

**Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
June 10, 2009**

Present: Jeff Balkema, Fran Bell, Deb Cardiff, Leroy Crabtree, Pat Krause, Dan Moyle, Dawn Potter-Williams, Carolyn Rutland, Steve Yanni, Aud Wierenga, Bill Schwartz

Absent: Kathy Buckham, Greg Nichols, Margaret O'Brien, Tom Pederson, Pat Crowley

Environmental Health: Christine Rogers, Vern Johnson, Jennifer Kosak, Steve Leuty, Randy Riggs, Heather Nicholas

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Review/Aproval of Minutes	Pat Krause entertained requested motion for approval. Steve Yanni moved to approve, Leroy Crabtree seconded motion, oral vote was taken	Minutes approved	
3. EH Updates	<p>The budget crisis continues to have an impact on county and state government. The County's budget director Tracie Moored will be giving a State of the County budget information to the BOC at the next meeting. This will be a preview of what they are projecting the budget to look like for 2010. Advice is to prepare for worst, hope for best.</p> <p>The 3rd EPA grant funded drug collection event is scheduled for Saturday, June 20th at Loy Norrix high school parking lot. Flyers and posters have been distributed to all pharmacies, libraries, township and city offices, etc. A second collection will be held in September.</p> <p>Welcome to Audrey Wieranga, who is our newest EHAC member . Audrey shared that she usually goes by Aud, so feel free to refer to her using Aud. Aud is from Western Michigan, the Muskegon area. She is a former park ranger with the DNR, and currently works in the pollution prevention area for the DEQ. She covers the eight counties of southwest michigan providing information to businesses and governmental entities helping them become better environmental stewards. She is looking forward to sharing her connections with the EHAC group, and enabling organizations to get together for collaborative input.</p> <p>Deb shared that the Meth Coordinator position was being eliminated effective June 30th of this year. The funds from the MDCH have been eliminated. The program will continue to operate, Kim will coordinate the responsibilities with the Land Water Wastewater staff, the duties will be spread out amongst the Environmental Health Specialists.</p> <p>At the last meeting the Outdoor Wood Boiler issue came up, requesting that we proceed with asking the BOC to discuss this issue at their legislative meeting. The letter was submitted, and a letter was received back that this is being put on</p>	Deb passed out flyers for members to pass out if interested.	

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	<p>the back burner due to the budget issues. He does identify it and will place it on the agenda at the appropriate time.</p> <p>An opportunity for grant funds from the CDC has become available for Healthy Homes. We have put together an application, and have received many letters of support from external agencies in the county. We are seeking out \$160,000-170,000 for two years to hire a full time environmental health specialist to work along side Jennifer, to help get the program jump started in the county. There is a national focus from the Surgeon General that the environment that children live in when they are young has a lifelong impact on their development. If we get this grant, the next step will be to look for funds for remediation of the issues found in the homes.</p>		
<p>4. H2K – Healthy Homes for Kalamazoo</p>	<p>Currently EH engages in a reactive approach to problems in homes. We get a complaint, we react. The shift is now moving nationally to focus early on healthy homes, focusing on lead, mold, radon and safety, to offer early intervention and education. Funds are now shifting towards that approach. The CDC, the EPA, and the Coalition to End Childhood Poisoning want to see communities identify the problems first and then solve the problems. If we want to stay in the game we need to have that same shared vision, and set our grant applications up accordingly. Our goal is to increase awareness, and through education, help resolve these issues. We are proposing an in-house collaboration with the weatherization division and home visit personnel, partnering with them to help with the identification, education, and remediation. The plan is to take the Lead Steering Committee, and combine with other groups such as City of Kalamazoo, Safe Kids Coalition, Community in Schools, GKRA, Asthma Coalition etc to become a H2K Coalition. There are scientific links between lead, asthma, substandard housing, pests, and low income levels, according to the MDCH every dollar spent saves ten dollars in future health care costs. A healthy home is clean, dry, ventilated, pest free, contaminate free, safe and maintained. The grant proposal will be submitted next week. We want to develop a database, and maybe make it an online tool.</p> <p>Fran inquired as to how this would effect the household hazardous waste collections, and if communities who are not part of the contracts would have to pay. Deb responded that they would. Fran requested that the presentation be shared with others in the community. Deb requested that a member of EHAC become a member of the work group. Carolyn volunteered to join the group.</p> <p>The focus of the grant is the City of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo Township, where the housing stock is the oldest, and Kalamazoo County has the highest infant mortality death rate with people of color, and over 50% of the children of color in the City of Kalamazoo are living at or below the poverty level. What we learn will be applied county wide, to make changes before they become problems. The approach is going to be delicate, to encourage people to let us into their homes. Much of the housing market in Kalamazoo is driven by HUD Section 8, and they have very poor requirements. There are 3 Section 8 inspectors in Kalamazoo</p>	<p>Members are to contact Deb or Jennifer if they want them to give a presentation to any groups.</p>	

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5. Member Comments	<p>Aud – Invited group to attend Green drinks at Charlie Fosters 6/23; Passed out brochures for Green Town Conference in Grand Rapids 6/23/09 and Chicago 10/15. Also would like EHAC to consider making some nominations for some Green Awards. The Michigan Business Review, which covers the Kalamazoo Area is going to start this year the first annual Green Awards, recognizing, green businesses, cities, etc. The nomination process is not onerous. She will be happy to share this with the group, or additional information can be obtained from http://blog.mlive.com/businessreview/western_impact/2009/06/nomination%20form1.pdf</p> <p>Steve – Just a note to let everyone know that the Fair has a venue to let groups inform and educate the public. They get around 80,000 people through the fair each year.</p> <p>Fran- Personal thanks to Christine for the meth program. She did an outstanding job with the program.</p> <p>Pat – Supported Fran’s thanks to Christine, for doing an excellent job.</p>		