

# Environmental Health Continuous Improvement Board (EH CIB) Summary

Date: March 16, 2026

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

## Attendance

Amanda Buell	Tom Hogans	Denise Schumacher
David Boberg	Ryan Krick	Kent Severson
Lisa Brodsky	Linda Kopecky	Wendy Spanier
Kim Carlton	Taylor Lesmeister	Rick Toms
Sagar Chowdhury	Cody Miller	John Weidner
Diana Ditsch	Janes Noyola	Angie Wheeler
Sarah Grosshuesch	Jason Newby	Molly Young
Tom Higgins	Jesse Harmon	Amy Zagar

## Meeting Purpose

Clarify next steps for consistent approach to vacation home rentals.

## Review and approve December meeting summary.

Board approved December 2025 Meeting Summary.

## Workgroup Updates

### Mobile Food Unit Workgroup

- Jason Newby reported that a license renewal open house event is planned for March 27-28 in Brooklyn Park. 50 food trucks have already RSVP'd. Health, Fire, and Electric licensing staff will be at the event. There has been strong collaboration between Hennepin County, Brooklyn Park, and other partners to make this event happen.
- Angie Wheeler reported that new legislation was proposed in the House last week about Mobile Food Units. The language is based on what was passed in Texas last year. Currently, Texas is struggling to implement it as it is complicated legislation. MDH/MDA met with legislators before the bill was introduced. Proposing to do a study first before passing legislation. For more information on the House bill, go to <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/94/2026/0/HF/4268/>.
- Amanda Buell indicated that the Mobile Food Unit Workgroup is sunseting. It will meet again if needed to weigh in on any future issues.

### FPLS Program Evaluation Workgroup

- **Current Status:** The workgroup is not currently meeting since we have started the evaluation process.
  - Standards 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8 are complete.
  - We will be preparing for Std. 4 & 6 self-assessment and verification this year.

- **MDH Team Capacity:** We are now fully staffed. Current efforts are focused on onboarding new team members to ensure a seamless rollout of upcoming initiatives.
- **Strategic Priorities:** With a full team in place for 2026, we will be finalizing instructional materials, verification tools, and schedules with the help of the workgroup. These will support the long-term implementation of Standards 4 and 6 across all delegated programs, including MDH.
- **Delegated Program Engagement:** We will be scheduling annual 1:1 delegation program discussion with delegated program staff and MDH FPLS leadership and staff.
  - Introduce new staff, improved communication channels, and review prior successes and identify current program challenges/needs.

## Delegation Agreement Workgroup

- Lisa Brodsky and Rick Toms reported the workgroup is continuing to move forward with a template provisional agreement. The workgroup has a strong collaborative approach with local partners and state agencies. The next steps will be to combine feedback and create a new draft for review by the workgroup.

## Vacation Home Rental Facilitated Discussion

### What is in scope?

#### **Negotiable AND related to public health.**

- What is the public health risk we are working to reduce?
- Addressing other public health concerns with this type of establishment such as safe drinking water supply.
- Can multiple rooms within a residential home be rented to different guests? Would they share restrooms?
- Clarify what a "unit within a structure" and "portion of a structure" mean. Is it a room (example, in bedroom, basement, room above garage, etc.) within a residential home that can be rented/licensed as a short-term rental?
- What about short-term rentals with pools, swimming ponds, or spas?
- Current hotel/motel rule does not have short-term rentals in mind.
- Due to the transient nature of use of these establishments, ensuring things such as human trafficking prevention and sanitation of linens are addressed.
- International Property Maintenance Code takes into account life safety issues (building, fire, health, etc.) that impact public health.

#### **Negotiable but not necessarily related to public health.**

- Short-term rentals are being used for sex trafficking, and our prevention rules should apply.
- Statutory basis for licensing and regulation.

- Is public health okay with a flexible approach across the state [zoning, public health, rental, etc. requirements]?
- Why do they have to be a hotel? Can locals inspect with just a rental license and non reh inspectors?
- Allow locals with delegation to use rental inspection programs and not define these as hotel/motels.
- Does the definition matter as long as the appropriate rules are applied?
- Legal authority of having a Registered Environmental Health Specialist within the delegated program conducting inspections as required under the delegation agreements.

### **What discussion points are not negotiable nor related to public health?**

- The international property maintenance code does a much more thorough job of ensuring a safe facility for these types of buildings. Why are we pushing for the lodging code to cover them?
- Understanding workload implications to delegated agencies.
- Other codes are much better equipped to inspect this type of license (International Property Maintenance Code).
- When property is licensed and inspected as a rental property (short-term rental), by City, is additional licensing and inspection needed?
- If existing list of known vacation home rentals exist, are local delegated agencies supposed to ignore this list and handle just on complaint basis.
- Consistency in licensing and regulation.
- Many Vacation Home Rentals have self-check-in.
- Clear definition of Vacation Home Rental.
- Conflict with other local jurisdictions already regulating.

