

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.	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.	A lack of environmental scientists in leadership positions.	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 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.	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			
	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
	Fine	Communication	
2021-07-23 13:34:20			

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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.	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.	1. Remove politics from all decisions. Trust the science. 2. Expand Medicaid/Medicare 3. Invest in a renewable energy infrastructure
2021-07-23 12:24:58	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 than 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.	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. 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.	
2021-07-23 12:15:25	Not as well as NC, where we were able to get the covid shot months before SC		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 12:14:08	Totally awful. Where are the public service announcement on the vaccine!? Many other areas lacking.	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 12:12:13	health services need better delivery/coverage in rural areas. Environmental services need better enforcement	more accessible/quicker responding staff, better adherence of existing regulations	see above
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>
2021-07-23 11:30:27	<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>
2021-07-23 11:27:45	<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 11:26:40	<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>
2021-07-23 10:58:26	<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>

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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 their, 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 DHECs 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.

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 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 Poorly	combating misinformation Employees, electronic health records	more online /telephone services 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 09:48:48			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 09:48:08	Okay	red tape, bureaucracy	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 09:47:17	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.	
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.

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2021-08-04 10:05:33	Dismal to worse. Been here less than 3 yrs and pretty healthy and had 3 very disturbing visits. No. 1 Eye dr - put drops in eyes to dilate, then proceeded to say no change since last visit and I questioned my vision in left eye seemed worse. He started to walk me down the hall to exit and I asked him, "is anyone going to look in my eyes, now that the drops have completed the dilation?" He responded after telling me my eyes were the same as last time, that he didn't realize no one had checked???. No. 2 - fell on my hand and had sprain on wrist. Went to Joseph Chandler and explained had broken that wrist in 2005 during a fall. X rayed wrist and told me I needed immediate surgery with pins, had to wait until Monday for appointment. Research all weekend about different "Pin" surgery as we were planning a overseas trip in a few weeks. Dr. looked at Xray and explained the break on screen was the 2005 break, not a new issue and just wear a brace for 2 weeks. No. 3 - had some pain in knee and had MRI. Dr. at well known Bluffton Orthopedics group tell me two weeks before Christmas, that I need immediate surgery drilling small holes to inject "calcium sulfate toothpaste concrete substance' before end of year or my knee would collapse and all bets off, full knee replacement. He provided a sheet a paperwork on the procedure and I went in my car and googled it. Substance is calcium phosphate and I called a friend who works with knee replacement devices who referred me to surgeon in Charlotte. That doctor looked at MRI and examined my knee and said, "most likely I would never need knee replacement." Loose some weight and amend my daily 5 mile walk. Have been doing that and much better.	We need to attract the best talented doctors and not the ones who just want to live in a nice place with lower taxes.	Attract best doctors Get rid of the quacks who just want to do optional surgeries on retirees with Medicare and Advantage and Supplemental insurance. It is an outrage! Formalize stats on these people so we know the ones that are bad and institute state certifications to monitor them Better education on nutrition, issues specific to SC (snakes/alligators habitat safety), better cooking methods so not everything is FRIED, BBQ, and tastes disgusting,
2021-08-03 13:24:49 2021-08-03 10:07:23	some programs work well, some are terrible mediocre There continues to be a wide gap between communities of color/disabled and those with direct access. DHEC has implemented long-term goals which is better than simple fixes that may create larger divisions, but I think we should implement more community based decisions on issues.	regulations make the job ineffective or inefficient Our governor and the republicans in congress A website that is difficult for even staff to navigate.	strengthen regulations so that programs can effectively operate and do the job they are called to do More funding, greater control, reduced involvement from the governor 1. Allow Microsoft PowerApps to have external access to allow internal resources to be available externally. 2. Push for all forms to be filled out directly online instead of having fillable pdfs that then have to be emailed. 3. Think about long-term community engagement by being more present in K-12 schools.
2021-08-02 16:03:50	We are doing the best we can when individual rights (politics) have taken over public health work; there is not common interest in protecting the public.	It is hard to make decisions and enforce actions to protect the public when some state leadership have opposite beliefs of how we promote and protect the public. It feels like a no-win situation and makes it very hard for public health to do better in this type of climate. When a health issue impacts the PUBLIC, government should be able to what it needs to do to look out for the greater whole of people. This COVID-19 pandemic affects everyone, not just ONE person, so ONE person or an individual, should not make decisions on the health impacts of EVERYONE else. If we had this type of obstruction with smoking laws, seatbelt laws and other similar public health and safety issues, we would have many more people dead! The protocols put in place for FLU has, undoubtedly, saved a lot of sickness and potentially death because people took precautions to keep their hands clean, wear masks, and avoid crowds where people gather. I know it is why we had a very low FLU season thus far. More people decided to get their FLU vaccine earlier than normal, hoping that it would help protect them from COVID. If an INDIVIDUAL was able to keep the virus to themselves, then they can make the decision to wear a mask or not get vaccinated, but right now, they don't have that control and they have to access PUBLIC places. Until we figure this out, we will keep "spinning our wheels" and wasting money.	Have agency bureau meetings with region representatives present at least 4 times per year. This would allow dialogue to figure out how we can better work together across the agency to meet the needs of the public. We have learned through this pandemic that it takes both environmental and public health services to meet the public's needs. We learned that we could support businesses more with health guidance as opposed to it all being OSHA. We learned that we can partner with the schools to get the message out and we learned that our smaller communities have been neglected too long, yet are willing to work with us, one resident at a time to combat this pandemic.
2021-08-02 15:20:53	Unknown. Do not see in any media about this information Quite poorly compared to most other 50 states; but about average for the southeast in general due to the ridiculous cuts to state health/environmental agencies without restoration since the great recession.	Rural area(s) awareness 1. Staff are poorly paid therefore you have poorly trained staff throughout the agency. Many (most) of the best talent has left DHEC over the past decade. Offer better salaries and hire a PhD-trained person (or MD/PhD or MD/DrPH) to run the agency. You also need a PhD to run the environmental side if the enviro side remains within DHEC	Be on the front page of what State is doing.....various methods of media communication. 1. Convince the legislature to accept medicaid expansion. 2. Ramp up the inspection/oversight activities of the agency again. There is almost no oversight of restaurant hygiene/sanitation anymore. There is almost no monitoring or enforcement of environmental laws and regulations for air, water, soil; and little enforcement of natural lands protection. This is through little fault of the agency itself. It has been cut beyond belief given the mandate of it's mission for SC. Health services have been prioritized greatly over environmental protection. Greater balance is needed.
2021-08-02 14:11:08	As well as it can given that politicians puts public health last.	The greatest challenge would be separating DHEC. The environment is critical to public health. If the agency is divided much less emphasis would be put on environmental health.	1. Keep them joined. 2. Provide more public health training in Environmental Affairs or hire more people with an understanding of public health. 3. Ensure that the DHEC leader has and understanding of environmental health and does not work with polluters. We are very lucky right now.
2021-08-02 13:38:29	Fair	Not providing mental wellness programs to the marginalized communities	I recommend creating hybrid programs where marginalized women who are the head of their household meet to share and discuss menta challenges and anxieties. Training could be designed and provided to assist them with coping with the challenges of life.
2021-08-02 09:40:12	Below average	Our states greatest challenges are having resources in the form of funds and people to provide these services.	The state should create more paying jobs at a livable wage to provide these services.
2021-08-02 09:39:53	Below average	Our states greatest challenges are having resources in the form of funds and people to provide these services.	The state should create more paying jobs at a livable wage to provide these services.
2021-08-02 09:30:11	Not good. Medicaid was not expanded and the governor has been so confusing and opposed to science regarding the covid pandemic mitigation measures. Heath disparities as measured by life expectancy, chronic disease management, and Covid deaths would indicate we are doing poorly.	McMaster Lack of access to primary care and early screening for a large portion of the community; lack of insurance for many low income people, many of whom are working. Getting a job does not mean getting health insurance for many such as restaurant workers, performers, and gig economy workers. 16% of Charleston county adults under 65 lacked insurance in 2018 and the figure is likely higher now. Expanding access to Medicaid would help or subsidies for the marketplace.	1. Expand Medicaid 2. Offer clear and consistent covid messaging that aligns with CDC guidance. Implement using all forms of media and a dynamic web presence. I've heard that DHEC is considering splitting into two agencies so as to allow more focus on each mission and during the pandemic I can see how that would help. I don't know a lot about the environmental side of DHEC except that they recently approved a permit to develop the last tidal creek in Charleston which seems foolish as we struggle with sea level rise and associated nuisance flooding. Addressing the racial equity issues inherent in such permit applications must be a higher priority - poor neighborhoods are often more prone to flooding.
2021-08-02 09:02:55	So-so	Current governor, legislature and narrow minded constituents who hide behind rights and unfounded, ill informed beliefs.	Elect people who care about population health and our environment

