

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?
44419.339	Born in GA, SC was always the place to vacation and just “be outside”. Now I live here in Indian Land. The toxic air my family and I breathe daily is horrible. Eight months of suffering. Please help!	No odor laws and letting the people of this state suffer while baby steps are “made” by big corporations.	When thousands of people complain about their health take the time to meet with them in their communities and let them know they are heard!!
44418.86457	Not good. New Indy Containerboard in Catawba SC has been poisoning the residents for months and nothing has been done. They were issued orders to reduce their emissions but they are not complying yet are still being allowed to operate. It smells HORRIBLE today. I’ve been nauseous with a headache. My 3 year old woke up complaining of his nose. It’s insane that this is being allowed.	Please listen to the thousands of residents who are crying out for help in York and Lancaster county. New Indy Container board is making us and our children and animals sick!	Protect us!! We are breathing in toxic air. We are crying out for help and no one is answering. Please help us over here near the New Indy plant in Catawba. Don’t wait until people get cancers and die before this is fixed. Many residents are planning on moving.
44418.77816 44418.50435	Great SC is not reaching its most vulnerable population. In past years everyone knew about the local health departments and utilized its services. Now know one seems to know they are there and what services are offered. So many services have been cut and the ones that are still available have no staff to provide the services.	Funding lack of knowledge or what services are available, lack of services available that once were available and no staff to provide the services. State jobs used to be a sought after career, now no one wants to work for the State due to the horrible pay and poor upper and State level management	More transportation for poor/elderly Competitive wages, availability of services and job satisfaction from the employees providing services. No one seems to be happy at their jobs any longer. Licensed staff need to be supervised by licensed staff. Clinical services at the State level should fall under a Licensed medical professional. The State has people at the top level of management making decisions on how clinics should be ran, supervision of licensed professionals and public health and safety who have no medical or clinical background, no license to lose and no concern for those that do have a license to lose or the danger they are putting the citizens of the State in. I am a lifelong resident of SC and I have never seen an Agency decline as much as SCDHEC has in the past 3 years. there are no appointments available, staff are miserable in their roles and nothing seems to run in a smooth and orderly fashion any longer. Put people who know the front line job and that have a clinical background in decision making roles at the State level. No one with a license that is put into jeopardy time and time again wants to work for the Agency.
44417.6395	Health and environment are intrinsically related: We can't have good health without a healthy environment, and a healthy environment without healthy people. Our resources were: expert staff who had institutional knowledge, funds, expertise in the subject matter, science based decision making and conveying these to industry, legislators, and public. During the past years, our funds have dwindled, experts in subject matter left the agency, and we are being asked to do more for same pay. We are not able to hire and retain qualified professionals. The legislators show no respect for us and does not listen to proven, scientific conclusions. Ex: The governor refusing to implement mask mandates during a global pandemic of a deadly disease that have resulted in in deaths, even though it has been proven many times that masks and social distancing help protect all of us. He has resorted to aligning his vision to a looser business man turned ex-president: Burying ones head in the sand does not make the matter go away, it just prolongs the pain and extends it further, using more resources to the detriment of the people of South Carolina. DHEC is an US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) delegated authority to implement federal and state environmental laws. If our problems are not addressed and we fail to implement our state and federal environmental laws, EPA will remove our designation and take over. After EPA takes over, we will loose all control, and EPA will administer ALL of our programs, without consultation because there will be no authority to consult. Again, this means we as a state will have no authority over any of these programs!! To summarize, our hands are being tied behind our backs, making it a challenge to provide these services to our own citizens and keeping our land, waterways, and air healthy. Questions to those that doubt DHEC. Do you fish in any of our states waters and do you know if it's safe to eat a certain fish? Remember folks contacting their reps for the odor problems caused by a permittee?? Do you know if there are any hazardous materials near your land? Do you know if these hazardous materials are seeping into your private well? What about the national mega farms irresponsibly using our groundwaters? Salt water edging its way to our ground water reservoirs?? Is the lead in your water?? Septic tanks leaking bacteria to shellfish harvesting waters? Who responds to all the flooding and after math of hurricanes? After we get a lot of precipitation, did you know that we babysit those dams with potential to breach 24/? No toilet, super hot or cold weather, sitting out side and monitoring dams? If do fail to do these jobs ourselves as DHEC, EPA will take over and will implement federal environmental laws, potentially with more restrictive standards. If you want us to do our jobs, we needs funds to implement mandates, attract and retain experts in their fields, we need respect! Lastly, we are being demanded to do more with less pay: 1) In a few years, most of the upper management will retire and leave the agency. Did you know that 87% of state employees make less than \$49,000. I challenge you all to live on less than \$1500 - \$1800 per month and pay for all your and your family's mediocre	Hiring and retaining experts - we hardly get by! Give us the funding we need. Support and respect us: We are the experts in out fields, not you. Our buildings in horrible shapes: Ceiling tiles falling on employees, parking lots with deep holes, expect to have EXTREME weather where we experience anything from 53 fahreheit to app 90s: This happens regardless of what the weather outside is. Bathrooms that flood, floors flooding regularly, a canteen with dead bugs, expired foods and drinks. The list goes on and on... If we are not taken care of we can't take care of our citizens and our environment. We have delayed too many projects that would be beneficial to our citizens, visitors, economy, environment, health and happiness of all of us. We need funds to implement these projects and also require funds to be invested in us, your DHEC employees.	1) Increase our and give us the resources we need to do our jobs. 2) Understand that we are implementing federal programs and if we don't, another agency such as EPA, Federal Energy Commission, etc. will take over our programs. 3) We love and enjoy broadening your horizons, giving you information you need to make better decisions, and educate when necessary. Please let us do our jobs and don't tell us what to do.
