

Environmental Health Continuous Improvement Board

Meeting Summary

Thursday, November 7, 2019 | 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust, St. Paul, MN | Vidyo (remote option)

Members Present and Absent:

Name	Organization	Present	Absent
Dawn Beck (co-chair)	Olmsted County	X	
Lisa Brodsky	Scott County		X
Amanda Buell	Hennepin County	X	
Ruth Greenslade	Goodhue County	X (remote)	
Bill Groskreutz	Faribault County Commissioner	X	
Sarah Grosshuesch	Wright County		X
Tom Hogan (co-chair)	Minnesota Department of Health	X	
Angel Korynta	Polk County	X (remote)	
Kristine Lee	Countryside Public Health	X (remote)	
John Weinand	City of Minnetonka	X	

Other Meeting Participants:

Denise Schumacher, Sophia Walsh, Angie Cyr, Steven Diaz and Kim Carlton, Minnesota Department of Health, Environmental Health Division; Jesse Harmon, Brown-Nicollet Counties (remote); Ryan Krick and Cindy Weckwerth, City of Minneapolis; Jeff Travis, Washington County; Chelsie Huntley Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Public Health Practice (PHP); Hannah Young and Amy Zagar, Hennepin County Weckwerth, Cindy M.

Facilitators/Staff:

Michelle Ambrose, Minnesota Department of Health, Environmental Health Division; Becky Buhler and Kim Gearin, Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Public Health Practice (PHP)

Welcome and Introductions

The Environmental Health Continuous Improvement Board's (EHCIB) co-chairs, Tom Hogan, MDH, Dawn Beck, Olmsted County, and Amanda Buell, Hennepin County, welcomed everyone to the November meeting. Amanda Buell, Hennepin County, is transitioning into the co-chair role for 2020.

The co-chairs reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives.

Meeting Objectives:

1. Make progress on the strengthening public health work.
2. Seek feedback for 2020 work plan.

Strengthening Public Health in MN – Environmental Public Health

Chelsie Huntley and Kim Gearin, MDH PHP, led EHCIB members in the ongoing work to develop the Environmental Public Health Framework, which is part of the larger 21st Century Public Health effort (formerly known as Strengthening Public Health). Once completed, the larger Framework for Governmental Public Health in Minnesota will describe what Minnesotans should expect from the governmental public health system. This framework outlines a set of foundational public health responsibilities that are grounded by a core value: where you live should not determine your level of public health protection. For more information, see: [A new framework for governmental public health in Minnesota \(PDF\)](#).

Chelsie updated members on how the EHCIB’s work connects to efforts by the SCHSAC Infectious Disease Continuous Improvement Board, SCHSAC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Oversight Group, and other workgroups focusing on foundational governmental public health responsibilities. She noted that Commissioner Malcolm has created a 21st Century Leadership Council with broad representation (28 individual members) to make the vision universal across Minnesota.

Kim Gearin shared revisions to the Environmental Public Health Foundational Responsibilities since the last meeting and asked participants to work in small groups to review and revise the high-level descriptions. The seven key responsibilities being drafted are:

- A. Monitor significant and emerging threats to public health
- B. Diagnose and investigate environmental threats to human health
- C. Provide timely, statewide, and locally relevant information about environmental public health topics and threats in the jurisdiction and recommend actions individuals, organizations, communities and elected officials can take to protect the public’s health from or reduce exposure to those threats
- D. Work with partners and stakeholders to identify and implement strategies to address environmental threats to public health
- E. Enforce federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines that seek to protect the public from environmental threats to public health
- F. Coordinate and communicate with other agencies carrying out environmental public health activities, programs and services
- G. Participate in comprehensive planning and sustainable development to encourage decisions that promote positive public health outcomes and resilient communities

The EHCIB discussed next steps for this work. Kim Gearin will incorporate the feedback gathered at the November EHCIB meeting to refine the seven responsibilities. Co-chair Dawn Beck noted that the group

should talk about how they will deliver these responsibilities. This work was also part of the discussion of the EHCIB work plan.

FPLS Program Evaluation – Pilots

The FPLS Program Evaluation Workgroup, represented by Kim Carlton, Denise Schumacher, and Sophia Walsh, shared that they received valuable feedback at their learning station at the annual Community Health Conference. In December, the Workgroup will hold a feedback session on the pilots for Standards 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. The full report on Pilot 3.0 will be presented to EHCIB on January 9, 2020.

Mobile Food Units Workgroup

Co-chairs Jeff Travis, Washington County, and Ryan Krick, City of Minneapolis, noted that this new EHCIB workgroup met in August with representatives from the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Food Truck Association, and local health departments to look at jurisdictional issues related to food truck licensing. Its charter was approved at the September EHCIB meeting. The workgroup will be facilitated by MDH EH staff, Sarah Leach.

Jeff and Ryan attended the annual membership meeting for the Minnesota Food Truck Association. They clarified to the association members that state/local EH is working in partnership with the food truck owners to look at flexibility in licensing and health-related inspections. Concerns about local zoning and permits are outside the scope of this group and may require collaboration with the League of Minnesota Cities.