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?
2021-08-01 22:14:36	fair. lots of room for improvement. Need better communications. Need to interact with the public and respond to real questions with real answers, not cut and paste from other agencies or the CDC.	communication, trust, conflict of interest (eg., hospital systems, pharmaceutical companies, food industry etc.). Put health first. Good health doesn't cost much. Sick care costs a lot. Put emphasis on real healthy guidance. Go to people and work with them to achieve health. Also, walk the walk. Healthy public health workers are better at judging and delivering healthy environments.	1. hire real health communicators and data scientists who are good thinkers. Regain the public trust. 2. advocate for healthy environments that include safe outdoor spaces, fun activities, healthy food that will be purchased (pay attention to demand), and promote healthy sexual and social behaviors. 3. build coalitions of ALL SC residents. Don't fall into partisan traps, vilification of racial, ethnic, religious, or political groups, or any "othering" behavior. Any effort that is partisan will fail.
2021-08-01 20:45:50	Unacceptable	Systemic racism, discriminatory practices including accessibility, quality services, and direct practices with marginalized communities.	1. Infrastructure-realignment with grassroots, community efforts. 2. Reduce administrative positions and expand positions for community health and grassroots efforts. Too top heavy 3. Increase efforts to all state populations, strength based focus versus deficit focus
2021-07-30 19:03:44	Inadequate. I am referring to efforts to stop the pollution of air in the counties of York, Lancaster SC as well as issues in our neighboring state of NC from the New Indy Containerboard	Lack of Government employees in various Departments. Lack of laws. Failure to monitor factories who discharge into the environment.	Hire more inspectors. Make laws stricter. No allow towns to enter deals with companies without oversight from appropriate state agency. New Indy for example received so many concessions when they bought the Resolute Paper Company they pay less than \$46,000. per year in taxes.
2021-07-30 18:03:38	Seems that the pandemic has shifted all the focus to the health side leaving the environmental services side lacking in both service and regulation.	As a retired university environmental health & safety manager, I have witnessed the huge migration of staff out of SCDHEC with limited replacements. Until SC starts to recognize and appreciate the folks that work in health and environmental services, the future seems rather bleak to me. You can't progress without boots on the ground!	I would add both service and regulatory staff to the agency and find a way to create stability at the top, so the message is not constantly changing as the political climate changes. Environmental issues especially impact all SC citizens and should not be in or out depending upon the political climate.
2021-07-30 15:13:37	Doing the best you can with the resources you have.	Staff retention and an aging vehicle fleet. The vehicle fleet looks bad. Don't know if they are mechanically sound, but peeling paint and rust does not portray a good agency imagine when inspectors pull up on site for an inspection, medical visit, sampling, etc. Knowledgeable staff are essential to properly maintain all DHEC programs.	1. Knowledgeable staff- this is accomplished by hiring the right person for the job and paying them enough to compete with other salaries, so they don't leave after they are trained.
2021-07-30 14:01:09	Poorly! New Indy plant is polluting the air in and around Lancaster county. Nothing is being done	Try to be responsible for the health of the states residents.	Work quickly and responsibly with the EPA to clean the air pollution in this state. Tired of hearing excuses. The health of the residents is not a political matter. Do your job!!!
2021-07-30 12:44:27	not very well	our leadership	I would put politics aside and treat our health (and environmental) issues in a rational and coherent manner.
2021-07-30 12:17:08	Poor	Antiquated laws	Update the laws so that family isn't "cut out" of the mental health care; engage with family members for a full picture of a patient's previous care, rather than throwing them in the facility with the first open bed; assign more judges to mental health cases so that proper evaluation can be accomplished
2021-07-30 10:06:27	Right now, we have a serious situation in Indian land, South Carolina with new Indy where they are spewing possibly toxic chemicals into the air every day. It is so bad, that we can smell a horrible odor in our homes and cannot use our outdoor spaces at all on days when it is particularly bad. So far, the state has not done anything to correct or remediate this problem.	You need to be closely monitoring new Indian Indian land, South Carolina. They are affecting our water and air quality and very negative ways, and a lot of people will leave the area if this is not some resolved.	One. Stop and windy from negatively impacting our environment. Two. Make them remediate For the damages they are doing to our area. Three; Tighten our environmental protections. People are getting sick from this in the state has done nothing yet to correct it.
2021-07-30 09:53:30	Eviornmental laws are too lax, allowing Company's like (New Indy Containerboard) to release poisoning amounts of Hydrogen Sulfide into the air. Ruining their neighbors health and well being. We can't go outside out homes most days due to this health hazard being allowed to run 24/7 without regard to the Govt agencies, Politicians or the people.	You have the agencies already, give them more power to issue cease and desist orders when were being POISONED.	Give them the power to fine the responsible Co's that are polluting our air and water. Should be easy to implement and use the funds for the enviornment.
2021-07-30 08:49:09	Not too good. The New Indy air pollution in northern corner of state is terrible. The pollutant is not responding to DHEC nor EPA and is spewing toxic chemicals to citizens on a daily basis, night and day.	Putting teeth in DHEC directives.	Enforce and strengthen environmental compliance.
2021-07-29 23:29:27	having lived in two very different parts of the state, health services to the disadvantaged still needs to step up	making those services available on a smaller scale in the small corners of the state - doesn't need to be impressive, only effective	start with the smell being created in our (Lancaster/Indian Land) neck of the woods by a manufacturer who refuses to address the issue
2021-07-29 22:01:32	I have a major concern on how SC is doing. It seems there are a lot of paper mills and factories here. Which is great for jobs but the laws around them are very concerning. Take New Indy for example. Currently they are allowed to emit over the normal per 1/2 to hour as long as the average per day does not go over 70bbp. So how it is safe for over 200 and what everyone forgets or choose to ignore is that the toxic air does not go away. It contiunes down the road where ever the wind blows. So that smell might not be at that monitored site for long, but now with the wind it has effected so many people. And the smell and toxic air stays around. It is very heavy and accumates in low lying areas. But yet all we do is file forms. Why is the DHEC not doing more. We are not asking to shut them down but their production needs to be reduced, All I keep seeing it the fact that one or another machine is out of service. If they are out of service then they should stop until all is back in service.	Lobbyist and politicians who are getting paid by the lobbyist	1 - Air Quality laws need to be stronger, the South is not a dumbing ground for industries. For example is should not be over 24 hours for 70bbp. It should be per 1/2 hour and it should be less than 70. The H2S levels are toxic. And they harm people, animals and plants. 2- even though I am a transplant from NY a study needs to be done on the impact to the enviornment on all this building in the state. The roads / over crowding of schools etc. The stripping of the land until there is nothing left. This needs to slow down and the amount of houses needs to stop. In NY they put a law out that houses need to have over 1 acre. That might be a lot down here but that slows down houses and stops the congestion on the roads, More people equal more polution. They also have green space. Each town is allowed a certain amount of green space which no one is allowed to build on. It is just green lovely trees, no park or anything just green space. It's also good for the wild life. 3- Our water ways need to be protects as in the air polution. Again this comes to tigher laws on dumping and industry. There is a balance between production of an item and polluting all that is around you. There are so many areas around the US where these factories were allowed to do what they want. Now they are just waste lands. I do not want that for this beautiful state
2021-07-29 21:24:55	Very poorly. The New Indy issue is getting worse everyday.	Use the power of our government to ensure clean air!	Force New Indy to stop polluting on air and water
2021-07-29 18:36:48	I am concerned about the lack of power that you have to force companies who are endangering the well being of South Carolinians to comply with Federal Regulations to clean up the air and correct deficiencies.	Companies that have decided to "do business" here in the state but are a threat to the environment. Recycling efforts here in the State pall in comparison to other states.	1. Listen to the complaints of a large number of people reporting bad air quality and toxic fumes and do something about it. It seems obvious that there are political undercurrents at work here. 2. Ramp up recycling efforts to include and glass and plastics. 3. Increase the communication you have with the public by sponsoring townhall meetings and surveys such as this.
2021-07-29 18:01:19	Terrible. How can you allow Indy to blatantly break the law while damaging the health of your citizens.	Make entities accountable. Act!!	Give the citizens a report on how you did against overall goals. Give us a pathway to making businesses like Indy accountable. Issuing orders without making a difference is pathetic.
2021-07-29 17:09:09	Ok. We have been bombarded with the fouls odor from New Indy Plant. SC seems to have taken actions to look into it.	To any state, the biggest challenges would be bureaucracy and self interests of the politicians.	The most pressing would the New Indy Plant foul odor emissions. I recommend that we shut it down. Our areas are growing rapidly, not a rural place anymore. A plant like that need to move further out with adequate investment to address the odor issues.
2021-07-29 14:58:21	Resident living in the area affected by the toxic emissions from New Indy. Believe it's your job to make them clean up the emissions or shut down. Health has deteriorated since moving here. Step to the plate and do something for the hundreds of thousands affected.	Ineptitude of those who have it within their power to right this horrible environmental disaster called New Indy.. you can fix it so stop taking bribes from this company to overlook.	The toxic cleanup of New Indy affecting the air we breathe and the water we drink before it becomes a cancer cluster.
2021-07-29 14:25:13	Very poorly. The air we breathe both outside and inside is contaminated by New Indy. Breathing hydrogen sulfide is dangerous to our health especially at the level they are being allowed to emit into the air.	Make New Indy comply with safe guidelines. Install the stripper for cleaner air. Clean up the sludge being emptied into the Catawba River. 10,000 complaints have been made by people getting really sick and nothing is being done.	Give us clean air to breathe as many are moving out of both SC and NC due to this situation. I had to install a whole house Air Purifier (\$725) in order to be able to sleep at night.