44417.63075	mediocre	expand medicaid, have clear, data driven information provided to citizens	Be tough about environmental controls, including toxic waste and other waste dumping, septic systems and water management standards for our rivers, lakes and estuaries to help us create and maintain clean waters.
44417.56814	By all appearances to an outsider, DHEC has grown in size and diversity of function that warrants the possibility of being reorganized	Let’s not overreach in attempting to deal with DHEC issues. Why include Mental Health when it is one of the premier mental health providers in the country functioning with focus and large scale community involvement through the state board and 17 local boards.	Ask what is most efficient model for the DHEC functions and stop trying to dismantle other efficient and effective agencies to justify DHEC reorganization.
44417.54565	Okay in some areas.	Politics and making science partisan issues.	1. Keep evidence-based lists of health improvement objectives and accompanying activities. 2. Create a bi-partisan council to keep politics out of science. 3. Ensure that your communication strategy for sharing science with citizens is solid.
44417.51529	Well	Political interference from the legislature and the governor. Health and environmental services should be done without the legislature and the governor dictating the terms for political gain and to win votes.	1. Politics should not influence health and environmental policy decisions. 2. There needs to be much more funding, staff and resources to provide health and environmental services. The legislature and governor's office are the reason things aren't as good as they could be 3. Don't break up DHEC, it will cost the tax payers tens of millions of dollars and it wouldn't serve citizens of the state or meet the missions of creating a state where people can live healthy in communities.
44417.4716	The state is doing well delivering health and environmental services. Creating SHaPE SC encourages me that work being done now will be reviewed and plans for improvement can begin. QI focused!	Work together with respect and keep science, not politics, the focus.	Waste disposal; clean water delivery and waste water treatment and the cost of those services, transition to green energy

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44417.37319	As a SCDHEC Regional BEHS employee management requires us to meet specific goals on customer response. Those expectations are clear to all staff. There are resources that have been requested from IT and we get no response. They are overwhelmed and say they are understaffed and are slow to complete requested tasks frequently.	Not enough employees to meet our volume of workload. In onsite waste water, even at fully staff, we have staff working overtime and they still cannot keep up with the workload volume. Staff are constantly under the gun for timeliness, professional decisions, frequent legislative inquiries, frequent FOI's, etc. A large portion of staff are feeling burned out, unappreciated, stressed (mentally, emotionally & physically). Need more funding for more staff.	1 - fee increase commiserate with inflation of goods & services. Please help our legislatures understand the necessity or to privatize services. 2 - transparency to staff 3 - more scdhc staff representation for this group
44417.35067	Many people in SC don't know anything about the health services side of DHEC. When they see someone from DHEC, they automatically assume that they are with the environmental side.	Changing the perception of DHEC. It doesn't have a great reputation in the communities throughout the state.	1. Higher salaries so that employees who want to serve the state can actually live and pay their bills. Many state employees actually qualify for some of the low income services that the state offers. 2. Stand up for what's right even if it goes against the political viewpoint. Dr. Linda Bell's guidance should have been heeded during all phases of COVID, then and now.
44416.77313	Bare minimum	Lack of accessible and affordable care.	Increase availability and accessibility to reliable health services (to include addiction and behavioral healthcare) and healthy foods. Increase affordable transportation to these services and food sources and/or increase the presence of these necessities in high need areas.
