have the opportunity to take part in our affordable BCBS insurance rates not just state employees. We should also have a state pharmacy where any resident can get affordable drugs. No one should have to choose between paying their bills or paying for needed healthcare/treatment.
2021-07-20 10:01:57	Fair There are great services available. However, some are poorly managed and difficult to access.	Communication, funding, staffing	1. Collaboration with partners to improve service (Ex. Quarterly BCN meetings with partners for feedback) 2. Technological upgrades (Ex. Currently being asked to email BCN claims even though this is not secure. I requested a SFTP and was told that it's not possible.) 3. Increased outreach to patients
2021-07-20 10:00:13	Generally very well. There are unexpected events and circumstances that arise, and with time these too are well handled. It may take days to weeks on novel environmental issues, and Covid has shown it may take months, or many months, to calibrate or recalibrate efforts. These things always come with pressure and scrutiny, initially always unfavorable. It's applaudable how well the agency typically weathers these events and outward criticism.	Judgement, criticism, and unwarranted uninformed intervention external of those actually responsible.	The role of health departments can be expanded out to serve a broader segment of the community, particularly with Covid.
2021-07-20 09:58:59	Above average.	DHEC being an agile and forward-thinking agency. It needs to strategically restructure at the executive level before it can move forward. That doesn't mean disbanding the agency, perhaps just reducing and reorganizing executive leadership. It's currently far too cumbersome for a director to have so many direct reports without a deputy director(s) or true chief of staff as intermediary. Reduce the number reports so the director can focus on the strategic vision for the agency and let the deputy directors execute. Roll-up the many support services (IT, HR, Finance/Ops, the current COS section) under a Deputy Director of Administration and keep Deputy Directors for Environmental Affairs and Public Health. Or really any other solution than how we are currently structured. Right now we're just too top heavy to be agile and successful.	1. More services available online, especially the ability to pay online. 2. Improve our online and local presence to counter disinformation. We need to actively engage in our communities and online to help counter disinformation. Not these pre-crafted responses, but really engage and discuss. Be creative in how we counter disinformation. 3. We need more funding to improve our facilities and programs. Most run on a barebones budget that is able to do just enough to be marginally effective.
2021-07-20 09:58:58	I believe that our state is doing well when it comes to delivering health and environmental services; however, there are opportunities.	I believe collaboration is the key to success. We could strengthen our relationships with hospital systems across the state. During COVID-19 it was apparent that we could also improve our relationship with County Administrators. Continuity of operations key leaders got pulled in multiple directions which made it challenging to focus on the primary mission (main thing)	Accountability tell people what they need to hear not what they want to hear. Have difficult conversations and problem solve at every opportunity. If a problem is identified require staff to identify a solution and get it done.
2021-07-20 09:57:27	There could be better service, everything is political.	Make it about the people not about politics.	Think of better ways to help the citizens, not about what will help a governor or other politicians. To help others in the community, you first have to make the work environment better with better health coverage and better pay.

End Date	How is our state doing now when it comes to delivering health and environmental services?	What are our state's greatest challenges to delivering effective, efficient, and accessible health and environmental services in the future?	If you could improve 1-3 things about our state's health and environmental services, what would they be and how do you recommend they be implemented to best serve our residents?
2021-07-20 09:57:16	Currently there are many challenges in the health departments due to staff shortages and a "this is the way we've always done it" attitude. Work needs to be done to encourage health department leaders to promote team work and not territorialism.	There is a lackadaisical attitude toward real health care outreach in the health departments. Teams working on COVID are doing excellent outreach that needs to be carried over into the FTE side of the health departments.	1. Find ways to reduce the stigma of going to the health department. Many that need the services feel they are lower class citizens if they go to the health department for services. 2. Improve the morale of the health department teams by improving the quality of the site supervisors and their leadership training. 3. Partner more with local organizations to improve the reputation and remove the shame of going to the health department for testing or vaccinations.
