

Roles and Responsibilities of Local Public Health Governing Boards

Mecklenburg County Public Health

- The Practice of Public Health
- Board of Health Legal Responsibilities and Authorities
- Effective Governance

Gibbie Harris

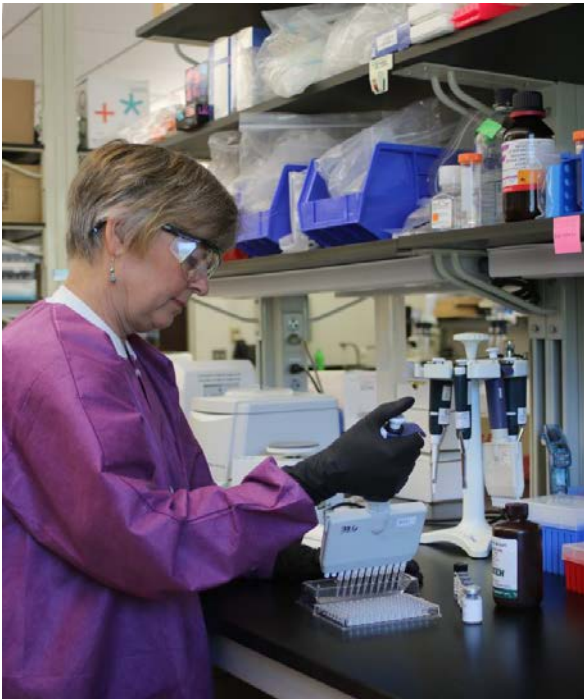
Mecklenburg County Public Health
Health Director



Public Health: Traditional Roles

**THIS IS PUBLIC
HEALTH.**

thisispublichealth.org



Lab Testing and Screening



Immunizations/Vaccinations



Vector Control



Restaurant Inspections



Case Management

Health Education

Public Health: Everywhere, Everyday

**THIS IS PUBLIC
HEALTH.**

thisispublichealth.org



What is Public Health?

Public health is “organized community efforts aimed at the prevention of disease and promotion of health. It links many disciplines and rests upon the scientific core of epidemiology.”

10 Greatest Public Health Achievements *in the* 20th Century

1. IMMUNIZATIONS



2. MOTOR
VEHICLE SAFETY



3. WORKPLACE
SAFETY



4. INFECTIOUS
DZ. CONTROL



5. DECLINES IN
DEATHS: Heart Dz.
and Stroke



6. SAFER &
HEALTHIER FOOD



7. HEALTHIER
MOMS & BABIES



8. FAMILY
PLANNING



9. WATER
FLUORIDATION



10. TOBACCO
CONTROL



Current Public Health Challenges for the Nation

- Preparing to respond to Emerging Infectious Diseases
- Making the Healthy Choice, The Easy Choice
- Cleaning up and protecting the environment
- Reducing the toll of violence in society
- Eliminating health disparities
- Rapidly changing healthcare landscape