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2021-07-29 13:55:17	Very poorly, the New Indy plant pollutes our air daily & make it nearly impossible to enjoy the outdoors-headaches, nausea & overall feeling ill are just debilitating.	Hold New Indy accountable for correcting their emissions that permeate a 30 mile radius causing distress & serious illnesses to so many	Establish air quality laws & really vet & investigate paper plants & other businesses that are causing this life threatening pollution
2021-07-29 11:49:33	We live in Indian Land and we have a real problem with clean air. The nearby paper mill is polluting the air and nothing is being done. We could use some help!!!	It seems that the state is not doing anything to stop the air pollution. It has been going on since February. Your biggest challenge is to make the company accountable. Do something!	Concentrate on clean air and clean water. Recent sewage spills are polluting our waterways. Take these companies to court and shut them down if they do not voluntarily clean up.
2021-07-29 11:48:44	Not good.	We need stricter timelines and enforcement	Stricter timelines for correcting violations, more checks and balances when approving permits, and stricter enforcement of violations.
2021-07-29 11:30:50	not as well as we used to staffing issues and lack of funding have limited the services we can provide	lack of staff, lack of funding	increase salaries to retain staff, hire more staff to be able to provide better services,
2021-07-29 11:24:35	My husband and I live in treetops. We moved in in December... along with us, came to putrid smell from new Indy! People have contacted DHEC, EPA and FEMA, all are aware of this problem... As it is not a new problem!The answer to your question, the state of South Carolina is not doing anything to deliver environmental services!	Your greatest challenge right now is to solve this 12 year old problem of dumping 93,000,000 gallons of foul condensate into the Catawba River, and insisting that Indy conform to health full production And environmental cleanup!	All of you sitting there, in those seats, in those jobs, should know far better than any of us what has to be done! We need to be able to breathe our air and drink our water and live our lives in a safe, healthy, environment! This is not a Third World country!! Or is it?!
	Not great...but not sure that is the responsibility/fault of DHEC	On the environmental side, the problem is, as it always has been, twofold: sufficient funding to hire and retain good staff and legislative support for protection of the environment.	Funding increases to maintain staff, perhaps coupled with other incentives to make working at DHEC more attractive - flexibility, support for educational advancement...I don't know what would work, but there must be options out there. External support for staff decisions would also be helpful. I expect many of the complaints about slow response time are because staff is frozen, knowing they will get calls from legislators--perhaps no matter what they do. (To be fair, this is based on experiences I had working in another agency with many interactions with DHEC, many years ago, but I doubt much has changed. Finally, there needs to be a way to help legislators understand what DHEC does, is dealing with, and what the long term consequences of allowing our environment--so important for tourism--to deteriorate.
2021-07-29 09:29:43			Create new enforceable laws (not just a fine) to prevent the dispersion of chemical gas in the current amounts that are affecting the citizens; social media ads to help citizens find you (I didn't know about DHEC until this New Indy problem); keep an online reporting site available at all times; increased funding to hire any staff/training/outreach needed to the citizens.
	Poorly. The current situation with New Indy has really opened my eyes to the environment, exemptions provided for paper mills, and the lack of laws that protect the citizens agains toxic gases dispersed by different corporations and the effect it has on humans. I've been suffering symptoms since February, and now getting new symptoms (headaches, irritated eyes, irritated sinus, sinus infections, cough. On 2 occasions when the concentration was high I had numbness/heaviness in arms and tingling in my face.) I think there should be a task force to examine permit requests such as the ones approved for New Indy. I feel the problem could have been prevented if DHEC or whoever approved this, had input from experts, had dedicated staff to comb thru the details provided by New Indy in their request. I also believe DHEC should have the authority to not approve permits or temporarily shut down polluters until remediation is done. I believe SC should provide more funding for DHEC to hire experts and continue to have task force engagement and also have hearings where the public can express their concerns about things, such as the change of operations and augmented pollutants in our communities.	Lack of funding, lack of laws to be able to hold violators accountable and take swift action against them (not just fines). As a citizen I felt blindsided and dumbfounded about how New Indy was approved. It feels like nobody read their request and rubber stamped it. If not for this New Indy thing and being part of a Facebook Group that is trying to help fix the problem, I would have never known about this Task Force. I don't know if the state has a social media presence regarding these issues, my guess is it does, but is not reaching the people as effectively. I would say maybe there can be a link on County Government websites that link back to DHEC, I don't know if this is doable, but perhaps some commercials or short video ads on social media to educate, provide input opportunities (such as this one), stricter scrutiny of permits being approved; updated research on the various chemicals being dispersed in our communities; unannounced visits to corporations such as New Indy. You need the tools (money, expertise); power (stricter enforceable laws); communication (educate the citizens).	
	The best it can with the limited resources. The public expects more. We need to be more proactive. And DHEC needs to update all systems and bring them to current technology so that information can be collected and shared more efficiently.	Lack of adequate sustainable resources to support and retain a qualified workforce and develop needed systems.	Retain a qualified and well-trained workforce. Improve systems so they are more efficient for internal and external customers so data and information is provided more quickly. Ensure regulatory and health standards are protective, can be implemented, appropriate data is collected and let science and data drive decisions and priorities for action.
2021-07-28 23:03:45	At the moment, I feel as though the answer here is "poorly." There is a lot of company produced pollution going on in so many South Carolinians backyards; in particular, those who live near New Indy. Mediocre at best. There are way too many people that lack health insurance, putting a burden on emergency rooms. Interpreting healthcare bills is an exercise in futility. I don't feel confident that my food and water don't contain toxins. How much arsenic is in my rice? How much glyphosate is in my breakfast cereal? How much atrazine and PFAS are in my water? I'd like to know the answers to those questions and many more.	Partnering with corporations over the people who live in this area.  Politicians in the pocket of big business.	1. Re-evaluate the way corporations are polluting our airways and waterways.
2021-07-28 21:23:26			Join the ACA and let federal money pay for most of the medical care of those uninsured. Outlaw use of pesticides for aesthetic purposes.
	Terrible! New Indy in Catawba is being allowed to poison everyone within a 30 mile radius by their increase in emissions. My family is about 9 miles from the plant and we are considering moving because of how sick we have felt. No one is helping.	It is obvious that you do not care about the environment. We cannot be outside of our homes due to New Indy contaminating our air, and the toxic fumes frequently seep into our homes as well. My family has health problems due to this (headaches, sinus issues, burning eyes, asthma flare ups) and no one at DHEC or in politics in SC cares.	Stop playing politics and getting paid off by corporations and do the right thing. Fix the problem at New Indy in Catawba now.
2021-07-28 16:40:21	The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that a lot of work is needed to improve public health in SC and that zoonotic spillover is a very serious threat. SC is ahead of most other states in recognizing the importance of "One Health" and having one agency that oversees both health and environmental control.	The most critical ethical document is the budget.	Politics needs to be removed from public health decisions and instead there needs to be reliance on carefully collected and integrated data across the disciplines.
2021-07-28 15:32:44	Very poorly.	One-party political leadership that does not seem to care about the health and well-being of all South Carolinians and the environment.	- Stronger covid protocols, in line with federal/CDC guidelines. - Separate environmental work into its own agency
2021-07-28 15:23:38	AWFUL!	Getting rid of the gop wing nuts running the state!	- Support healthcare by widening medicare/medicaid coverage, in line with rest of the country
2021-07-28 14:56:55		Retention of employees due to extremely low pay, attracting qualified candidates for jobs due to extremely low pay	Make dhec independent of the state government! Tell people the facts!
2021-07-28 14:34:01	Moderate - resources (staff/funding) are often too limited to fully complete this work. Also, these decisions should be made based on science, not politics.	Having the resources - staff and funding - to understand our current conditions, future projections, and to implement current laws/programs.	Stop telling employees you will study/look into/are surprised by the low salaries and adjust them to be competitive. The longer it takes, the more employees/knowledge will be walking out the door for good.
2021-07-28 13:50:43	It's doing okay but we have had this serious issue with New Indy in Catawba SC and it has not gotten better. My family as well as others are literally sick from the level of toxicity coming from the plant.	Maybe not enough laws to enforce health for the community.	1. Make recommendations based on science, not politics. (Ex: mask mandates). 2. Regulate to be protective, not just reactive after the damage has been done. Prevention is nearly always cheaper and more effective. 3. Provide necessary resources - both staff and funding (for research, etc.)
2021-07-28 13:12:58	Very poorly in relation to toxic fumes being emitted by the New Indy paper processing plant.	Establishing a means where reported issues are promptly addressed and appropriate action taken to remedy the issue(s).	I would do more with the order laws. The way they are now is very lenient and what New Indy is being allowed to put out is toxic and not right.
2021-07-28 12:38:22	Well but is under funded or supported in some cases.	This question is very broad - but a broad answer would be "asked to do a lot with a little".	1-Establish and provide a method of reporting issues. 2-Assign issues reported to persons or an agency with the authority and power to affect necessary changes in a timely fashion 3-Hold those responsible for creating the issues responsible including but not limited to taking criminal action.
2021-07-28 12:13:18	Failing miserably. Been dealing with 7 months of toxic trespass from the emissions New Indy is releasing into the air. How many people have to get sick before something is done.	Get the lobbyists out of the process	If agency was split as proposed, keep the environment programs together. Splitter water quality from groundwater, for example, doesn't make sense. 1)Shut New Indy down until they fix all of the emission problems. 2) be more responsive and transparent with the public.