2021-07-20 09:53:19	There are numerous beneficial services/programs available, however I feel that the general SC population is unaware of these programs-such as The Best Chance Network. In my many years as a state employee, I was not aware of this program.	Making the public and those in need aware of the available services.	Our facility faces constant challenges working with DHEC in the Best Chance Network program. Payments are delayed, and must be followed up on regularly to "track down " unpaid claims that have been submitted. We are regularly told that our claims have not been received, and we often are requested to submit the same documents multiple times in an effort to receive payment. There seems to be little accountability and follow through in this program.
2021-07-20 09:52:21	In Orangeburg County, much needs to be done. Appointments are hard to come by due to lack of staff available to deliver hands on care. I believe DHEC has an excess of administrators and not enough hands on staff to care for people. Clients look to DHEC for help with healthcare needs. It would be so beneficial for DHEC to provide some behavioral health services as well.	I believe probably lack of funding or monies going to other areas instead of hands on care.	1. Direct funding to hire more staff to work in the actual clinics .Offer staff a salary based on years of experience and service. For example, should a nurse with 32 years of experience be offered a very low salary or should he/ she be paid on a scale matching number of years experience. And if DHEC loses nurses because of being overly stressed and low pay, isn't that detrimental to achieving great services. 2. Have more community outreach to educate patients on issues such as Covid, TB, immunizations, STD's, Birth control, suicide, ect. Offer some give-aways at these events to attract public to pick up flyers, ect. Public often not educated in health issues except what they hear on the news.
2021-07-20 09:51:50	Need more convenient ways to access health services	combating misinformation	more online /telephone services
2021-07-20 09:48:48	Poorly	Employees, electronic health records	Electronic health records that interface with all SC SHEC so continuity of care of care can take place freeing up time, resources, testing and saving money on the millions of sheets of paper DHEC uses each year. More employees to open up clinic options and availability. Clients have to wait weeks to months for appointments at times.
2021-07-20 09:48:08	Okay	red tape, bureaucracy	there seem to be "qualifying factors", restraints on hours available; people cannot take time off work for services offered 9-5 M-F.
2021-07-20 09:47:17	Essential regulatory services are in place. Healthcare issues persist however we are limited in public offerings, exceptions being COVID-related.	The most basic public need is healthcare for all, even to those who cannot afford insurance.	As with COVID, clinics for free checkups and free basic medicines could aid in keeping all South Carolinians healthy. The Teledoc system last year during lockdown was extremely helpful in providing needed advice and prescriptions.
2021-07-20 09:46:31	Good question that can't be answered in a three question survey.	MUSC is too big to fail and needs to be moved inland or a hurricane will cause unnecessary and catastrophic loss.	Move MUSC inland.
2021-07-20 09:44:03	Delivery is fine, but the information exchange is the problem. The misinformation coming in from different groups/organizations (churches/cults, private health groups/labs with private agendas, etc.).	The population is growing, is the knowledge going to grow with it? The schools are vast health hazards - especially with the COVID pandemic still ongoing - and should be used as information dispensers as well.	1. Raise awareness and such throughout the schools and public buildings (DMVs, Clinics, Libraries, etc.). 2. Post "ads" on social media - Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, etc. - Perhaps that will help with dispensing knowledge of what is going on. 3. Have incentive lotteries: "Do this and get your name entered into a lottery of your choice."
2021-07-20 09:39:43	I think DHEC tries, but there are many roadblocks in the way, the greatest of which is the pathetic waste of space we have for a governor	the GOP and the fact that many of the residents are Qanon believing, science-denying, bible-thumpers who believe that God will protect them from the virus, but that they need to walk around with a firearm. They also think that their savior Trump "invented" the vaccine (when it was scientists) but they won't take it. It is hard to reason with groups like that, who also don't trust the government.	I don't know how to improve this other than remove the governor and retrain or remove some of your staff, because I do think that the agency needs to really look at some of them. I have overheard conversations mocking mental health. I have also overheard conversations making fun of someone in transition, calling them a "he-she... or whatever" and "what has this world come to when people think it is OK to just change from one to the other" as if that has not always been a thing, people are just more comfortable with being themselves in public now. How can you claim to want to help the people of the state if your staff is making fun of 1. others on your staff (the mental health conversation) and 2. the people you have been tasked with helping (the conversation involving the person in transition)? DHEC claims to be inclusive, but these are not conversations that foster an inclusive environment from an employment or a customer standpoint. I can't imagine if another employee who suffered mental health issues (or the employee they had been speaking of) overheard the mental health conversation, where they were openly mocking depression and made a blatant reference to the person being so depressed over having to come to work that they had to take a LOA or they might unalive themselves, would feel over that group openly mocking mental health issues without knowing what their coworker was going through. As someone who overheard the conversation, I can tell you it upset me greatly to think that they felt that it was OK to mock this sort of thing when they are in the field of Public Health, whether it be on the Environmental or the Health side.