## **Definition of Vacation Home Rental**

### **Examples**

**Crow Wing County:** Short-Term Rental- A dwelling structure or unit within a structure, which is planned to be rented for more than 14 days in a calendar year, rented for periods of less than 30 days, and containing fewer than four units.

**Lake County:** Any home, cabin, condominium, or similar building represented to the public as a place where sleeping accommodations are furnished to the public on a nightly or weekly and for less than thirty (30) days basis for compensation and is not a bed and breakfast, resort, hotel, or motel.

**Minnesota Short-term Rental Association:** In Minnesota, a short-term rental (STR) is generally defined as the rental of a residential dwelling unit, or a portion of one, to transient guests for a period of less than 30 consecutive days.

## General Discussion

- If short-term rental is defined locally - local rental licensing and inspection programs are better situated to include this in their purview.
- Would a short-term rental definition (dwelling structure) be applied to structures such as a yurt, cabin/shed, tent, RV, etc.?
- What barriers or unintended consequences come up if delegated agencies start licensing these across the board?
- Need clarification on what residential dwelling unit is.
- More clarification on what "planned to be rented" means.
- Local zoning ordinances may restrict this type of use if defined as "hotel/motel" in residential zones, especially if short-term rental is not defined in ordinance.
- Unsure about defining more than 14 days. What about less than 14 days? Is that covered somewhere else?
- What are short-term rentals doing if they can't get a license in certain areas? i.e. the short-term rental says they have to have a license.
- Would this include renting a room with/in a residential house?
- What about the statute definitions of Lodging Establishment and Hotel/Motel?
- What is the definition of a residential dwelling unit?
- Is there a long-term rental definition and does there need to be a differentiation?
- How do programs integrate between local/city, county, and state without overlapping but still providing public health support of lodging establishments?
- Does MDH have a definition they use of short-term rental?
- MDH uses 157.15 definitions for Lodging and Hotel or Motel.

## Legislative Update

- Tom Hogan, MDH EH Division Director, shared a legislative update. New legislation was proposed in the House last week about Mobile Food Units. The language is based on what was passed in Texas last year. MDH/MDA met with legislators before the bill was introduced and proposed to do a report with recommendations first before passing legislation about streamlining food truck licensing in the state as well as compliance activities. That effort would include getting input from locals. The report would be due by January 1, 2027.

- Ag Legislative update - the agency policy bill will be heard this Wednesday in the House Ag Finance and Policy committee. It includes the updates to the delegation language to align to our 2025 license modernization. MDA delegates have been notified.  
[https://www.house.mn.gov/Schedules/03182026#h\\_39460](https://www.house.mn.gov/Schedules/03182026#h_39460)
- Some legislators from the St. Cloud area have constituents who would like to provide infant swimming lessons in a private pool that may not meet all the public pool requirements. We are providing some feedback to those authors in regard to elements that we have found in other states regulations regarding infant swimming pool lessons. primary concerns are entrapment and water quality.
- For awareness, there continues to be a push for authority to extract Helium in northern Minnesota. There is not a regulatory framework in place between PCA, DNR, and MDH for extraction of Helium. MDH's primary regulatory authority is over construction of drinking water wells. MDH is in discussions with leadership at DNR and the Governor's office as well as legislators to determine how to move that forward.
- This is the second year of the biennium, so the budget was passed last year. This session is typically a bonding and policy discussion year. There's a lot of water infrastructure projects that are being proposed for addressing aging water infrastructure and contaminants of emerging concerns, such as PFAS. There are a lot of water infrastructure needs, both in the drinking water and wastewater side. There is a bill in the House for \$250 million for lead service line replacement work so we can continue to make progress on removing lead service lines across the state.

## Membership Discussion

Bill Groskruetz is leaving his post on State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC). We put in a request through SCHSAC for another member to represent the committee on EH CIB. We put it out to the Local Public Health Association through Kari Oldfield-Tabbert that we have vacancies on EH CIB. We are looking for their input on how to move forward with filling those.

## Agenda Topics for Next Time

- Vacation Home Rentals
- Public Health Nuisances as it relates to the foundational public health responsibilities. [Minnesota Public Health Nuisance Handbook, MN](#)

## Next Meeting: June 15, 2026

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PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
[www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/local/ehcib/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/local/ehcib/index.html)

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