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?
2021-07-28 12:04:10	Having worked in public health for 30 years & been involved with local, state, regional, & national health organizations, I've had the opportunity to learn about other state health organizations. By far, DHEC is ahead of the game in most areas Better then it was but still has a ways to go.	Access to care. Trust. Educating/Informing the public of available services & how to get them. Funds to hire professionals to deliver services & safe environments to for them to work in/public to access. Stable, knowledgeable Leaders, not political appointments! Lax & loose in handling pandemic issues.... quarantines, mask mana dates, seriousness of the consequences New Indy has been a constant source of foul toxic air which continues to impact our health and lifestyle in general. Needs to seriously be addressed	Legislature adequately fund services & facilities - statewide, not just the midlands. Recruit educated, knowledgeable people who are passionate to the many areas of health. Build on what is in place to improve/enhance currently available services. Address the issues of Covid and variants seriously. We are all susceptible to the consequences and the public needs to understand this is NOT a political issue. Lives are at stake. Please take the right stand on this! All healthcare workers, teachers and those eligible must be vaccinated and/or wear masks PROPERLY Step in and mandate New Indy clean up their air and water pollution...etc Increase funding support for DHEC. Elect a board that includes professionals in science and medicine to assist with understanding in decision-making by staff. Increase work and presence in under-resourced communities to gain better trust by community.
2021-07-28 11:24:20			
2021-07-28 11:22:35	I do not believe that SC legislature adequately funds the SC DHEC program to allow them to be effective in managing these services.	Funding from state government for public health and environmental services through DHEC, climate change, public infrastructure (internet) for all.	
2021-07-28 11:12:11	Terrible, especially with prescription drug coverage. There are people on SSD that do not qualify for the state's extra care program, yet can't afford the exorbitant prices even with Part D coverage.	Making it more accessible, especially in rural areas. Also, most state health care is spread very thin. There needs to be more employees to handle the caseloads, and better pay to retain good, qualified physicians. There is a lot of turn over for state health employees, especially in mental health where building rapport and trust are crucial to help a client recover and maintain recovery.	1. Find the money through grants or other means to hire more qualified professionals to meet the demands of the caseloads, prevent burn out for current employees, and retain employees with competitive yearly salaries. 2. Revise state Medicaid laws 3. Better marketing and of current services. There are many programs that are available to the public, now, but are not well known.
2021-07-28 10:55:55	SCDHEC has been more responsive than I would have ever thought. Working on the Odor issue with the New Indy plant in Catawba and have found them to be very responsive and approachable.	The state's greatest challenges are the laws that are not helpful in many cases, especially environmental issues. They can't go further or do more in many instances because of the way laws are written.	Have stricter guidelines and double and triple check all plants and factories before they are permitted to do business in our state. Lots of research needs to go into the companies and what materials and chemicals they use. Our natural resources, human population and animal population should always be more important than a new business.
2021-07-28 09:59:06	COVID vaccine rollout seemed at least a little better compared to Georgia in terms of accessibility.	It seems that in order to save money, underqualified individuals are being hired to hold positions (at least at the county level) within the state. For example, people who are not engineers are being hired to hold Engineering Associate positions. The individuals I have encountered in these positions do not have the expertise to critically review and interpret complex documents in the same way that an engineer does.	The water quality buffer requirements that will be now putting pressure on counties to require buffers surrounding lakes and lake-front properties to remain undisturbed even when owned by a residential homeowner within a common development seem overly restrictive. This requires private property to be maintained in a way that is unkempt, unsafe for children (poor snake visibility), and undesirable for lake-front home ownership. Allowance of lawns with some restrictions for tree removal seems like a much more reasonable approach for a home owner than being required to leave a lake-front buffer owned by a residential homeowner completely undisturbed with mulch rather than grass, uncontrolled underbrush growth, and poor visibility of the body of water. It seems the property values and tax revenue will be adversely impacted as a consequence as well.
2021-07-27 19:57:43	Citizens receive needed services to meet needs by caring professionals.	Challenges include financial, transportation, communication, education	Develop additional grant resources and funding mechanisms; also, provide direct services via computer and on site delivery of services to communities.
2021-07-27 16:03:46	It depends on exactly what services we are talking about, but I was really impressed with DHEC's roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine and how they handled distribution. I volunteered at some of the DHEC sponsored vaccination clinics and was so impressed by how quickly they got everyone vaccinated, how available it was, and how many people they got vaccinated each day. That was the only experience I've had really with a state regulated health service that I can think of. Environmental services such as recycling I think could be worked on more. I think that having a state wide recycling program like offering 10 cents back per can collected at certain locations would be a really great idea. There's a program like that already set up by the State of Michigan which has been going on for years. I also think that we need stronger recycling infrastructure and plants, I know that it's a struggle with demand for those recycled products but I think that it's necessary that we have something stronger in place than what we have now.	I think one of the major challenges we face as a state is that we are lacking a lot of infrastructure to start certain programs like recycling. I'm not too familiar with the health side of things but I volunteer a lot in the environmental field and can give some feedback to that. The state would have to make recycling programs much more accessible than they are right now and would have to add more products that they are able to recycle than what we have right now. Right now I think that there is so much confusion about what can and can't be recycled, not only by county, but by state and it would be nice to see it all the same so that way it was less confusing for everyone. And it would be great to see these programs being taught to people in lower income communities as well. I think that there is a great opportunity to get more people involved in recycling, they just don't know a lot of the rules or have access to places that recycle materials.	I would recommend 1. more access to recycling services 2. a paid program for recycling cans 3. less rules regarding recycling services and more products added to the list of things that can be recycled. We can accomplish this by adding a buyback program which could be put in the entrance of Walmart's or grocery stores where people receive change for bringing back their used cans. This program could not only increase people's chances of recycling, but make recycling more accessible to people who don't have recycling alternatives available in their communities.
2021-07-27 16:03:34	It depends on exactly what services we are talking about, but I was really impressed with DHEC's roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine and how they handled distribution. I volunteered at some of the DHEC sponsored vaccination clinics and was so impressed by how quickly they got everyone vaccinated, how available it was, and how many people they got vaccinated each day. That was the only experience I've had really with a state regulated health service that I can think of. Environmental services such as recycling I think could be worked on more. I think that having a state wide recycling program like offering 10 cents back per can collected at certain locations would be a really great idea. There's a program like that already set up by the State of Michigan which has been going on for years. I also think that we need stronger recycling infrastructure and plants, I know that it's a struggle with demand for those recycled products but I think that it's necessary that we have something stronger in place than what we have now.	I think one of the major challenges we face as a state is that we are lacking a lot of infrastructure to start certain programs like recycling. I'm not too familiar with the health side of things but I volunteer a lot in the environmental field and can give some feedback to that. The state would have to make recycling programs much more accessible than they are right now and would have to add more products that they are able to recycle than what we have right now. Right now I think that there is so much confusion about what can and can't be recycled, not only by county, but by state and it would be nice to see it all the same so that way it was less confusing for everyone. And it would be great to see these programs being taught to people in lower income communities as well. I think that there is a great opportunity to get more people involved in recycling, they just don't know a lot of the rules or have access to places that recycle materials.	I would recommend 1. more access to recycling services 2. a paid program for recycling cans 3. less rules regarding recycling services and more products added to the list of things that can be recycled. We can accomplish this by adding a buyback program which could be put in the entrance of Walmart's or grocery stores where people receive change for bringing back their used cans. This program could not only increase people's chances of recycling, but make recycling more accessible to people who don't have recycling alternatives available in their communities.
2021-07-27 14:19:44	Not enough convincing people to get vaccinated. We need more than signs and opportunities at this point. We need incentives and campaigns that will counteract the political malaise and outright attacks on science and the common good.	Reaching people in innovative and non-traditional ways.	Free state-wide wellness programs—implement at existing exercise and gym facilities; ensure clean and consistent drinking water for Denmark and everywhere in the state - fix infrastructure that services drinkable water; free mental health therapies for all - hire more social workers instead of more police
2021-07-27 13:48:52	Poorly - slow response time to questions, extremely slow permitting approval process	Response time, competency, lack of resources, abdication of responsibility when someone in an agency makes a mistake	1. Availability of Health Services in less urban areas of the state 2. Speed of response and action
2021-07-27 12:16:22	On a scale of 10, 5 stars for environmental, 8 stars for health	Political will to prioritize protection of environment for benefit of citizens' health & well-being over laissez-faire policies toward business impacts on environment	More funding/staffing for environmental stewardship; adoption of statewide Climate Action Plan with environmental aspects enforced/monitored by DHEC

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		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

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?
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)

