

Waushara/ Green Lake/ Marquette Consortium Agent Status Feasibility



Summer 2005

Proposal Outline

“TRI-COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM”

- *Background Information*
- *Motive for Change*
- *Benefits of Local Agents*
- *Staffing*
- *Budget*

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Agent Status

- Department of Health & Family Services (DHFS):
 - Regulator of food service establishments
 - 578 facilities in Tri-County area
- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP)/ Retail Food Section:
 - Regulator of retail food establishments
 - 101 facilities located in Tri-County area

Source: Wisconsin State Statutes 254 & 97.30



Project Basics

- *DHFS facility examples:*

- *Restaurants*
- *Motels & Hotels*
- *Tourist Rooming Houses*
- *Rec-Ed Camps*
- *Tattoo & Body Piercing*
- *School Kitchens*

- *DATCP/Retail food facility examples:*

- *Grocery stores*
- *Gas stations*
- *Deli*
- *Food Distributors*
- *Bakery*
- *Ice Cream Shops*



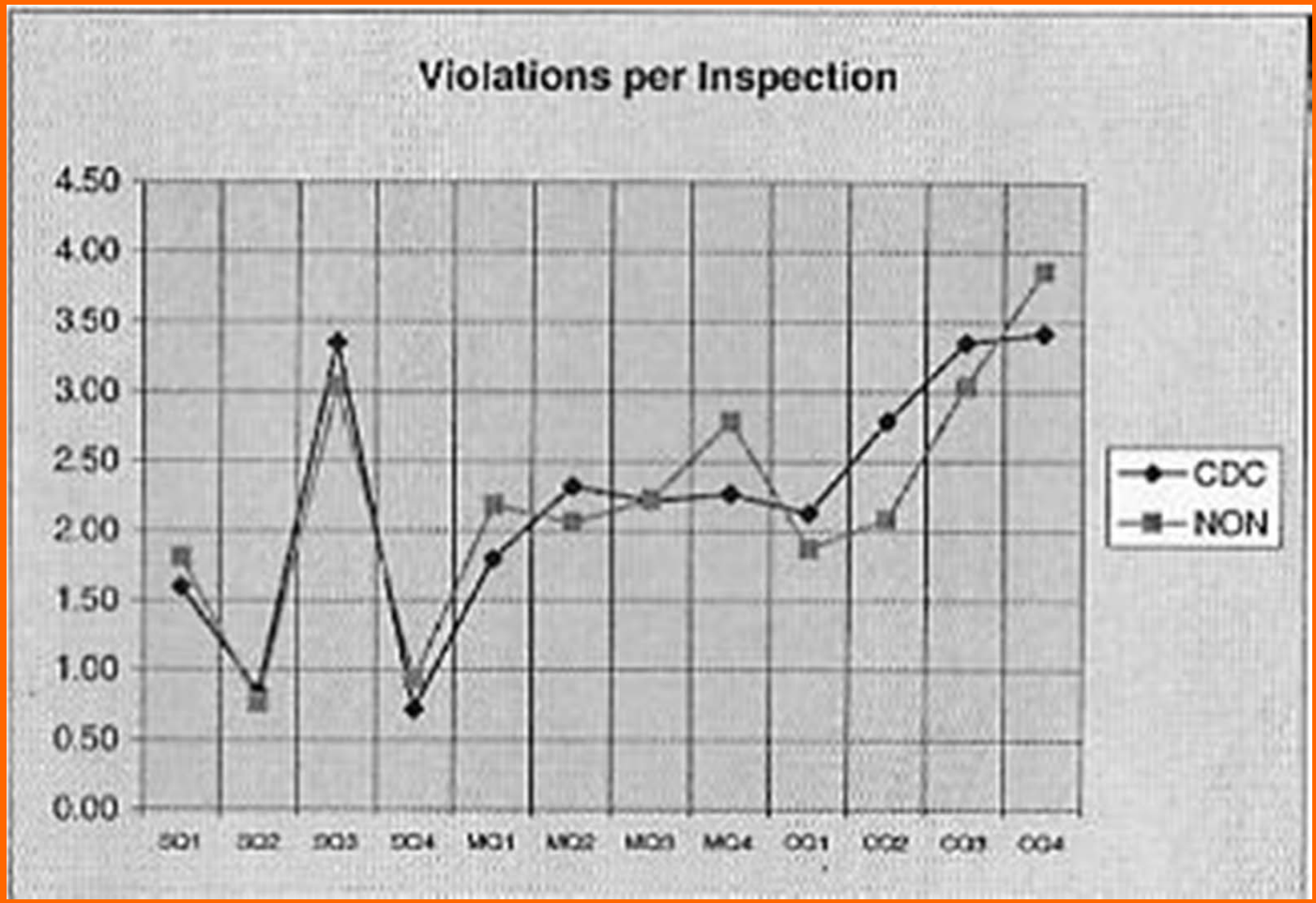
- *Insufficient State staff to inspect each facility at least once per year as recommended for best practice standards.*

Motive For Change

- *Only 51% of our county's facilities were inspected over the past year by State inspectors*
- *"Nobody has gotten sick yet."*
- *Can't judge success by number of foodborne outbreaks/illness reported*
 - *Critical violations continue to increase*

Source: Wisconsin Public Health Restructuring Work Group. Aug 2004





Motive cont.