Local Boards of Health

**How Do You Fit in the
Big Picture of Public Health?**

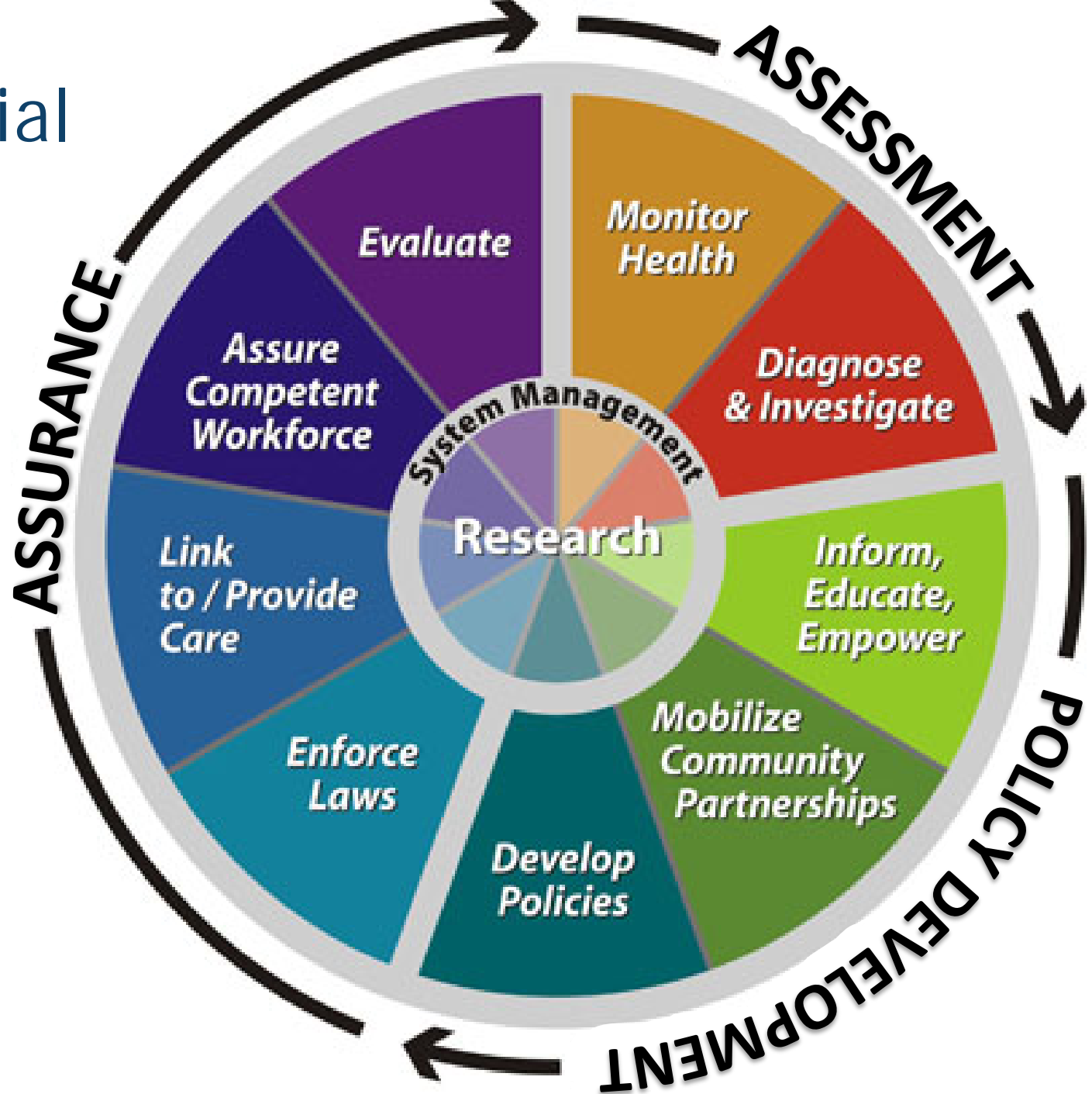


Board of Health

Purpose

An Advocate for Public Health

Core Functions and Essential Services of Public Health



