

# Public Health Nuisance Ordinance

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# Agenda

- Refresher
- Current Implementation
- Carver County Example
- Current Status



# Public Health Response

- Public Health Authority under 145A
- Conditions that threat transmission of diseases through insects, animals or other means (including meth labs)
- Typical calls have been meth houses, cockroaches, mice, mold\*, bedbugs, odor, unsanitary living conditions
- Often the situation involves a vulnerable adult



# Public Health Nuisance vs Public Nuisance

- ✓ Unsafe living situations that affect children, vulnerable adults and animals
  - ✓ Rotting garbage or dead animals
  - ✓ Insect/rodent infestations
  - ✓ Hoarding, including animal hoarding
  - ✓ Evidence of meth lab or other drug manufacturing
- X Excessive noise
  - X Open wells
  - X Animal control issues
  - X Long grass
  - X Leaking roof in rental property
  - X Debris in yard
  - X Abandoned vehicles

# What we are talking about...



# Environmental Health Authority

- Public Health related
- Sewage (septic systems)
- Solid Waste
- Hazardous Waste
- Household Hazardous Waste





# Current Implementation

- Maintain a resource list for staff use, including which agency does inspections
- Respond to phone calls
  - Provide resources/referrals
- Inspection-type visit to site - private homes and rental property
- Plan remediation with property owner until condition resolved

# Current Barriers

- Relies on a “gentlemen’s approach” to resolving unhealthy housing conditions
- Inability to enter premises to check on well-being of occupant and conditions unless there is cooperation
- Inability to order clean-up in cases where there is a lack of cooperation



# Public Health Nuisance Ordinance

- Establishes a minimum standard for the health, safety and protection of parties who may be exposed to a public health nuisance
- Would be applied throughout the county for uniformity
- Allows the Public Health Authority entry for inspection of property *where a public health nuisance is reasonably suspected or known*
- Defines processes for response
- Adopted language in most of the counties



# Process to Date

- In 2018, several jurisdictions approached us to discuss barriers to responding to public health nuisances and requested a countywide ordinance
- On 1/12/18, presented to SCALE and were guided to work with the Service Delivery Committee
- The draft language amended existing Clandestine Drug Lab Ordinance and was presented to the Service Delivery Team on 3/18/19 for feedback
- Reviewed at Chair/Vice Chair on 7/9/19

# Carver County

- Began with “Cleanup of Clandestine Drug Labs”
- 6/18/13 County Ordinance Amended as “Public Health Nuisance”
- Referrals come in from Child and Adult Protection, Deputies, family and neighbors
- Multidisciplinary approach

# Public Health Nuisance Procedures

- Complaint received- review for potential referrals for other services
- Complete screening/intake form
- Log complaint, as appropriate, in Nuisance Tracker
- Triage complaint with Public Health Nuisance team
- Notify subject of complaint by telephone or letter
- Schedule inspection
- Prepare for inspection
- Conduct inspection
- Post inspection operation/debrief

# Carver County Public Health Nuisances

2018

– 11 cases

2019

– 15 cases

# Carver County

- What's working well
- What could be improved



# Current Status

- Reviewed and edited by Jeanne Andersen
- Ordinance edited based on feedback:
  - Cleaned up and streamlined
  - Specified Enforcement Authority
    - Public Health and Law Enforcement
  - Kept in Right to Appeal
- Present to SCALE

Questions?