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 envision they be implemented? (to best be implemented?)
2021-08-17 16:54:16		<p>1.Executive Leadership turnover—The rapid turnover is difficult to assure consistency in direction given that it takes several years to even learn the agency. 2.Past reductions in regional infrastructure has had a negative impact on the bench strength necessary to adequately respond for daily operations as well as outbreaks and emergencies. For example, responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, we added an additional 1600+plus contract/hourly employees and finding people with leadership skills necessary to respond was virtually impossible. Currently we have 600-plus temporary hourly/contract staff remaining and we will likely have them for the duration of the pandemic to allow regions to continue to effectively respond to COVID. The regions are still in the process of backfilling leadership and general staff positions in the regions' local health department sites as we build back up to full capacity. 3.A significant number of emerging and/or reemerging infectious diseases and responses have recently impacted our state/regions (e.g., COVID, hepatitis A, syphilis, TB, measles, mumps, etc.). 4.The regions are responsible for Medical Needs Sheltering (MNS) during public health emergency events, particularly hurricane responses. Currently we have approximately 10 nurse vacancies which inhibit our ability to staff shelters. 5.Preparation for the next big event. (pandemic, regional outbreaks, hurricane, earthquake, etc.) is going to take: 1.Commitment from legislature—infrastructure funding in the form of recurring dollars 2.Additional staffing infrastructure—more boots on the ground to build response capabilities 3.Informed planning, to include region input from those who coordinated events and who worked events at the local level. 6.Inadequate Public Health Funding, a America's Health Rankings for South Carolina 132nd for per capita PH funding (state &amp; federal dollars), and 142nd for overall community health outcomes. 6.Per capita State PH Funding (State Health Access Data Assistance Center, University of Minnesota) *in 2008: \$41 •in 2019 (pre COVID): \$27. County funding is inadequate for facility upkeep or provisions of PH services. In 1981 the counties were released from their responsibility to provide local PH services in their community. Similar Language and amounts in State Budget in 1981 hasn't really changed in 40 years—in 1981 legislation was passed in S.C. that allowed county employees working at County Health Departments to become state employees. The cost for all counties via the 1981 change was \$5,621,120. The act required the individual County's cost to be deducted from Aid to subdivision, the state Income Tax portion and the amount would be the same each year. Now 40 years later SFY 22, \$5,430,697. (per South Carolina General Assembly - 124th Session, 2021-2022 - Part 18 SECTION 34 - JO40 - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL - 2021-2022 Conference Committee Report, 34.2 and 34.6) 7. We are challenged by politics influencing public health practice. For example, in the COVID response DHEC routinely couldn't follow our established response plans because of political interference. 8. Hiring vacancies run between approximately 20% and 30% in all Legislators, the incompetent governor, lobbyists, politically appointed agency directors who doesn't have the experience nor the expertise. On the environmental side, our upper management have gotten very politically loyal, not listening to scientific evidence but rather giving polluters another unpermitted chance to come into compliance while the environment continues to deteriorate. Decide one way or the other, but if the agency is split, beware that there will be a lot of confusion in the next 10 years or so until we all figure out how to navigate the new system.</p>	<p>1. Put more funding into DHEC. 2. Restructure nursing salaries at DHEC to promote nurse recruitment/retention. Request a copy of the plan from the Office of Nursing submitted to public health leadership.</p>
2021-08-14 19:40:47	Doing the best we can. This issue of splitting the agency comes up every few years by some disgruntled, angry representative of whom ever, or when there is a health or environmental disaster/emergency. An 'advisory' groups is formed consisting of folks that have conflict of interest with DHEC, they meet, talk, yet another salary surveys done that costs money and time, etc etc etc. The outcome has always been the same: They realize it would cost crap load of money, resources, etc to split the agency! However, none of these groups read previously done studies that had cost the state at least thousands to prepare. Read the study that was done in 2016, Tommy Lavender and his group, instead of asking to do yet another comparative study SC vs GA and NC! All these studies has the same conclusion: NONE COMPETITIVE LOW SALARIES, HIRING AND RETENTION, INCREASED WORK LOAD, DISGUSTING WORK ENVIRONMENTS. To add to that, we have been dealing with politically appointed directors that have wrecked havoc by their meddling and incompetence. We had a pretty good system of bureau level IT services after it was merged into a big mess where now with can't help from, and the huge gig economy mess of Human Resources led by some joke brought in by the second Catherine who made everything harder, confusing leading to delays, noting etc! While we applaud Dr. Simmer's efforts, this again is a useless endeavor! The bottomline issues needs to be addressed before haphazardly going into dividing the agency. You realize that if the agency is split and merged with other agency, services will be disrupted, right? Everybody is going to blame the other for not getting the job done, or multiple decisions made that are not in sync with each other, changing offices which cost money and time. The current mentality of LAW MAKERS and OUR OWN UPPER MANAGEMENT is slave work: Do a lot of work but don't pay a penny more. Instead of having these useless meetings and trying to make a cabinet agency, focus on how to better our salaries, value and respect us, improve our work environment, bring the IT back to bureau level where they actually know what we need. Our IT folks are great, but they can't help us at bureau level because they have no idea of our needs. Also, why the heck are these folks are in the environmental health sub committee? SC Restaurant and Lodging Association, SC Convenience & Petroleum Marketers Association, SC Chamber of Commerce, SC Department of Agriculture, ReGenesis Community Development Corporation, Home Builders Association, SC Farm Bureau??? This is a new level of stupidity! ADDRESS OUR NEEDS, WE ARE THE EXPERTS AT WHAT WE DO, NOT YOU!!! Stop appointing useless, inexperienced agency directors. By the time they figure our how complex DHEC is, they want out because they can't handle it. Our retired upper management doesn't even want to engage in these surveys, because they had to work on these repeatedly during their careers. Also, they don't think it would make an iota of difference. We are tired, under paid, over work. Give us what we need and step aside so we can do the jobs we have committed our careers to do.		<p>1) Bring our salaries to a competitive level and improve our work environments. Unless these are done, revolving door of continuing to hire new employees, invest money in them to train them and for them to turn around and leave the agency in a few years will never, ever stop. 2) Legislators, the governor, listen to us: we make sound, evidence based scientific and medical decisions, you are not the experts, but WE ARE. If you know how we do come to these conclusions, you would understand, and that's a maybe, how diligent we are. 3) Stop meddling with DHEC. Each of these 'work groups' have reached the same conclusion: Steady as she goes and leave the agency as is. 4). Go do your jobs of legislating without being swayed by others and your political ideology and work on doing what's good for the people, and the environment. Had the governor not aligned his self with that orange headed loser, and listened to expert scientific and medical advice and actually considered how many lives would be lost, we would not be to this horrible pandemic epidemic again.</p>
2021-08-14 12:48:52	Terrible due to the governor's recent ban on mask mandates in schools. It's a failure of competent leadership on a massive scale, and it's already proving to have tragic consequences.	Our governor	It would be great if South Carolinians had a governor and legislators that actually cared about our health instead of letting disinformation and conspiracy theories dictate how they govern.
2021-08-14 08:35:53	We're doing ok. I believe the agency has its community's best interest at heart. I'm concerned, however, that we do not have the right leadership in place to move us into the next phase of where we need to be. I was part of the newspaper industry when it changed over night. I saw the changes happening at lightning speed and decisions weren't being made fast enough. I feel like I'm watching history repeat itself. Leadership should represent our state and agency. It should be people who have been on the front line and know what is happening in the community. It reminds me a lot of our political leaders, these days who think they know what's best. How can you know if you aren't doing this listening and working ?	<p>1. leadership, put the right people in charge -&gt; a huge concern I have is non-medical/clinical leadership making decisions for those of us who are licensed professionals. Through COVID, I've seen many things that have made me concerned for my license. 2. Paying attention to rapid changes. There are other agencies and services that can do what we do. If not careful, we'll make ourselves irrelevant. 3. Services need to be virtual, in the home, in the community meeting patients where they are. 4. Our clients biggest challenges are transportation, childcare, and insurance/finances - we have to provide services in a way that remove those barriers. 4. The community has lost faith and trust in DHEC, DHEC seems to "react" and that is becoming our reputation. 5. We need to create a professional image. Our buildings are out of date, they need to be spruced up at the very least where clients are in the building. Jeans policy is tacky. Nurses should be in matching scrubs with DHEC logo, so we have a continued presence.</p>	<p>1. Leadership. Put people in place who dictate how they govern. Clinical, licensed professionals, should be managed by other medical personnel. I hear all too often of people getting promoted into positions for reasons other than professional, this needs to stop. We're losing quality, valuable personnel because of it. 2. Services need to be accessible. I'm the home, virtual, or in the community. All day, every day. On the weekends for a few hours, and after 5 weekdays (for a few hours), we talk about accessibility, we need to be accessible. 3. Retention of, good, valuable nurses. Pay and incentives. I work here because of the flexibility to work from home, Monday thru Friday 9-5, benefits and retirement, holidays. Those are valuable. It's not about money. Make those known. There are things you can do for recruitment that aren't always monetary. Work from home, birthday day off, the incentives work!</p>
2021-08-13 22:46:03	We have good people and researchers in place, but we are thwarted by politics.	Politics and funding. Competitive salaries and work-family balance to recruit and retain excellent staff for health/environmental services/initiatives.	see above
2021-08-13 15:49:11	Services need to be offered remotely when possible. Clients have trouble with transportation. Also telehealth needs to be an option. More clients would be reached.	Staff are underpaid and some are looking for higher paying jobs. Nurses especially. This will cause a shortage.	I think DHEC needs to be more progressive in the way they think about services.
2021-08-13 15:06:37	Good given the numerous budget cuts made to our agency.	Politicians	<p>1. Hire a director from within the agency. 2. Let us do our jobs and don't let politics get involved. 3. Keep Health and Environment together, don't split the agency. What affects the environment affects people health and vice versa.</p>
2021-08-13 13:48:45	I think DHEC has been pandemic focused and worked hard on doing their best in COVID response. I do think that some other programs and care has suffered because of all the extensive focus on COVID at times.	One of the greatest challenges is being accessible. For SC to truly meet many of the citizen's needs we need to go another step and meet them where they are at... be in for prenatal education, STD testing and awareness, vaccinations in home or off site locations, health screenings in local community locations like churches or centers. Not everyone can come here in a traditional 9-5 capacity or has the transportation to do so. It's time to step up and do more!	Women's care..... maternal health care, pregnancy support, postpartum support lacks severely. Even women with significant means are affected by rates of maternal morbidity, postpartum depression and anxiety, postpartum complications. Programs that are beneficial are being cut all in the name of the dollar. We will never see changes occur in this sector if we don't focus on the facts, keep programs in place like Nurse Family Partnership for example and try to make changes. I hope this action group does something and is more than a great idea that implements nothing except meetings without follow through.
2021-08-13 11:28:50	There aren't many opportunities to increase monetary income to support environmental programs. The environmental service areas need to be streamlined and expanded.	Money. Paying your employees fairly - not just "engineers". All you talk about is how you can pay "engineers" better, it is the talent in the data processing and regions that need retention as well. A new employee should not be making the same amount as someone in the same position for 3-5 years. Cost of living raises don't coincide with the rate of inflation over the years. State benefits are not comparable to private sector benefits anymore - this has deteriorated. No one works for the state for the "benefits".	<p>1. Allow more public environmental information to be accessed through websites. The information can be behind a paywall. The public can pay for a subscription to download as much information as they want or a one time fee for specific documents that no one needs to pull (save personnel) because the documents are already online. Fees are for maintenance and updating of information by the departments that validate it. Reduce FOIA requests and increase transparency of data. Even the data available now should be paid content. Come on DHEC, utilize modern technology. 2. Streamline the regional personnel. Water/wastewater regional folks should be managed by the BOW. They should not have to do air inspections or UST inspections. The regional offices should be managed by Environmental Affairs. The regional offices need to be evaluated. The amount of driving/gas could be saved by splitting up the regions more. 3. Increase teleworking for permit writers and data/report evaluators. Teleworking should be a right in state government. It saves money and employees make less of an environmental impact when not driving to work every day. Money could be saved by employee office sharing by alternating teleworking days. Reduce the amount of space that personnel need and move programs into newer facilities. Save electricity, office supplies, office space, parking, traffic, etc. Central office positions could be posted for anyone living anywhere around the state, not just in the Columbia area, broaden the talent area. Why couldn't a person living in Greenville go to the regional office for in-office days? Savings could be used for pay raises for retention.</p>
2021-08-13 09:07:15	Okay but the legislature is not funding DHEC well enough to be doing great.	Political interference from the legislature and the governor or governor's office. In addition, not funding these areas well enough to be able to provide the services everyone needs.	<p>1. More funding from the legislature via putting more funding in the budget bill. 2. Keep the legislature out of health and environmental services by not making DHEC or a future agency a cabinet agency. If you make a future agency that does environmental or public health a cabinet agency you will see the following consequences: 1. Many very experienced staff will retire or leave the agency because they don't want the governor, governor's office or the legislature telling them how to do their job based on political motivations. Folks leaving will negatively affect providing health and environmental services to South Carolina. 2. Having a new agency be a cabinet agency will allow all bureau directors and others to be politically appointed which means health and environmental services are no longer independent, they are politically influenced and that means South Carolina citizens will not be looked after, all decisions will be about politics and winning votes to stay in office for one party or the other. 3. This will cost tax payers so much money that could be used to invest better public health and environmental services or pay for badly needed things like better education.</p>
2021-08-12 18:46:44	Doing better on the environmental side than the health side. Recruitment of nurses is difficult because of low salary and no clear clinical career ladders	Lack of w/ll access for all state citizens	Allow the regions to hire their own HR Staff
2021-08-12 16:58:24	I think the state does a fairly decent job with delivering health service. Improvement is needed in environmental, some departments in environmental are spread too thin.	Funds and then better appropriation of funds given to DHEC by the citizens of SC.	<p>1. Have more access, the health side has many offices, but environmental is isolated, services should be available in every county. 2. Pay your frontline employees better. 3. Have more educational forums or classes about environmental issues and how the public can help.</p>
2021-08-12 13:54:42	Fair. On many environmental issues, politics precludes impartial, fair, health and science based decisions that are based on scientific fact and stake hold input. The current political situation imparts ignorance and "I want it my way, damn the consequences" type decisions that will become accentuated with a leadership process that is more biased to politics than the current oversight board/director process. More care and should be done to integrated the benefits of having the health and environmental programs in one agency.	Politics and the lack of correct public information of the facts and truth of situations and science via social media driving decisions is an obstacle that needs to be improved. Public education and the need for critical thinking skills for all ages and ethnic groups have to be improved. Communication of highly technical scientific information and the nuances of the consequences of different decision processes without bias of misinformation to the public, industry and political decision makers through diverse information media and outlets is an ongoing impediment that will need a range of innovative processes to overcome. It is imperative that information is delivered in a factual and non-spin control manner.	Better delivery of health services in an equitable manner to all levels of society. Limiting environmental exploitation of resources that benefit only a limited few through broader and open to the media processes. Open access to information and better check and balance, verification of information processes. Leave the current Agency structure in place but develop better communication and information sharing systems between Agencies, to the legislature and up and down the DHEC level of management and staff.
2021-08-12 12:31:51	Average	The agency is too big. Too much bureaucracy and red tape. Many employees don't innovate or try to make things better because any idea gets lost in upper management. Meanwhile upper management are stretched to the max with various initiatives of other things that they end up doing all of them half-assed. Breaking up the agency would allow for more targeted improvement efforts that would be more successful in the end.	Break up big agencies. Let environment focus on environment and health focus on health.
2021-08-12 10:51:46	Very well. The success of both health and environmental protection parallels the funding available. Adequate funding and staff salaries would ensure even greater success.	The systems, processes, programs, and services are in place. Inadequate funding and staff compensation/retention/retention are the greatest challenges. The agency is not a competitive employer.	-Improved funding for programs, services, and staffing -Less political meddling (COVID-19 response has become a political football), not a public health initiative) -Consistent leadership (Director position should be sought from inside agency. Outside Directors have proven to be short-lived, inexperienced in environmental or public health issues, if not both.
2021-08-12 10:50:57	I would give SC a 6 on a 1-10 scale for its delivery of health and environmental services. Predominantly, I attribute the mediocrity to a lack of understanding by the General Assembly of how those services could and should be improved, which results in a lack of adequate funding for such improvements.	Aside from the resistance to change within the legislative and executive branches, the greatest challenge to delivery of sufficient health and environmental services would be splitting those categories into 2 or more agencies. Service delivery will be more effective, efficient, and accessible if health and environmental services remain within one agency.	A long-term commitment by our state's leaders to the improvement of health equity and environmental justice would be the most significant improvement we could make for our residents. Implementation must be guided by local leaders who know their specific community's needs, as those needs differ widely from place to place. A statewide, multi-disciplinary task force could ensure the mission remains focused over the life of the project and that distribution of funding was fair and equitable.
2021-08-12 10:45:58	From the environmental side I believe we do the best we can with the lack of employees, and the lack of pay. Unfortunately with the lack of employees, lack of sufficient pay, and having to cover such large areas we are backed up and not doing the best by the citizens of SC	Paying employees enough. If you do not pay the employees enough they will not provide the best work. You can't expect us to bust our asses for a joke of a salary while the higher ups who sit in the office get paid all the money.	Invest in your employees. Make us as well as you do our best. I'm not going to break my back just because I get a kudos or a good job. Show us that you care. Don't waste money on blankets and speakers and actually pay us what we are worth. Stop giving raises and bonuses to the higher ups who are SO DISCONNECTED that they have no clue what is actually happening.
2021-08-12 10:39:40	Great. Dividing the agency up would cause impacts on the relationships that are already in place to complete the job. Adding DMH or other agencies would just make the agency even larger and more difficult.	The ability to compete with the private sector, the federal government, and other states with recruiting and retention of qualified staff. Pay equity across the agency and compared to those outside the agency is a huge limiting factor. Region concept. Each region is its own independent agency. Most have their own "rules" and protocols. DHEC should be a statewide agency. The process should be the same no matter what DHEC location you are in. These differences not only cause confusion with staff but with the public.	1. Streamline reporting requirements. Make systems more user-friendly. 2. Streamline the ability to release data, make public data public. 3. Restructure DHEC executive leadership format. Support services should be done the same way across the state and report to one "ELT" member, such as a Chief of Staff.