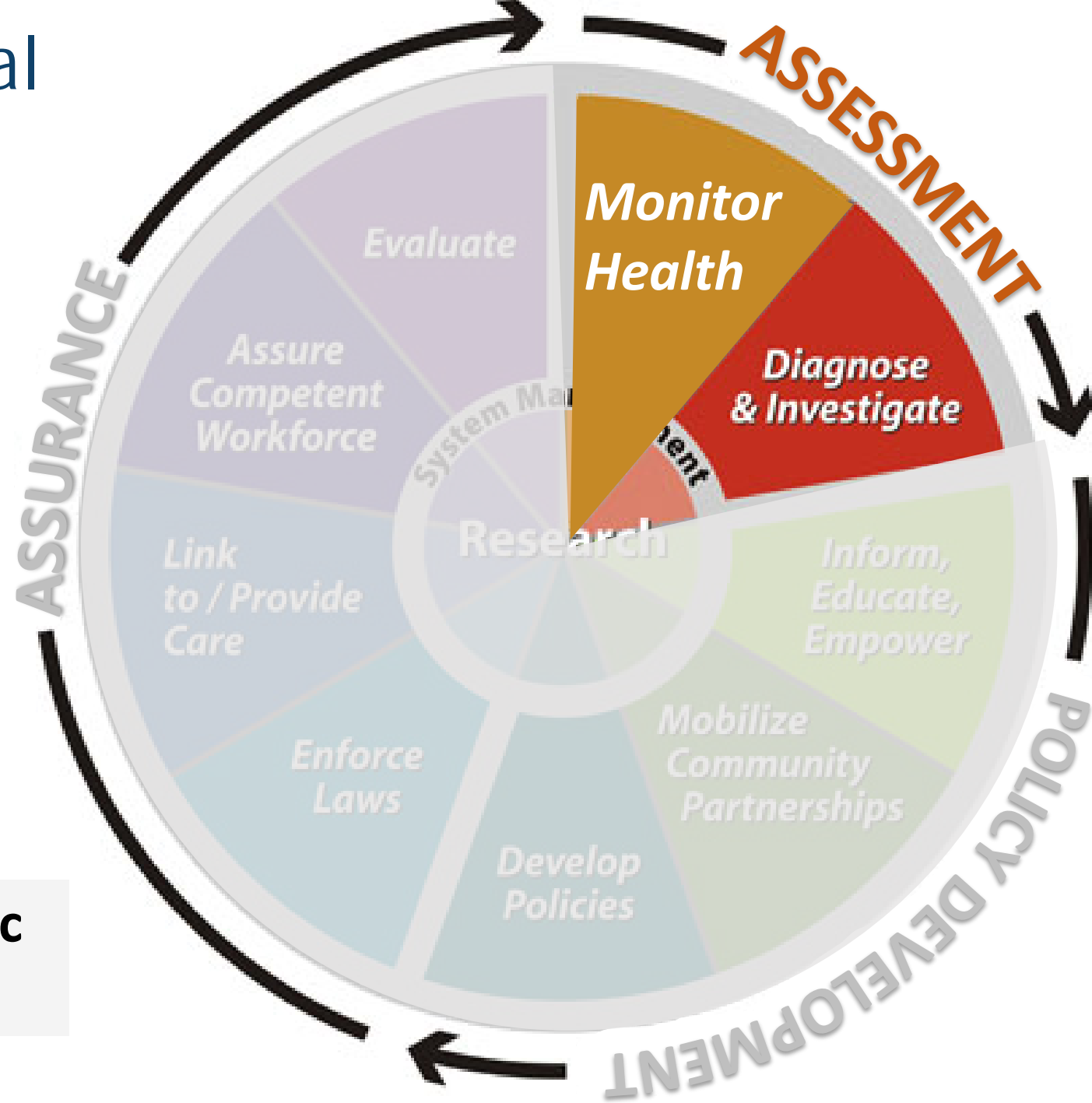
Core Functions and Essential Services of Public Health

ASSESSMENT

- Community Health Assessment
- State of the County Health Reports (SOTCH)
- Communicable Disease Reports



