

EHCIB Background - Previous groups that have met over time

1980 - Environmental Health Policy Study Advisory Committee (Joint project of MDH and AMC) produces “Report of the Environmental Health Policy Study.” Purpose: To assist MDH in developing a framework for delivery of EH services by local governments, and the resources needed for the next 15 – 20 years.

1993, SCHSAC Environmental Health Work Group produces report “Strengthening Public Health Leadership in Environmental Health.”

Purpose:

- Identify models that currently exist for the organization and scope of EH services in local government
- To assist CHBs in identifying appropriate roles for their agencies in relation to EH and other environmental services
- To identify ways MDH can assist CHBs to increase their capacity in EH
- To recommend ways that MDH can clarify and strengthen relationships with other state agencies in regard to EH issues’

2002 –SCHSAC Work Group on Environmental Health Produces report “Strengthening Environmental Health in Minnesota.

Purpose:

- Examine the existing EH structures within the state
- Develop a shared vision/mission for the EH system that is an integral part of the state and local public health partnership
- Develop an action plan for the MDH and CHBs to move toward this vision
- Develop a framework for shared state and local responsibility to begin to address EH issues at the local level (e.g. food safety, groundwater, indoor air)

“Environmental Health” was defined as “public health programs designed to protect the public from health hazards which exist, or could exist, in the physical environment; combines planning, regulatory, educational, informational, consultative, and (when necessary) enforcement strategies.”

2004 – LPHA formed an Ad Hoc EH Committee, and engaged with MDH to hold discussions on an approach to address Manufactured Home Parks and also address issues related to the Food, Beverage and Lodging program.

2005 – Hospitality fee goes into effect for MDH, to fund activities now carried out by the Partnership and Workforce Development unit.

2006 – Ad-Hoc EH Issues Committee meets to follow up on FBL policy; discussion about a SCHSAC work group to address delegation agreements

2007 – Internal MDH process to identify “Stakeholder Themes” to be used in the EH Division’s strategic planning.

2008 – Development of revised delegation agreement, including a workgroup to develop an evaluation methodology

2008 – 2012 –Focus on training opportunities through PWDU; MDH evaluations; Food Safety Partnership; local EH self assessments

2012 – Meeting of the “Delegation Agreement Advisory Council,” attended by over 65 people from state, local EH programs.

What’s different about the EH CIB?

1. The 1980, 1993, 2002 efforts were intended to **analyze and recommend**; success depended on implementing recommendations. The recommendations weren’t implemented: organizational and policy efforts have been largely **ad hoc**, and generally reactive.
2. The EH CIB is:
 - a. Chartered - a state-local entity that is permanent;
 - b. Charged to focus on results and action;
 - c. Balanced – with state-local membership, and local membership representing a diversity of agency types;
 - d. Aiming at the root cause of relationship issues – fostering a culture of continuous improvement, communication and partnership; and
 - e. Transparent and collaborative.