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?
2021-08-12 10:24:08	I think as a state we can do better. I know many people do not like mandates however with the increase of COVID numbers its necessary to ensure lives are saved. We have lost 10,000 to COVID due to not having proper systems in place.	One is not being as proactive. Not have the latitude to make decision for the state with out the buy in of the legislature. Also taking in consideration staff feelings and concerns	Retention of staff- You have to pay people what they are worth. Mandates on Public Health- we have to ensure we are taking care of the majority of people not just a hand full. Positive leadership- Visionaries who know the mission and live by the mission
2021-08-12 10:22:12	The state of SC operates on a very small budget when it comes to health and environmental services yet it continues to do so with great skill and flexibility. The state of our environment effects the state of our health; the current structure allows a holistic approach.	Funding Funding Funding Political support	1. Increase recurring funds so critical efforts are based off of temporary dollars. 2. Increase awareness of the essential and valuable work currently done by health and environmental services. 3. Partner more with other states to learn and emulate best practices.
2021-08-12 10:20:33	Average.	One of the greatest challenges is access to data. Data is the future of public health, and our own archaic, asinine statutes prevent us from accessing and diversifying our data sets. We should be able to have a digital footprint "from birth to death" and link in data sources from DHEC, DOE, DSS, DMH, etc. etc. Access to all data is critical in advancing public health.	Director turnover at DHEC is a massive issue. You can't expect employees to get excited for and support agency initiatives when they know it'll likely be pointless because there will be a new director in the next 2-3 years.
2021-08-12 10:20:07	Our state is doing a good job, but DHEC should stand stronger for the people of SC and challenge the Governor on his recommendations for Covid-19. DHEC employees the Public Health experts, so they should always stand firm in their knowledge and recommendations no matter what the Governor has to say.	The greatest challenge in my opinion is HAVING to do what the Governor says. It would be great if Public Health leaders could speak the facts and go with public health recommendations that would save lives and not have politics determine what to do.	1. Limit direction from the Governor and Legislators as they make recommendations that improve the lives of themselves, their family and friends, not the greater population of SC that are in need. They do not represent and support the constituents as they should. 2. When creating a needs assessment for the agency, create a plan that addresses each County individually. SC is so different we must ensure we are meeting the needs of the people. The same goals for the entire state is not moving the needle.
2021-08-12 10:16:19	Room for improvement, more retention of younger professionals to engage with the largest majority population which is Millennials. Online portals and software that is user friendly for the public.	Continuing on air quality and pollution control across the state. Green energy initiatives and tighter regulation on emission control and greenhouse gases.	1. Retain younger staffing to learn how to become future leaders within State Government & DHEC. 2. Uplift employees with sign on incentives, pension programs, hourly worker benefits. Retain as much human capital as possible within the organization. 3. Have point of dispensing storage warehouses across the state that will harbor supplies for natural disasters & public health emergencies. Have knowledgeable staff run them with fair pay & benefits.
2021-08-12 10:11:23			I was very disheartened to hear that if we are out sick with COVID 19 or the Delta variant, we will not be paid. I personally do not have enough time to take off and I am sure there are others. Why have the rules changed? We used to be compensated.
2021-08-12 10:09:49	I think since we are the "health dept" we should be offering covid test and vaccines from every health dept. while the pandemic is on going. From working front and answering the switchboard I know people are still looking for places that do testing and they are not wanting to pick up a kit and do it themselves. We should make it easy for the public.	We really don't offer any health services other than STD, birth control and immunizations. We need to broaden our health services to what it used to be 30-40 years ago.	Offer a lot more variety of health services. We used to do BP checks, child well checks, sports physicals, prenatal care, some offered dental...there's so much that we're missing with helping with the public obtain health services. We're the "health dept" and hardly offer any "health" services at all.
2021-08-12 10:02:55	Our state is below average in delivering health services. We are not leading the region or nation in delivering excellent health services to all South Carolinians. We need to think bigger if we want to address disparities in health equity and tackle major health problems like opioid overdoses and the HIV epidemic.	We have not expanded Medicaid and are leaving millions of our tax dollars in federal coffers. We could be using that money to improve the health of the working poor and implementing preventive health programs. We are not investing in the health future of our children.	We need to recruit and retain the best public health and medical staff in the country to be part of bold solutions in South Carolina. We need to implement Medicaid expansion to allow the working poor better access to health services, now more important than ever in the pandemic. We need better data collection on social disparities so we can implement data-driven solutions to the root causes of many health problems.
2021-08-12 09:53:48	not great. we are very slow moving and in many cases ineffective	challenging our governor to do what's in the best interest of the residents and not politicians	n/a
2021-08-12 09:52:36	Great	Getting information out in rural area of SC	
2021-08-12 09:24:59	I am sure we can do better in certain pockets, but overall, I am pretty impressed what we do with the limited resources and red tape in place.	Stubbornness. Convincing people that the way we have always done it is not necessarily best and that the improved ways will benefit them.	Somehow streamline contact for services. Maybe a liaison type department to help folks navigate requests? Or maybe beef up constituent services? DHEC does so much, and we do it well. But sometimes finding the right point of contact is hard and frustrating. Certain clients and employees get in a rhythm and no a general area to contact. But others are not familiar and just know I was told to contact DHEC on this matter (external) or X used to handle this, not sure who does now (internal). If one person or program could track down the response and get back to the individual, I think that would help. A long way to say, beef up the constituent services program and promote it more. :)
2021-08-12 09:08:48	On the environmental side of the agency, we are doing the best we can with very limited resources. We do not have sustainable funds from the state, we have recruitment and retention issues, our salaries are not competitive, employees are undervalued. DHEC is the designated agency for administering these federal programs. Unfortunately, if we don't meet the requirements set worth, EPA would take over and administer them.	Scientists are very undervalued when the engineers are exalted. It needs to be recognized that if we scientists didn't collect samples, analyzed them, model them, compile reports concerning the quality of our waters, air, and land, and developed standards, mapped them, engineers would not be able to issue permits. Additionally, some of our scientists have multiple post-graduate degrees compared to a bachelor's degree held by the majority of engineers that are not "professional engineers" (PE). Among scientists, there are generalists, and there are specialists. Generalist can become an expert in 2-3 years. Whereas the specialists study longer and gain enormous experience that is highly valued in the private sector. These specialists have a vast amount of knowledge but our salaries are between 40K- 53K.	Sustainable funding is essential for us to continue to serve the residents of South Carolina. This is one of the most crucial points to make. Our work's loads are increasing, we are using innovative solutions to the problems, thinking outside of the box. Instead of trying to cut our budget multiple times, we need consistently increasing budget allocations. Most folks don't realize that our environmental programs are some of the best in the county.
2021-08-11 19:31:22	Services are being delivered by overworked, under paid employees that are not treated well. We get more work added to our plates, but salaries remain the same. Members of the group, please read this: <a href="https://www.admin.sc.gov/sites/default/files/state_ny/FnaH2020Report0620-%20State%20Classification%20and%20Compensation%20System%20July%202019to%20July%202020report.pdf">https://www.admin.sc.gov/sites/default/files/state_ny/FnaH2020Report0620-%20State%20Classification%20and%20Compensation%20System%20July%202019to%20July%202020report.pdf</a> Everyone in the state benefits from work we do at DHEC. We are tired of the lower and upper management giving us service, but doing nothing to improve our salaries. DHEC will NEVER be "preferred employer". Folks come in, gain experience, then leave. There is nothing attractive about working at DHEC. Our buildings shows their age and not one leader has tried to find us a better, modern place to work from. Our contribution to health insurance and pension plan are in par with private industry. We get bashed from governor, law makers, Sammy Fretwell at The State newspaper. We have been screaming for management to do something about salary discrepancies but all we get in turn is high praise. High praise is good, but it's not feeding our families. In 1995, 5 pay scales were combined into one generic position "Environmental Health Manager" or EHM. We are a diverse group of folks with high school degrees to PhDs. We are all needed but we need better living conditions for day care, braces, rent, mortgage, utilities, food, etc. Consumer prices and inflation is leaving us behind. Let's imagine us not doing our jobs or all of DHEC employees not coming to work. Who will you call for New Indy odor, someone getting sick and dying (really) from eating systems sold with questionable provenance pick from contaminated shellfish beds, who will make sure the pool you are swimming in has the right balance of chemicals and you will not get sick. Who will make sure fish you caught are safe to eat and inform you if it is not, streams, lakes, beaches, coastal areas are safe to recreate so you and your loved ones don't get sick, inspect the dam you own that is about to breach and advise you, monitor the surface ozone levels and issue guidance for those that might be effected and get sick, analyze the water samples from your private well, issue permits, meet with you and explain things, who will do all the mathematical and computer models to make sure our estuaries are not depleted of oxygen, make sure our ground water resources are protected, meet with the board members and explain everything??? The list goes on.	The reason we stay and continue to work at DHEC is we love our jobs, we believe we make a difference. We can't talk to our most upper management because "it needs to go up the chain of command". The board of directors, former directors of the agency, environmental affairs leadership, bureau chiefs and down to front managers are not amiable to listen to our concerns of salary discrepancies, men earning higher salary than women, our work environment... Managers promote and reward their favorites in their division, sections, etc. If an employee wants a higher salary, they move within DHEC or other state agencies, because DHEC employees are paid such low wages. Legislators snub us and don't listen to scientific conclusions and medical advice. If you want to split the agency, go right ahead, but know that the environmental affairs implement federal laws, therefore will not just go away.	Improve our work environment, pay competitive wages, all our management from front line to agency director to listen to us and instead of giving lavish praise help improve our lives.
2021-08-11 18:49:16	As a current employee, we are doing ok on the environmental side. Upper management doesn't know what an environmental health manager (EHM) is responsible for and think nothing of us! A just out of school earns more than a seasoned EHM. After gaining experience, engineers leave. TASK FORCE: Go read the study that was finalized in 2017 first! On August 10 meeting, one of the members of the committee mentioned a comparative study of neighboring states: That study has already been done (read the study first). It said that we are lowest paid employees in the southeast. When it comes to contributing to pension plan and health insurance, dhec is on par with private industries and 3% above of all US states! How many more studies needs to be done, to come to same conclusion? Our buildings are ancient! Canteen in sims-aycock sells expired food and drinks, there are dead cockroaches everywhere. Why don't you come and work from our buildings for a month? At the end, you'll develop allergies. Be careful driving and walking in the parking lot, especially if it has been raining: you will fall into one of the potholes, and your car' undercarriage will get a dent. Our upper management does not go to bat for us. During every environmental affairs meeting, we get hire praise for doing a great job! I have been hearing this for 23 years. When we bring up salaries, the answers are: we don't have money, health side of the agency gets majority of our state budget allocations, there are other priorities, stormwater and dams programs really need this money... Upper management talks a lot, but this systemic issue has not been addressed. We don't have advocates, but we have a lot of lawyers, business owners, law makers blaming us. Unless these are addressed, in a few years when most of the management becomes eligible to retire and some will, the whole state, hopefully, will understand what we have been struggling with. Forget about delivering health and environmental services, and all the "healthy" people living in "healthy communities"! If we are not taken seriously, not considered as professionals, valued respected, dark days are coming. Dr. Simmer if doing a good job but leaders of environmental affairs is not! When we tell them how little we are earning, their jaws drop. We love our jobs but where is the satisfaction of getting paid a decent salary?	On the environmental side, lawmakers, lawyers, critics to step aside and realize we are administering federal laws. To become an expert at what some of us are doing takes 5-8 years of study. When one us leave that is 5-8 years of lost experience and knowledge. It'll start at zero again and will take the next person in the job another 5-8 years of study.	Pay us a competitive salary, get out of our way so we can do our jobs. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
2021-08-11 16:16:12	Not well. Underprivileged people have very little access to mental health or substance use disorder help. There are a lack of detox facilities, state monitored sober living facilities, treatment facilities, homeless shelters. Psychiatrist and therapist are too expensive and it is extremely hard to get into state mental health facilities.	Lack of facilities and uninsured people do not have access to services.	Detox facilities Mental Health accessibility Programs to get individuals back into society
2021-08-11 13:13:47	not sure- so its not widely communicated	Engaging residents, businesses and community public officials in making a commitment to sustainability, health/wellness, equity and resiliency	make them accessible to more people
2021-08-11 12:45:32	I do not feel the state of South Carolina is doing enough. Currently, I live near the New Indy plant and its daily impact on my home and family is heartbreaking. We need to not tolerate this kind of behavior from large companies.	I hope that we can really address SC resident concerns. If we know something is not helping our environment we need to push to make sure it is addressed, no one wants to be the next Flint.	Please address the concerns about New Indy. If you drive around that area even the trees are dying. I don't understand how people can wake up each morning if they are not a part of the solution. The update needs help and we need it now.
2021-08-11 12:05:57	Medicare. Most processes take too long, which is entirely a function of funding, staff retention, and hiring/retention of high capacity individuals.	Hiring and retaining qualified staff. Consolidating pay grades into a single EHM tier crippled the environment side's ability to hire and compensate highly educated and high capacity staff. Each program area should have its own paygrade based on the section's required skillsets and technical expertise.	Retain and justly compensate highly qualified and high capacity individuals.