- *Funding opportunity*
- *State staff infrastructure changes coming soon*
 - *Ability to find qualified staff before mandate*
 - *42% of RS plan to retire within next 10 years*

Greg Pallaske. Food Safety & Recreational Licensing Section Chief. June 2005

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Proposal

*Approval for the Tri-County
Consortium to perform inspections
as an agent of the State*

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Benefits of Local Agent

- *Locally based program will result in the following:*
 - *Annual inspections*
 - *Increased response time for outbreak complaints*
 - *Legal support from Corporation Counsel office to provide more effective and quicker enforcement when it is necessary to achieve compliance*



Benefits of Local Agent

- *Decreased travel time & costs since Tri-County area facility inspections are closer to County office rather than State*
- *Local citizens will know whom to call when there is a problem*
- ***New Business Perks: Plan review for new and remodeling of food service facilities***
 - *Tavern League- Open new establishments faster due to increased reaction time for pre-inspections*

Benefits of Local Agent

- *Consumer protection- provide assurance that local restaurants learn safe food handling techniques on a routine basis*
- *Collaboration with other local agencies and community partners to achieve higher level of health code compliance for food service operations and training*
- *Ability to teach citizen groups*
 - *i.e. Discuss services available to community through the local environmental health program*



Local Health Department Boost

Agent Status Required for Level 3

- *Currently Waushara, Green Lake & Marquette are all Level 2 Programs*
 - *Agent status counts as one of the required public health outreach services*

- *Agent Project can increase qualifications to Level 3*

Result...

- *Increased base rates for several state grants*
- *Increased services provided to community*



Game Plan:

- ***Waushara/ Green Lake/ Marquette Consortium***
 - *Develop consortium to inspect & address:*
 - *Food Safety & Licensing Establishments*
 - *Department of Agriculture Facilities*
 - *Environmental Health Issues*



Green Lake County
Government



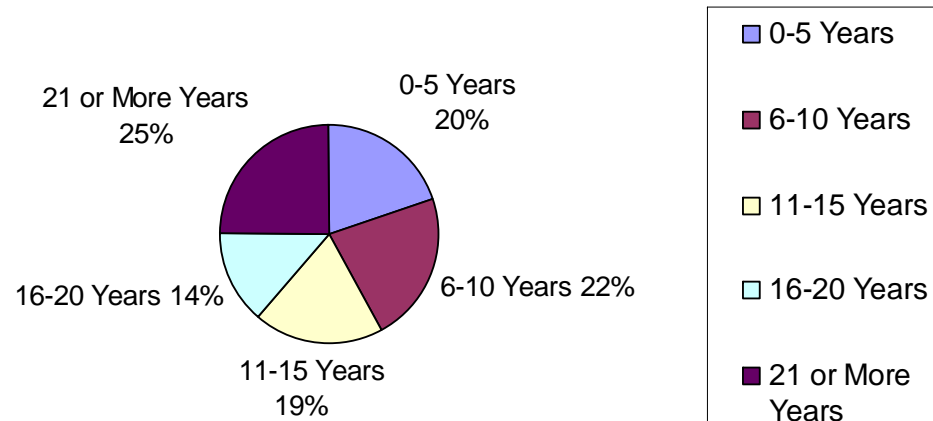
Source: Personal Interview. Greg Pallaske. June 10, 2005.



Why Now?

- *One time start-up bonus of \$15,000 available this year for combo of Food and Ag only to consortiums*
- *42% of RS will be retiring in next 10 years*

"When do you think you may retire from working as an R.S.?"



WEHA News. July 2004

Staffing



- 679 Total Facilities
- *Inspection Demands:*
 - *200 complex facilities per inspector/year*
 - Or
 - *300 simple facilities per inspector/year*
- *Inspections of all facilities once per year plus travel time & clerical duties would require 2 additional full time positions*

Source: Phone interview DePere, WI, June 8, 2005



Consortium Staffing

- *Each agent applicant must have 1 Wisconsin Registered Sanitarian (RS)*
- *Consortium of Waushara/ Green Lake/ Marquette only requires 1 RS rather than 3 individually*
 - *Saves on personnel and program costs*
 - *Current relationships ease transition*
 - *Central billing*
 - *Continuity*

Source: HFS 192



Local Benefit

- *Each county will have an Environmental Health Specialist in-house available year round!*
- *New staff will be cross trained to cover many of same areas Chris Hinz handles now in all 3 counties:*