2021-07-20 09:38:39	We deliver quality service with the resources that we have.	Staffing levels do not meet the demand for service. Retention of employees due to not providing competitive pay. Inability to complete applications and payments online.	Continue utilizing the innovate methods developed during the course of the pandemic to increase access to service. Increase staffing to keep up with the growth in the community and the increased demand for service. Eliminate the need for clients to deliver forms and paperwork in person. Develop methods to complete paperwork online prior to visits. Require electronic submission of applications and payment.
2021-07-20 09:36:40	Poorly	Quality health care; Access to healthcare statewide, especially in rural areas; High paying, well skilled jobs that afford SC citizens quality of life.	Provide quality health care access to the most rural areas of the state. Provide affordable nutrition statewide, especially in rural areas. Provide MORE parks and recreations areas for physical activity.
2021-07-20 09:34:53	Great but could be more efficient with how we spend our resources on environmental programs.	I don't think there are many for health. All people are afforded the right to healthcare already.	Focus resources on environmental programs that actually help to better the environment in measurable ways. Look for programs that are using resources that are perhaps not equal to what they are producing.
2021-07-20 09:32:58	Good, if understaffed	Many open positions.	Fill open positions quicker, however needed. Allow TC for possible positions. More communication between offices (Regional/Central, Regional/Regional, etc)
2021-07-20 09:32:20	If I were to grade our services, it would be an across-the-board C for Health Services. We continue to provide those services mandated by law but also try to serve additional patients with federal block grants. Our programs are forced to compete with one another resulting in staffing challenges and inconsistent service.	We continue to try to provide direct patient care. This is the most expensive way to provide service. We have wonderful networks of community partners that would be interested in sub-contracting our block grants. We are one of a handful of states that continues to provide individual patient care. In addition, we are one of the lowest paying state agencies. We cannot keep staff and we are providing inconsistent patient care at best.	1. Fair and equitable cost analysis of services provided to determine what should be kept and what should be subcontracted. 2. Fair and equitable market analysis of salaries. Our admin are not paid a living wage. 3. Analysis of Agency structure. The majority of the actual "boots on the ground" work is done at the Region level; however, the decisions and the salaries go to Central Office.
2021-07-20 09:32:00	Its doing ok, the basics are being provided.	accessibility. In small towns and cities, we need transportation services to get people to grocery stores, appointments, work, etc. we need more public gardens for fresh fruits and vegetables, and we need services to be affordable.	we need to be present more, holding community events with our services, we need to have DHEC water fountains around neighbors for access to clean water, DHEC public gardens, DHEC community clinics for services.

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2021-07-20 09:31:41	In my opinion they are still doing a poor job. If I did not work for DHEC a lot of things would have gone unnoticed or unaware of.	I feel they need to act more rapidly. The news get distorted so fast by social media the validity of the information is usually questionable when delivered on a state stand point.	Try and be fair, and implement according to accuracy and information data not on personal opinion based on what works for some but not the vast majority.
2021-07-20 09:30:51	I don't know	funding?	more parks, more protected green spaces
2021-07-20 09:30:27	It all comes down to who the state is hiring and that process. I have heard some pretty messed up stories of why some great candidates weren't selected, some even due to race. SO if things like this are still an issue to some (that are managers), I think the state could do alot better. Side note: See something say something only works when you know you wont loose your job over saying something.	HR take a really long time to hire great candidates that find other jobs while waiting for HR to send out an acceptance letter. By losing these great candidates, we lose the best people for these jobs.	HR needs to work faster. Some of those in charge, need not be anymore, and contractors who have proven their merit, should be offered a FTE position. By doing this, you ultimately improve the positive impact of the health and environment of South Carolina.