Care Facilities Workgroup

Amanda Buell, Hennepin County, asked her staff to share information about their project on inspections of care facilities to protect vulnerable populations. Hannah Young and Amy Zagar stated that a group was formed to examine licensing loopholes to ensure that people in all types of care facilities (such as assisted living, nursing homes, adult day services, and shelters) are being protected. The group is looking at how licensing by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) and MDH relate to this work.

The EHCIB discussed their role in food safety and nutrition related to care facilities. MDH is already fielding questions related to food regulation due to the new assisted living regulation. Steven Diaz, MDH EH, has been involved in discussions about inspection and licensing. EHCIB members agreed to create a standing agenda item on this topic to keep EHCIB informed and engaged.

EHCIB Work Plan

The Environmental Health Continuous Improvement Board (EHCIB) reviewed work plan ideas for next year. They noted that the Environmental Public Health Framework is valuable work for EH and contributes to the framework for the entire governmental public health system. The FPLS Program Evaluation process is

preparing for a 2020 rollout, which includes communications, training and implementation. The new Mobile Food Units Workgroup is an example of the EHCIB's focus on collaboration and ongoing process improvement. The Care Facilities Regulation topic also fits in this category. Co-chair Dawn Beck stated EHCIB needs to keep its work manageable and maintain focus on priority issues. EHCIB members discussed member engagement and communication needs. Non-delegated representatives were added to EHCIB, but the board is not fully engaging their voice and that of their constituency.

Work Plan

- 21st Century PH (formerly known as Strengthening Public Health)
 - Complete the “what” – what should be in place for environmental public health
 - Then “how/who” should these foundational responsibilities be put into place
- FPLS Program Evaluation Process
 - Rollout
 - Implementation
- Collaboration and Process Improvement
 - Mobile Food Units
 - Care Facilities Regulation (standing agenda item)
- Member Engagement/Communications
 - Improving state/local EH communications
 - Engage non-delegated representation and constituency

Business Items

Member Updates

Tom Hogan, MDH EH, mentioned the legislative policy proposals his division will likely advance in 2020. This includes x-ray housekeeping; ground water protection; lead service lines and use of federal funds to replace, repair and renovate; vaping; and issues related to recreational marijuana. He noted that Governor Walz has requested presentations on state/local public health surveillance and lead and water issues. Recently, MDH and PCA acted to protect children from elevated lead levels related to their parents' employment at Water Gremlin in Ramsey County. Cindy Werkworth, City of Minneapolis, mentioned that MDH is also working on lodging rules. Kim Carlton, MDH, is coordinating new ways to gather license establishment information by type. Environmental Health is now included in federal Pandemic All-hazards Preparedness Act. NEHA advocated for this change.

Word on the Street

Amanda Buell, Hennepin, warned members that fake certifications for food managers are available online.

New Member Recruitment/Co-Chair Elect

Terms for several members expire in February. Becky Buhler is working with Kari Oldfield, LPHA, on recruitment. John Weinand will continue representing cities on the EHCIB. Commissioner Bill Groskreutz

noted that another county commissioner is interested in representing SCHSAC on EHCIB, but has scheduling conflicts. He suggested EHCIB considering revising its 2020 meeting schedule.

Approve September 2019 Meeting Summary

John Weinand made the motion to approve the September 2019 meeting summary. Dawn Beck seconded the motion. The summary was approved.

Constituent Engagement/SCHSAC

EHCIB co-chairs gave an update at the October SCHSAC meeting.

Take-home Points, Action Items, and Adjournment

Meeting participants agreed on the following take-home points and action items.

Take-home points:

- Environmental Public Health Framework – EHCIB members continue to refine and describe what state/local governmental environmental public health foundational responsibilities they envision being in place across the state.
 - EHCIB’s work connects to efforts by the SCHSAC Infectious Disease Continuous Improvement Board, SCHSAC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Oversight Group, and other workgroups focusing on foundational governmental public health responsibilities.
 - Commissioner Jan Malcolm established the 21st Century Public Health Leadership Council to bring together.
- FPLS Program Evaluation Workgroup will present the findings from pilot testing Standards 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to EHCIB in January. The new program evaluation process will roll out in 2020.
- The EHCIB Mobile Food Units Workgroup is moving forward to look at jurisdictional health issues related to food truck licensing.
- EHCIB members agreed to create a standing agenda item on Care Facilities Regulations to keep EHCIB informed and engaged after learning more from Hannah Young and Amy Zagar, Hennepin County.
- EHCIB Work Plan for 2020 will focus on:
 - 21st Century PH (formerly known as Strengthening Public Health)
 - FPLS Program Evaluation
 - Collaboration and Process Improvement
 - Member Engagement/Communications
- Updates
 - Environmental Health is now included in federal Pandemic All-hazards Preparedness Act. NEHA advocated for this change.
 - Be aware that fake certifications for food managers are available online.

Action Items

- MDH will:
 - MDH will provide revised Environmental Public Health foundational responsibilities outline for EHCIB to share with constituents in its draft form.
 - MDH will revise Take Home Points and other communications to be more inclusive of EHCIB representation.
- EHCIB members will:
 - Share the take-home points with their constituents

The next EHCIB meeting is Thursday, January 9, 2020. Join remotely using Vidyo. More details are available on the [EHCIB website: https://www.health.state.mn.us/ehcib/#materials](https://www.health.state.mn.us/ehcib/#materials)