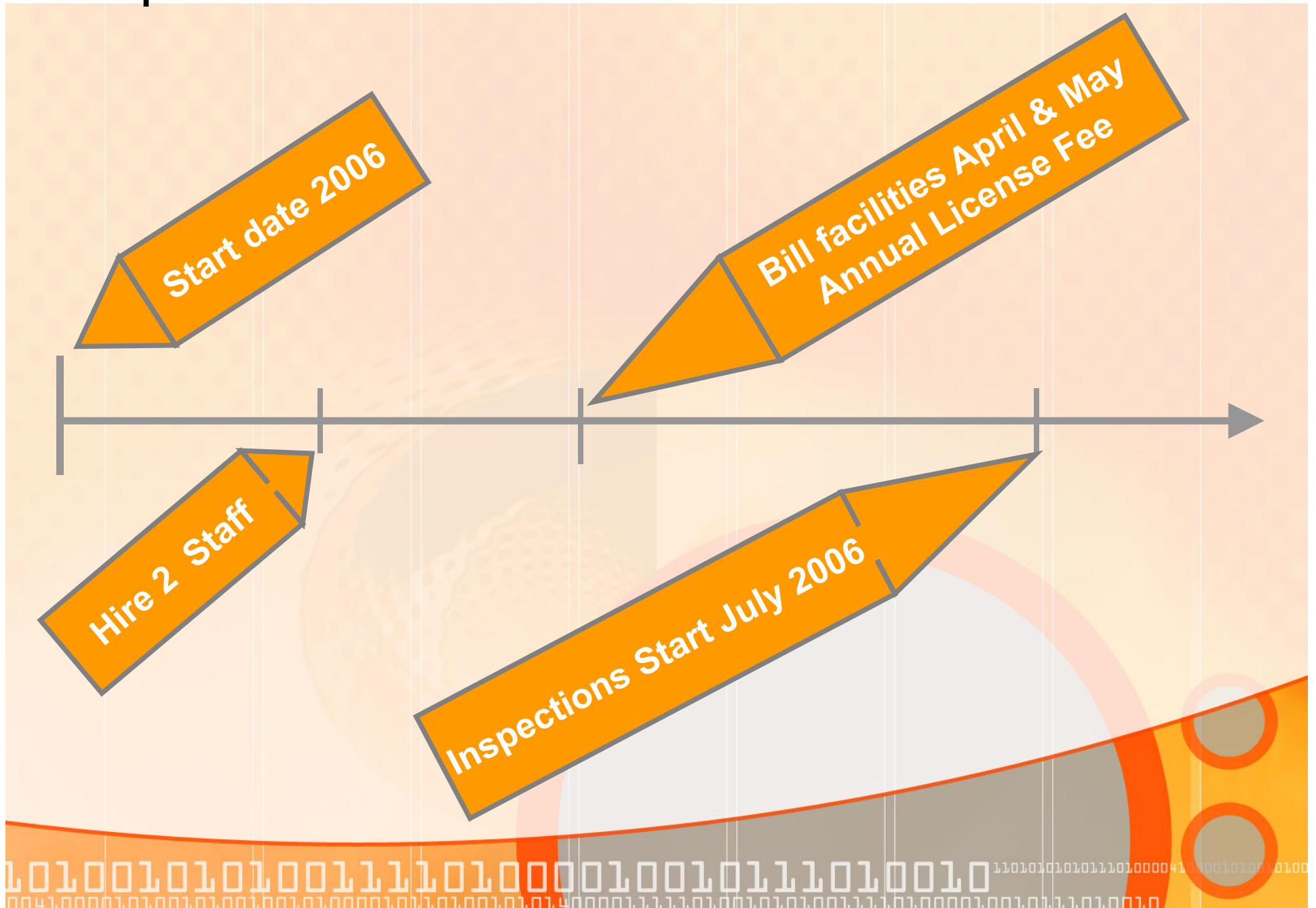
Unsanitary Living Conditions



Home Lead Inspections



Proposal Timeline



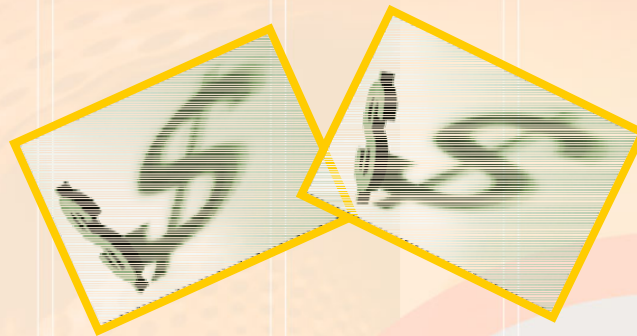
Program Funding

- *Fee based program-all money raised directly funds program*
 - *Fees collected **never** exceed reasonable costs incurred*
- *No impact on tax base*
- *Increased local accountability & accessibility*



Budget Discussion

- *Budget proposal*
- *Inspection/License fees*
- *Staffing Specifics*
 - *See handout*



Thank you