2021-07-20 09:28:45	Not applicable.	Access to health care.	Full implementation of the Affordable Care Act with an expansion of Medicaid to recommended eligibles.
2021-07-20 09:28:17	It could do better delivering health services. Most clinics are understaffed. Also the clinic times for the appointments need to be longer. The people that come to us for health clinic services take longer than the 30 allocated times are appointments are given.	Lack of staff. Default clinic appointment times	Adjust clinic appointment times. More staff.
2021-07-20 09:28:10	Groups within our state are effective, but fight misinformation from lawmakers/media/etc. We are handicapped by decision-makers at times.	Misinformation, misinformed authority figures, political bias, skepticism of government oversight, rural communities, economic factors	1. Education -- smarter people make smarter choices. 2. Awareness -- dump buckets of money into media ad buys to help spread our messages instead of relying on the more passive methods we have in the past (like social media or handouts at clinics) 3. Way more mobile clinics for way more things than just WIC or immunizations etc.
2021-07-20 09:27:35	I believe our state is doing exceptionally well.	People not reading material given	Group exercise classes once a week during work hours Weight loss/ step challenge An array of diets (like keto etc.) give out more information to public
2021-07-20 09:26:49	Complicated- poor communication. DHEC comes off as having a strong stance on science based evidence, however political factors seem to sway that stance in favor of lack of health promotion and conspiracy theories.	Conspiracy theorists, political pressures, lack of support from the Governor.	Science-based evidence and proof being portrayed at the same level across the board, squashing conspiracies completely, avoiding politicians opinions on health/science.
2021-07-20 09:26:19	it has improved in the past 3 years giving it a more positive message	lack of understanding or openmindedness of the citizens of SC	keep the messages simple and use plain language keep the messages consistent remember the limitations of low income citizens
2021-07-20 09:26:01	Decent	Rural areas have no resources. Turnover is high in several areas, creating gaps in quality care.	Continue the availability of remote services. Gap in care is often due to high turnover or due to lack of transportation on the client's end. Remote services provide flexibility to cover both of these gaps.
2021-07-20 09:06:49	I believe the providers are doing a wonderful job.	Ridiculous regulations and reporting requirements.	Reduce redundancy in reporting requirements for healthcare providers, especially nursing homes.
2021-07-20 07:58:37	ok	slow	hire more people to provide services more timely
2021-07-19 16:53:55	It is very difficult to hire for these positions. Both related to pay and the difficulty of the work	Hiring associates for these positions. Pay needed to hire for these positions.	The state surveyors not be so difficult to work with and scared of the CMS surveyors from Atlanta.
2021-07-19 16:28:37	For environmental services, DHEC is much too weak in enforcement, oversight, and protection. It prefers to study, test, and monitor rather than to require any cleanups. Its permits are weak and do not significantly increase pollution elimination when the permits are renewed, as the agency is supposed to do, in order to achieve the statutory and policy and community goal of reduced and eliminated pollution. Environmental services would be even weaker, though, if they were put under the Departments of Agriculture or Commerce or anywhere other than a purely environmental agency. We also are not moving fast enough to eliminate overly expensive and heavily polluting coal fired electricity plants and coal-fired units operated by industries. Health services are weak due to the fact that there is inadequate health provision to poor people. There is also the problem of excessive charges by consolidating hospital entities.	A strong, determined, and rigorous state environmental agency with a knowledgeable and committed board and/or leader. Political pressures to be weak in environmental enforcement due to focus on the short term needs of big political contributors and politically important pressure groups, rather than the overall interests of the community and long term environmental and economic health. Failure to recognize that strong regulation and enforcement are essential to environmental protection. Failure to impose adequate penalties on large polluters. Failure to expand Medicaid. Inadequate oversight of health institution's consolidation.	1. Follow the law and each time a water or air permit is renewed, require most stringent pollution limits and adoption of best technology to remove pollution. 2. Require actual cleanup of contaminated sites and pollution events, rather than years of study and evaluation. 3. Accelerate closure of coal-fired electricity generating facilities.