

**Kalamazoo County**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**March 1, 2006 8:30 am**  
**3299 Gull Road, Conference Room D**

Present: Fran Bell, Kathleen Buckham, Patrick Krause, Jeffrie Maddox, Mark Miller, Greg Nichols, Ann Nieuwenhuis, Margaret O'Brien, Carolyn Rutland, Jim Rutherford Dawn Potter-Williams, Kyle Smith,

Environmental Health: Jim Draze

Absent: Jeff Balkema, John Taylor

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Review of Minutes	Minutes approved as submitted.		
3. Review of Agenda	Jim R. suggested amending Item 6, to reflect discussion of the Draft Resolution from EHAC regarding Meth to be sent to the BOC. Margaret O. recommended adding Updates to the Sanitary Code as an item, and that this become a regular standing item on the Agenda.	Approved by Committee Approved by Committee to become item 7, others moved down.	
4. HCS Accreditation Update	Jim R. stated that Kalamazoo was the pilot program when accreditation with the state began back in 1999. This is the third round of accreditation for the county, and Kalamazoo is the first county within this 3-year cycle being looked at. There are eleven programs in HCS being reviewed, two of which are in EH. They are the onsite sewage program and the food program. This is the first week of the review for EH with 2 individuals from MDEQ in for 2 days to look over the onsite sewage program. Next week people from the MDA will be here to review the food program. The exit interview from the MDEQ should be available this Friday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , and from MDA next Friday, March 10 <sup>th</sup> . Updates will be provided to EHAC.		Jim R to update members when exit interviews are available.
5. Oakland County – IS System	Environmental Health uses a two of products for information systems. The food program uses “Sword Solutions” which is also used by 22 other counties in the State of Michigan and also used in other surrounding states.	Jim R. passed a brochure around for members to	

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	<p>It has automated our fieldwork, and we can input our reports out in the field, generate electronic reports. Our other program is EHMS and IS system for groundwater and septic systems. This is a product that we share with other counties in Southwest Michigan. It is driven by Barry Eaton County, and under their ownership and copyright. We do have some influence in changes to the program. The Oakland County Health Department has developed a product called E-Health, which has a GIS foundation. Oakland County started developing this five or six years ago, it is a phenomenal product. They have invested more than 3 million dollars in this product and their health officers indicated they want to give this to the state free of charge, so all health departments can have access to the program. A work group has been put together with other health directors in the state to investigate this possibility. The group be presenting this to MALPH, and ask the MALPH forum to take this to the MDEQ, MDA, and MDCH and ask for them to begin the process of how best to locate this product in the state of Michigan. It falls in line with Governor Granholm's request to get a centralized data network/system in the State of Michigan. However, there are a lot of concerns at the local level with the ability and lack of leadership at the state level to take on something of this magnitude. We will continue to work with our work group, and this will be presented to MALPH at their April meeting.</p>	<p>look over regarding the E-Health Information System</p>	
<p>6. Draft Meth Regulations/ Resolution</p>	<p>Senator George, Senator Wenke, Patty Berkholtz from the Allegan area, &amp; Representative Hoogendyke all have come together and indicated an interest in sponsoring some legislation that would address meth contamination. They base this on correspondence we sent in August. Jim R. sent all members a copy of the letter that was sent to Senator George indicating our recommendations for what needs to be included in that regulation. Subsequently Margaret O'Brien facilitated a meeting with Senators George and Wenke, Representative Hoogendyke, Pat Krause, Don Gilmer, Dale Hein, Representation from the Chamber of Commerce and Jim Rutherford. This was followed up with correspondence from Jim R. with our recommendations as to what needs to be included in the legislation. There are still questions relative to the funding component; Jim R and the group are working on a recommendation regarding this. Jim R stated that at a minimum he thinks we will get some standard regulation or guidelines, the legislation will propose to move meth regulation from the MDEQ to MDCH,</p>	<p>Dawn P. to send Resolution to BOC encouraging approval of Meth Regulation Proposal</p>	

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	<p>which is a good move, it will look at strengthening some operating procedures on what they do with children after they are removed from meth homes, and look at standardization or methodology for cleaning up these sites. They have been made aware that if they really want to make any headway with this legislation, the funding issue needs to be addressed; as it stands the bill does not address the funding issue. Jim R. to meet with County Administrator Friday, 3/3/06, to discuss the counties direction regarding meth issues. Dawn P. to send Resolution to BOC requesting they adopt the draft regulations. Discussion ensued as to make a change in wording of last paragraph of resolution. Motion for change was made and supported by all. Motion was made to have Dawn P. send the resolution to the BOC all supported this. Dawn to have resolution submitted by March 8<sup>th</sup>.</p>		
<p>7. Sanitary Code Update</p>	<p>The Sanitary Code Update Committee met for the first time. Have received much positive input from committee members. Committee is made up of a broad based group including, septic installers, contractors, home builders association, township, and EHAC representation, along with a representative from the City of Kalamazoo, and Environmental Health Bureau representatives. There are a couple of issues that may involve extended discussions. These are dry wells, and the seasonal water table. The process will take approximately one year to review, then a public hearing, culminating in submission of the updates to the BOC.</p>		
<p>8. PBS Documentary</p>	<p>Showing of "The Meth Epidemic" a Frontline PBS Documentary on the history of meth in the U.S, was postponed until the April meeting. It will be the first item on the agenda, with movie to begin at 8:30.</p>	<p>Moved to be shown at April Meeting.</p>	

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9. Member Comments	<p>Fran Bell passed out two handouts one on Wind Farms and the other information regarding pending legislation for Michigan's Water from Prein &amp; Newhof.</p> <p>Kathleen Buckham mentioned the upcoming Home Expo at Mid Link and that the storm water work group will have a booth there.</p> <p>Pat Krause brought up the suggestion that some time in the future it may be beneficial for us to look at what the costs to the department are for services performed versus what the department charges for the service. Currently the Parks Department is involved in discussions with Peter Battani to investigate if the parks can be made self-sufficient.</p> <p>Jeff Maddox mentioned he is on the parks board, and because money is tight in the county, the county needs to look at these issues. They want to be fair to all involved that use the parks.</p> <p>Mark Miller announced that the Kalamazoo Environmental Council is having a legislative breakfast on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. State Representatives have been invited to attend. Anyone is able to attend and participate with his or her own questions.</p> <p>Jim D. offered to send copies of a MDA document that compares departmental staffing numbers with financial data. It gives you a good sense of who pays for programs. Also in April the Environmental Health Bureau is participating in the swimming pool expo with the Safe Kids Coalition, Sheriffs Department, Pool Suppliers, etc, with a focus on child safety.</p>		