



United States–México Border Health Commission (BHC) Overview

Children's Environmental Health in
the U.S.–Mexico Border Region

San Diego, California
January 27–28, 2016

Mission and Goals

Mission

To provide international leadership to optimize health and quality of life along the United States – México border

Goals

- Institutionalize a domestic focus on border health that can transcend political changes
- Create an effective venue for binational discussion to address key public health issues at the border



Strategic Principles and Roles

Principles

Leadership

Focus

Venue

Roles

➤ Facilitate identification, study and research

➤ Be a catalyst to raise awareness

➤ Promote sustainable partnerships for action

➤ Serve as an information portal for community partners



Milestones: Enabling Legislation and Major Events

- 1994: P.L. 103-400 passed by U.S. Congress
- 1997: Initial funding provided through HHS/Office of International and Refugee Health
- 2000: Binational Agreement signed establishing the BHC
- 2003: Approval of BHC Bylaws
- 2004: Designated a Public International Organization by President Bush
- 2010: Signed Joint Declaration reaffirming Binational Agreement; Approval of revised Bylaws
- 2014: First Binational Strategic Visioning Session



BHC Structure and Priorities





U.S. – México Border Health Commission (BHC) Organizational Structure

U.S. Commissioner Sylvia Mathews Burwell, HHS
 Delegate Jimmy Kolker, HHS/OGA
 Representative Cristina Rabadán-Diehl, HHS/OGA

U.S. Central Office
 Executive Director-José Luis Velasco, HHS/OGA

U.S. Central Office Support Staff
 Ryan Basinger, Acting Program Manager
 Lori Navarrete, Binational Operations Coordinator
 Xochitl Díaz, Communications Specialist
 Adriana Mota, Administrative Assistant II
 Paula Quintana, Administrative Assistant I
 Angela Rivera, Documentation Specialist, Futrend



México Commissioner Mercedes Juan, Secretaría de Salud
 Delegate/Representative Hilda Dávila, Secretaría de Salud

México Central Office
 Executive Secretary, Gudelia Rangel

México Office Support Staff
 Gabriela Eslocante, Planning Coordinator
 Nemer Alexander Naime, Communications Coordinator
 Maricela Flores, Assistant



Updated: 01/15/2015

SGEs - Special Government Employees

SHOs - State Health Officers

OBH - Offices of Border Health

BHC Priorities

STRATEGIC

- **Infectious Diseases**
- **Degenerative Chronic Diseases**
- **Maternal and Child Health**
- **Accidents**
- **Mental Health**

