

# Environmental Health Continuous Improvement Board

## Meeting Summary – Approved

Thursday, July 11, 2019  
 Meeting: 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 (remote)	
Lisa Brodsky	Scott County		X
Amanda Buell	Hennepin County	X	
Ruth Greenslade	Goodhue County	X	
Bill Groskreutz	Faribault County Commissioner	X (remote)	
Sarah Grosshuesch	Wright County	X (remote)	
Tom Hogan (co-chair)	Minnesota Department of Health	X	
Angel Korynta	Polk County	X (remote)	
Kristine Lee	Countryside Public Health	X (remote)	
Jeff Luedeman	Minnesota Department of Agriculture		X
John Weinand	City of Minnetonka	X	

### Other Meeting Participants:

*Angie Cyr, Steven Diaz, Jim Kelly, Denise Schumacher, and Mary Navara, Minnesota Department of Health, Environmental Health Division; Jesse Harmon, Brown-Nicollet Counties; Jeff Travis, Washington County, Jason Kloss, SWHHS*

### Facilitators/Staff:

*Michelle Ambrose, Minnesota Department of Health, Environmental Health Division; Becky Buhler, Kim Gearin and Beth Gyllstrom, 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, and Dawn Beck, Olmsted County, welcomed everyone to the July meeting.

Mr. Hogan reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives.

**Meeting Objectives:**

1. Make progress on strengthening public health work.
2. Discuss workgroup idea to evaluate FPLS standard 4.
3. Review 2019 FPLS statewide performance measures results and determine next steps.

## **Strengthening Public Health in MN and the EPH Framework**

Kim Gearin, MDH PHP, reminded meeting participants of the State Community Health Services Advisory Committee's (SCHSAC) efforts to [Strengthen Public Health in Minnesota](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/schsac/workgroups/strengtheninglph.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/schsac/workgroups/strengtheninglph.html>). Over the last nine months, state and local leaders developed a forward-looking framework for governmental public health in MN.

Kim Gearin, MDH PHP, and Jim Kelly, MDH EH, led discussion on the foundational responsibilities within the environmental health area of the framework. Ms. Gearin walked meeting participants through the "Environmental Health Foundational Responsibilities" document asking them to focus on the broader foundational responsibilities: what is correct and what areas can we improve.

Meeting participants engaged in good discussion and had several suggestions for changes as they discussed responsibilities related to food safety. They discussed steps of data collection and analysis. Mr. Hogan noted that surveillance is disease-related, but sometimes the threat is the process of how or where the food is prepared. The growing food truck industry is an example.

Kim Gearin, MDH PHP, will review all the suggested changes and try to incorporate them into a new version of the merged document. Throughout the remainder of 2019, the EHCIB will continue this work and help define foundational public health responsibilities for the area of environmental health using what it has started with the EPH framework. It was suggested that EHCIB consider forming teams to continue revising the EH foundational responsibilities. Ms. Gearin suggested moving forward to complete food safety and incorporate water for discussion at the September meeting. Healthy Homes and Climate will be reviewed at the November meeting. Final discussions will take place in early January.

## **FPLS Program Evaluation – Standard 4**

The FPLS Program Evaluation Workgroup was represented by Denise Schumacher, Angie Cyr, and Jason Kloss, SWHHS, workgroup co-chair. Denise Schumacher, MDH EH, asked the EHCIB to provide a decision regarding which option should be used to measuring inspection frequency for the first criteria (1.a.) of Standard 4 because the workgroup could not come to consensus. Other criteria were provided for information

only. Three options were presented to EHCIB members: 1) median number of days past due for all inspections is  $\leq 30$  days; 2) 75% done on time with no grace period; or 3) other proposal from EHCIB.

Discussion focused on the need for flexibility for seasonal facilities and the importance of conducting an unexpected inspection rather than a predictable one. Members noted that 100% may not be realistic, but 75% may be too low. EHCIB recommended piloting both options 75% done on time and a 30-day grace period. Evaluation workgroup members will also examine average number of days over a three-year period. Workgroup will report in September.

## 2019 FPLS Statewide Performance Measures

Beth Gyllstrom, MDH PHP, presented the results of the 2019 FPLS Statewide Performance Measures. Ms. Gyllstrom noted that one local agency did not report. Full inspection data from Minnesota Department of Agriculture was not included in the results.

The following are key highlights from the 2018 FPLS Statewide Performance Measure data:

- Most Minnesota FPLS inspectors are registered as environmental health sanitarians. Those that were not registered are qualified to sit for the exam within two years of hire.
- The percent of Minnesota FPLS inspectors standardized in food inspections increased in 2018 as compared to 2016.
- Most inspections are completed on time, with little change between 2016 and 2018.

For September, Ms. Gyllstrom will create a summary report, which will incorporate the key points from today's discussion.

## Business Items

### Member Updates

Ruth Greenslade, Goodhue County, shared that they earned accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

Tom Hogan, MDH EH, provided a list of legislative highlights including the drinking water fee increase, and vaping included in Clean Indoor Air Act. A full legislative summary will be shared.

Jeff Travis, Washington County, brought up the issue of licensing mobile food units. Minnesota has over 1,000 food trucks. Local delegated agencies are increasing interaction with mobile food units, but don't receive any funding for staff time because the state licenses the units. Some cities are starting to do two licenses.

Amanda Buell noted that Hennepin County just started licensing food trucks. Mr. Travis offered to lead an EHCIB workgroup to explore this issue.

### Word on the Street

Meeting participants discussed the outbreak at Lake Minnetonka following the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration.

#### EHCIB Leadership Transition

The EHCIB is considering having a “co-chair elect” to ease the transition for new co-chairs. Due to time, this will be discussed further at an upcoming EHCIB meeting.

#### Approve May 2019 Meeting Summary

Mr. Weinand made the motion to approve the May 2019 meeting summary. Ms. Buell seconded the motion. No changes were made.

#### Constituent Engagement

Due to time, this was not discussed.

### **Take-home Points, Action Items, and Adjournment**

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

#### Take-home points:

- EHCIB continues work on foundational responsibilities within the environmental health area of the governmental public health framework.
- FPLS Program Evaluation Workgroup will pilot options for Standard 4 on-time criteria
- Jeff Travis leading workgroup regarding regulatory options for mobile food units.

#### Action Items

- MDH PHP staff will do the following:
  - Update the Strengthening PH in MN and EPH Framework joint document according to recommended changes and work with others via Sharepoint
  - Share FPLS statewide performance measures report at the September EHCIB meeting
- FPLS Program Evaluation Workgroup will pilot options for Standard 4 on-time criteria
- Jeff Travis leading workgroup regarding regulatory options for mobile food units.
- EHCIB members will share the take-home points with constituents

The next EHCIB meeting is Thursday, September 5, 2019. Join in-person at MCIT in St. Paul (free parking available) or remotely using Vidyo. More details are available on the [EHCIB website](https://www.health.state.mn.us/ehcib/#materials):

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