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2021-08-23 14:59:41 2021-08-23 08:51:10 2021-08-22 13:48:20	Great Good. These services are not meeting the needs of the citizens due to lack of funding, duplication of services, and lack of service coordination.	Nothing Education. Early childhood through post high school. The delivery of services to the state's citizens in the areas of preventive care (physical, mental, behavioral) is difficult with the current organizational structure of the agencies. We need help with the coordination of care and meeting patient's needs better	Everything Split DHEC. Better dam safety. Higher pay for state employees. 1) Make the state's environmental services a stand alone agency and if there other similar services being provided organize under this agency 2) Make another stand alone agency that provides the services of public heath, mental health, and drug/alcohol treatment. The leadership of this agency needs to direct staff in meeting the clients' needs without duplicated effort and breaking down the current barriers with sharing critical need to know medical information.
2021-08-20 08:24:39 2021-08-19 10:06:33	Good overall. Poor. Environmental damages are not fined and punished, businesses can pollute freely.	The State House DHEC does not have enough power, and does not aggressively regulate, fine, or otherwise punish bad actors.	Take politics out of it! Keep DHEC as a combined public health & environment regulator, increase their budget, track agency performance by number and size of fines or regulatory actions issued. Adopt a socialist mindset when addressing, at least, health care concerns.
2021-08-19 08:09:49	Its lack of participation in appropriately scaled COVID programs is a clear indicator that our state is doing poorly.	Misogyny, Racism, and Classism.	
2021-08-18 16:31:12	Overall, I think the agency is successful in delivering health and environmental services given the significant resource limitations (both human and financial) and lack of executive branch support.	Our greatest challenge is both external and internal – attempting to work collaboratively with a legislature and governor who do not respect DHEC leadership and staff. DHEC has long been a scapegoat for the executive branch: as a collective body, they often and publicly deride our agency while failing to provide appropriate support and without acknowledging our many accomplishments and improvements. This external problem becomes an internal problem when DHEC leadership, in turn, consistently bends to the will of the legislature and/or governor. DHEC leadership has shown little to no backbone in supporting our subject matter experts and their supremely qualified analysis regarding agency decisions and proposed legislation. This meek approach demoralizes staff, which then affects productivity, creativity, and innovation. Internally, the greatest challenge is continuing to promote personnel to management positions who do not possess the necessary skills to successfully manage staff. Too often, the only path to receiving a significant pay increase is to seek a management position. As a result, people who aren't necessarily fit to be managers fill these roles. This leads to a breakdown in communication, organization, effective delegation, and overall team efficiency.	Support and promote staff's expertise with the legislature and governor. Although I understand we, unfortunately, have to play "political games" at times, our subject matter experts' knowledge and work should not be ignored at the expense of gaining perceived political capital. Using a proactive communications strategy (instead of reactive) with legislators and the media would build more trust, confidence, and credibility within the communities we serve. Do not promote staff to management positions based on longevity/years of service. Institutional knowledge does not equate to managerial capability.