44415.48396	doing better but there are more things to improve	polarizing political perspective. there's a need to improve the communication and messages of science to the public. the health and environmental issue has become more of a social science issue as much as it is a natural science.	1) better information dissemination of science-based studies about health and environment; 2) tap social science techniques from the colleges to tap the residents' support and participation.
44414.37436	I can't speak to much about environmental services but I think we do a good job with delivering health services but there is room for improvement.	Being prepared to deliver services in a society that's shifted even more to virtual/ remote services. getting needed policy makers on board with who we are and what we do, allowing us to do it. Big challenge we do not speak with one voice. There's much room for uniformity. The way we provide services in the Midlands maybe different from the Low Country but the policy and practice standards is the same.	Educated/ re-educate the public and staff. People need to know "DHEC", who we are, why we are and what we do. Assess how communication is flowing amongst leaders. All region leaders should be on one accord as it pertains to policies and expectation so the public hears one voice even as services/ initiatives are tailored to meet the needs of a specific population/ location. I'm thinking the different levels of regional leadership meets regularly, maybe look at the effectiveness of the meeting. Is the information being disseminated within the region and to the front line staff.
44413.36969	Ok I don't hear much	I don't know	I don't know. I need to understand what is being done first
44412.62561	Grade varies from a D to a F	1. Political ideology of the legislature and Governor (s) 2. Lack of qualified personnel to do the job 3. Lack of support/funding 4. Increase avenues to assist the under and uninsured as well as rural areas	1. Educate and hold accountable the State's Legislature and Governor about the relationship of poor health and economics (they think in dollars and cents and not people). If you have a sick workforce, will need to worry about increase in work related injuries and absenteeism along with a decrease in work -productivity. 2. Increase funding to the SC DHEC for staff 3. Work collaboratively with SC Free Medical Clinics Association and others providing care to the under and uninsured
44412.58368	Based on our current state funding, it appears that our state legislature feels environmental health is the bigger priority. We do not get enough funding on the health services side to adequately maintain programs or staffing to meet our state's current public health issues. We are losing staff at an alarming rate and have slim to no applicants for most of our front line positions. The morale of our FTE staff is the lowest I have seen in all of my 18 years with this agency. Our admin staff do not make a livable wage. Our nurses and provider salaries are far from competitive. We have staff leaving at an alarming rate and have slim to no applicant interest in our posted positions. We even have staff leaving to take positions in other state agencies because we pay so poorly at DHEC. Another concern is the number of leadership positions held by non healthcare, non medical people. Most of the decision making for the health services side of our agency is made by people who do not carry a license. For those in central office that do carry a license, most have never stepped foot in a health department and are unaware of what staff do or the barriers they face on a day to day basis. There is a huge disconnect and visible lack of communication between bureaus and programs in our own agency as well as a disconnect between central office and the regions. Our current organizational structure does not adequately provide a safe, supportive environment for our licensed personnel. We have APRNs being supervised by RNs, RNs being supervised by non RNs, and registered dietitians being supervised by nutritionist or non RNs. Our sites have non nurses in charge of clinic operations, which makes the front line nurses uneasy. Our agency continues to integrate services, which demands our providers to learn multiple program areas. It does not feel that anyone considers how difficult it is for staff to provide quality services across multiple, complex program areas. As we continue to integrate more services, we add additional educational, assessment, and quality control elements to our clinic visits but do not add additional time to the appointments to allow these elements to be implemented well. This not only adds additional stress to the provider, but it also increases the potential for error. Our current scheduling system does not allow for prioritization of clients, nor does it take into consideration the complexity of the client, whether that be health complexity, language barrier, etc. COVID is not the only public health concern going on right now. If we would put as much money, time, marketing, and effort into educating our state and securing staff to work on the other concerns, such as syphilis and TB, we would see healthier communities.	There is limited buy in from political leaders, therefore we do not have adequate funding to deliver effective, efficient, accessible healthcare. Without funding, we can not maintain adequate staffing. Without adequate staffing, we can no sustain our current services.	1. Provide a safe, supportive organizational structure for nurses and other licensed personnel that includes supervisors of their same disciplines and leadership teams that possess clinical/medical knowledge. 2. Simplify our structure and focus on sustaining/supporting the program areas and public health issues that are truly impacting our state (example: clients can go to multiple places besides DHEC to receive family planning services but very few places to receive STD, IZ, or TB services. Put more of a focus on those services that are not as readily accessible and develop strategies that can truly impact those areas) 3. Advocate for an increase in pay for essential staff.(not the ones that can work from home but the ones vital to daily clinical and client services)