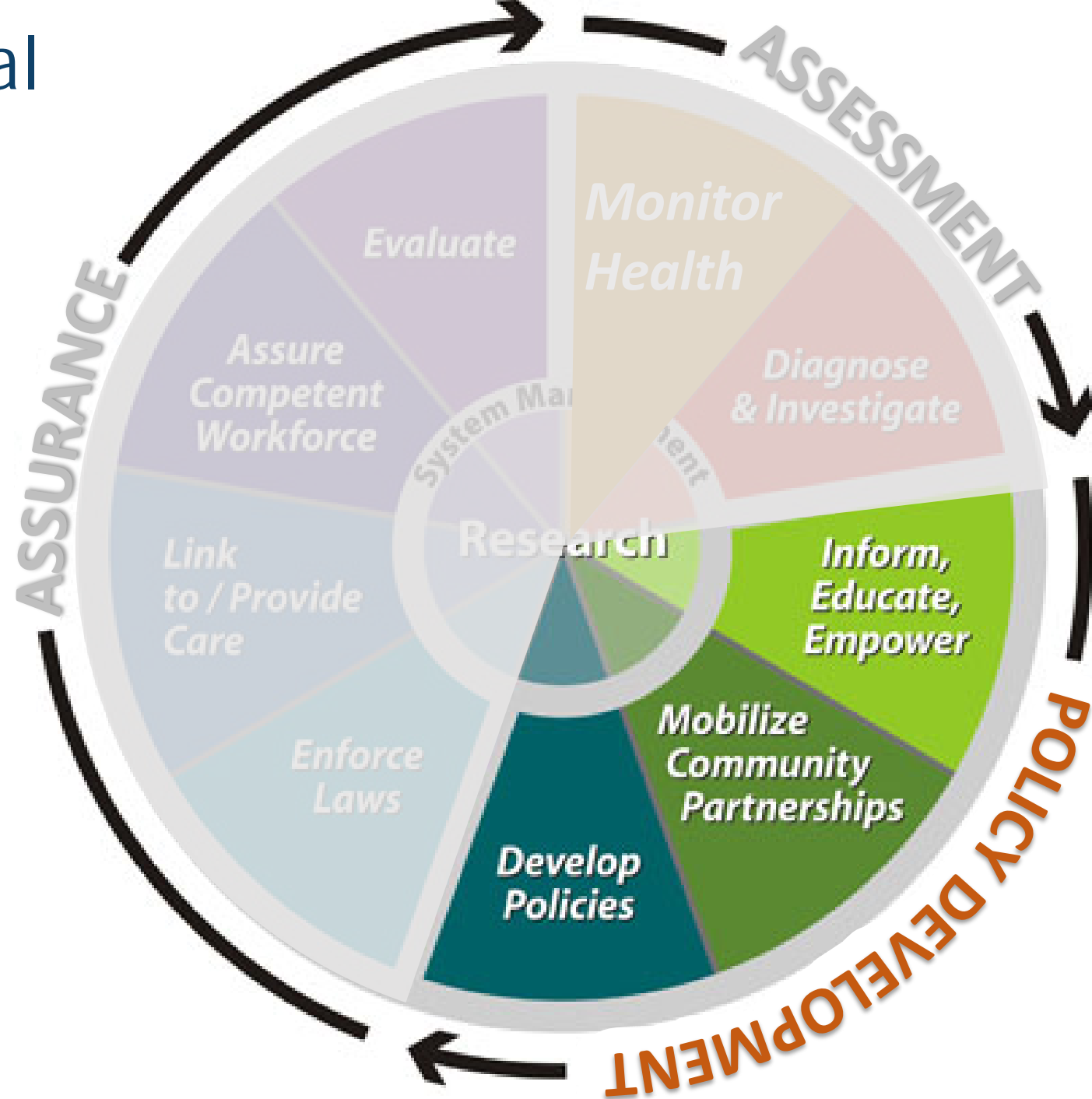
Required for local public health accreditation



