Specialty Wastewater Improvement and

Field Training Team (SWIFT)

Larry Michael, MPH, REHS
State Environmental Health Director



Where it all began...

- Environmental Health Workgroup
 - Local Health Directors
 - EH Supervisors
 - DPH EH Section
- Goal—Review issues leading to OSWW backlogs and identify processes to improve efficiency; improve retention and recruitment of REHSs
- Outcome—(1) Develop an OSWW Training Team and
 (2) amend REHS education and practice requirements





North Carolina Delegation of Authority (Current Process)



- NC General Statute 130A-4(b) and as codified in 15A NCAC 010.0100.
- Eight areas of authorization
 - Child Care and School Sanitation
 - Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
 - Food, Lodging, and Institutions
 - Migrant Housing
 - Public Swimming Pools
 - Tattoos
 - On-Site Wastewater
 - Private Wells



North Carolina Delegation of Authority (Current Process)

- Centralized Intern Training
 - General Module
 - OSWW Module
 - Food Module
- EH Regional Specialist
 - Exam
 - Field Evaluation





North Carolina Delegation of Authority (Future Process)

- SWIFT= 4 Regional Training Specialists (requested 6 FTE's)
 - 3 FTEs (2023 Appropriations Act)
 - Repurpose 1 position
- SWIFT responsibilities will include
 - Approximately 25 counties/team member
 - Regional/personalized intern training
 - Mid-career training
 - Program reviews for accreditation





North Carolina Delegation of Authority (Future Process)



- SWIFT will decrease time for OSWW authorization
 - Guided, structured training
 - One-on-one mentoring, regional training with peers
 - Ability to assess staff individually to proceed with the authorization process
 - Goal—Authorized within 3-4 months of hire



SWIFT

- LHD may choose SWIFT or traditional CIT path
 - Availability of SWIFT members is limited
- If Successful—SWIFT will phase out the current CIT process
 - More FTEs needed
- Overall Goal—Use this model for all CIT processes





Questions?