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2021-08-31 14:21:26	Poorly with Radiological/Nuclear Response issues...	Training, Outreach, developing partnerships with local, state and federal agencies...	Nuclear response/radiological response units are not being allowed to train or even visit with other responders that they will depend on in an actual event. Outdated response plans that require team members to drive to the offices and pick up equipment and vehicles to even respond to an emergency which eats up time. Leased vehicles that are paid for with grants but, they sit in a fenced in yard and do not get driven. They have to be cranked up and driven around to keep the batteries charged up and injectors clean. Meanwhile, all other emergency response teams drive their vehicles home and can respond much faster to an incident. Whole program is being run like "it will never happen" and not being treated as seriously as it should. The public should be alarmed.
2021-08-30 18:59:56	We can do much better especially in the delivery of mental health services. Elected officials must stop politiciaing SC DHEC and the services provided. We must be strategic and deliberate in closing health disparities in our state. Not only is this a moral issue it is an economic issue. It is less expensive to make sure individuals have access to good health svstems from birth.	Too much politics interfering with delivery of health and environmental services. Politics negatively impact communications.	More locations providing access to safe, effective health services; More education regarding enviromental services; implement consistent and effective delivery of health services.
2021-08-30 17:00:07	I think fairly well, in general, but there is definitely room for improvement. For health services, there are problems with access to health care in rural areas, especially for the poor and those who are disabled and lack transportation. This is especially a problem for those people because they frequently have to travel some distance to get to a provider. Also, there can be problems finding providers willing to accept medicaid. For environmental services, facilities and their consultants submit extremely poor (incomplete, erroneous, sloppy, etc.) applications that many times slow the permit process to a crawl.	Providing better heath care access to those in rural areas and those on medicaid. The environmental permit process will not improve until facilities are made to care more about the quality of the applications they submit. The department needs to make sure there are consequences, like returning poor applications. Also, for both, DHEC has not yet recovered from the Templeton and Heigel regimes. Artifacts from those administrations need to be addressed where poor hiring decisions and organizational changes led to incompetent people being placed in responsibility of major areas of the department, leading to dysfunctional leadership, organization, and low morale.	1) Ban political appointments of the DHEC agency head. Such appointments make for leaders with no organizational experience, a change for change sake attitude, and a short-sighted view of the future (i.e., just looking for a resume enhancement for the next step up the ladder). 2) An across the board 10% pay raise for most non-executive level positions to ensure we can attract and keep qualified employees who do the work of delivering the services. 3) Rely on scientific data to drive decisions and not on political pressure to push the agendas in both the health and environment. Political pressure (both external and internal) stifles open debate and the rational consideration of reasonable alternatives to the predominant line of thought. For example, political pressure during the ongoing pandemic stifled consideration of reasonable therapies for combating COVID that could have saved many lives and expense had they been allowed to be implemented (rather than waiting until patients were on their death beds before treatment was offered).
2021-08-30 11:05:23	Better than some states but not as good as others.	1) Not enough support for DHEC at the top levels of state government. Preserving individual freedoms regarding vaccination, mask wearing, and open carry of firearms makes it difficult if not impossible for DHEC to achieve its mission of "improving the quality of life for all South Carolinians." 2) DHEC is still in the 20th century in terms of delivery of health care. Especially with documentation. 3) Salaries are not competitive.	1. Please, please, please mandate the COVID vaccine for all state employees. TDaP is required at DHEC, MMR is required also, and now Comirnaty has received full approval from the FDA. There is no reason why the COVID vaccine cannot be added to the list. Even if it is just for new employees to start.
2021-08-27 15:09:23	About average for US which overall is pretty poor. Our public health dept has taken a back seat over the past 30 years depending on private enterprise to fill the gap. They can not on big issues such as vaccinations!	Our government! On both. In health everything is too fragmented. "O, that's not our area" if it's the least bit unpopular but everybody wants it if it has money attached and more people. On the environment we're not doing bad. We could provide more assistance to individual landowners to help properly plan and assistance to carry out projects. Again this has gone away over the past 20-25 years.	1. Put some substance into "public health" by making them accountable, giving them the power to provide real assistance (probably means some \$ & people but more credibility by having properly trained and interested people running it is more important) and listening to them on the upper levels of our govt. 2. Give countries back properly trained Specialists in environmental services that work w/individuals to plan projects completely through. This includes helping get permits and closing out projects. They should not last years! It's more than one project if it lasts that long. You tie up the Specialists w/an individual landowner and keep others from getting any assistance
2021-08-27 13:17:12	ok	ok	lower prices.
2021-08-27 13:09:14	Pathetic. I'm so embarrassed by SC's response to the covid pandemic.	Listen to science and stop bowing to Trump.	Listen to science. Stop bowing to Trump. Look at PUBLIC health instead of politics. This has turned neighbors against neighbors in a place that has always been able to brag about taking care of one another. I'm embarrassed to be from SC.
2021-08-27 09:22:50	I think the last couple years has demonstrated the distinct advantage our agency has by having health and environmental services under the same umbrella. Emergency response situations whether health or environment related require quickly adapting situations. The health side put out numerous calls to action that EA workers were able to jump on board and help out with. That kind of collaborative work is going to be a lot tougher if we split.	The caveat to being such a large agency is that I feel like a lot of staff here feel that just because they work for the government that they are not accountable to the very government institutions that authorized our existence. Government should exist to improve people's quality of life and not impose on it. If we truly touch every life in south carolina, we need to be very conscious of what that means. Just like we expect people to self govern in terms of adhering to various laws and regulations that essentially are there to protect our precious environment and livelihoods, we also as an agency need to be able to recognize situations when we are going too far. There needs to be more of a balance between the collective wellness and the personal wellness recommendations, rather than an overemphasis on one. We need to be consistent and ethical in our approach to providing services. It also means we need to cooperate with our legislature when they raise valid questions about our size and scope. I believe a lot of what we do justifies us remaining together, but it is arrogant to assert that the legislature or governor is wrong in wanting to periodically evaluate our standing in the state. There are legitimate criticisms about growth potential within the agency also which generates a lot of turnover among early career hires. So reexamining how we can offer better career advancement opportunities for our staff is of mutual benefit both to our staff and the state.	First and foremost is to be willing to acknowledge that they ARE services and that services in the long run should promote the freedom, health, welfare and prosperity of our people.
2021-08-27 09:02:21	Not good.	As a director of environmental control in a facility in your state, I liked the consistency of having the same person inspect my facility and I knew who to contact in permitting and other departments. It is very frustrating when I have to explain the way my facility works multiple times to different people because you cannot retain good employees.	Previous inspector left the agency because of a lack in pay. 3 previous engineers left the agency within the last 3 years. When I found out their salaries, I was floored. No wonder you can't keep people working for the state. This is absolutely ridiculous and you need to do more for your people.
2021-08-27 08:55:42	Salaries for Environmental Affairs personnel is abhorrent.	You cannot retain knowledge and experience when outside consultants are making 25-30% more even in an entry level capacity. EHM 2 makes \$40,000/year. An entry level environmental manager in an industrial capacity pulls in \$50,000-60,000/year - straight out of college and will get a 5% raise after a year of working.	You need to increase pay for all environmental personnel. NOT just the engineers, hydrologists, chemists, and biologists - personnel in regulation writing, data corroboration, stack testing, inspectors.. etc. ALSO do much to make the programs work, these people also have advanced degrees and are not able to negotiate their pay. These people get their 2-3 years of state regulation experience and they are out the door for a 25-30% pay bump. It is hard to retain good people when you don't give raises to show them they are appreciated and you don't let them negotiate their pay. PRIVATE CITIZENS: How would you feel if you love the job that you do but were not able to negotiate your pay and could not get merit raises for a job well done????!?! Also, because of severe underfunding, many employees must take on jobs that are not in the scope of their titles - but are not paid for the extra burden.

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2021-08-25 15:08:51	Poorly	DHEC only follows what the federal government does. The Health side follows the CDC and the Environment side follows the EPA. No one is speaking on behalf of the citizens of South Carolina. Take the mask guidance for example, has DHEC conducted its own studies to determine if the federal guidance is accurate/appropriate? I'm guessing not since they changed their guidance at the drop of a hat once the CDC did so. Why, then, does DHEC even exist? It's just a field extension office of the federal agencies. State agencies should speak on behalf of the citizens of the state, instead, DHEC is a strongman for the federal government. Since the federal government's policies are implemented across the board, it seems the citizens of South Carolina would be better served if DHEC didn't exist. At least then we could save some of our tax dollars.	The "public servants" at DHEC should actually be interested in serving the people of the state instead of pushing their own agendas or making a name for themselves. All South Carolinians should be represented when making decisions. Oftentimes, only those with the loudest voice or those in higher positions are allowed a seat at the table.
2021-08-25 12:30:29	The infrastructure is fragile, capacity is low, and demand is high. To be clear, little if any of those fundamentals were under the control of agency staff or leadership (at least after Templeton). Nonetheless, it's hard to tell a rosy picture.	Willingness to invest in delivering that type of service.	Like most services in most states', they don't interface with other silos in the state especially well. Vaccination services' staff should be empowered not just to refer not just to WIC or home visiting, but eligible families should be able to -enroll- in Medicaid or SNAP or workforce training without navigating the bus lines to 4 different state offices. DHEC ran a pilot of that type of approach about 15 years ago and it had a transformative impact. It would take leadership and political will to engage in that type of approach again - and a staff that isn't hanging on by a thread, so it may be a pipe dream. But it would be incredibly valuable to the state.