Core Functions and Essential Services of Public Health

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

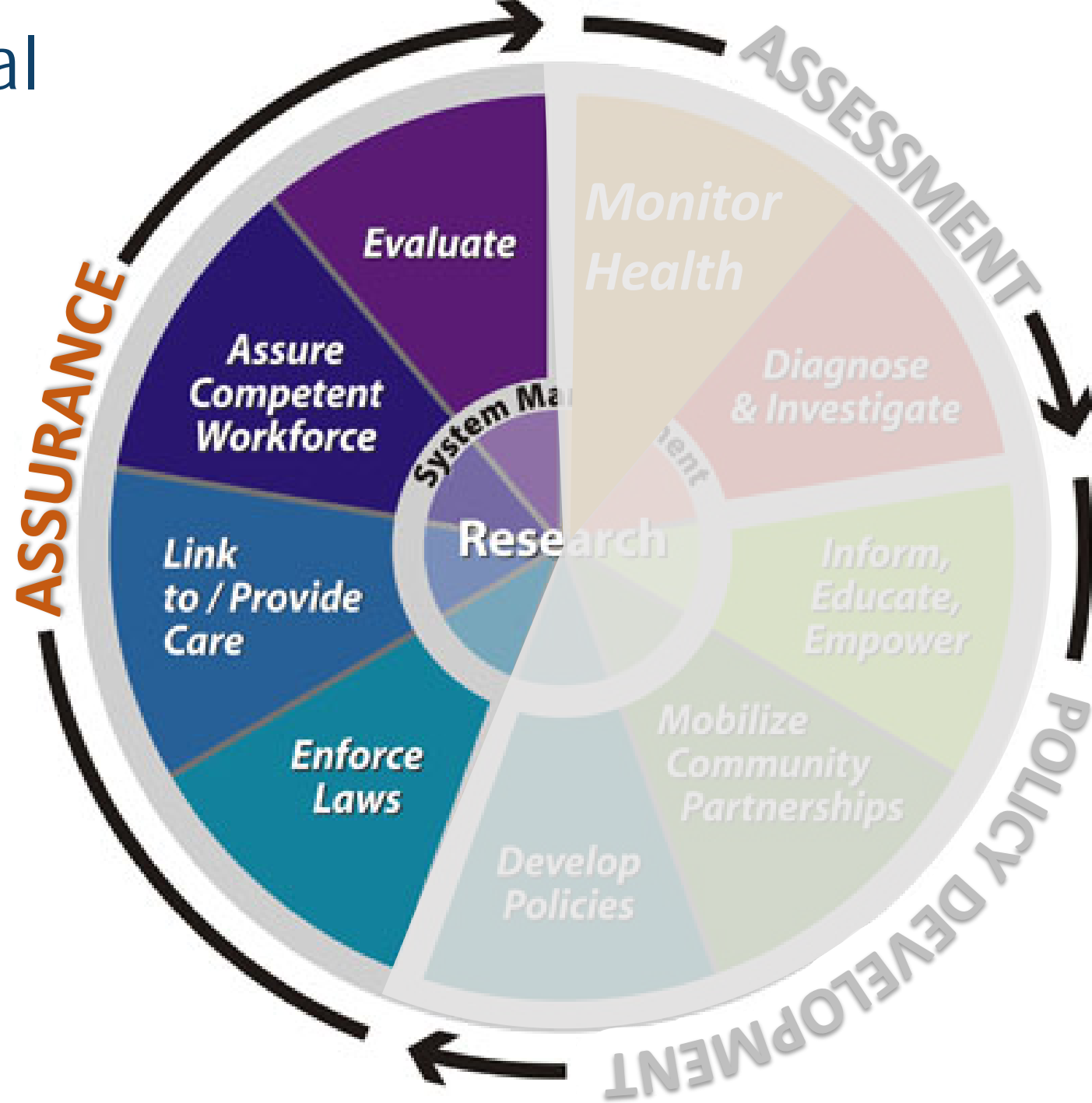
- **Limited by state laws** or county ordinances/policies
- Give advice and help in decision-making



Core Functions and Essential Services of Public Health

ASSURANCE

- Assures public health services and programs are in place and working
- Anticipates trends likely to affect community health
- Approve policies for recruitment, retention and workforce development



