

Environmental Health Continuous Improvement Board

November 7, 2019, Meeting Take-Home Points and Action Items

Take-Home Points

- **Environmental Public Health Framework** – EHCIB members continue to refine their description of what state/local governmental environmental public health foundational responsibilities they envision being in place across the state.
 - EHCIB’s Environmental Public Health Framework connects to related 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 with broad representation (28 individual members) to make the vision universal across Minnesota. Visit www.health.state.mn.us/21stcenturyph.
 - The Environmental Public Health Framework focuses on these seven responsibilities (draft as of 11/7/19):
 - 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
 - Next steps in 2020 will focus on how state/local governmental public health will provide these foundational responsibilities.

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- **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. Jeff Travis, Washington County, and Ryan Krick, City of Minneapolis chair the new workgroup. Sarah Leach, MDH EH, will serve as facilitator.
- EHCIB members agreed to create a standing agenda item on Care Facilities Regulations to keep them informed about food safety and nutrition related to care facilities.
 - Hannah Young and Amy Zagar, Hennepin County, shared information about their project 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.
 - MDH is already fielding questions related to food regulation due to the new assisting living regulation. Steven Diaz, MDH EH, has been involved in discussions about inspection and licensing.
- The Environmental Health Continuous Improvement Board (EHCIB) set the 2020 work plan to include:
 - 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 representatives and their constituency
- **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 PHP staff will do the following:**
 - Revise the Environmental Public Health foundational responsibilities draft outline and related documents.

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- 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.
 - Bring comments and concerns related to state/local environmental public health to EHCIB meetings as needed.

Meeting Schedule

Meetings occur on Thursdays from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Participants can join in-person and remotely.

More details and agendas are posted on the [EHCIB website](#):

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/ehcib/#materials>.

- January 9, 2020 (virtual only)
- March 5, 2020
- May 7, 2020
- July 9, 2020
- September 3, 2020
- November 5, 2020

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