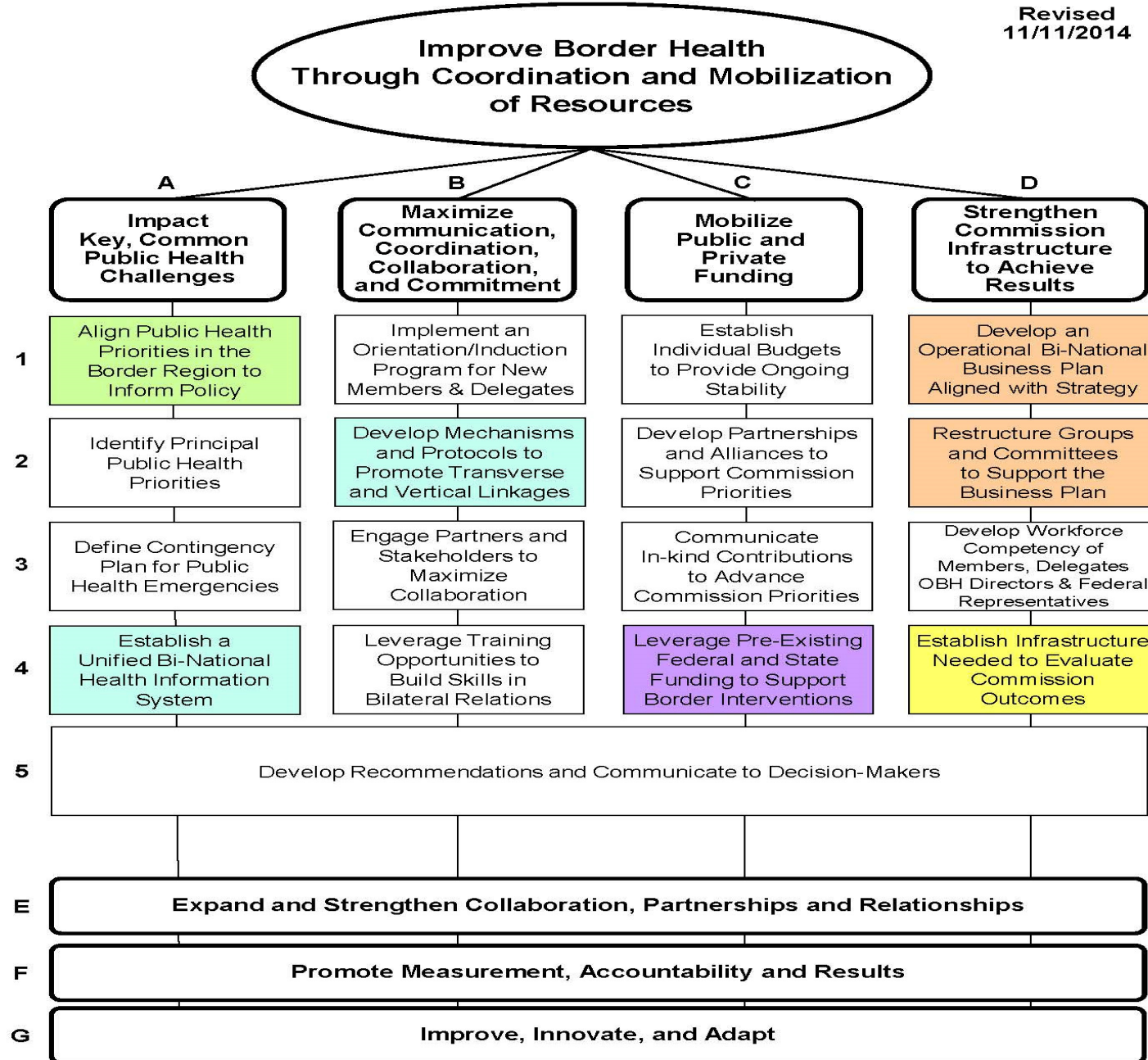
TRANSVERSAL

- **Access to Care**
- **Research**
- **Strategic Planning**



US-Mexico Border Health Commission Strategic Map: 2014-2017

Revised
11/11/2014



BHC Activities



Proposed 2015–2016 Cooperative Agreement Work Plan Activities

1.	Community-based Healthy Border Initiatives <i>(includes Border Binational Health Week 2015)</i>
2.	Leaders across Borders
3.	Border Binational Reproductive Health Work Group
4.	U.S.-México Border Tuberculosis Initiative
5.	Border Binational Obesity Prevention Workshop
6.	Healthy Border 2020 Community Grants
7.	Child and Adolescent Overweight and Obesity Prevention Initiative
8.	Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative
9.	Binational Border Health Consortium of the Californias Strategic Plan



BHC Partners

- U.S. and México Federal Government
- Mexican Consulates
- 10 State Health Departments
- 4 Offices of Border Health
- 10 BHC Outreach Offices
- 90 Local Health Departments
- Binational Health Councils
- Clinics, Hospitals, and Health Service Providers
- Community-based Organizations
- Promotores Organizations
- Academic Institutions
- Pan American Health Organization
- Border Governors Conference
- National Rural Health Association
- Texas Medical Association
- U.S. and Mexico Media Outlets



BHC Challenges

- **Operating along the busiest and most complex binational border in the world in support of diverse national, state, and local public health systems.**
- **Addressing the whole host of border health issues with limited resources and focusing resources to the border region.**
- **Identifying unified priorities from each government.**
- **Focusing the health system to address chronic diseases as well as infectious diseases that includes health prevention and promotion strategies.**
- **Utilizing comprehensive approaches that includes health care systems, policy makers, academia, and public health, and promoting sustainable partnerships among these various sectors.**



BHC Opportunities

- **Serves as a unique binational and horizontal framework that brings together two federal governments, 10 states and a multitude of other public and private partners to address border and binational health issues.**
- **Serves as a catalyst to identify, convene, and encourage action on key strategic binational issues that also brings focus to diverse populations.**
- **Serves as a focal point to assist federal and state agencies in both countries in addressing specific border health related issues.**



THANK YOU

**U.S.-México Border Health Commission
Comision de Salud Fronteriza Mexico-
Estados Unidos**

Website:

www.borderhealth.org

www.saludfronterizamx.org