Local Boards of Health

**LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES
AND AUTHORITY**

LEGAL AUTHORITY

NC Statute

- A local health department shall ensure that the 10 essential public health services are available and accessible
N.C. General Statute (G.S.) § 130A-1.1(b)
- Board of health = “policy-making, rule-making and adjudicatory body” for local public health agency*
G.S. § 130A-34(a), G.S. § 130A-35(a), G.S. § 130A-37(a)
- The consolidated human services board shall have the “powers and duties conferred by law upon a board of health” (*Mecklenburg is the only County that does not have to meet this requirement. There will be more discussion on this at the Board Retreat.*)
G.S. 153A-77(d)

A graphic featuring a background of interlocking puzzle pieces in shades of blue. The text 'LEGAL AUTHORITY' is written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font across the top. Below it, the text 'NC Statute' is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

NC Statute

GS 130A-39

"A local board of health shall have the responsibility to **PROTECT** and **PROMOTE** the **public health**. The board shall have the authority to adopt rules necessary for that purpose."

A graphic featuring a background of interlocking puzzle pieces in shades of blue. Overlaid on the puzzle pieces is the text 'LEGAL AUTHORITY' in a large, bold, dark blue font. Below this, the text 'NC Statutes' is displayed in a smaller, bold, orange font.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

NC Statutes

GS 130A-39

North Carolina General Statutes: Public Health Online

<https://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/statutes/StatutesTOC.pl?Chapter=0130A>

Board of Health

Roles and Responsibilities

- Rule Making
- Adjudication
- Administration

Board of Health

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Rule Making

- Not overly broad in scope
- Linked to legitimate public health goals
- Grounded in science
- Authority limited by statute (GS130A-39) and case law

Board of Health

Roles and Responsibilities

2. Adjudication

- Hear appeals from citizens dissatisfied with decisions or interpretations of rules
- Procedures must follow statute GS130A-24

Board of Health

Roles and Responsibilities

3. Administration

- Impose and approve fees for services, statute GS130A-39(g)
- Review budget

Local Boards of Health



EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE:
Public Health Accreditation

State Law: Public Health Accreditation

- **Required under G.S. § 130A-34.1**
 - All local health departments must obtain and maintain accreditation
- **Aims to ensure consistent quality of public health services** across LHDs
- **Focuses on capacity** to provide the essential public health services

Achieved by:

- Meeting a set of capacity-based standards
- Providing evidence of completion of prescribed activities, either directly or through contracts

Public Health Accreditation

In North Carolina,
all local Health
Departments are
accredited by the State.

Mecklenburg County's
3rd re-accreditation cycle
begins in the **Fall of 2018**
with **site visit Spring 2019**



Public Health Accreditation

Mecklenburg County's
3rd re-accreditation cycle
begins in the **Fall of 2018**

Process Includes

- Submission of self-assessment document
- Review of document by State
- Accreditation Site visit in the **Spring of 2019**



Public Health Accreditation

Board of Health
Involvement is essential
to the accreditation
process



7 of the **41**

accreditation benchmarks are

Board of Health Performance Standards

Public Health Accreditation

Assessment consists of **147 activities** divided into **41 benchmarks**.

Benchmarks are divided into 3 Standards

Benchmarks 1 – 29

3 Core Functions and

- *Assessment*
- *Policy*
- *Assurance*

10 Essential Services of Public Health

Benchmarks 30 - 33

Agency Facilities
and
Administrative Services

Benchmarks 34 - 41

Board of Health
Performance Standards

Your Role as the Board of Health



Receive reports as Board of Health

(such as annual Communicable Disease, SOTCH, Fiscal Reports and other reports on topics of public health interest)



Receive orientation as newly elected Board members and
annual continuing education on BOH functions

(Beginning FY18, to occur annually in a scheduled Public Policy meeting)



Approve policies for recruitment, retention and workforce development

Your Role as the Board of Health:



Involve the public in planning for and support of community health improvement (such as sponsoring the Community Health Assessment)



Participate in a discussion session with site visitors during the accreditation visit



Following state laws for Boards of Health, as previously discussed (rule making, adjudication, etc.)